These views of the subject have entered into my conversations with Mr. Merry. He expresses, notwithstanding, a belief that Great Britain will turn an unfavorable ear to any proposition calculated to give her enemies the resources of their colonial trade, beyond the degree in which her present regulations permit. This is doubtless to be apprehended, but considering the proposition as an article which may find a balance in the general bargain, it may not be inadmissible; or if inadmissible in the extent proposed, a middle ground may perhaps be accepted. The colonial trade in question consists of four branches; first, between the colonies and Great Britain herself; secondly, between the colonies and the neutral countries carrying on the trade; thirdly, between the colonies and neutral countries not themselves carrying on the trade; fourthly, between the colonies and the countries to which they belong, or which are parties to the war with Great Britain.

The first and second branches are those with which her own regulation accord. The last is that to which her aversion will of course be the strongest. Should this aversion be unconquerable, let it be tried then, and then only, whether on our yielding, or rather omitting that point, she will not yield to us in return, the direct trade between hostile colonies and neutral countries generally. You will be careful, however, so to modify the compromise as will mark as little as may be, a positive relinquishment of the direct trade between the belligerent nations and their colonies.

Should such a compromise be altogether rejected, you will limit the article to the simple enumeration of contraband, it being desirable that without a very valuable consideration, no precedent should be given by the United States of a stipulated acknowledgment that free ships do not make free goods. And you will omit the article altogether, if a proper list of contraband cannot be agreed on, particularly one that excludes money, provisions and naval stores.

On Article V. This article taken from the convention of 1800, between the United States and France, is conformable to the general practice of the prize courts in the latter, and is the more worthy of adoption every where, as it would contribute so much to the consistency and stability of the rules of admiralty proceedings. Without a single objection justly lying against it, it will have the important advantages of being a check on the inferior tribunals, of enabling the superior tribunal where a faulty reason appears on the face of the sentence, to correct the wrong without delay or expense, and of being a check moreover on the decision of the superior tribunal itself. As prize causes also are tried by courts not of a third party, but of one of the parties interested, it is but reasonable that the ground should be known to the other on which judgment has passed against its citizens or subjects, in order, if deemed proper, that negotiation may be employed for redressing past or guarding against future injustice.

Mr. Madison's letter to be continued.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

On the passage of the bill for raising an additional military force.

MONDAY, APRIL 4.

The bill having been read the third time, and the question having been stated, "shall this bill pass."

Mr. CLOPTON said that he deemed it in a manner incumbent on him to address the House before he passed a vote upon this bill, it was well known that in the course of the long and remarkable session of Congress held in the year 1798, a session distinguished for many extraordinary legislative transactions—amongst others a bill was passed for raising twelve additional regiments of infantry. That bill was passed by a very large majority, eleven members only voting in the opposition; that of the Virginia delegation, then composed of 19 members, three only were of that minority, of whom he was one—that another of those three was not now a member of this House. Being thus particularly situated, said Mr. C. I owe it to myself to state to the House the grounds of the vote, which I am about to give, as it will be different from that which I then gave; lest there should seem to be a degree of inconsistency, or something like a dereliction of former principle. No such dereliction, said he, could be rightfully ascribed to him.

His vote upon that occasion, said Mr. C. was founded on the then existing state of things, as it appeared to him. He did not believe that at that time there was any ground to apprehend that this country would be involved in a war. Some aggressions had been committed by French cruizers, which indeed excited, and very deservedly excited, the public indignation. But had the government of France, said he, then assumed principles going to a destruction of almost all our neutral maritime rights, and manifested a settled determination to establish systems of outrage, and violations like those now in operation? No. A phantom of war was indeed conjured up, and that became the ground for raising the additional troops proposed by that bill. But he considered the present state of our foreign relations to be very different. Had there appeared as great a prospect of war at that time as there does now, he should have voted for that bill. If there appeared no greater prospect of war at this time than there did then, he should not vote for this bill. The difference between his vote at that time and his vote at this time did not result, therefore, from any change in his opinion or principles, as to the policy of regular armies; but from the difference between the state of things at that time and the state of things at this time.

