giving the slaves their freedom, would operate exactly in the same way as forfeiting them. If then there would be no interference with state rights in the one case, there would not in the other; the only difference would consist in the transfer of the property; the operation of the amendment being to make a donation, or whatever else gentlemen may please to call it, to the persons of their freedom.

If it shall be said that the provision contained in the amendment will operate inconveniently by turning these persons loose upon society, a remedy may be applied. A sufficient authority on this head exists in the state governments. If paupers, vagabonds, or any other troublesome description of persons be introduced among them, every state has a right to impose penalties on the persons introducing them. So in the present case the state authorities may be enforced, in addition to such punishments as the U. S. may see fit to inflict for the purposes of general welfare. I am, for these reasons, of opinion, that the amendment, so far from rendering the bill less efficient, will make it more so.

Mr. MACON (Speaker). I believe that on this subject there is but one opinion, which is effectually to prohibit the importation of slaves into the U. S. This sentiment, I believe, pervades the breast of every member of the committee. In adopting our measures on this subject we must pass such a law as can be executed; such an one as every part of the union shall deem itself interested in carrying into effect. If we insert in it a clause, in the execution of which every part of the union does not consider itself interested, we shall prevent the law from going into full operation. The proposed amendment goes to make this description of persons, that shall be imported, free. What will be its effect? What is to become of the cargoes of these persons when thus turned loose in any state? By what means are they, understanding nothing about the country, to be supported? Not even speaking the language of the country, what is to become of them? Are they to be maintained by the public or by individuals? This question is deserving of some consideration. It is a subject, I confess, on which there is some difficulty. For my part I wish the law to be made so strong as to prevent any vessel from bringing them into the U. S. But I believe the amendment contains a provision that some of the states will not like. In some of the states there is a legal provision that an owner of a slave may give him his freedom, on going into court, and giving security that the slave that is liberated shall not be a charge upon the county. Those persons who deal in this nefarious traffic will never carry their cargoes into a part of the union where there are no slaves; they will go to the states where slavery exists, and there smuggle them; and if we pass this amendment the situation of these states will be most deplorable.

It does not appear to me necessary to insert this amendment in the bill, in order to carry it into execution. The great object is to prohibit the importation; and so far as relates to this end, the amendment will weaken the bill. Perhaps I may be under the influence of local prejudice; but there is no state in the union more opposed to the importation of slaves than the state which I have the honor to represent. It was proposed by her ten years ago so to amend the constitution as to give Congress the power of prohibiting the importation of slaves. I believe the proposition passed by an unanimous vote; certain I am it had my hearty approbation. But it seems to me, if you give these people their freedom, and turn them loose, they must perish. As, therefore, the amendment is not essential to the law being carried into execution, I am opposed to it, not wishing to pass a law that will be disagreeable to any part of the union.

[*To be Continued.*]

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

PARIS, *October* 21.

FIRST BULLETIN OF THE GRAND ARMY.

Dated Bambourg, Oct. 8

The peace concluded with Russia on the 20th July, and the pending negociations with G. Britain, which had nearly attained maturity, occasioned uneasiness at the court of Berlin. The uncertain but always increasing reports, and the fact, of all the powers, after being alternately betrayed by that cabinet, having reason to complain of it—occasioned it to give credit to some *rumors* which asserted that one of the secret articles of the treaty with Russia, stipulated that Poland should be given to the grand duke Constantine, with the title and dignity of a king.—Silesia to be given to Austria for her share of Poland, and lastly Hanover to England. In a word, the court of Berlin firmly believed that these three powers had projected a plan, in conjunction with France, from which great danger would be likely to result to the crown of Prussia.

The complaints of France of the conduct of Prussia took their origin at a very early period. First of all, Prussia took arms with a view of benefiting by her intestine commotions. Then she hurried to the field at the moment the duke of York effected his landing in Holland—and, during the events of last war, though she had no reasons of complaint against France, she prepared for war, and signed the notorious treaty of Potsdam, which was afterwards done away by the treaty of Vienna.

Russia had to complain of her. That power cannot possibly fulfil the former, nor forget the treaty of Vienna.

