should demand not petition for them; the constitution never contemplated that this body should petition. I feel myself placed in a dignified situation and never will consent to such an abasement.

We have, however, arrived at the point when it is acknowledged that this principle is not recognized by the constitution of the country. This proposition is the same in effect, though not in the same plain language as that offered by the gentleman from Kentucky, & which has been withdrawn to make way for this, in return for which the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Randolph) has declared the arguments of the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. Rowan) to be unanswerable. This resolution is the same in substance, asking the President to do a thing which we have not a right to demand. This is the substance of the argument just delivered in favor of it. I am informed the Senate is trying one of its members: suppose we enter into a resolution to enquire into the conduct of the same person. Would it not in us be an act of supererogation? We are informed from good authority that this work is going on, that gen. W. is on his trial, that the proper department is going on with this business. How then can we take it up?

This proposition means something that cannot be acknowledged, that will not bear the light of day: and therefore I am opposed to this resolution and all such.

Mr. Livermore said the resolution in its present form was considerably varied from what it was yesterday; he should briefly make a few observations on the subject.

There had been information given to the House of something which looked like a conspiracy against the government; and also of something which looked like bribery. Without entering into an investigation or analysis of the evidence, it was such as to induce the House to say that any person guilty of the crimes alleged by it to have been committed, was unfit for an officer of the United States. The proposition now under consideration was simply to enquire, or, in other words, that the President of the United States be requested to enquire into the conduct of this officer. This at first view certainly did not strike his mind as being worthy of so much consideration whether or not it should be adopted; he could not have conceived it possible that there should be any discussion on it.

It had been said by some gentlemen opposed to it, that the evidence ought to be transmitted to the President of the U. States; they could see no objection to that. But what could be understood by transmitting it? Why send it to the President of the United States? If it were improper to make the request, why trouble the Executive with information on the subject? if it were proper to transmit the evidence, why scruple to make the request?

Gentlemen had objected to it on constitutional grounds; for his own part he should be one of the last to wish to pass any resolution or do any act contrary to the constitution; and should also be one of the last to do any thing which looked like an assumption of powers not delegated to the House. But in every shape in which he could view the matter, there was not the least cause for an apprehension of this kind, and he should endeavour to consider the matter as briefly as possible.

It had been said that the constitution did not delegate the power to do this thing. This is very true, said he; the constitution does not expressly delegate any such power if we adhere to the letter of this instrument. But it must be considered that there are powers vested in this House which are not expressly given. I would not wish to extend the powers of this House by implication, to do a material injuriry to the person or property of any one, to destroy the trial by jury, or to infringe the province of any branch of the legislature, or the powers of the Executive. Indeed it would in my opinion be too absurd to be attempted in any case. This is not however contemplated by the present proposition. If it were a proposition to do an injury, my mind would revolt at the idea; but if it be nothing more than what is necessary and proper, where can be the objection to it, or where does the constitution deny the exercise of the right. Gentlemen ask, where does the constitution give the power? I will answer that it grows out of our constitution which was founded in the wisdom of our statesmen. This House is the branch of the legislature considered as more particularly composed of the representatives of the people; it is our bounden duty to watch over the interests of the United States; when an injury is done to the nation and not checked by the proper authority, it is our duty to enquire and give information. To say therefore that because this power is not expressly given we shall not exercise it, does not appear to me to be a very potent argument. Perhaps if this request went to injure an individual, or to deprive him of his rights, there might be some justice in the observation. But after the evidence which had been given to this House for several days past, an enquiry ought to be made by the President; and if General Wilkinson is not a man of integrity, he ought to be removed.