This, said Mr. C. is a momentous, an awful crisis. Sir, it is not a time for halting between two opinions. The rubicon is now passed. Our government has taken a ground with respect to our foreign relations, which ought to be maintained with firmness, with vigor and with energy. After a long series of wrongs endured with a patience and a forbearance, perhaps, unparallelled in the annals of any free country, new and more atrocious species of aggressions are superadded to the former ones—and outrages pushed to an extent no longer to be endured. Sir, said he, what would it be tamely to acquiesce in all these outrages? Would it not be to drink deeply of the cup of humiliation? And shall this nation perpetually drink of that cup? Of the cup of humiliation, did I say? The cup of degradation, I should have said. What, sir, shall we not only drink deeply of that detestable cup; but shall we drink up the contents of it to the dregs? Shall we then exhaust those dregs to the very bottom? And not content with all that, must we at last swallow the cup itself? This, sir, would not be too strong or too harsh a metaphor, were there to be a descent to so great a degree of national degeneracy, as it would be, if the outrages committed on our national rights were to be acquiesced in.

Sir, said Mr. C. what is the real situation of the U. States at this time? What ground is there to apprehend that a state of actual, formal, avowed hostility will not soon commence? More than a speck of war now appears in our horizon. I fear that the storms of war are gathering thick around us! I fear that the calm, the delightful scenes of peace, ever grateful to the American eye, will ere long vanish from our sight. The wily, the deceitful, the insidious prime aggressor, by every artifice of procrastination, has long been preparing, and still is preparing himself, to be enabled with more effect to strike the meditated blow. To amuse, to deceive and to gain time in order the better to determine how to shape his future course, has been and still is the systematic practice. In this state of things then, shall we remain unconcerned, inactive and unprepared to meet the shock and to defend our country? I trust not; and I feel strong assurance that the efforts of the government will be zealously seconded by the great body of the people throughout the U. S.; that, if there be a spot on the American land where patriotism has heretofore slumbered; if there be a single spot, on which the demon of servility itself had laid its leaden, stupifying wand, even on that spot a spirit must now arise, which, shaking off its lethargy and supineness, must rouse itself, indignantly rouse itself into action, at a crisis so peculiarly important and interesting, as the present one is, to the honor and independence of this country.

That at such a crisis, said Mr. C. provision ought to be made preparatory for the worst state of things, though so sincerely deprecated—so long and so earnestly sought to be avoided by every means compatible with the honor of our country, there can be no doubt. Deep solicitude and anxiety respecting our external relations pervade the American people. Their eyes are all turned upon this body; and the general expectation, no doubt, is that such provision will be made. The public mind, consenting to that idea, manifests its will that the members of the national legislature should not separate until after such measures shall have been adopted, as the critical and alarming situation of the country demands: that when the cloud, now impending over our heads, shall burst upon us—when actual hostilities shall commence, we may not be found unprepared, but ready to meet the conflict with ample means of sustaining it. No matter whether he, who domineers on the ocean, or he who sways the sceptre over the European world—no matter whether the British or the Gallic tyrant shall choose to make war upon us, and thus to force us out of our much loved state of repose, let us, said he, be preparing ourselves to meet him. Let the U. S. at the same time scrupulously adhere to the principles of neutrality, and disdaining every thing like partiality or attachment to either party, resist all overtures, all artifices, every species of diplomatical trick, all attempts whatsoever to draw us over to either side.

The great question then is, said Mr. C. what kind of preparation ought we to make in addition to what has been done? I am now brought to a situation, Mr. Speaker, truly distressing to my soul. My aversion to vote for raising regular troops always has been, and always will be, very great; and yet the peculiarity of the crisis, the necessity of the case, the situation of my country, calls upon me, imperiously calls upon me to give my support to such a measure. But in supporting this measure I beg to be understood, not as sanctioning the idea that regular troops alone should be relied on for the general and permanent defence of the country, even in case of a confirmed state of war; but that the militia ought always to constitute that great bulwark of defence; that in no situation whatsoever ought regulars to be embodied to such amount as to form a force superior or nearly equal to that of the body of the militia. This should ever hold the paramount force of the nation. This forms the only safe depository of the liberties of the nation; and that nation (whatever nation it may be) which does not adhere to the maxim of retaining that paramount force in the hands of its militia, places its liberties every hour at hazard.

