bring any News-Papers, but informs that there was not any news of moment. The markets were very high, there was not the smallest idea of an Embargo taking place there, or in the ports of France.

Translated from the Madrid Gazette, of 4th December.

LISBON, Nov. 25.

An English cartel from the division of Sir Sidney Smith, who has established his cruizing ground at the entrance of our port, brought yesterday an official note of the following tenor:

"By these presents we make known to whomsoever it should concern, that it being notorious that the ports of Portugal are shut against the flag of Great-Britain, and that the British Minister Plenipotentiary near the court of Lisbon, has left that capital in compliance with the instructions remitted to the undersigned rear-admiral of the blue, and commander in chief of this division—the mouth of the Tagus is declared in a rigorous state of blockade.

"The Portuguese government is to understand it thus, and be certain that orders have been given that it shall continue with the utmost strictness until a friendly adjustment of actual differences takes place. The consuls of neutral states must also take notice of it, that they may in season inform their governments that the said river is in a state of blockade; and that from this time and henceforward all the measures authorised by the laws of nations and by the respective treaties between H. B. M. and neutral powers, shall be adopted and executed with any vessels whatever that shall attempt to violate it.—Signed and sealed on board the ship Hibernia, off the Tagus, the 22d of Nov. 1807.

WILLIAM SIDNEY SMITH."

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—1aw1m

A BRICK HOUSE AND LOT *FOR SALE.*

ON Monday the 8th day of February next, if fair, if not the next fair day, will be exposed to public sale on the premises at 4 o'clock in the evening, part of Lot No. 6, in square No. 141. in this city, fronting 16 feet 9 inches on North G street, and running back 135 feet, with the improvements thereon, consisting of a convenient two story Brick House and enclosure. The Lot was leased to the former tenant for a term of 99 years at the rent of 35 dollars per annum, and the benefit of a covenant to purchase the fee simple thereof.

On default of payment of three years rent, the subscriber has been put in possession of the premises, according to the law in such cases provided; for which, and accruing expences, it will be sold, subject to the conditions of the former case, and a new lease executed to the purchaser on complying with the terms of sale. Being in the vicinity of the public offices, and in a thick settled genteel neighborhood, it would be an eligible situation for a gentleman doing business in either of the departments. The premises may be viewed and the papers seen by applying to Thomas Herty, prior to the day of sale.

JOSEPH NOURSE.

☞ Terms of sale, a negociable note with an approved endorser, payable 60 days after date.

The Sale of the above Property is postponed until Monday the 14th day of March next, when it will be offered for sale at the hour and place above-mentioned

February 17—tdos

FIFTY DOLLARS REWARD.

RANAWAY from the subscriber on the 10th day of October last a mulatto man named HARRY; he is about 6 feet high, well made, about 28 or 29 years of age, plays the fiddle well; he is a tolerable good carpenter and stone mason, he has a white spot on the top of his head about 2 or 3 inches square, occasioned by a hurt when small; no other mark or scar recollected on him. He had on when he went away a brown broad cloth coat, white fur hat, corduroy pantaloons and waistcoat. It is likely he has altered his name and clothing as he is a cunning fellow, and took plenty of money with him, or at least fifty dollars; he is an easy spoken fellow and generally speaks low, no ways forward or impudent. Any person that will take up said slave and secure him in any jail in the United States, and give information to the subscriber living in Hampshire county, 18 miles from Winchester on the road leading from Winchester, Romney and Morefield, shall receive the above reward and all reasonable charges if brought home.

JACOB JENKINS.

February 19——3t

ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY.

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

JOHN MURDOCH, Sec'ry.

Communicated for the Philadelphia Register.

HAVANNA, JAN. 22.

