Captain King, that the Prince Regent, with the royal family, left the Tagus on the 30th of November, as stated in our last. The approach of the French army was so rapid, that the fleet came out very short of provisions, with which they were furnished from the British fleet. Sir Sidney Smith sent four sail of the line with the Portuguese fleet to Brazil. The Russian fleet still in the Tagus, the batteries being too strong to permit an attack to be made upon it.

WASHINGTON CITY.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12.

Agreeably to a Census, made in November last, the free male inhabitants of Kentucky above the age of twenty-one amount to 49,212.

David Thomas, late representative in Congress from the state of New-York, has been appointed Treasurer of that state.

Extract of a letter from Lisbon, dated "29th November, 1807, 9 o'clock, morning.

"At the moment I am writing the Portuguese squadron, consisting of 8 line of battle ships, 2 frigates and 4 smaller vessels, are under weigh. The Prince Regent and the whole Royal Family are on board; the Duke of Cardeval, first Prince of the blood, M. d'Aranjo, and the minister of marine and foreign affairs, the marquis of Pombal, and several other nobility, with a number of officers of government, servants, &c. &c. Few or no soldiers, except the marine corps, have embarked.—The preparation for embarkation began the twenty-fourth, since which they have worked night and day or rather since the 25th to get on board; and every thing which related to the embarkation has been in great confusion. Appearances seem to indicate that the government was taken by surprise. Not even salted provisions for the ships' use was on board; but little ship bread was prepared, so that they have been obliged to purchase flour and put on board instead of it. The ships have gone away very short of salt provisions, and the bulk of them not half manned. The Prince as well as the nobility have had only time to take their most valuable movable effects, leaving all their fortunes behind. On the 22d notice was received by the Prince that the French army was about entering this kingdom. This caused him very considerable alarm and a general stir at the palace. The 24th a British frigate entered as a flag of truce, & the same day a faint report reached the public of his intentions to embark—That night a grand council of state was held, and the next day an order was received at the arsenal to embark all the provisions, and to prepare the ships immediately for sea. They also that day began to embark the Prince's effects, but the ministers and nobility did not begin to pack up till the 25th and 26th. The first of these days the flag of truce went out. Whether this sudden resolution was owing to the marching of the French army, or to the dispatches brought by the frigate, is not known, but probably to both. There are now several British line of battle ships in the offing, who it is supposed will accompany the Prince to the Brazills. Till however the enclosed proclamation (translated in haste) was published yesterday, and it was understood that the cannon in several forts were spiked, and the gunpowder thrown into the river, it was not generally believed that the Prince would go, and until the ships were under weigh many well informed people believed that he would remain. It is supposed that the value of the diamonds taken with the Prince is about an hundred millions of dollars, and that he took thirty millions of dollars in specie, plate, &c."

HAVING endeavored by every possible means to conserve a neutrality, which until the present time, my faithful and beloved subjects have enjoyed, and notwithstanding my having drained my royal treasury, and every other sacrifices which I have subjected myself, arriving to the excess of shutting the ports of my kingdom to the subjects of my ancient and faithful ally the king of Great Britain, thereby exposing the commerce of my subjects to total ruin; and suffering by this motive great prejudice in the revenues of my kingdom; I find that in the interior of my kingdom are marching troops of the emperor of the French and king of Italy, to whom I had united myself on the continent, in the persuasion of being no longer disturbed; and that the same are directing their march for this capital; and I wishing to avoid the horrible consequences which may ensue from a defence which would be more hurtful than beneficial, serving only to shed blood to the destruction of humanity, and probably to excite in a greater degree the dissention of troops who have come to this kingdom, with the declaration and promise not to commit the least hostility. Knowing likewise that they are directed very particularly against my royal person; and that my faithful subjects will be less disturbed I absenting myself from this kingdom. I have resolved for the benefit of my subjects, to pass with the queen, my lady and mother, and with all the royal family for the States of America, and establish myself in the city of the river of January until a general peace. And considering further how much it behoves to leave the government of these kingdoms in that order which is essential for the good of them and of my subjects as a thing to which I am so essentially obliged. Having in this every consideration which in a similar case are present to me: I am pleased to appoint to govern in my absence and to rule these my kingdoms the Marquis of Abrantes, my dearly beloved cousin, Francisco da Cunhu de Menenzes, lieutenant general of my armies, the Prince Castro, of my council, and regidor of justice, Pedro de Melle Breyneer, of my council, who will serve as president of my royal treasury, in the absence and impediment of Luis de Vascancellas Souza, who is unable from sickness; Don Francisco de Noronha, lieutenant general of my armies and president of the Meza da Conscienciu Ordens; and in the deficiency of either of them, the Count Monteiro Mir, who I have appointed president of the *Senado da Camera*, with the assistance of the two secretaries, the Count Sampaio, and in his room Don Miguel Pereira Forjaz, and of the *Desembargador de Paro*, and my Procurator of the crown, Joao Antonio Satter e Mendonçu, from the great confidence which I have in all of them, and great experience which they have had in the affairs of this government. Being certain that my kingdom and people will be governed and ruled in a manner that my conscience will be at ease, and that the said governors will entirely fulfill their obligation during the time that God is pleased that I shall be absent from this capital, administering justice with impartiality, distributing rewards and punishments according to the merits of each one of them. The said governors will thus understand and fulfill in the manner aforesaid, and in conformity with the instructions which will be signed by me with this decree; and they will make the necessary participations to the competent departments. Palace of Nossa Senhora da Ajuda, the 26th Nov. 1807, with the signature of the Prince Regent, O. L. Instructions referred to in my royal decree of the 26th November, 1807.