From the geographical position of the U. S. more than from any other cause, said Mr. C. results the expediency of raising some regular troops. A long line of seaports and an extensive range of frontier posts require a considerable number of troops, as stationary forces, in case of sudden invasions or attacks from sea, or sudden inroads by savages, who may be stimulated to resume the tomahawk and the scalping-knife against our fellow citizens in the western or other frontier settlements. To these purposes regular troops, to a certain amount, appear to be best adapted; for which reason principally he was in favor of the bill. In the event of a state of actual war, said he, if the force contemplated by this bill should be insufficient, Congress will unquestionably be again in session before the proposed number can be raised; and then such further augmentation may be made, as shall be found requisite. But notwithstanding this remark he would take occasion to declare that under his present impressions he could scarcely imagine that even in such event he could be induced to admit the expediency of encreasing the regular forces to a number much greater than they will be when those proposed to be raised by the present bill are added to the present military force. That in all situations and circumstances whatever he considered the militia as the natural and best defence of the nation. That in every possible emergency, he believed, the militia ought principally to be relied on. That an effective, well organized and disciplined militia not only formed the safeguard of liberty, but were competent to all the purposes of war. That were this country to be surrounded with foes, such a militia would be its safest and surest defence. He considered it as unwise in any nation, particularly such an one as the United States, holding civil liberty in such high veneration as they do, under any circumstances to relinquish their reliance on such a militia, and resort to regular military forces as their principal means of defence.

(DEBATE TO BE CONTINUED.)

GREAT BARGAN.

WILL be exposed to Sale on Tuesday the 19th April, this present month, for ready money, in the city of Washington, at 5 o'clock in the evening before Stelle's hotel, *That beautiful and Elegant ESTATE*, formerly the property of Mr Walter S. Alexander, directly opposite the mouth of the Eastern Branch, and now leased to the Mr. Wise's for a term of years, at the rate of 360 dollars per annum, with other stipulations, which a reference to said lease will fully shew. This valuable estate is bounded by the river Potomac a considerable distance, one mile from the contemplated bridge over the river, and city of Washington, and about 2 1 2 from Alexandria, the road as laid off from one to the other, passes nearly through the center of this estate, containing about 425 acres. A good and indisputable title will be made the purchaser by the subscriber, who is legally authorised, as may be seen by the Title papers in the hands of Robert I. Taylor, esq. attorney, will give every information under the peculiar situation which occasions the sale of this valuable and increasing property. Men of money will find it much to their advantage to attend this sale.

At the same time and place, will be sold a parcel of LAND, leased to Wm. Fraser, where he now lives, for a term of years, for 42 dollars and a half per annum, lying on the present George Town road, containing about 50 acres. Any further information may be had by application to R. I. Taylor, esq. or the subscriber, living in Alexandria. Letters on this subject will be duly attended to.

BALDWIN DADE.

Alexandria, April 9— 3t

ENGLISH GOODS.

By the JOSEPH ADAMS and ST. JOHN from Liverpool.

APPLETON & CO.

16, Calvert street, Baltimore,

HAVE received their regular supply of Goods, calculated for the present and approaching season:

Cambric and common Calicoes,
Plain and striped Dimities,
Printed Marseilles Vesting,
White Jeans,
Furniture Chintz,
Do. Dimities,
London Superfine Broad Cloths,
Do. do. Cassimeres,
Yorkshire fine cloths and Cassimeres,
Patent Nankeens,
Grandurells,
Cotton Cassimeres,
6 4 and 4 4 Cambric Muslins,
Japan, Haricord and Check, do.
Plain and figured Mull do.
Leno, Victory, Riddl , &c. do.
Colored do. do. do.
4 4 plain book do.
Ginghams,
Silk do.
Sattins, Persians and Sarsenets,
Bonnet Silks,
Silk Gloves,
Silk Handkerchiefs,
Fancy Shawls,
Cotton Umbrellas,
Do. Braces,
Do. Laces and Footings,
Do. Quillings,
English Kid Gloves,
Cotton Hosiery,
Handkerchiefs,
Fringes and Red Lace,
Cotton and Linen Checks,
Buttons,
Birmingham Wares &c.

