wh[illegible] should [illegible] or those of the house, the [illegible] responsibility of the executive; but that even if the money had [illegible] demanded he should have [illegible] averse to granting it; because, after the total failure of every attempt at negotiation, such a step would disgrace us forever; because France would never [illegible] withhold her ill offices, when by their interposition she could extort money from us—because if Great-Britain, with whom we had serious matters of controversy, did not consider our supplying her enemies with money§ as a breach of our neutrality, it must inspire her with contempt for any attitude of resistance which we might assume towards her—that it was equally to the interest of Spain and of the U. S. to accommodate the matter by an exchange of territory;" (to this mode of settlement the president seemed much opposed) "th t the nations of Europe, like the Barbary powers, would hereafter refuse to look at the credentials of our ministers, without a previous douceur," and much more to the same purpose.

The committee met on the the 7th of December, but came to no definite resolution. One of its members (Mr. Bidwell, of Massachusetts) con rued the message into a requisition of money, for purposes of foreign intercourse, and proposed a grant to that effect, but in this construction, he was unsupported, and his proposition over-ruled. He himself, when the subject was agitated in the house would not avow the same construction of the message which he had given to it in the select committee. On the 14th of December, the chairman of that committee was obliged to go to Baltimore, from whence he did not return until the 21st. During this interval, the dispatches from Mr. Monroe, of the 18th and 25th of October were received by government. Previous to the chairman's departure, having occasion to call on the secretary of state, he was told by that officer, that France would not permit Spain to adjust her differences with us: that France wanted money, and that we must give it to her or have a Spanish and French war. It was when he related this circumstance to the house that Mr. Randolph said, "his confidence in the Secretary of state had never been very high, but that now, it was gone forever." And on the same occasion Mr. Nicholson (who had voted for the appropriation) exclaimed, that he trusted in God the negociation would fail. Several other republican members seemed shocked at this disclosure, and expressed regret at the vote which they had given. On the morning of Saturday the 21st of December, the chairman of the select committee returned from Baltimore. The committee were immediately convened. As they were about to assemble, the chairman was called aside by the secretary of the treasury, with whom he retired, and who put into his hands a paper headed "Provision for the purchase of Florida." As soon as he had cast his eyes on the title, the chairman declared that he would not vote a shilling. The secretary interrupted him, by observing, with his characteristic caution, that he did not mean to be understood as recommending the measure, but if the committee should deem it adviseable, he had devised a plan for raising the necessary supplies, as he had been requested, (or directed) in that case to do. The chairman expressed himself disgusted with the whole of this procedure, which he could not but consider as highly disingenuous. He said "that he was as sensible of the importance of Florida to the U. S. and as willing to acquire it honorably as any man, but he would never consent to proceed in this way; that the most scrupulous care had been taken to cover the reputation of the administration, whilst Congress were expected to act as if they had no character to lose; that whilst the official language of the executive was consistent and dignified, whilst the President warned us of the "determination of Spain to advance upon our possessions until she should be repressed by an opposing force," and pronounced "that the protection of our citizens, as well as the spirit and honor of our country rendered the interposition of that force necessary," declaring at the same time "his determination to pursue the course which the wisdom of Congress should prescribe;" Congress was privily required to take upon itself all the odium of shrinking from the national honor and national defence, and of delivering the public purse to the first cut throat that demanded it. From the official communications—from the face of the record, it would appear that the executive had discharged his duty in recommending manly and vigorous measures, which he had been obliged to abandon, and compelled by Congress to pursue an opposite course, when in fact Congress itself had been acting all the while at executive instigation." The chairman further observed "that he did not understand this double set of opinions and principles: the one ostensible, to go upon the journals and before the public, the other efficient, and the real motives to action: that he held true wisdom and cunning to be utterly incompatible in the conduct of great affairs; that he had strong objections to the measure in itself, but, in the shape in which it was presented, his repugnance to it was insuperable." And in a subsequent conversation with the President himself, in which those objections were recapitulated, he declared "that he too had a character to support, and principles to maintain, and avowed his determined opposition to the whole scheme."