It was said that an enquiry is instituted. This enquiry does not go to the extent which is contemplated by this resolution. It is a fact that this court has not the power of compelling the attendance of witnesses or the production of papers from a distance which another court might do. It is not such a court as this that the President is requested to institute. If the President were to find from satisfactory evidence, such as has been given, that gen. W. is guilty he will remove him from office; he may go further and order a prosecution against him in the proper district. Whether he should do one or both is not now necessary to decide. All I understand the resolution to ask is that he will make proper enquiry into the conduct of gen. W.—whether by a particular court, particular officers or paticular committee, whether he may see cause to call this officer before him, and give him an opportunity of defending himself, it is not necessary now to determine or enquire. But in all this I cannot see any offence given to the President or any declaration that there is any matter which he ought to have enquired into, but which he has not. I have not seen any cause for the alarm or declamation visible and audible for several days past. The proposition appears to be reasonable, & supported by the constitution as nothing contained in that instrument forbids it, and to contemplate no injurious exercise of power against the person or property of any individual whatever. Can any gentleman say how this can injure any particular citizen? If he be guilty it will be ascertained, if innocent, his innocence will be confirmed—his character may be cleared up and all stains wiped away. For my part I cannot see why all this zeal against an enquiry of this nature, or why the consitution should be held up to discussion, when the simple question is merely whether the President shall be requested to enquire into this business. There is something in it which I cannot fathom. I have revolved it in my mind in every possible shape, and cannot see any ground for the excitement of these feelings or apprehensions; or that the constitution will be destroyed by a simple request by the House of representatives to the President of the U. States to enquire into certain evidence which has come within our knowledge.

(To be continued.)

Thursday, February 11.

Mr. Newton presented a memorial from the inhabitants of Norfolk and its vicinity, praying for a grant of twenty-five or thirty thousand dollars to complete a canal connecting the waters of Albemarle Sound in N. C. with those of Elizabeth river, Va Referred to the committee of Commerce and Manufactures.

Mr. Newton said it had become necessary to call the attention of the House to the act laying the embargo, the restrictions of which were not yet sufficiently strong; and it was necessary in order to have effectual laws that all cases arising under them should be provided for. Those states in the neighbourhood of foreign states had taken advantage of the provision excepting vessels of five tons burthen from the general restriction. To provide against cases of that description and some others he moved the following resolution, in order that the operations of the law should be equalized:

Resolved, That the committee of Commerce and Manufactures be instructed to enquire whether any, and if any, what further restrictions in addition to those already imposed by the act laying an embargo on all ships and vessels in the ports and harbors of the United States, and by the act supplementary to the last mentioned act, are necessary to prevent the exportation of goods, wares and merchandize of foreign or domestic growth or manufacture to any foreign port or place, and that they have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

On this resolution a desultory conversation took place between Messrs. Witherell, Newton, Dana and Fisk, in which however no objection was made to the resolution. It was stated that foreign vessels were not by law inhibited from going from port to port in the United States with the products of our country; & may go to Passamaquoddy from any southern port in the United States, and thence transport their cargoes across the bay by means of boats under five tons burthen; and thus foreigners may enjoy the benefit of that traffic from which citizens of the U. States are precluded: that the citizens of Vermont and other northern states also enjoy the benefits of trade by means of these boats across lakes Champlain, Erie, &c. and that the embargo thus operates as a mean of fourfold profit to some while it denies the common intercourse of commerce to others.

The resolution was adopted without objection; and Mr. Newton, from the committee of Commerce and Manufactures, reported the bill to amend an act entitled "An act supplementary to an act entitled an act laying an embargo on all ships and vessels in the ports and harbors of the U. States;" which was twice read and referred to a committee of the whole on Saturday.

On motion of *Mr. J. Montgomery*, the committee of the whole was discharged from the consideration of the bill concerning courts martial and courts of enquiry, as some parts of it had been thought exceptionable; and it was re-committed to the committee who reported it, 63 to 17.

Mr. Bacon presented the petition of Timothy Wellman of Salem, Mass. praying the payment of two-thirds of the amount of certain bills drawn in favor of Denton, Hall and Nathan, by the minister plenipotentiary of the U. S. to France, which was referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Burwell called up his resolution offered a few days ago relative to the procuring certain arms. He wished it to be referred to the committee who might bring in a bill, which might pass or not as the sense of the House might then be.

The House agreed to consider the resolution, Ayes 63; and it was then passed without a division.

On motion of Mr. *Poindexter*,

Resolved, That the committee on Public Lands be instructed to enquire into the expediency of offering for sale the lands lately ceded to the U. States by the Choctaw nation of Indians, in the manner in which the other lands of the United States south of the state of Tennessee, are directed to be sold, and that they report thereon by bill or otherwise.

The House again went into a committee of the whole, Mr. Cutts in the chair, on the bill to extinguish the debts due from the United States. The motion to strike out the first section, being yet under consideration, Messrs. Cook, Upham, Johnston, Dana, Rowan, and Milnor opposed the motion, and Messrs. Rhea (T.) and Taylor supported it. When

Mr. Fisk moved that the committee rise and ask leave to sit again.