"The Heads of Departments here, having received advice from his Catholic Majesty's Charge des Affairs in the United States, of an expedition being preparing in England and, according to news-paper reports, said to be intended against the Spanish possessions in the Bay of Mexico. The most active preparations are making here to repulse the enemy, in the event of their attacking this port or island, by immediately calling out, and properly arming and training all the militia, of every description, which, together with the French setlers in the island, and the Spanish planters, merchants and artisans, already trained, will compose a formidable body. The fortifications have already been put in the best state of defence, and are most amply supplied with all warlike stores, to resist a siege even should it last six months. The department of the Marine (besides covering the garrisons, and assisting it with men and means, will furnish a considerable number of officers to fill the vacancies that may exist not only in the corps of artillerists and engineers, but also in the infantry) have armed and completely fitted forty gun-boats and bomb vessels, provided with ovens for heating shot, with which we shall not only be completely able to defend the lines of our harbor, but also to attack the enemy, should he anchor on the outside. The greatest harmony and military ardor prevades the whole, and so far from dreading an attack, we rather wish for one."

Washington City, Feb. 18.

At a meeting of the students of the Western Academy of this city, it was resolved that as a testimony of their esteem and regard for the memory of their fellow student *Alexander Kerr*, whose premature death, they sincerely deplore, they wear crape on the left arm for the space of thirty days.

VALENTINE WELCH, *Ch'm.*

JOHN EVERSFIELD, *Secretary.*

Go mild youth to endless joys above,
And take with you our sorrow and our love.

RISE OF TICKETS.

Tickets in the *Philadelphia Grand Lottery*—highest prize 10.000 D.—will sell at TWO Dollars on Tuesday the 22d inst. and will continue to rise as the drawing progresses.

Tickets to be had at R. C. WEIGHTMAN's Book-store, Pennsylvania avenue.

February 19——3t

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DEBATE on the bill for the classification of the Militia of the United States.

TUESDAY, JAN. 19.

In committee of the whole, Mr. HELMS in the Chair.

The first section being read as follows:

"That all the militia of the United States, liable to do duty, over twenty-one and under years of age, shall be deemed and held in requisition, and called the junior class of militia. And the President of the United States shall be, and he hereby is authorized, on the appearance of national danger, to order out the same or any part thereof, to any part of the United States or their territories, for not more than one whole year at any one time. And whensoever a part of the said junior class shall, by the President of the United States, be called into actual service, such call shall commence with those that are lowest in number, as to age, first, and so in rotation: the same shall not be compelled to do duty a second time until the whole of the said junior class shall have served one tour; and when called into the actual service of the United States, they shall be armed and equipped by the United States. For this purpose two hundred thousand stand of arms complete, shall be deposited in such places as the President of the United States shall direct, and whensoever the whole, or any part of the said junior class of militia, shall be called into actual service by the United States, and shall be armed and equipped by the same, it shall be lawful, and they, and each of them, are hereby permitted to retain the said arms and accoutrements, as their own property, any law to the contrary notwithstanding."

MR. M. CLAY said it was necessary to fill the blank in the first section, before they proceeded any farther, and it was incumbent on those who were friends to this project to shew that there were defects in the militia law as it now stood; and if they could prove to the House, that the system offered was better than the old one, he presumed there could be no objection to the bill under consideration. At all events he wished gentlemen to take a serious view of the subject; it was a great national question on which the salvation of the country depended. He would endeavor to bring forward the best testimony that could be had to prove that the present system was defective, and he hoped he should be able to do it.

I will commence, said Mr. C. with the adoption of the constitution under which we are now acting. We find that President Washington always kept this subject in the view of the national legislature; this shews that there was something in his opinion to do; it was not his business to tell us what it was, but ours to find out. If gentlemen will take up the Presidential communications from the commencement of the government, they will find that the subject has been uniformly recommended by each successive President of the United States to the present time. I state this as a strong evidence in their opinion that a change was wanting somewhere. Next to this I will call your attention to the communications made from the state Executives to their legislatures. We find also that the state legislatures almost every year and in every session have had the subject under their consideration, and turned it over in one way or the other. This proves that there is in their opinion some defect. We must now remedy that defect if we can, it behoves us to do so; and if I shall be fortunate enough to point out the propriety and mode of making this alteration, I shall have done my duty. We will go further back than the adoption of the constitution; we do not recollect the whole body of the militia ever to have been brought into action, to such effect as our strength of numbers would have warranted, if the militia had been properly organized; there was a defect somewhere, which should be remedied without going either to one extreme or another. If gentlemen will turn their eyes to the bill on the table, they will find that our project is to steer between the two, not to harrass the militia, but to render them fit for efficient service, by taking only those that can be best spared from home, and when in actual service can be most relied on. History itself furnishes no instance, let the mode of warfare be what it might, where the whole body of the militia were ever called into actual service and kept there for any length of time to advantage; if there was much marching and fighting the old men with families would soon find the way home; they could not be relied on for a length of time. I remember often to have heard this complaint made before the revolutionary war when we were at war with the Indians. Nay farther, if we go amongst the savages we find that they do not all turn out to battle, and leave their women and children only behind; they take neither old or young men, I mean their lads to battle, but such only as may be useful in the field.