The grievances given by Prussia to the Emperor of Austria, and to the Germanic body—more numerous than the former—have always been well known. She was always quarrelling with the congregation of the empire. When the German empire was engaged in any war, Prussia was at peace with her enemies. Never did she fulfil her engagements with Austria, and she continually strove to irritate the other power to war, in order, at the conclusion of peace, to reap the fruits of her ingenuity and of their victories.

Those who might be disposed to derive such extensive fluctuation from the moral weakness in the character of the Prussian monarch, would find themselves greatly deceived. For the last 15 years the court of Berlin has been the stage on which the quarrels of party spirit have been decided by alternate victories. One party is disposed for peace, and the other for war. The least political event, and the most trifling interfering occurrence holds out advantages to one of them; and amidst these explosions of contending passions—in this labyrinth of court intrigues, the king irresolutely hesitates to and fro, without ever ceasing to be an honest man.

On the 11th Aug. a courier arrived at Berlin from the Marquis of Luchesini, and brought the most positive accounts and assurances of Russia and France having agreed to restore the kingdom of Poland in conformity to the treaty of the 20th July, and of taking Silesia from Prussia. The supporters of war became instantly inflamed—they overpowered the feelings of the king—forty couriers were sent off in a single night—and they hasted to arms!

The news of this sudden explosion reached Paris on the 20th day of the same month. Every one pities an ally who was so cruelly misguided. The necessary explanations were immediately given, as well as the most positive assurance; and, as an error was evidently the only motive for the armaments of Prussia, it was hoped that on mature deliberation, such madness would be terminated.

In the mean time the treaty signed at Paris was not ratified; and succeeding accounts of all descriptions, soon convinced Prussia, that the Marquis of Luchesini had collected his information in the most suspicious circles of the capital, and amongst intriguers, with whom he usually associated. In consequence of this he was recalled; and his place was supplied by Baron Knobelsdorff a man of an honest, open and unimpeached moral character.

This ambassador soon repaired to Paris, and was the bearer of a letter from the king of Prussia, dated August 23.

This letter was filled with expressions of an obliging nature; and we answered by our emperor in a most candid and satisfactory manner.

The day after the departure of the courier with this answer, information was received, that some songs of an offensive nature against France, had been sung on the stage at Berlin—that, immediately after the departure of Baron Knobelsdorff, the preparations for war were doubled—and that, in spite of all who were endowed with calmness, the war party, breathing discord from all quarters, exerted themselves so successfully, that the king became incapable of resisting their influence.

After that it was conceived at Paris, that the peaceable party, being also influenced by fictitious reports and disturbed by false alarms, had lost every advantage—while the war party, benefiting by the error which had misguided their adversaries, became guilty of numerous provocations, and re-iterated insults; and that affairs had assumed such an alarming appearance, as left no other alternative but war.

The emperor then saw that the force of circumstances was such, as compelled him to take up arms against his ally. He therefore ordered preparations to be made.

In the mean time affairs were conducted with the greatest celerity at Berlin. The Prussian troops invaded Saxony, advanced as far as the frontiers of the Confederacy of the Rhine, and insulted the advanced posts.

On the 7th at Bamberg, his majesty the Emperor received a courier from prince Benevento, at Mentz, who brought two important dispatches—one a letter from the king of Prussia, twenty odd pages in length [the manifesto which has appeared in this paper,] which is nothing but a libel against France, such as England issues through the medium of her 500l. a-year scribblers. The Emperor did not read the whole of it, but said to those around him,

"I pity my brother the king of Prussia—he does not understand French—he surely never read that rhapsody."

To this letter was attached the famous note of Baron Knobelsdorff. "Marshal (said the Emperor to Berthier) we are challenged for the 8th of October—never did a Frenchman want punctuality on such an occasion; but as it is said that a fair queen is to be present to witness the contest, let us shew our politeness, and march to Saxony without going to bed."