The governors which I thought fit to appoint by my royal decree of this date, to govern these kingdoms during my absence, will have the accustomed oath administered to them by the Cardinal Patriarch, and will be diligent, watchful, active and vigilant in the administration of justice, distributing it with impartiality, and conserving in rigorous observance the laws of this kingdom.

They will secure to the subjects all privileges which by me and by the kings my anticessors have been granted. In the consultations which may be presented them by the respective tribunals the plurality of votes shall decide, regulating themselves, by the laws and customs of the kingdom. They will consider those employments by patents, and the officers of justice and revenue in the manner until now practised by me.

They will be careful to defend the persons and property of my faithful subjects, choosing for the military employments those whom they shall know deserving of them.

They will endeavor as far as possible to preserve this kingdom in peace, and that the troops of the emperor of the French and king of Italy, may be well quartered and provided with every thing necessary during the time they may stay in this kingdom, avoid perpetrating all and whatsoever insult, and punishing it with rigor whenever it may happen; preserving always the good harmony which ought to be practised with the armies of those nations with whom we are united on the continent.

If by any manner one of the said governors should be lost, the plurality of votes shall decide his successor. I confide much in his honor and virtue, that my people will not suffer embarrassment in my absence and that should God permit me to return to these my kingdoms with brevity, I may encounter every one content and satisfied always existing among them the good order and tranquility which ought to exist among subjects who have rendered themselves so worthy of my paternal care. Palace of Nossa Senhora da Ajuda, 26th Nov. 1807.

PRINCE.

DEBATE

On the proposition for the removal of the Seat of Government to Philadelphia.

MR. MILNOR said this was a subject of great importance, as was evinced by the anxiety of those who had spoken against removal. He should have hoped that the importance of the subject would have induced gentlemen to wish for time to consider it maturely, that every gentleman might have an opportunity fairly to deliberate, weigh well and decide wisely upon it. It appears however that gentlemen are determined to bring the principle to immediate discussion and decision. This looked to him as if gentlemen were afraid that the House should have an opportunity of deliberating upon this subject. He recollected that the subject was introduced in discussion of another question a few days ago and treated with lightness by a gentleman who has this day moved an indefinite postponement; another gentleman to day could scarcely believe it serious. Thus some who were opposed to it told them that they cannot believe it is seriously meant, while others on the same side deem it very serious indeed, and therefore wished to strangle it in its birth without further discussion. He hoped the good sense of the House would induce them to pause and consider before they decided on the present question; he did not propose now to enter fully into a discussion of its merits, but just reply to a few observations of the gentlemen who had spoken against the resolution.

A gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Lewis) has asked, said Mr. M. if we can think of giving up the place after so much money has been expended. I will in turn ask him a question; where have these ten or fifteen millions been expended? Let us look around and see what we have for them. It is true here we are convened in a splendid mausoleum in which we are buried alive for four or five hours a day, and which, notwithstanding all the efforts of gentlemen in speaking, is so ill constructed for understanding that we might almost as well be immured in the silence of the tomb. We have a very splendid House also for the President of the United States; but *where* is it? A mile and a half hence in another village; for as to city, it is a burlesque upon the term to call this a city. We have also public offices, so distant that members who have the slightest business to transact cannot do it without neglecting their duty. This city, as it is called, is about 16 years old, and is yet apparently in its very infancy. We are told that about from ten to fifteen millions have been expended in bringing it to its present state. I ask how long it will be before we can possibly be accommodated with any convenience? Is there to be no end to the expenditure? We have not only expended these large sums for the erection of buildings, but after that we must appropriate more for watching them and keeping them in repair. This very House has caused an increase of the contingent expences of not less than 5,000 dollars at this time, which must be continued and perhaps increased every session.

