meant to meet, when no man can think there is any serious danger of invasion from France, or England.

With my colleague and other gentlemen, whom I highly respect on this floor, I agree that the violations of France on our neutral commerce and rights in '98 were less flagrant than now: certainly the former outrages of G. Britain, have been far surpassed by that on the Chesapeake. But it is not necessary for our purpose to ask what were the violations of former times, or to measure them with the present, since, great or small, they produced war. When a nation is at war 'tis idle to enquire what produced it. It is enough that she is at war, and measures must be taken accordingly. In 1798, with a less degree of aggression (if gentlemen will have it so) we were at war: in 1808, with a greater degree, we are at peace, and I am glad of it. But does it follow that because our provocations are greater now than in 1798; being now at peace, we should take measures, which a state of war would not justify in '98?

But one gentleman told us the other day; I am sorry to be so diffuse; I cannot methodize my thoughts, being too unprepared, and I may truly say too unwell; that by the death of the French emperor, Great Britain might re-acquire her old ascendency on the continent; her naval power would then remain undiminished, and we should lie at her mercy. How improbable a conjecture! How much more likely that the French emperor will outlive the naval power of England. Did the death of Ceasar liberate Gaul; or did Augustus, one of the most contemptible and worthless of men, both in a military and moral capacity, even after a civil war (which may perhaps also take place in France to decide who shall be head of the empire) succeed to the undivided dominion and power of his adopted father? There is not in my mind the smallest probability that the death of the present French emperor will liberate Germany, Spain or Italy, no more than the death of Cæsar should have liberated Gaul, Macedon, and the other provinces. But suppose that it would, and that the power of France should be limited within the Pyrennees, the Alps and the Rhine. What ascendancy can England even then have on the continent? Is it possible that the veteran troops of France can rest unemployed, or that they will ever tamely relinquish their present acquisitions? The days are past when the Marlboroughs and the Peterboroughs figured at the head of armies on the continent. Whatever revolutions may take place there, a preponderance must always be found to the naval power of England. And shall we guard against this power by raising two brigades of regulars? There is an inconsistency in the thing. The means are so little adapted to the proposed end. It will only have the effect of drawing money out of the treasury, without adding one iota to the national defence. It holds out a premium to idleness at the expence of the honest yeomanry, who are laboring upon their farms and plantations, contributing to the national support, and adding to the national wealth, who, when the storm shall really burst upon us, must defend their country, who will be just as ready to meet the foe as these idlers who have been living at their expence. Against the inroads of the savages it is upon the militia of Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio, that you must rely, and not upon men picked up in the streets, recruited in ale-houses, and disciplined on the next common. On the same class of men in the other states, you must depend for defence against Atlantic invasion, for the protection of their homes and fire sides.

Before I sit down, permit me to recall the attention of the House to some circumstances which passed, I think on Saturday, and which made on others, as well as myself a great impression. I allude to a discussion of the topic of French and English partiality—in the course of which I was happy to see the disposition which was generally manifested. But as was then observed by my most respectable friend from N. Carolina (Mr. Macon) so long as the public prints, which influence and direct public opinion, espouse either the one nation or the other, it is impossible that the mass of the people can acquire correct information respecting them; when those who act as their instructors endeavor to mislead. It is impossible, for another reason, that they can feel equally indifferent to these two powers. We cannot wash from our memory the revolutionary war, and its accumulated horrors. We cannot forget that France was our ally—perhaps our salvation. There is yet another cause which induces us to feel, if not to display, a great degree of partiality towards her. It grows out of the French revolution. That revolution was a struggle of liberty against despotism. It was, in its commencement at least, a war of principle. The government and people of France contended, or professed to contend for principles justly dear to us, for they were those of our own constitution—and we saw in the confederation of despots a systematic attack on the liberties of man; a combination, which when it had succeeded in crushing France, in all human probability would have been turned against ourselves. These honest prejudices, for honest prejudices may exist, have always given a bias in a certain degree to the public mind, in all collisions and contests where Great Britain and France have been involved, sensibly in favor of the latter—as it was natural they should. But I do trust that when France has done that which confederated kings in vain attempted—when she has committed *felo de se* on her own freedom, when she has assumed the shape of a military despotism more formidable to the liberties of the world from its physical force, and, if possible, even from its temper and disposition, than any combination of despots that the world has ever seen; when from recent occurrences our people shall see her designs upon us unmasked, the public mind will be brought to view these nations on the same level, to feel a perfect indifference for both, and a degree of resentment against each in proportion to their aggressions on us, neither modified nor aggravated by past recollections. The papers, which at the intimation of the President of the U. S. have been made public—and I am happy to find that they were made public for one, at least, of the very reasons, which induced me repeatedly, but unsuccessfully, to propose the measure; I am happy too to find that my presage that the President would give such a direction, that it was impossible they should be kept concealed, has proved correct; these papers ought to work the effect so highly desirable on the minds of the people, and I trust they will. They ought to teach us to view each of the two great belligerents as standing upon the same ground, and that our conduct towards them must be governed (as I was glad to hear the other day) by circumstances, that they must govern *us*, since we cannot govern them.

