without foundation. It required serious deliberation, and no time has been lost. It is always far better to decide rightly than quickly. It is immaterial to other nations, what estimate we form of our own strength, there are two rules by which they will judge; the number of men, and the state of the treasury. Indeed it seems of late to have become a maxim in war, that the longest purse is the longest sword. It is true that we have a single million in the treasury to spare; it is equally true that resolutions are before us, which, if adopted, will require at least that sum to carry them into execution. In this situation, ought we to take measures, which may endanger the revenue without providing ways and means to meet any deficiency? We talk of war with an almost empty treasury; no two things can be less connected, except that they are both bad. I have stated that, which appeared to me, to be the best plan to secure our seamen from impressment; but the man who shall actually produce the plan, which shall have the effect, will deserve the gratitude of the nation.

In this time of difficulty, we are all embarked in the same ship; my ardent prayer is, that whatever shall be done, may promote the interest and happiness of all.

[*To be continued*]

WASHINGTON CITY.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18.

SENATE OF THE U. STATES.

April 15.

Mr. Tracy moved to postpone the bill to prohibit the importation of certain goods, wares and merchandise, for the purpose of considering the following resolution.

Resolved, That in consequence of a more favorable course of conduct on the part of G. Britain, in respect to the disturbance of the trade of the U. S. and entertaining a hope that the British ministry lately established will be disposed to a reasonable arrangement of all affairs of difference between the two nations; the Senate do hereby postpone the further consideration of the bill entitled "An act to prohibit the importation of certain goods, wares and merchandise", to the first Monday of November next.

On agreeing to this resolution the Yeas and Nays were taken as follows.

YEAS. Messrs. Adair, Adams, Hillhouse, Logan, Pickering, Plumer, Sumter, Tracy and White—9.

NAYS—Messrs. Anderson, Baldwin, Condit, Gaillard, Gilman, Howland, Kitchill, Maclay, Mitchill, Moore, Smith of Md. Smith of N. Y. Smith of Ohio, Smith of Ten. Smith of Vt. Stone, Thruston, Worthington and Wright—19.

When the question was taken by Yeas and Nays on the passage of the bill; as follows:

YEAS. Messrs. Adams, Anderson, Baldwin, Condit, Gaillard, Gilman, Howland, Kitchell, Maclay, Mitchill, Moore, Smith of Md. Smith of N. Y. Smith of Ohio, Smith of Ten. Smith of Vt. Thruston, Worthington and Wright—19.

NAYS—Messrs. Adair, Hillhouse, Logan, Pickering, Plumer, Stone, Sumter, Tracy, and White—9.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Wednesday, April 16.

A bill for fortifying the ports and harbors of the U. S. and for building gun boats, was read a third time and passed.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole—Mr. Gregg in the chair—on the bill supplementary to the act, intitled "an Act making provision for the redemption of the whole of the public debt of the U. S.

The chairman proceeded to read the bill until he came to the 4th and 5th sections, which authorise the commissoners of the sinking fund to appoint one agent in London, and another in Amsterdam, to receive subscriptions and transfers, and to issue new certificates; and to enable the holders of old six per cents deferred or three per cent stocks who may become subscribers to the new stock either in the U. S. or in Europe, and who, on the first day of April next, and on the day of the subscription, shall be resident in Europe, to receive the interest on their stock, either in the U. S. or at London, or in Amsterdam.

Mr. Varnum moved to strike out the fifth section.

This motion was supported by Mr. Davenport, and opposed by Mr. J. Randolph, and disagreed to—Ayes 34—Noes 42.

On motion of *Mr. J. Randolph*, the compensation allowed to each of the above agents was fixed at 8,000 dollars —Ayes 48.

The 8th section was read as follows:

Sec 8. *And be it further enacted*, That from and after the first day of April next, whenever it shall be necessary to issue new certificates, either in lieu of such certificates of old six per cent. or deferred stock, as may be lost or destoyed, or by reason of a transfer of such stock from a stockholder to another, or from the books of an office to those of another office; the new certificates, instead of stating the nominal amount of stock which originally was, but is no longer the sum actually due by the U.S. shall express the true amount of the annuity due, at the rate of eight per cent. on the original amount of principal, at the time when it shall cease. But all the other provisions heretofore made by law, and now in force, relative to the said stocks, shall remain in full force, as if no alteration had been made in the form of the certificates: and such new certificates may be subscribed, in conformity with the provisions of this act, according to the then unredeemed amount of the principal stock originally due.