The committee now assembled, and instructed their chairman to write to the secretary of war for his opinion as to the force which it would be requisite to raise for the defence of the sou hern frontier, and requesting at the same time, to be informed what number of troops were already stationed in that quarter. In his answer, the minister stated the force which the U. S. had on the Mississippi and its branches, ready to descend the river at a short notice, to be somewhat less than a thousand men; that he had intelligence that Spain was collecting an army on the frontiers of New Mexico, and transporting troops from the Havanna to Pensacola, and that the force requisite on our part, would depend upon that which would be opposed to us, which he estimated (vaguely) to be superior to our own.

About this period the news of the sea-fight off Trafalgar reached America, the event of which alarming the Spanish ministry for the safety of their West India colonies, forbade the weakening of the important post of the Havanna, and suspended the hostile movements on the part of Spain against the U. S. And to this circumstance we have been probably indebted for the undisturbed possession of New-Orleans and its dependencies.

When the Secretary of War's letter was laid before the committee, Mr. Bidwell moved the same proposition which the Secretary of the Treasury had some days before put into the hands of the chairman, and which he (Mr. B.) afterwards introduced into the House; viz. a vote of two millions and a continuance of the duties, the proceeds of which constituted the Mediterranean fund. It was rejected, and the chairman directed to draft the report which has been printed with the secret journal, and published in all the newspapers. The committee saw, in the multiplied aggressions of Spain ample cause of war, on the part of a government, with which the welfare of its citizens was not paramount to every other consideration. But conceiving that the true interests of the American people (which alone it behoved them to consult) required peace, they forebore to recommend offensive measures. They believed it to be our policy to reap the neutral harvest, and seize the favorable occasion of extinguishing the public debt—at once the price of our liberties, and the badge of our ancient servitude. So long as this debt remains unpaid, we can scarcely be considered as a truly independent people. The sense of the committee was, neither to make war, nor to purchase peace, but to provide for the defence of our actual territory, which the highest authority had announced to have been violated and to be menaced with fresh invasion. On this point they conceived there could be but one sentiment, whatever difference of opinion might exist as to the wisdom of pledging the nation to protect its flag in remote seas, or its ability to afford such protection. A poor attempt has been made to reproach the committee with a want of reliance on the militia, and a preference for the standing army. When it is considered that all the protection then and since extended to the country in question consists of regular troops, and that the nearest states from which the militia could be marched for its defence, are separated from it by many hundred miles of intervening Indian country, (not to mention that these states themselves are amongst the weakest in the union) the incompetency of the militia to the service in question, and the futility of the objection, must become manifest to all. Besides, the president had no occasion to apply to Congress for power to call out the militia to repel invasion, that force being, under such circumstances, already at his disposal; and it is worthy of remark, that the far greater number of those would-be partizans of the militia, refused to adopt the measure recommended by the executive, (or indeed any other) for giving efficient operation to that great constitutional defence.