As it has become fashionable of late, to anticipate charges of inconsistency, and plead to them before they are made (and a very convenient fashion it is) I must avail myself of the same privilege. It will be recollected that about two years ago, I proposed an addition to our regular force to repel Spanish inroads and chastise the same. I then thought, and still believe that measure to have been proper—because the territory of the United States, *even that not in dispute*, had been invaded, and their sovereignty violated, because although no formal declaration of war had passed, yet our troops were absolutely in hostile array, confronting those of the enemy—and because the theatre of war was an outpost, where it was impossible to collect militia to repress invasion. The population, the natural strength of the country lay at such an immense distance, that it could not be brought to act——and therefore I deemed it necessary that there should be an addition to our military force in order to enable our army to face the enemy on equal terms, for it was represented to have been extremely over matched in numbers; and moreover, we were instructed by the proper authority that the crisis was such as to render the *interposition of force indispensible*. Is there now danger of invasion on that frontier, or of an attempt on the part of Spain to take possession of New Orleans? If there be danger of invasion any where it is upon our northern and eastern frontier, from Canada and Nova Scotia, where (thank God for it!) they must take the bull by the horns. Does any gentleman from New England or New York, believe that 6000 men are necessary for their defence, or if necessary that they are adequate to prevent the British from Montreal and Quebec from making inroads into the United States, the result of which must ensure the subjugation of the invaders. Great Britain cannot be mad enough to throw away her colonies in such a wild attempt. There are then no dangers against which we have to guard, at this moment, except the British naval power, which this force surely is not calculated to resist—for such a purpose it is totally inefficient. If indeed these 6000 men are to be raised as an offensive force to make an irruption into her provinces the question is totally altered, except that the quantum of force is not sufficient. It should be more than double that number. But I understand that no such thing is in contemplation—that the United States are determined to adhere to their present neutral position, and I am glad of it. I hope we shall not make war on the one, or the other.

These 6000 troops then, are to give protection against a naval force by garrisoning our seaports. It is perfectly evident that the militia of New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and other great towns are out of all proportion superior in numbers and even in discipline to the quota of these raw levies that will fall to their respective shares. They will be nothing when divided even amongst a few important places. The idea of defending the sea coast from Maine to New Orleans with such a force is visionary in the extreme. Their aid will not be felt. They are as a drop in the ocean. What then remains for us but to husband our resources to buy arms—to put the whole nation in a state of defence, to prepare at all points for attack, and enable ourselves to oppose if necessary not with six but sixty or even six hundred thousand men—for that I believe is the number capable of bearing arms, and I trust not one would remain at home when his service was required, but that there would be one general resolution that not one of the enemy should escape. But the people will not enlist when they see no prospect of actual service, of real fighting. I remember, indeed when the twelve regiments were raised, or rather raising—for except in procuring officers government had little success—*they* are always to be had in sufficient numbers at least—an eloquent member, who no longer holds a seat in this House, told us, among other uses, that they would serve to keep down a French faction, who in case of invasion, would be ready to join the enemy; but I trust that this army is not raised upon a plea which is a libel upon the country. I mean no improper insinuations——no man can insinuate what he does not feel. With the success of the former project we are all acquainted——and it is certainly not impossible, or improbable that a similar effect will result from a similar cause. I however shall have nothing to charge myself with, should it so happen. I shall give the same vote *now* that I did *then*, and will never consent to encrease our standing military force by one man, until I see the enemy against whom we are to contend. This used to be the old republican maxim, and may it ever remain so.