It is acknowledged by members and citizens that the city is laid out on an impracticable plan, and that in its present form it never will assume the shape of a city. Is it possible to produce an instance of any city laid out on this plan arriving to perfection? All the inhabitants if gathered together in one spot, would not be able to pay the expence of paving, lighting, and watching the avenues and streets on account of their great width. It is said that the city must be concentrated, and it is allowed that it would be absurd to expect it to grow into importance unless it is concentrated. If then we consider the policy of the measure, it will be considered as impolitic in the extreme to go on expending millions from year to year in endeavoring to effect objects which cannot be finally effected after all that is lavished.

A comparison has been made between the healthiness of this city and Philadelphia. I am not prepared with documents now to make the comparison; but one fact I will state which can be proven; that during the long sitting at Philadelphia the deaths among the members of Congress were but three, perhaps only two, and I need only recur to the last session to shew that as many deaths have occurred here in one session as in Philadelphia during the whole time Congress sat there.

Having no documents I cannot go into minutiæ upon the comparative healthiness of the two places, but having been born and brought up in the city of Philadelphia, and having also resided several years in the neighborhood of this place, I am seriously of the opinion that Philadelphia is by far the most healthy place.

It has been said by the gentleman from Maryland that he should be at all times opposed to the seat of government being fixed in any large city, and he has alluded to the influence which it might possess over members of Congress. I will ask the honorable member whether he feels that he should be influenced by considerations of that nature. I have put this question home to individual members who have made this suggestion, but have never yet found the man who thought that he himself should be influenced in that way: he has no suspicion of himself, but mistrusts his weaker friends: I cannot suppose that the representatives of the nation can possibly be so weak or wicked as to suffer considerations of this kind to influence their better judgment. But I will admit it for a moment for argument's sake. Is it not contemplated by the friends of this place that it will become a large city? And do they not bring forward as an argument that we will not give this city a fair chance; that if we cease to agitate this question, the city will grow and flourish. Whenever that time arrives, agreeably to the gentleman's argument, it will be necessary to remove, because a large city is not the place where Congress ought to sit.

I have been always of opinion that the interests of agriculture and commerce are intimately blended with each other; that the interests of the one cannot be greatly promoted without essentially aiding those of the other. This being the second commercial nation in the world, it is necessary that the legislature of the union should meet in a place where they can obtain the best commercial information. From the very nature of our government there is no danger, nor can any be apprehended, but that the agricultural interest of the nation will be fully represented on this floor. The growing interest of the western country & their rapidly increasing population will assuredly give a full representation to the agricultural interest of the country; but I cannot believe, at the same time, not wishing to derogate from their merits, that gentlemen born and educated in the interior can be as capable of legislating here on commercial subjects, or that they can so clearly discern the connection between agriculture and commerce as in a large commercial city. I am sorry that upon various occasions I have discerned a degree of prejudice on the minds of some gentlemen against the commercial interest of this country. It never can be dangerous to the agricultural interest, while the representation of the latter on this floor so greatly overbalances the former, which must always be the case.

It has been objected to this proposition by some gentlemen that the constitution has fixed this as the permanent seat of government, and that without a violation of the constitution we cannot change it. The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Key) did not seem to insist so strongly upon this as some others, while however he was inclined to this idea. What says the constitution on this subject? "Congress shall exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such district (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by cession of particular states, and the acceptance of Congress, become the seat of the government of the United States." The same section also goes on and says, "And to exercise like authority over all places purchased by the consent of the legislature of the state in which the same shall be, for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dock-yards, and other needful buildings."

Thus the two subjects are blended in the same section. The same contract appears to be made in relation to the one as in relation to the other. I will ask gentlemen do they believe that Congress has not a right to discontinue a navy-yard or a dock-yard? Not a gentleman in the House will say that Congress has not full power to do this. I can see nothing to restrain them in the one case which would not restrain them in the other. Suppose that the seat of government should be fixed in a place so extremely unhealthy that members would not go to the spot designated, feeling such a degree of terror for its character, (this I state merely as a possible case) as to induce them rather to decline the honor of an election than come to the seat of government—or suppose it should be found that the city or place was in danger of immediate invasion, so that there was a probability that the Congress might be seized and carried off. Even this is a possible case. Would there in these cases be no remedy? A great many other reasons might be brought forward to shew that the place for the seat of government was not a proper one, and yet it is contended that we must submit, and no alteration could be made. Nothing more is meant by this provision of the constitution than that during the time in which the seat of government shall be fixed in any place, we should have have exclusive jurisdiction of that place; it never could be understood to tie us down to that district.