Mr. Dawson said that early in the session the President had invited their attention to the great subject of national defence. Have we, said he, attended to that invitation? No; we have met here day after day, week after week, discussing subjects which relate to our internal affairs. I hope a great majority of the House are prepared to say that we shall get rid of this subject which has been discussed over and over again, and on which each speech that is made is a repetition of what has gone before, and prepare for events which may arise. I hope the committee will not rise.

Mr. Newton held the same opinion as the gentleman just sate down, but should vote for the rising of the committee that the subject might be postponed for a few weeks.

Mr. Lyon hoped that the subject would not be postponed as proposed by the gentleman last up; for after the discussion which had taken place during these two days, every gentleman was now prepared to vote on the principle.

The committee then rose, 46 to 39, & obtained leave to sit again, Ayes 65.

Mr. *Newton* was far from averse to satisfying all just claims on the nation; but, when they viewed the situation of the country, the alarming crisis which now prevailed gentlemen would think with him that all the energies of the nation should be exerted to place it in the best possible situation to meet events. Conceiving that it was his duty to attend to this object, he moved to postpone the further consideration of the bill till the first Monday in March.

Mr. Cook said when he had called up this, he had believed that there was a temporary suspension of urgent public business, and he had never been inclined to push this on to the exclusion of other matter of more importance, nor ever would. He hoped the gentleman would withdraw his motion.

A motion to adjourn was now made, and carried 47 to 44.

A meeting of the commissioners appointed by act of Congress, entitled "An Act authorizing the erection of a bridge over the river Potomac within the District of Columbia," is requested at 12 o'clock, at Stelle's hotel, on Wednesday next, the 17th instant.

Washington, 13th February, 1808.

St. ANDREWS SOCIETY.

A STATED meeting of the Society will be held at the house of Wm. RATIRIE, George-town, on Friday next the 19th instant; of which the members will please take notice.

JOHN MURDOCH, Sec'ry.

February 15—2p

WASHINGTON CITY.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15.

The following interesting Statement is given in a late English Print:

"*Official value of the Imports and Exports for 1805.*

	IMPORTS.	EXPORTS.		
		BRITISH.	FOREIGN.	TOTAL.
Denmark	1,071,579	2,535,569	2,636,497	5,172,066
Russia – –	2,527,078	1,101,914	544,561	1,646,475
Sweden – –	269,161	42,099	117,498	159,597
Poland – – –	429,450	35,370	45,130	80,500
Prussia – –	1,790,781	2,456,728	3,063,344	5,520,072
Germany – –	319,444	708,361	1,472,423	2,180,784
Holland – –	726,264	153,711	265,090	418.801
Flanders – –	3,070		23,343	23,343
France – – –	469,820	199	352	551
Portugal and Madeira	936,500	1,271,239	124,575	1,495,814
Spain and Canaries –	916,165	29.769	81,611	111,380
Streights and Gibraltar	42,919	143,110	40,713	183,823
Italy – – –	393,517	404,339	103,196	507,535
Malta – – –	9,304	117,943	9,571	127,514
Turkey – –	103,590	97,095	38,315	135,410
Ireland – –	3,010,609	2,482,633	1,276,340	3,758,973
Isle of Man – –	21,697	34,238	28,193	62,431
Guernsey, &c. –	81,241	161,573	36,751	198,324
Greenland – –	261,086		952	952
Total of Europe	13,383,275			21,784,345
Asia – – –	6,072,160	1,442,753	195,847	1,638,600
New Holland –	153	25.828	4,815	30,643
Africa – – –	105,971	542,778	438,011	980,789
Cape – – –	5			
Sierra Leone – –	867	8,093	2,567	10,660
America – –	9,615,161	11,208,986	954,931	12,163,917
	29,177,592	25,004,308		36,008,954

On this statement the Morning Chronicle offers the following remarks:

"This is not an account that need to be concealed; for if it be true, as it appears, that the office value of our exports exceeded that of our imports above six millions, it is a serious consideration whether we should, by restraints and difficulties, endanger the loss of a commerce so beneficial to us. We are far from putting the advantage, great as it is, in competition with our independence as a people, as all our sheets will witness for us; but the argument, even of our adversary, serves to prove that it is only Great Britain herself that can extinguish the trade of the world."