(Debate to be continued.)

FRIDAY, APRIL 8.

Mr. G. W. Campbell said that it appeared to be understood that the session was drawing to a close; and during the recess it was at least possible that such a change might take place in the conduct of the belligerent powers as might justify the suspension of the law laying an embargo, and thereby remove from the citizens of this country the pressure under which they now labor in consequence of that law. As he conceived it very important to the nation that the moment it could be done with propriety such pressure should be removed, he considered it proper that Congress before they adjourned should determine the events or contingencies upon which that law should be suspended, and also that they should vest in the Executive, under certain restrictions, a power to suspend the operation of that law upon such events having taken place as Congress should conceive would authorize such suspension till the next session. This might prevent the call of Congress at an improper time of the year, or a time when it would be very inconvenient to meet. In order to bring the subject before the House, he begged leave to submit to their consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That in the event of such peace or suspension of hostilities between the belligerent powers of Europe, or of such changes in their measures affecting neutral commerce, as may render that of the United States sufficiently safe, in the judgement of the President of the United States, he ought to be authorised by law to suspend the act "laying an embargo on all ships and vessels in the ports and harbors of the United States," and the several acts supplementary thereto, under such exceptions and restrictions, as the public interest and circumstances of the case may require: Provided, That such suspension shall not extend beyond days after the commencement of the next session of Congress.

Mr. Rhea moved that it lie on the table, Negatived, Ayes 12.

On motion of *Mr. G. W. Campbell*, it was referred to a committee of the whole House, without a division, and made the order of the day for to-morrow.

Mr. Randolph moved that the House go into committee of the whole on the bill making an appropriation for arming the whole body of the militia. Negatived, 59 to 38.

On motion of Mr. *Rhea*, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole 59 to 15, on the bill concerning post roads. The House were engaged on this subject until the usual hour of adjournment; when the committee rose, reported progress and obtained leave to sit again.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9.

Mr. Randolph observed that he knew it was customary of late to do certain species of small business in the early part of the day; but the session was now drawing to a close, and it was little more than a mere matter of form for gentlemen now to present petitions, as it was scarcely possible to obtain reports on them. He therefore asked for the consideration of the bill for arming the whole body of the militia; and also asked for the Yeas and Nays on the motion, that it might appear on the Journals that it was from no neglect of his that the bill had not been taken up. Such was his extreme indisposition on this day as well as yesterday that nothing but a wish to get up the bill could have induced him to come to the House these two days.

The question on taking this bill into consideration was then decided by Yeas and Nays; Yeas 41, Nays 50.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill concerning the post-office and post roads, *Mr. Masters* in the chair. The bill having been gone through, was reported to the House.

Mr. Randolph renewed his motion for taking up the bill for arming the whole body of the militia.—Negatived 44 to 36.

The House then took up the report of the committee of the whole just made on the bill for altering and establishing certain post roads.

There being great difficulty in retaining a quorum within the bar, and the report not having been gone through,

After repeated motions for adjournment, one of which was taken by yeas and nays, the House at length adjourned 35 to 30.

THE COMMISSIONERS appointed for the erection of a BRIDGE over the POTOMAC, give notice to the Stock holders, that an election of five Directors, one Clerk and a Treasurer will be held on the 2nd of May, between 10 A. M and 3 P. M, at Stelle's Hotel.

April 11.

WASHINGTON CITY.

MONDAY, APRIL 11.

For Laws and Post Office advertisement see the last page.

Department of State, April 8, 1808

Merchants and others wishing to forward letters to Europe, are informed, that a vessel, under the orders of the government, will sail from Baltimore on the 20th of this month, or as soon thereafter as possible, which will deliver at L'Orient and Falmouth all such letters as may be respectively consigned to those ports, or to other places through the same.

The postage on the letters must be paid to Baltimore.