When we recur to the times of the revolution, which every old gentleman recollects, and every young one has heard of, every one then in service will attest the fact that wherever the body of the militia were called on to march, old and young together, the old men soon found their way into the hospital; they would complain of old rheumatisms, &c. &c. &c.—they would often fatigue and break down the young men by imposing on them the additional burthen of their kanpsacks.

My object is to leave at home the senior and minor class, as much as possible; nothing but imperious necessity, and imminent danger should call them to the field, and that within their own state, or in the neighboring state. I wish not to derange the state of society, which must be the case if the whole body of the militia are called out at once. During the last war we saw not only fields and neighborhoods, but whole states laid waste from being deprived of their cultivators. I wish to avoid this evil; I wish to leave men enough at home to cultivate the earth and take care of the crop. It is well known to gentlemen of the revolution that while we lay at Valley Forge in Pennsylvania, at Middlebrook, in New Jersey, and at other places, we were almost in a state of starvation, because all hands, meaning the whole body of the militia, had been called out, and cultivation and manufactures neglected. I have seen (and an awful sight it was) not less than five thousand men on parade at a time in the midst of winter, almost naked, without shirts or shoes—oft times have I seen them march on the frozen ground barefoot, marking their footsteps with blood as they marched. At the times here spoken of, the army was reduced to the awful necessity of going into the adjacent country and threshing out the grain from the straw, and whilst thus engaged the poor and almost naked women with their helpless babes crying round them, would ask with tears running down their withered cheeks, for God's sake not to take all, telling the soldiers that was their all, and when that was gone they must starve; that they had no money nor werewith to get money—Now my object is to avoid such another scene. Not only on this account, but in some of the Southern states we have an internal enemy, an enemy within our own families. There should always be a sufficient force left at home to awe and keep that enemy down. By taking out the junior class only we shall always have a sufficient number left to quell and keep down insurrection at home—We shall presently shew that we have a sufficient number of young men under the age of twenty six and over twenty one to meet the enemy whenever they are called on. We have three great points of assault, New York, Charleston, and New Orleans, and I shall I trust be able to shew that we have a sufficient number of young men of the junior clas to keep up a continual force if necessary to meet all attacks.

It behoves me now to shew what disposition I intend to make of the minor class, young men under 21 years of age. It is not my intention that they shall be called into service, except in case of the utmost necessity, and then only within their own state. We find from report that to be the rock on which the emperor of France has split. He takes his men when in their infancy from the age of 18. They ought to be left until they are twenty one to lay in a sufficient stock of information to carry them into life. Let them learn trades or attend to their studies; for we consider the trade or profession which a man learns in his youth, whether mechanical or mental, as a fortune; and therefore we do not wish to interrupt them until they have completed their studies or trades, except imperious necessity should require it. It is necessary that every man should have somewhat, from which he may receive subsistence during his passage through life. During his minority he lays up by learning a trade or profession, a principal, the interest of which supports him after he attains the age of twenty one. We also well know, that young men under twenty one cannot stand hardship; they may do some service; they may march about a little, but their system is not matured; they cannot undergo fatigue. We also know that it will almost take two men of 18 to cope with one man of 25 in bodily strength.

We shall now proceed to shew the numbers of each class as nearly as they can be ascertained from the census of 1800; we have taken the authority of the best statistical writers for the progressive numbers.