The report of the committee, altho' in strict unison with the official recommendation of the executive, was rejected by 72 to 58 votes; and the proposition to appropriate——dollars for the purpose of defraying any extraordinary expences of foreign intercourse, which had been previously laid on the table by a member of that committee, before their report was made to the House, was immediately taken up. The avowed object of this measure was to enable the President to open a negociation for the purchase of Florida. A motion was then made by Mr. J. Randolph to confine the appropriation to that object, and agreed to, yeas 78, nays 58. Another motion was made by the same gentleman to render the debt which was proposed to be incurred, redeemable at the pleasure of the U. S. This was carried without a division. But afterwards, when the bill was brought in, the house rescinded its vote for a specific appropriation, and the money was left applicable at the discretion of the executive, to any extraordinary purpose of foreign intercourse whatsoever. Mr. J. Randolph also moved to limit the amount which the government might stipulate to pay for the territory in question; upon the ground that, if congress were disposed to acquire Florida by purchase, they should fix the extent to which they were willing to go, and thereby furnish our ministers with a safe-guard against the rapacity of France; that there was no probability of our obtaining the country for less, but every reason to believe, that, without such a precaution on our part, she would extort more. This motion was over-ruled. When the bill came under discussion, various objections were urged against it by the same gentleman: among others, that it was in direct opposition to the views of the executive, as expressed in the President's official communication, (it was on this occasion that gen. Varnum declared the measure to be consonant to the secret wishes of the executive!) that it was a prostration of the national honor at the feet of our adversary: that a concession so humiliating would paralyse our efforts against G. Britain, in case the negociation then and now pending between that government and ours should prove abortive: that a partial appropriation towards the purchase of Florida without limiting the president to some specific amount, would give a previous sanction to any expence which he might incur for that object, and which Congress would stand pledged to make good: that, if the executive, acting entirely upon its own responsibility, and exercising its acknowledged constitutional powers, should negociate for the purchase of Forida, the House of Representatives would, in that case, be left free to ratify or annul the contract: but that the course which was proposed to be pursued, (and which eventually was pursued) would reduce the discretion of the legislature to a mere shadow; that, at its ensuing session, Congress would find itself, in relation to this subject, a deliberative body but in name: that it could not, without a manifest ereliction of its own principles, and perhaps without a violation of public faith, refuse to sanction any treaty entered into by the executive under the auspices of the legislature, and with powers so unlimited: that, however great his confidence in the chief magistrate, he would never consent to give any President so dangerous a proof of it: that his duties as a member of that House, as the independent representative of an independent people, were paramount to every other consideration; and that he would never preclude himself, by any previous sanction, from the unbiassed exercise of his judgment on measures which thereafter were to come before him: that the house had no official recommendation from the Executive for the step which they proposed to take, on the contrary, it was in direct opposition to its sentiments as expressed in the confidential message; that the responsibility would be exclusively their own: that, if the President deemed it advisable to purchase foreign territory, he was free to enter into stipulations for that purpose, whilst Congress would remain equally free to sanction or disapprove such stipulations: or that, if he thought proper to ask for an appropriation for that object, the responsibility of the measure would rest upon him: but when the legislature undertook "to prescribe the course which he should pursue, and which he had pledged himself to pursue," the case was entirely changed: that that house could have no channel through which it could be made acquainted with the opinions of the Executive, but such as was official, responsible and known to the constitution: and that it was a prostitution of its high and solemn functions to act upon an unconstitutional suggestion of the *private wishes of the Executive*, irresponsibly announced by an irresponsible individual, and in direct hostility to his avowed opinions.

[*To be Continued.*]

§ It is believed that the Louisiana treaty was ante-dated to obviate this very difficulty. If money, why not warlike stores, or even fleets and armies?

NATHANIEL MACON, of North Carolina, has been re-elected a Representative in Congress without opposition.

COL. AARON BURR, late Vice-President of the U. S. passed through Chambersburg on 11th inst. on his way to the westward.

The diamonds worn by the Queen of England on his majesty's birth day, were worth 130,000*l.* sterling. "It is a fact that ALL the laborers in England having families are PAUPERS."—*Cobbett.*

CORSICAN REVENGE.

Mrs. Spencer Smith had been some time in Italy, for the benefit of her health, and when the war broke out, was at the baths of Valdagno, near Vicenza, from whence, with other English families, she retired to Venice, then an Austrian garrison, but since surrendered to the French, whose conduct in the first instance towards the English found in that place was uncommonly moderate. Mrs. Spencer Smith, in particular, who was confined to her bed, received permission to remain till the recovery of her health, with the promise of being then allowed to retire whenever she chose. Thus this lady remained unmolested till the 18th April, waiting for a passage to Malta & England, when she was arrested by order of Bonaparte, and placed in the custody of a police guard of four men. She was removed that day to Padua, from thence to Milan, and is now, we understand, to be marched to Verdun, or Valenciennes, a distance of at least five hundred miles.

London Print.

Petersburg, Aug. 15.