Mr. Quincy moved to strike this section out, under the impression that it impaired the original contract between the U. S. and the public creditors.

Mr. J. Randolph vindicated the section against this charge.

Mr. Dana did not think it impaired the original contract, but considered it superfluous, as in his opinion the power given by it was already vested by law in the officers of the Treasury department; when the question was taken and the motion lost without a division.

Mr. J. Randolph moved to fill the blank in that part of the bill which provides for the conversion of three per cent. stock into six per cent. with "sixty-two and a half;" by which the holder of every hundred dollars in the 3 per cent. stock is entitled to receive sixty two and a half dollars of six per cent.

Mr. Crowninshield opposed this motion, as well as the provision for converting the three per cent. into six per cent. stock under the idea that it would be injurious to the U. S.

Mr. J. Clay defended the provision and made a detailed argument to shew that it would be beneficial to the U. S.

Mr. Dana declared himself in favor of the proposed modification of the public debt.

Mr. Jackson spoke against it.

Mr. J. Randolph advocated this part of the bill, and

Mr. Crowninshield replied.

When the question was taken on the motion of *Mr. J. Randolph* & agreed to —Ayes 51—Noes 34.

A motion, made by *Mr Mumford* requiring the agents, before they enter on the execution of their offices to take an oath or affirmation for the diligent execution of their trusts, and requiring them to give bonds in one or more surities, in the penal sum of 20,000 dolls. —was agreed to.

Mr. Dana moved to strike out the words marked in *Italics* in the following sec. with a view of restraining the provisions of the bill to the present 3 per cents, & under the impression that in the new stock proposed to be created, the government liberated itself from the obligation to pay a certain part of the principal and interest heretofore stipulated.

Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That a subscription to the full amount of the *old six per cent. deferred and* three per cent. stocks be, and the same is hereby proposed; for which purpose books shall be opened at the treasury of the United States, and by the several commissioners of loans, on the first day of April next, to continue open, until the seventeenth day of December next following, inclusively, the fourteen last days of each quarter excepted, for such parts of the above mentioned descriptions of stock as shall, on the day of subscription, stand on the books of the treasury, and of the several commissioners of loans, respectively: which subscription, shall be effected by a transfer to the United States, in the manner provided by law for such transfers, of the credit or credits, standing on the said books, and by a surrender of the certificates of the stock subscribed.

Mr. J. Randolph and Mr. J Clay opposed this motion, & denied the justice of the observation made by Mr. Dana.

When the motion to strike out the section was lost without a division.

The committee rose and reported the bill with several amendments, which were argeed to by the House, and the bill ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow—Ayes 56.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole—Mr. Tenney in the chair—on the bill repealing the acts laying duties on salt, and continuing in force for a certain time the 1st section of the act, entitled "An act further to protect the commerce and seamen of the U. S. against the Barbary Powers"—as follows:

Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That from and after the day of next, so much of any act, or acts, as lays a duty on imported salt be, and the same hereby is repealed, and from and after the day aforesaid, salt shall be imported into the U. S. free of duty.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That from and after the first day of January next, so much of any act, or acts, as allows a bounty on exported salted provisions, and pickled fish, in lieu of drawback of the duties on the salt employed in curing the same, and so much of any act, or acts, as makes an allowance to the owners and crews of fishing vessels, in lieu of drawback of the duties paid on the salt used by the same, shall be, and the same hereby is repealed.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That so much of the act, passed on the 25th day of March, 1804, intitled an act further to protect the commerce and seamen of the U. S. against the Barbary powers, as is contained in the first section of the said act, be, & the same hereby is continued in force until the end of the next session of Congress, and no longer.

Mr. Quincy moved so to alter the first section, as only to take off the duty of 8 cents a bushel on salt, imposed by an act of Congress passed subsequently to the act previously imposing a duty of 12 cents.

This motion was advocated by Mr. Quincy, and opposed by Messrs. J. Randolph and J. Clay.