The census of 1800 gave of males from 26 to 45, 432,193. I am not very particular as to fractions, being of little consequence. The annual increase from 1790 to 1800 was about 3 1-2 per cent. which we will assume for the increase since the last census, being seven years. This will give us an increase since 1800, of 105,882—which added to the number by the last census, makes 538.075. From these deduct, unfit for service, as nearly as we can ascertain, 35 or 40,000. We have taken for the sake of equal numbers, 38,075; Which leaves 500,000 men, who may be relied on if the danger should be so great as to call for all men over 26 and under 45.

By the census of 1800 those over 21 and under 26 were between 190 and 200,000 men. To this add for the increase since by the rule just laid down 49,000; which will make 249,000 under 26 and over 21. Deduct from this number 8 or 9000, for those unfit for service. For the sake of round numbers deduct 9000, which will leave 240,000 able men. We will suppose wanting at any one time 30 or 40,000 at each of the three great points I have mentioned, which would still leave enough at home to supply the succession and deficiencies. Out of this class of men then between 21 and 26 could be called out sufficient for service at any one time, from 90 to 100,000 and leave double that number still in requisition; if however it should be thought that 240,000 would not be a sufficient number, we have only to take all under 27 instead of 26. Those between 26 and 27 added to the others would form a body of 280,000 men without taking any under 21 or over 27. It is about this time of life, 26 or 27, when a man begins to know mankind; they have then sown their oats, as we generally say; they then wish to settle and see a family rising up before him. They feel vigorous, and wish to shew their activity and strength, in running, tumbling and wrestling; they think themselves geat men; they wish to travel and see the world; they have a roving disposition. This is the moment to lay hold of them, and make them good soldiers. I know well that it will be said by some that it is an invidious distinction to stop at 26 or 27. Why may not the same be said of stopping at 45 or beginning at 18? It is said that this classification will tear up the old militia system. I do not care how soon it is plucked by the roots; we have had enough of it. Why persist in a system which we cannot get along with? What is the consequence? To shew what that is, it is only necessary to read the report of the Secretary of War. Under an exertion of all the energies of the commanding officers, after the insult of the 22d of June last on the Chesapeake; after the Executive officers had exerted themselves to procure the best information upon the subject of the militia held in requisition, what is the result? The report just mentioned will shew that you cannot rely with confience on the militia in its present state. Nor can you on volunteers. These last will do for a moment at the commencement of a war. In case of invasion they will do very well for the moment. They do not go out with a view of brushing their own coat, washing their shirts, and to cook their victuals; they expect to call for the best of every thing at every house. Some gentlemen volunteers went down lately to Norfolk from Petersburg and Richmond. They conceived themselves on a level with the officers; it would not do; they came home disgusted, and you will not get them to go again. What was the case during the last war? When a large troop of volunteers was raised (I know the fact, I had a brother amongst them, and can therefore speak of it) they came prancing to General Washington. The old general asked them what they could do? Fight for our country, said they. Will you go into camp with the army and do regular duty? They answered no. You have my thanks then gentlemen, said the veteran, go home again. This was only to make a shew, they intended nothing else; they may do for a moment; but there must be method and regularity in our army. It will not do to have a large body of men collected for any purpose, without it. And therefore it is that as the great mass of our militia now stand, no reliance can be placed upon them. It will not answer to rely on regular troops. It is easy enough to raise a standing army, but it is difficult to disband them. We had at the close of the last war an awful testimony of the truth of this. Nothing but the vast weight of character of Gen. Washington, who descending from his high office of commander in chief mixed with them as a brother soldier, could have prevented them from revolting. See what a clamor is now raised and rumours afloat through the country about your standing army of 5000 men. Get a man sufficiently popular for commander in chief of a large standing army and what sort of government should we soon have? We may shudder even to think of what might be the result. Look at the contrary side as now proposed to regulate the MILITIA. You take them from the bosom of their families for one year. At the end of that term they will be anxious to return home. Mutiny will not arrest them. With avidity they will return; a tear of joy will bid them welcome.