IN STORE.

A few dozen *Gentlemen's best BEAVER HATS* from Marseilles.

These Goods will be sold low for cash or undoubted paper at 60 days.

April 8——10t

WASHINGTON CITY.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8.

We have the satisfaction of stating that the whole number of shares, for the erection of a BRIDGE over the POTOMAC, have been subscribed. There is consequently, no obstacle in the way of the early accomplishment of this object, which it is the determination of the company to carry into effect with the least possible delay.

For this purpose the *Commissioners* are requested to meet at Stelle's hotel on Saturday, at 12 o'clock.

Mr. Daniel Bedinger, late Navy-Agent at Norfolk, has just published a pamphlet complaining of his removal from office. The Secretary of the Navy, we are informed, has some time since made the necessary official arrangements to obtain full statements in writing, in relation to certain vessels that had been freighted in behalf of the government by Mr. Bedinger, in relation to various purchases stated by Mr. Bedinger to have been made from Solomon Bedinger, his brother—from a Francis M. Armstead a clerk of Solomon Bedinger, and from James and Wm. Bennet, and also in relation to repairs that had from time to time been made at the public Navy Yard upon the vessels of Mr. Bedinger. These statements are to be obtained, it is said, not for the newspaper vindication of the Executive, nor for the newspaper crimination of Mr. Bedinger, but for the solemn consideration of the Attorney General of the United States.

Erratum.—In the Journal of secret proceedings in our last, in the fifth column of the 2d page of the paper, instead of "A motion was made by Mr. *Blackledge* and seconded, that the House do agree to the following order: Ordered that the secret journal, &c."—Read "A motion was made by Mr. *Randolph*, &c."

CASE OF JOHN SMITH.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6.

Messrs. Russel, and Gardenier, Representatives from New York, were examined as to the credibility of several of the deponents on the part of Mr Smith.

When *Mr. Harper* concluded the defence of Mr. Smith in a speech of about three hours length.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7.

Mr. Anderson moved to postpone the consideration of the report in this case until to-morrow, to give the members an opportunity to collate the new testimony offered.

This motion was lost.

Mr. S. Smith offered a resolution requesting the President to lay before the Senate the letter of Judge Nimmo to him, the letter of Mr. Smith, covering the depositions of himself & his son, and such other papers as may be in the possession of the Executive touching any alleged connection between Mr. Smith and Burr's conspiracy.

This motion was agreed to, subject to the understanding that the it should not interrupt the progress of any discussion which might arise on the report.

Mr. Anderson, having expressed his surprise at the attempt to precipitate a decision, and declared his inability to take that full view of the subject (which he desired to do), before to-morrow, on motion of Mr. White, its further consideration was postponed until to-morrow.

In the course of the remarks, which fell from *Mr. Giles*, he observed that he considered Elias Glover as so completely discredited, that he desired no further information to make up his opinion.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6.

Messrs Porter and Gardenier obtained leave of absence.

The House took up the unfinished business, the bill for raising an additional military force, the debate on which continued till past four o'clock, when the House adjourned without taking a question.

Messrs. Tallmadge, Southard, G. W. Campbell, supported the bill, and Messrs. Mosely, Sloan and Dana opposed it.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7.

Mr. Findley from the committee appointed to confer with the committee of the Senate on the subject of adjournment, made a report concluding with a resolution to adjourn on the 25th instant, which was ordered to lie on the table.

The House were this day wholly occupied in the discussion of the bill for raising an additional military force, till past 5 o'clock, when the question was taken and the bill passed 95 to 16.

Messrs. Eppes, Key, and Clopton, supported the bill, and Messrs. Randolph, Dana, Stanford and D. R. Williams opposed it.

A motion previously made by Mr. *Randolph* to re-commit it was negatived, Ayes 30.