Mr. Lyon spoke generally against the bill, and concluded by moving to strike out the first section.

Mr. Bidwell advocated the principle of the bill.

Mr. Dana intimated his disposition to vote for it, under the idea that those who had the responsibility of government attached to them, thought they could dispense with it.

Mr. Elmer supported the bill, and opposed the motions made by Mr. Quincy and Mr. Lyon.

Mr. Lyon's motion to strike out the first section was disagreed to—Aye 1.

When *Mr. Quincy's* motion was likewise disagreed to without a divison.

On motion of *Mr. J. Randolph* the blank in the first section was filled with the first day of October.

Mr. Alston moved to amend the 3d section by striking out the words at the end thereof "in force until the end of the next session of Congress," and inserting "made perpetual."

This motion was disagreed to—Ayes 36—Noes 60.

The committee then rose and reported the bill, and the House took the report into immediate consideration.

Mr. Mumford moved to fill the blank in the first section with the 1st day of January.

This motion was opposed by Messrs. J. Randolph. T. Moore, Crowninshield and Sloan, when the House concurred in the report of the committee of the whole to fill it with the first of October.

Mr. Crowninshield moved to amend the last section so as to continue the two and a half per cent. duty on all goods paying an advalorem duty for three years.

This motion was disagreed to—Ayes 28.

Mr. Lyon again spoke against the bill, so far as relates to taking off the duty on salt.

When it was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow—Ayes 83.

Thursday, April 17.

The bill supplementary to the act intituled "An act making provision for the redemption of the whole of the public debt of the U. States," was read a third time.

Mr. *Tallmadge* moved to postpone this bill indefinitely, and and supported the motion in a speech of considerable length.

Mr. J. Clay replied.

When the Yeas and Nays were taken —Yeas 49—Nays 45—and the motion, consequently, obtained.

The bill repealing the acts laying duties on salt, and continuing in force, for a farther time, the first section of the act, entitled, "An act further to protect the commerce and seamen of the U.S. against the Barbary powers," was read a third time.

Mr. Masters moved to recommit the bill, for the purpose of modifying its details.

Mr. Quincy supported the motion—which was lost—Ayes 37—Noes 49

When the Yeas and Nays were taken on the passage of the bill—Yeas 84 —Nays 11.

Mr. Clark from the committee appointed to enquire into the conduct of Gideon Granger, Post Master General of the United States, and to report whether, in their opinion, he has so acted in his capacity of Post Master General, as to require the interposition of the constitutional power of the House, made a report.

The committee state that they have found themselves unable to make a full enquiry into the official conduct of Mr. Granger, and recommend a postponement of any further enquiry to the next session.

Ordered to lie on the table.

[*The details of this day's proceedings in our next.*]

The motion ascribed, in the proceedings of Tuesday, to Mr. *Goldsborough*, to insert "George Town," after "New-York"—was made by Mr. *Magruder*.

New York, April 9.

At a meeting of the committee of merchants held at the Tontine Coffee House on Monday evening the 7th inst. it was resolved that the following letter addressed to the Secretary of State, relative to the foreign commerce of the U. States, with the answer thereto, should be published for the information of the merchants.

By order of the general committee,
THOMAS FARMAR, *Chairman.*
John Ferrers, *Secretary.*

New York, March 11, 1806.

SIR,

I have the honor to address you, by direction of a committee appointed at a general meeting of merchants in this city, on the 26th December.

The opinions and wishes of the commercial interest of New York, were expressed in their late memorial, since which, nothing has occurred to change their sentiments, or diminish their apprehensions.

Sensible that foreign relations must be intricate, and believing those of the United States to be involved in unusual perplexity, the merchants of New York have waited in silence, but with anxiety, the developement of those measures which the wisdom of government may have devised for the redress of wrongs already suffered, and protection against injuries still apprehended.

Even at this late hour, although warranted as well by the usage of other nations as by our republican institutions, freely to ask and confidently to expect every useful information, which can be given without embarrassing the measures of government, they would still preserve the same respectful silence, if they were not otherwise impelled by motives of irresistible force.