The emperor was right in saying so, for the queen of Prussia was in the camp dressed like an Amazon in the uniform of her regiment of dragoons, writing twenty letters a day, to extend the flames of war. We expect to see Armida in her haste setting fire to her own palace. Next to her comes prince Lewis of Prussia, a youth full of fire and heroism, who encouraged by the promoters of war, flatters himself with acquiring great fame amidst the vicissitudes of war. At the instance of these two great personages, the whole court has sounded the trumpet of war; but when it shall have once appeared with all its terrors, each will wish to exonerate themselves from the blame of having spread it over the peaceable regions of the North. Then we shall find that they will throw the blame on the king, who is a worthy man, duped by their artifice and intrigues.

WASHINGTON CITY.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22.

We understand that the British government notified, on the 25th of September last, the discontinuance of so much of the blockade of the North of Europe, as extended from the river Elbe to the river Ems, both inclusive.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19.

Mr. Stanton offered a resolution, to which the House agreed, directing the Secretary of the Treasury to lay before the House a statement exhibiting the amount of the direct tax paid by the respective states, together with the amounts remaining due.

Mr. Kelly presented the petition of —— Ilgerfertz, which was referred to the committee on the public lands.

On motion of *Mr. J. Clay* the petition of Hugh Maxwell and Wm. Levis, heretofore presented, was referred to Messrs. J. Clay, Jackson and Wadsworth.

On motion of *Mr. J. Clay* the House concurred in the resolution of the Senate for the appointment of a joint committee to superintend the expenditure of the money appropriated for the support of the library, and appointed Messrs. J. Clay, T. M. Randolph, and Dana, a committee on their part.

The Senate have appointed on their part Messrs. Adams, Baldwin and Mitchill.

On motion of *Mr. Smilie* the petition of Oliver Evans, heretofore presented, was referred to the committee appointed on sundry petitions for the extension of the periods of patent rights.

Mr. Holmes presented a petition from a number of inhabitants in Augusta, Virginia, praying for a change in the course of the mail, which was referred to the Post Office Committee.

Mr. Dawson presented a petition from Samuel Davidson and others, praying provision to be made for a legal division of their lots, which was referred to Messrs. Dawson, Magruder and Van Rensselaer.

Mr. Darby presented a bill to incorporate the trustees of the Baptist Church in the city of Washington, which was made the order of the day for Monday next.

Mr. Holmes from the Committee of Claims, on the petition of Benjamin Sadler, made a report adverse thereto, in which the House concurred.

Mr. Crowninshield offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures be instructed to inquire into the expediency of erecting buoys and beacons on or near the rocks and shoals in the passages leading to Salem harbor, in the state of Massachusetts.

Mr. C. stated that Salem carried on an extensive commerce—that the harbor was difficult of access, and there were many dangerous rocks and shoals lying near it, upon which vessels had frequently been stranded; at present there were no beacons or buoys erected there, and he thought Salem had as strong claims as any port in the union.

The House agreed to the resolution.

On motion of Mr. *Jer. Morrow*,

Resolved, That the committee on the public lands be directed to enquire into the expediency of making further provision for the sale of the sections heretofore reserved for the future disposition of Congress, and that they report by bill or otherwise.

On motion of Mr. *Southard*, the petition of Jona. Snowden, heretofore presented, was referred to the Committee of Claims.

Mr. *Crowninshield* presented a petition from sundry inhabitants of New Bedford and Nantucket, which was referred to the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures.

On motion of Mr. *Jackson*,

Resolved, That the Committee on Public Lands be directed to enquire into the expediency of repealing so much of the act of Congress of the 23d of March 1804, as limits the time in which the location of Virginia military warrants shall be made.

FRIDAY, DEC. 20.

On motion of Mr. *Clinton*, the petition of Isaac Clason, and the report of the Committee of Claims made the last session, were referred to the Committee of Claims.

On motion of Mr. *Smilie*, the petition of Nathaniel Irish, heretofore presented, was referred to the Committee of Claims.

Mr. *Boyle*, from the committee on the public lands, presented a bill to revive and continue in force an act entitled an act for the relief of the refugees from the British provinces of Canada and Nova Scotia, which was referred to a Committee of the whole House on Monday.

On motion of Mr. *Boyle*, the Committee on public lands were discharged from the further consideration of the petition of Wm. M'Carty, which was referred to the Committee of Claims.