"But it is said, that ministers have at length determined to do what Napoleon has tried at in vain. A proclamation is actually prepared, and is to be fulminated from that great cannon, the *Gazette*, next Saturday, by which we suppose, the whole of that part of the earth which belongs to the enemy, is to be put in a state of blockade. And we are to prevent the winds of heaven from blowing towards the continent of Europe! The attempts is worthy the sagacity of his majesty's ministers. Bonaparte aimed only to deprive us of half of our trade, for his edicts, even if executed, went no further,* but the king's ministers have a greater ambition, "their mighty souls have stomachs for it all."

"* Amount of Exports to countries of which the Emperor of the French would deprive us if he could:—Denmark 5,172,000, Russia 1,640,000, Sweden 159,000, Poland 80,000, Prussia 5,520,000, Germany 2,180,000, Holland 418.000, Portugal 1,395,000, Spain 111,000, Italy 500,000, Turkey 135,000—Total 17,310.000l."

This statement is interesting to the American reader, as furnishing the materials for a comparative view of the commerce of England and the United States. The whole British imports amount only to twenty-nine millions sterling, or one hundred and twenty-six millions of dollars, while the imports of this country amount to about one hundred and ten millions. On the other hand the British exports of domestic productions amount to one hundred and ten millions of dollars, while ours amount to forty-four millions; and her exports of foreign productions amount to about fifty millions of dollars, while ours amount to sixty millions. It further appears that her collective trade of exports and imports amounts to two hundred and ninety millions of dollars, while our collective trade amounts to two hundred and fourteen millions.

It is but a few years since this country was looked upon with contempt. The sentiment was avowed that we had reached the acme of our greatness, and that we would soon go down hill faster than we rose. Nothing can more completely falsify this prejudiced prediction than this statement; & it is probable that the same causes which forced the British government to appreciate its importance likewise opened their eyes to a view of the ascendant maritime greatness to which we were destined to reach, if not impeded in our course. A nation that quadrupled her trade in a period of ten years, and approached in its extent so near the greatest commercial nation in the world, might well awaken her fears lest she herself should soon be overtaken and be finally outdone.

It is to this circumstance, probably, more than to all others combined, that we are to ascribe the hostility of Britain; and it is but too likely that, whatever temporary arrangements might be made, a pretext would still not be wanting for checking the natural progress of our trade. It has heretofore been the invariable effect of an active rivalry for trade to embroil the nations carrying it on, and it is consequently to be feared that so long as we aim at being a great commercial nation we shall be at constant variance with our rivals.

It is true that if Britain were as regardful of her interest as she ought to be, she ought to be the last power in existence to disturb the existing relations between the U. States and herself. For it will be seen by the foregoing statement, that of the balance of six millions sterling of her exports over her imports, she owes two millions and a half to her trade with America. Independently then of the effects of a suspended commercial intercourse between the two countries upon her manufactures and colonies, it will deprive her of a clear balance of above eleven millions of dollars, which is not far short of one half of the whole balance of trade in her favor, to which, probably, more than to any other circumstance, she owes her prosperity.

Salem, February 6.

The following agreeable Intelligence was received here last night, by the ship Packet, from Malaga.

PEACE WITH ALGIERS.

(CIRCULAR).

Algiers, December 16, 1807.

Sir—You have undoubtedly before this heard that three American vessels had been detained by a frigate of this place, in consequence of the annuities for two years past not having been paid by the U. States in naval stores, as stipulated by treaty, notwithstanding the amount thereof has been repeatedly offered in cash.

These vessels are the ship Eagle, of New York, Nathaniel Thader, master; brig Violet, of Boston, James Merrett, master; sch. Mary-Ann, of N. York, Sheffield, master.

The people on board the vessels have been treated very well, and no pillage of any kind has been committed.

I have now the honor to inform you that I have adjusted this business with the Dey, who has received the amount of two years annuities due in cash, and the vessels are liberated; and that our commerce will receive no further molestations from the cruizers of this Regency.

I pray you will have the goodness to give this as much publicity as possible, for the benefits of all concerned.

I have the honor to be, sir, yours, &c. TOBIAS LEAR.

December 17, 1807.

P. S. We have this moment heard by an arrival from Leghorn, that the sch. before mentioned has arrived in Naples, having been retaken by the captain & part of the crew left on board, who threw overboard four of the captors, and put four others in the boat to shift for themselves.

I have myself received no advice of this, and on application to the Dey, who first sent me the information, he assures me that it shall not alter the arrangement made yesterday, and that our vessels may navigate without