The season approaches to commence their most important operations dependent for success on a continuance of peace. The present stagnation of business, if protracted, would not merely diminish their profits, but must distress those of their fellow citizens who depend on daily labor for daily bread. It must injure those also who procure, by selling the productions of their soil, articles of subsistence which habit has rendered necessary to comfortable existence. On the other hand, merchants and insurers must be ruined if they adventure on calculations essentially erroneous. The mechanics with whom they are connected must be involved in the same catastrophe. The produce of our country will then no longer find those markets which gave a spring to national industry, and thus our prosperity will vanish.

Under the pressure of such cogent circumstances, the merchants of New York hope it will not be deemed impertinent, respectfully to solicit information on four distinct points highly interesting, and which are now involved in dangerous obscurity.

The situation in which we are placed with England, claims the first notice because of her prodigious naval power, which, it is apprehended by some, may be suddenly employed to annihilate our commerce. We wish therefore to be informed whether the injurious principles, adopted by her tribunals, have been relinquished or extended; whether the measures devised by the wisdom of government to obtain redress, compensation, and security, promise a successful result; or whether the merchants must expect more portentous events.

Rumours have prevailed respecting our relations to the opposite belligerents, and of events tending to embroil us with them, which have alarmed the merchants of New York. They are desirous of knowing whether those rumors be idle and vain, or whether from transactions in the knowledge of government it would be prudent to suspend or wholly to abandon our commerce with France and Spain.

There was reason to believe that peace had been made with Tripoli, but as no ratification of a treaty has been officially published, the merchants wish to know whether investments for the Mediterranean can be safely made, or whether they must provide against the depredations of Barbary corsairs.

Finally the plunder and outrage to which commerce is exposed in the West Indies, and even on our own coasts, render it very desirable to know whether government contemplate employing a respectable naval force to repress those predatory aggressions.

I am directed by the committee to disavow all intention, or even wish to pry into the secrets of government, or urge the disclosure of measures which it may deem useful or convenient to conceal; more especially to ask any thing incompatible with your official obligations.

With great respect,
I have the honor to remain, sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
THOMAS FARMAR,
Chairman General Committee of merchants.

Hon. James Madison,
Secretary of Department of State.

Department of State,
March 31, 1806.

Sir,

I have received the letter which you wrote me on the 11 inst. by the direction of the committee, appointed by a general meeting of the merchants of New York.

The solicitude of those engaged in foreign commerce at the present crisis, which led to the application, could not fail to awaken the regret, that the course of mercantile operations could not in all cases be regulated, by a more precise knowledge of the prospect of foreign occurrences; but you are doubtless sensible, that a communication of the features of that prospect (which if not multiplied and varied, with the multiplied variation incident to it, must itself become a source of miscalculation) would exceed the duty and responsibility of any government, as it would frequently do the rules of prudence, if the task were less impracticable. It is only, therefore, in peculiar cases, where the existence, or the decided approach of events deeply affecting the whole, or particular classes of citizens, may be known to the government, and not sufficiently within the general means of conjecture and anticipation, that special notifications can be required, either according to expediency or usage; and it is a just subject of congratulation in this country, that such is the degree of publicity given by the ordinary vehicles of circulation to foreign occurrences and appearances, and such the capacity of our mercantile fellow citizens for appreciating them, that that intelligent portion of the community is as little dependent in the United States, on the notifications of the government, as in any country whatever.

Persuaded, sir, that the justness of these remarks will at once be perceived, I make no other apology for limiting the answer to your enquiries, to a general assurance of the disposition of the President to give to every class of citizens, the proper information which it may lie with the executive to afford, and to an intimation, that whatever embarrassments or risks may be incident to particular branches of commerce, the occasion is not of a character to justify the government, in undertaking to predict or define them.

I have only to add, that the delay in acknowledging your letter has proceeded from other duties, pressing both as to time and importance; it was possible, also, that the interval might have produced the means of a more satisfactory answer to particular articles of your enquiry.

I have the honor to be, sir,
With great respect,
Your obed't servant,
JAMES MADISON.

Thomas Farmer, esq. *New York.*

[It is proper to observe that the above answer of the secretary of state is a corrected copy, freed from several errors attending the publication of it in the New York prints.]

MASSACHUSETTS ELECTION.

For Governor.