Gentlemen say the bill does not give us detail sufficient. We can fix all this when we have once passed upon the principle. This I repeat; nearly one year has elapsed since the outrage committed on the Chesapeake, and yet no return of volunteers or militia. This goes to shew that volunteers are not to be relied on, and also that the militia laws are defective.

I hope we have shewn that we have strong reasons to suspect that the present militia system is not the best that can be devised. We have shewn this from the best testimony in our power from the adoption of the constitution to this day. From the communications of the President of the United States to Congress, and from state governors to the state legislatures, it may be seen that the subject has almost always been introduced and recommended to the consideration of the legislatures. If this is not the best system that can be adopted, I am willing that any gentleman should propose a better; let us see any other system, we will examine it thoroughly and act with our best judgment on it.

This is a time when the whole United States are in danger, and some modification of our present system must be made.

Towards the close of the last war the militia began to fight very well. In Kentucky the fighting men were numerous. After the attempt of the army at the close of the war to turn their arms against their country, government placed their soldiers when out of service on the frontier, with the natives on their borders, of which we were then at war. Virginia gave lands to her soldiers which were in the back ground. Why? Because it would not do to fix these men of seven or eight years standing among the body of the people. We will give them this land, said the officers of government, and let them go and fight the Indians. The reason was, that they had served seven or eight years in the regular army; this fungus, a standing army, was applied on our frontiers as a breast-work and a safe-guard, to keep off the savages; we wanted to keep them out of the way. We could have burnt up the Indian towns and put an end to the whole race immediately; but we did not wish to do it; we wished to keep our old soldiers fighting till they cooled off from the habit of inactivity acquired by service in the war.

We have endeavored to shew that volunteers will do but for a moment, and that when there is nothing to do, and they can have both male and female waiting upon them. They cannot be relied on in war. They are not the kind of troops for service when invaded by a powerful enemy—volunteers may do for sailors or marines if they chose to go to sea. We have endeavored to shew that classification is the only mode by which they can be relied on for the real service of their country—that old men are not the best for service—that young men under 21 ought to be kept at home till they get enough of experience to serve them through life, and that young men over 21 and under 26, have a propensity to be in action, to see their country and to acquire fame.

Some gentlemen make objections to the mode of officering—I have no doubts upon that subject, the thing will work well—this the constitution has reserved to the states themselves. When officers are wanting, young men can always be found peculiarly qualified to conduct their companions to the fight—young men of high standing and weight of character. The soldiers having themselves choice of their commander, will chuse one out of many candidates as there always will be, in whom they can confide. I presume young men of first talents and enterprize will have preference. Let them have a man to command them, of their own age. They will say one to the other I know this man; I have known him from my youth, and can confide in him.

As a reward for the services of these young men, after a campaign is ended, let them keep as their own property the arms with which they fought, which will be handed down from father to son: "This is the piece I fought with:" Let it be engraven on the barrel, this belongs to such a one, he earned it by serving his country at such a time. After men have served one year, sufficient numbers will be found to replace them, who will be anxious to see the country, and travel over the Union, emulous of fame; and when they have served a tour will long to return to their kindred loaded with an honorable pledge of the service done their country.

It is certainly a desirable thing that the physical strength of the country should be applied in the most advantageous manner to the protection of the country. We admit that some men marry early. In this case let them hire men as substitutes from their own class. This substitute may serve out his time and return. By that time another young man may have married, and this substitute being accustomed to service, may go out a second term. By the adoption of this principle of classification you get the best blood of the country, that which you can rely upon. You will not see your hospitals filled with old men disabled by the rheumatism and gout; nor will you see children in the ranks, trembling at every leaf that falls around them, not sufficiently hardened to lie out upon the ground covered with ice and snow. If we go on in the same bungling manner as heretofore, we shall never have an efficient militia; you will annually receive the President's message recommending the subject to your consideration.

I hope gentlemen will think with me, and not impute impure motives—the fact is, I have two sons that will soon be 21, and I love them as much as any man can, and perhaps can say what few can. The first property I gave each of them was a gun; and I have enjoined it on them in my will, that it was given them to defend that country which their father had assisted in delivering from bondage. My son's gun shall beat in his mind that he must fight when his country calls for his services: it is his fortune.