A meeting of the Republican Citizens of Petersburg, was held at Brewer's tavern, on Monday evening last, for the purpose of taking under consideration the distressing situation of Selleck Osborne, editor of the "Witness," (a republican paper published in Litchfield, Connecticut) who is imprisoned for an alleged libel on one *Julius Demming*, and who since his imprisonment has been subjected to all the rigors of relentless persecution. Every man who attended the meeting, readily subscribed to Mr. Osborne's paper, and at the same time a committee was appointed to procure the names of all those republicans in the town and country, who feel disposed to encourage the circulation of the Witness, and to reward the editor for his meritorious exertions in the cause he has espoused, and to uphold which, he is willing to sacrifice all the ease and comforts of life. The subscribers already obtained, amount to more than fifty.

Hudson, (N. Y.) Aug 12.

Patent Cannon.——A few days past has been exhibited in this city a piece of iron ordinance of 3lbs. caliber, made on an entire new construction, by capt. Salmon Hunt, at his forge in Canaan, Connecticut. The piece is made of concave pieces of iron welded on to a centre-piece, forming a solid mass, and bored out to the caliber required so as to make the grain of the iron run round the piece instead of in a horizontal direction, by which the gun is much stronger than those made in the former method. This and a mate to it at home he has tried and found to be of excellent proof, and he intends presenting them to the legislature of Connecticut for their approbation, with a view to supply the militia of that state with pieces of this construction instead of those commonly in use. They will cost considerably less than brass, and are much better by being secure from bursting by the circular form of their manufacture.

FROM THE SALEM REGISTER.

The ship *Concord*, captain Richard Ward, jun. from this port direct for Rotterdam, was captured June 9th off the Start by one of his Britannic majesty's ships, and sent for Portsmouth. The cause of the capture is, that a part of her cargo was the production of one of the enemies colonies, (*not enemies property.*) We understand that the far greater part of this ship's cargo is Mocha coffee, imported by the owners, G. Crowninshield and Sons, of this place, and only about a dozen hogsheads of coffee are said to be the produce of Bourbon, in the E. Indies, not imported here by them. The whole cargo had been landed several months in the U. S. and the duties paid or secured to be paid in the customary manner; and there is no pretence of enemies' property. Rotterdam is not blockaded, being one of the excepted ports in Mr. Fox's proclamation, for ships going from neutral countries. The ship and cargo were to be brought to trial at the last dates from England, and the question to be decided is, whether the theft shall be sanctioned by his majesty's courts of admiralty, or the stolen goods be restored to their rightful owners. If a dismissal takes place, the least favour to be expected is, that the enormous port charges and admiralty expences will be thrown upon the claimants. Here is a valuable ship, when prosecuting a lawful voyage, with a cargo confessedly neutral, 19-20ths of which were purchased in Arabia, a neutral country, arrested merely for having on board a few hhds. of coffee, supposed to be the produce of an enemy's colony, destined to the port of another belligerent country. Does the Bourbon coffee contaminate the rest of the cargo? But the production of enemies colonies can be lawfully imported here, and the contamination is an idle pretext to seize the whole. If the British doctrine is to be thus extended to reach a whole cargo because a part was produced in an enemy's colony, the American commerce will be reduced to name merely, and the people of the U. S. will enjoy but the shadow, while the substance is swallowed up. The capture of the Concord is to be considered as nothing when we reflect that this is but one among a hundred equally and perhaps more flagrant violations of our neutral rights by the ships of war of G. Britain. From the port of Salem alone we note the following British captures and condemnations of our ships during the year past.

	Dollars.
The ship Hazard, capt. Bullock, at Jamaica, condemned, ship and cargo worth	90,000
The brig Liberty, Lambert, at Columbo, in Ceylon, the whole condemned, supposed worth	20,000
Ship Prudent, Ford, from Batavia for Salem, same place condemned ship and cargo, said to be worth at least	100,000
Ship Wells, cargo at Gibraltar, condemned, said to have cost	30,000
Brig Hannah, Ropes, at Hallifax, vessel and cargo condemned,	30,000
Dollars,	270,000

Besides the ship Henry, Russel, captured in the Indian seas, carried to Bombay and Ceylon, detained 5 or 6 months and finally released, the whole charges to a considerable amount being thrown upon the owners.