Ninety-nine towns give

Mr Strong,	14,097
Mr. Sullivan,	13,910
Majority,	17[illegible]

The same towns last year, gave Mr. Strong a majority of 463.

JUST RECRIVED,

And for sale, at DUANE'S Book-Store, Pennsylvania avenue:

Debates in the Virginia Convention.

The Rainbow, or a Series of Essays originally published in the Richmond Enquirer.

Herman & Dorothea, a poem from the German of Goethe, by T. Holcroft.

April 18—1t

TO BE SOLD.

By the subscriber, a neat and commodious BRICK HOUSE in the town of Bladensburg, four miles from the city of Washington, with about two acres of ground belonging thereto, comprehending a large and fertile garden, a handsome yard, &c. and all kind of fruit trees; also a meat House, Stable and other necessary houses and conveniences; the whole well inclosed and ornamented by a great number of locust & lombardy poplar trees One fourth part of the purchase money to be paid down and the residue in three equal annual payments with interest thereon from the day of sale.

Application to be made to me residing on the premises.

ALEXANDER M'DONALD.

Bladensburg April 18—3t

10 DOLLARS REWARD.

Ranaway from the subscriber's plantation near this place on Sunday last Negro JIM, distinguished in the neighborhood by the name of JIM ELLIMER, he is a straight thin made black man about 20 years old, 5 feet eight or 9 inches high, has a remarkable wen near one of his temples; speaks but seldom unless spoken to; his clothing unknown.—Having several acquaintances in the city of Washington it is supposed he has gone to that place, where he will probably lurk for several days; he has a grandmother at Mr Stelle's. The above reward will be paid to any person who will deliver said fellow to the subscriber, or lodge him in any jail so that the subscriber shall get him again—if lodged in the city jail by any person who will call on captain Hamilton the reward will be paid them

WM. B BEANES.

Upper Marlboro, April 18—3t

On Monday the 21st day of April next, if fair, if not the next fair day, will be sold on the premises at 12 o'clock at public sale to the highest bidder, the dwelling plantation of the late Wm Digges, containing 230 acres of Land—there is on the premises a handsome commodious dwelling house, stable, barn and negro quarters—the Land lies level, is of good quality and well suited to plaister—there is an excellent garden and a great deal of choice fruit—the dwelling house is situate 4 miles from George town; and from the beauty of its situation, its healthiness and other advantages, a more desirable place for the residence of a gentleman cannot be offered. It is at present subject to the life estate of a Lady upwards of 70 years old, and will be sold under that incumbrance. And at the same time and place will be sold, plantation on Rock creek, containing 215 acres, of which 100 acres is in wood—This tract has on it a fine Mill seat, distant about 5 miles from the city of Washington. And at the same time and place will be sold between 15 & 20 valuable likely negroes—men, women and children, among the former are some valuable tradesmen and farmers—the negroes are orderly and sober, and all raised in the family, and nothing but the embarrassments of the estate could compel a sale of them—Terms of sale for the negroes, notes with approved indorsers payable 1-3 in 60, 1-3 in 90 and 1-3 in 120 days—the land on a credit of 1, 2, and 3 years with interest from day of sale—If any default in payment of any instalment, the whole to become due.

JOSEPH W CLAGETT, PHILIP B. KEY, } Trustees.

March 17—ep4w.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

At Duane's Book-Store, Pennsylvania Avenue, may be had,

Observations on the Impressment of American Seamen by the officers of G. Britain, &c.—25 cents.

The First Speech (N. York edition) of *Mr. John Randolph*, on the non-importation resolution—25 cents.

The Second Speech of *Mr. Randolph* on the same subject—12 1-2 cents.

James Sloan's Speeches on the same subject—6 cents.

Also—Sampson against the Philistines, being an investigation of juridical establishments and the abuses of Law practice.

No purchaser having offered for either of his establishments W. Duane will continue to execute Printing, Stationary, and Bookselling orders as heretofore.

April 18—2t

REMOVAL.

The subscriber has removed his
CABINET SHOP
To his dwelling house on Jefferson street, the first door below Valentine Reintzell's buildings, where he is ready to serve the public in general, and his customers in particular.

WM. KING, Jun.

George Town, April 16—[illegible]