It has been said that this would be a violation of private contract, and that if we remove we must make all losses good! I do not believe that an implied contract of this nature is strictly binding on the government. But I believe that those individuals who have made purchases and improvements on the faith of the government ought to be remunerated, and I hope they will be, if it should be thought the interest of the United States that the seat of government should be removed.

This subject was not contemplated by myself as being likely at this moment to occupy the attention of the House. I certainly expected the opponents of the measure would be willing to postpone a discussion that every gentleman might inform himself—and that it might be fairly and deliberately decided. We have heard many things asserted which ought to be enquired into. I have been informed that a high and responsible officer of government has said that the government does sustain a loss by continuing here. I wish this to be ascertained. Why are we to be forced into a discussion? Why are gentlemen so averse to enquiry? It appears to me that their fears are alarmed, that they are convinced that a mature consideration will operate against them. I must therefore conclude that those gentlemen so desirous of immediate discussion must be of opinion that further time will operate against them and in favor of the measure. I hope the House will see the propriety of postponing the subject at least for a few days.

(DEBATE TO BE CONTINUED.)

Norfolk, Feb. 4.

Yesterday the Court Martial for the trial of Commodore Barron, closed as to the evidence, when the defence was delivered.

We do not consider ourselves at liberty to comment, on this defence but we surely may be permitted to say that it was eloquent, ingenious and logical.

Extract of a letter from Leghorn, dated 4th Dec.

"You will be happy to hear that an arrangement has at length taken place with the French General for the release of all goods sequestered by the Commissioners, and the general liberation of the trade of the port by a contribution to be raised as a loan by the Chamber of Commerce, for 2,100,000 francs. Part of this loan, notwithstanding the strongest representations, will fall upon the sequestered goods."

COPENHAGEN, Nov. 17.

Amicable relations still subsist between Russia and Sweden. It is believed that the latter with the mediation of Russia, will soon conclude a peace with France, and that the Swedish ports will soon be shut against the English.

The amount of the value of the merchantmen taken by the enemy, is estimated at 24 millions rix-dollars. The Danish troops collected in Zealand, will be augmented to 26,000 men.—They are assembling 10,000 sailors.

THE COLUMBIAD,

BY JOEL BARLOW.

THE Lovers of the FINE ARTS need only see it, and they will universally pronounce it the most splendid Work ever published in America. The ENGRAVING of the PLATES alone, cost upwards of 4,000 dollars.

☞ A few copies of the above work are received, & for sale at J. MARCH's Book-store, Georgetown.

February 12—1awlm

IN CHANCERY, JANUARY 26, 1808.

Issachar, and Mahlon Scholfield
versus
M'Carty, Theoderick and Daniel Fitzhugh, Mary Brent, Henry Lee, and Nathaniel Pendleton.

THE object of the bill is to obtain a decree to foreclose a mortgage executed by Philip Fitzhugh to the complainants for an undivided moiety of the Mills in Prince Georges county known by the name of "The Adelphi Mills" and the land adjoining included in said mortgage, or for a sale of the premises for the payment of the debt, also for a sale of the real estate of said Philip Fitzhugh for the payment of his debts.

The bill states that the complainants sold the above property to said Fitzhugh for the sum of 9800 dollars, that the complainants executed to Fitzhugh a deed for the property (which has never been recorded) and obtained from him a mortgage to secure the last sum mentioned; also that exclusive of that debt Fitzhugh is otherwise indebted to them, that Fitzhugh executed a bond for the conveyance of the said property to the said defendant Pendleton, and has since died, leaving the defendants the Fitzhughs, and Mary Brent his heirs at law or devisees of his estate; that Henry Lee the defendant is his executor or administrator, and that all the defendants reside out of the state.

It is thereupon on the motion of the complainant ordered that they cause a copy of this order to be inserted in the National Intelligencer during three successive weeks before the first day of March next to the end that the said defendants may have notice of this bill and of the subject and object thereof and may be warned to appear in this court in person or by a solicitor on or before the first day of July next to shew cause if any they there be, wherefore a decree should not pass as prayed.

True copy,
Test NICHS. BREWER,
Reg. Cur. Can.

February 12—w3t