On motion of Mr. *Wickes*, the memorial of N. Ledyard was referred to the committee on claims barred by the statutes of limitation.

Mr. *Early*, from the committee to whom was recommitted the bill prohibiting the importation of slaves into the U. S. presented a new bill, which was referred to a committee of the whole House on Monday.

On motion of Mr. *Bidwell* the consideration of the bill "to revive and make permanent an act to prescribe the mode of taking evidence in cases of contested elections for members of the House of Representatives of the U. S. and to compel the attendance of witnesses, and in addition to the same"—was resumed in committee of the whole —Mr. BASSET in the chair—

Mr. *J. Clay* offered two new sections, in conformity with the intimation made by him when the bill was before under consideration, the purport of which was—

1. To provide that the magistrate before whom an election was held should be empowered to examine on oath any person, voting without being qualified, for whom he voted, and directing him to transmit such examination to the clerk of the House of Representatives.

2. Inhibiting any court before whom a criminal prosecution, or action of debt shall be instituted, from receiving the contents of such examination in evidence.

On these provisions a debate of some length arose. Messrs. J. Clay, Elliot, Smilie, and Findley supported, and Messrs. Varnum, Bidwell and Sloan opposed the amendments.

By the former gentlemen it was observed that the provisions submitted were offered for the purpose of preserving sacred the right of election; that under the existing provisions of law, it was frequently necessary, in the case of a number of bad votes being given, either to confine the returns, where there was great appearance of fraud, or to set aside the election altogether and order a new one. This was a great grievance that loudly called for redress if any means could be devised for affording it. It was added that a similar provision had been adopted in the state of Pennsylvania, and had been carried into effect without inconvenience; and that even if it should be acknowledged that it would be attended with some inconveniences, it did not follow that it was not freer from objection than any other provision which could be devised.

On the other hand it was contended, that the right of ballot was justly considered sacred, and that whatever tended to impair it, ought to be resisted; that in this instance, although *nominally* the power given to the magistrate only applied to persons not legally qualified to vote, it virtually gave him the right of determining who were or were not so qualified. On this point the magistrate was liable to misjudgement, and might consequently compel a qualified voter to declare for whom he voted, and thus destroy the sacredness of the ballot. Nor was it uncharitable to suppose, that in addition to the mistakes of the magistrate, party spirit might in some instances carry him beyond the bounds of propriety. It was besides a strong objection to the proposed provision, that it made the issue of an election depend on the oaths of persons who had previously committed a fraud by giving illegal votes.

After this discussion the committee, without coming to any decision, rose and asked leave to sit again, which was refused, and the bill recommitted to Messrs. Bidwell, Halsey, Smith of Pen. Smith of Virg. Pitkin, R. Nelson and M'Farland.

Mr. *Crowninshield*, from the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures, made a report on the petitions of sundry inhabitants of Philadelphia and Baltimore, praying for a drawback of duties on refined sugar exported.

The report states that the subject was fully examined by the committee in the last Congress, to which report they refer for their reasons against granting the prayer of the petitions, concluding with a resolution, declaring it inexpedient to grant the prayer of the petitioners.

Referred to a committee of the whole on Tuesday.

Mr. *Crowninshield* then moved the following resolution——

Resolved, That it is expedient to reduce the duties on foreign refined sugar and sugar candy from and after the day of next, and that all restrictions at present imposed on the importation and exportation of refined sugar be removed.

Mr. Crowninshield remarked that the duties at present paid on the importation of these articles were exceedingly high, and operated as a monopoly to domestic sugar refiners. He was opposed to any such monopoly, and to such exorbitant duties. His object was to call the attention of the House to the subject—for which purpose he moved the reference of his resolution to the same committee with that to which the report had been referred, in which motion the House concurred.

Mr. *Chandler* presented a petition from several collectors of customs in Maine, praying for an increase of their emoluments, which was referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. *Dawson* presented a petition from——Gresham, which was referred to the Committee of Claims.

Mr. *R. Nelson* presented a petition from sundry inhabitants of Maryland and Pennsylvania, praying for a new post road, which was referred to the Post Office committee.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole——Mr. MASTERS in the chair——on the bill to change the name of the district of Nanjemoy to that of St. Marys.