The title of the bill was amended on motion of Mr. *Blount*, after repeated motions for amending it, for reconsidering the vote on the bill, and for adjournment, 60 to 25, so as to read "An act to raise for a limited time an additional military force," when the House adjourned at a little past 7 o'clock.

Average Price Current at Bordeaux, Feb. 14, 1808.

Coffee,	St. Domingo,	70 cts. per lb.
	Martinique,	80
Cocoa,	Carraccas,	70
	St. Domingo,	60
Cotton,	Long staple,	100 $ per cwt.
	Short do.	71
	Louisiana,	74
Indigo,	Spanish,	8 1-2 $ pr lb
	Louisiana,	2 1-2
	Carolina,	2
Logwood,		117 $ per cwt.
Pepper,		55 cts. per lb.
Rice,		9 $ per cwt.
Sugar,	white clayed,	43
	Brown,	33
	Muscovado,	28
Potashes,		18
*Tobacco,		45

* A choice parcel sold at 57 dolls. per cwt. duty about 20.

New-York, April 4.

By the Newport packet Alonzo, captain Westcott, we have been enabled to make a valuable addition to the maritime list of the *Mercantile Advertiser* from the Boston Gazette of Thursday. A passenger informs us that the ship George and Mary, of Newport, had just arrived at Tarpaulin Cove in 28 days from Falmouth, but brings no political news of importance.

Captain Alcorn from Cadiz, informs that 80,000 French troops were momently expected in Spain, and that Bonaparte was looked for at Madrid; the Russian fleet in Lisbon, and Spanish fleet in Cadiz, were endeavoring to form a junction, but were closely blockaded by the British, flour at Cadiz had been sold at 12 dolls. but was on the rise.

Captain Herrick who arrived at Newburyport on Sunday the 27th ult. from Gibraltar, informs: That on his passage down the Straits, 28th January off Cape de Gat was boarded and sent in by the English sloop of war Surinam, which was then passing up charged with dispatches for Lord Collingwood, who was off Sicily with 10 or 12 sail, advising him that the Rochefort squadron was out: that on the next day January 22, he passed the Rochefort squadron consisting of 6 sail * of the line and one brig, steering eastward; that on the 10th of February a large English squadron passed Gibraltar, bound up: that on the morning of the 11th a number of transports full of troops got under way, destination unknown; immediately after a gale came on from the Eastward, in which several were lost; there were 30 or 40 more transports there with troops, when the violent gale came on, in which capt. Herrick was drove out.

Capt. H. heard but little said of the threatened siege of Gibraltar.

* *The Rochefort squadron consists of the Majestique, Lys, Ajax, Suffrein, Magnanime & Jamappe, of the line—& Flora, 24—and Surveillante, 16.*

New-York, April *.

A vessel arrived at Marblehead on Monday last, in 36 days from Rochelle, brings dispatches from Mr. Armstrong, for our government. The bearer was landed at Portland and is supposed to have proceeded on to Washington.

Extract of a letter from Cadiz, dated February 13.

"The French have levied on the inhabitants of Lisbon a contribution of twenty millions of dollars; and as the Prince Regent carried off all the specie in his expedition to the Brazils, the church plate has been seized and two thirds of the church revenues held in sequestration for the payment.

RUNAWAY.

WAS committed to the jail of Washington county, district of Columbia as a runaway on the 29th of March last, a black man who calls himself JOHN, and says he belongs to John Clarkis of Alexandria; he is about 40 years of age, 5 feet 5 1 2 inches high, slender made, pitted with the small pox, and has lost his left eye; had on when committed, a black hat, the crown covered with canvass, grey great coat, blue pantaloons, and old shoes—his owner is desired to come and prove him and take him away or he will be sold for his jail fees and other expences as the law directs.

CARTWRIGHT TIPPETT,
Keeper of the jail for W. Boyd, marshal.

April 8—w3t

NOTICE.

THE subscriber under painful sensations announces to the public his intention to apply to the next Prince George's county court, or in its recess to one of the judges thereof, for the benefit of an act of Assembly, entitled, "An act for the benefit of insolvent debtors," passed November session, 1805, and the "Act supplementary thereto," passed November session 1806

ROBT. McKOY.

April 1—w6t