The ship George Washington, Daniels, captured on her passage from Calcutta, and carried to England, released, owners paying charges.

The ship Messenger, Ruffimen, bound to Europe, detained in England, released, and charges thrown upon the owner.

Several other Salem vessels have been stopped in the course of their voyages, and carried out of their way, and tho' finally restored, we believe in all cases the charges have been paid by the owners.

The fate of the Concord being uncertain, her case need not be stated.

If Salem has suffered so much in its trade during the last year, how much all our other commercial towns have suffered, we must leave to others better acquainted to determine. But we would respectfully suggest to the Printers of the U. S. the propriety of collecting an accurate list of the captured vessels and their value, and publishing the same for the information of the American public.

CHARLOTTE-HALL SCHOOL.

AGREEABLY to the direction of the Trustees, the parents and guardians of the pupils are informed, that the classes will open on Monday the 18th of August.

Cool Springs, St. Mary's,
aug. 22—3t

PROPOSALS,

FOR PUBLISHING BY SUBSRIPTION,

THE WORKS

OF

DR. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN,

PHILOSOPHICAL, POLITICAL, AND LITERARY.

Hominum rerumque repertor.

THE publication of the writings of Dr. Franklin in a complete edition, was long contemplated by the late BENJ. FRANKLIN BACHE, his grandson, who transcribed the copy which was devised to Mr. W. Temple Franklin, for the purpose. It was originally designed that the corrected edition should appear in three languages, and in England, Germany France and America, at the same time: this design was frustrated by the devisee (W. Temple Franklin) who, it is now believed, sacrificed the work and the honorable trust reposed in him, for money, to the mortal hatred of the English ministry against the deceased sage.

As soon as this fact was known, the present editor of the Aurora turned his attention to the collection of every paper and circumstance which could tend to preserve and do honor to the memory of a man to whom America is so much indebted; and who, as he was the first that from his genius and talents reflected back lustre on his native country, must continue to be ranked to the latest posterity, among its greatest benefactors and ornaments.

This edition will be published from the copies revised and corrected by Dr. Franklin, the corrections of which are in the hand writing of the author, and may be seen by any gentleman in the possession of the editor of the Aurora.

Early admiration of Dr Franklin; educated in veneration and reverence of his character—combined with other incidental circumstances not necessary to be pointed out, have concurred to favor the collection by the present editor, of the best materials that could be obtained after the sacrifice of the work by the devisee.

With some industry, and with some expence he has possessed himself, not only of the copy with the corrections and additions in Dr. Franklin's hand writing; but also of several articles which have never appeared in any former collection, and of several which have never appeared in print.

Proposals would have appeared long since in this city, had not an advertisement of an intended edition being published in the English prints; the present editor thought it might be yet possible that the edition advertised, was that which Mr. Temple Franklin was entrusted with; but it now appears that the English edition is only a republication of the former compilation with some small additions; but still very deficient, on a comparison with the corrected papers in the hands of the editor.

The whole will now be carefully collated, and the work executed in a style worthy of the great patriarch of American liberty and apostle of the American press.

The additional papers will form at least a volume, perhaps more—the authentic papers already printed, form three—and it is intended to begin with the second volume, which will be put to press immediately; and to publish the Biography last, so that such additional particulars as may throw any useful light on the life of this great man, may be engrafted on his memoirs; to obtain which, and other important materials, the editor will spare neither pains nor expence.

Gentlemen who may be possessed of authentic or original papers, or correspondence of Dr. Fa or who can give information where any are to be found, will render public service by communicating them to the editor.

CONDITIONS.

The work shall be elegantly printed, on a new small pica type and fine vellum paper in large octavo.

The work will be ornamented with numerous engravings, a vignette to each volume—a whole length portrait from the best likeness allowed to be in existence, now in the possession of——————.

The price of each volume will be a dollar 50 cents payable on delivery only.

Subscriptions will be received at the bookstore of Wm. Duane, No 106, Market Street, Philadelphia, and in Pennsylvania avenue, Washington city; and by other booksellers and private gentlemen, whose names will be notified in the several states of the union, in due time.

August 8—