After a short consideration of the bill, the committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

The following are the documents which accompanied the report of the committee on that part of the President's Message which relates to an invasion of our territory by the troops of Spain; and to the adoption of measures for the protection thereof.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
December, 15, 1806.

SIR,

Agreeably to the request of the committee, as expressed in your letter of the 10th instant, I herewith enclose such information on the subject referred to them, as is possessed by this department, in addition to what was communicated to Congress with the message of the President of the United States, at the commencement of the present session, viz.

A copy of governor Cordero's answer to general Wilkinson's letter of the 4th October, marked No. 1, and an extract from captain general Salcedo's answer to governor Claiborne's 1st letter to governor Herrera, marked No. 2.

To which I would beg leave to add the following statement and remarks.

The law fixing the military establishment of the United States, being under the eye of the committee, it may only be necessary to remark that, of the force which it authorizes, eighteen companies are posted as follows, viz.

One company in Portland and Portsmouth harbors.

One do. Boston harbor and at the arsenal Springfield.

One do. Rhode Island and Connecticut.

One do. New York harbor.

One do. on the Delaware, below Philadelphia.

One do. Norfolk and Baltimore harbors.

One do. Charleston harbor, S. C. and in North Carolina.

Two do. frontiers of Georgia.

One do. do. of Tennessee.

One do. at Chickasaw Bluffs and Arkansas.

One do. Massac and Vincennes.

One do. at St. Louis.

One do. Chikago, south end of Lake Michigan.

One do. Detroit.

One do. Michilimackinac.

One do. Niagara.

One do. Fort Wayne, on the portage between the Wabash and the Miami of the Lakes. The remaining force is under the immediate command of the general in the Orleans and Mississippi territories.

The corps are nearly complete, including the recruits now on their passage for the lower Mississippi.

In addition to the regular force under the immediate command of the general, he is authorised to call on the Orleans and Mississippi territories for such reinforcements of militia, as may be thought expedient.

Arms for infantry, and pistols and swords for a due proportion of cavalry, have been forwarded to New Orleans, for the use of such militia as might be called into service.

The Spanish force which has lately crossed and re-crossed the Sabine, has been represented as amounting to 1500 men, principally mounted militia; there is, however, reason for believing that their numbers have been over rated. Their force at Pensacola, Mobile, and Baton Rouge, amounts, probably, to from 500 to 650 men.

It is not possible to form any thing like a correct opinion of the force which Spain could bring into the field from her extensive western and southern territories, or from beyond sea. It may be presumed that the war in which she is at present engaged, and which endangers some of her valuable possessions, must render it difficult for her to draw a very considerable force to any point on our frontiers.

As to the protection of our citizens, I may be allowed to refer the committee to the message of the President of the United States to Congress, of the 2d instant; in which he has expressed his idea of the means of protecting them at the commencement of a war, and until a regular army may be raised. But as the right of deciding on this, as well as other questions, rests with Congress, the President must rely on the means they shall judge it most expedient to provide.

I am, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

H. DEARBORN.

Hon. John Randolph, chairman, &c.

Camp of Nacogdoches, Oct. 11, 1806.

SIR,

I informed your excellency by my letter of the 29th of last month, that I had sent that of your excellency of the 24th of the same month to the captain general brigadier Don Nimesio Salcedo, on whom I depend, because I was not invested with a competent authority, for its discussion, and as the answer belonged to said chief. I flatter myself that in consideration of the good of humanity which your excellency professed to wish, and of the good harmony which reigns between our governments, your excellency would have expected his answer to determine on your operations, because I am not at liberty not to carry into execution the orders which command me to consider the Hondo run as the boundary line of the province.

I see, by the letter of your excellency of the 4th instant, which I have just received, that against my hopes you have marched your troops towards the Sabine without any hostile views against the Spaniards, but with the intention only of maintaining the pretensions of the United States to that side of said river.

Your excellency is very well acquainted with the sacred duties of a soldier: I must in consequence declare to your excellency that though the re-