We have received a number of late London papers down to the 24th of Feb. inclusive. They do not contain any new *continental* intelligence; being principally filled with Parliamentary proceedings. The correspondence between Mr. Erskine and Mr. Madison, with the letters of Lord Howick to the former, as laid before Parliament, is commenced. No definitive vote had passed on the late British orders. The Ministry had proposed to commute the export duty on cotton into a total prohibition of the exportation of that article, unless licensed under particular circumstances. They had likewise abandoned the proposed export duty on salt to this country. We shall give some interesting extracts in our next.

The latest information from France states, that Bonaparte was on the eve of leaving Paris to head an army of 200,000 men for the purpose of penetrating Africa. It is said to be his purpose totally to subvert the government of Algiers and the other Barbary states. If this information be correct, we presume one of his leading views is to possess himself of the immense treasures which have been there hoarded up for centuries, which has been long since estimated at a hundred millions of dollars.

Considerable solicitude has for some time existed to learn the issue of the trial of Commodore Barron at Norfolk. We understand that the documents and proceedings on this occasion are so very voluminous as not to have been yet forwarded to the Secretary of the Navy.

We are authorized to state that the remarks made by Daniel Bedinger, late naval agent at Norfolk, in his pamphlet, lately published, respecting a correspondence between him & the Accountant of the navy, are calculated to convey an impression foreign to the truth. From his remarks it might be supposed that in the correspondence he alludes to, he had obtained a complete victory, and that the accountant had yielded—or discontinued his "dishonest efforts" to wrong him out of money so justly paid on public account; when the facts are directly the reverse. In the adjustment of his accounts many errors were discovered, some few items rejected, and others suspended, not being supported by such vouchers as were deemed requisite, of which Mr. B. was informed, and at which he thought proper to take high dudgeon, and indulge himself in a strain of indecorous invective. Some of his letters were replied to—others were treated with silent contempt, and eventually he relinquished some of his pretensions, and in support of others, he forwarded additional vouchers, proofs and explanations, such as were deemed satisfactory, and such as it is evident were at all times in his power.

We are authorized also to say, that the documents in the possession of the Accountant of the Navy will shew that this statement is correct, and that they will with great cheerfulness be shewn by that officer to any person desirous of being correctly informed, and who will be at the trouble of calling at his office.

Mr. Clopton desires the following alteration to be made in his speech in our last as more expressive of his meaning.

Near the close of the speech, for the words "all the purposes of war," read *the chief purposes of defensive war.*

CASE OF JOHN SMITH.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8.

A short conversation arose on the course of proceeding, some diversity of opinion existing as to the propriety deciding on the report generally, or on the resolution of expulsion with which it concludes.

When on motion of *Mr. Franklin*, it was agreed, without a division, to proceed to the consideration of the resolution.

A message was received from the President, in consequence of the resolution adopted yesterday, laying various papers before the Senate.

Mr. Adams then addressed the Senate in a speech of about three hours length; in the course of which he vindicated the course pursued in this case against the objection of unconstitutionality; and then went at considerable length into an examination of the evidence. Abandoning almost entirely the testimony of Glover and McFarlane, and insisting but lightly on that of the other deponents, he rested his argument principally on the letters, declarations and acknowledgements of Mr. Smith himself; and concluded with expressing his opinion in favor of the resolution of expulsion.

When, on motion of Mr. *Giles*, the further consideration of the subject was postponed until to-morrow.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9.

Messrs. Anderson, Crawford, and Adams, spoke in favor of the resolution of expulsion; and Messrs. Hillhouse, Giles and Pope against it; when the question was taken by Yeas and Nays—Yeas 19—Nays 10. The Constitution requiring the concurrence of two thirds to expel a member, the resolution is to be considered as disagreed to.

Arrived at Newport, ship George and Mary, from London, passengers, Ad. Graves and Mr. Baring. By this arrival a Plymouth paper to Feb. 27 was received.

LONDON, FEB. 23.

Papers respecting negociations with *America* were last night laid before the House of Commons.

A petition for peace was presented. Mr. Canning voted for bringing up the petition, and said no fair opportunity would be neglected of concluding peace.

An order has been issued to prohibit the exportation of Peruvian Bark to France, where a sickness is said to prevail (among the troops from Poland,) in which the bark is wanted. Mr. Whitbread censured the order.

FEB. 24.

Lord ST. JOHN has given notice that he shall to-morrow move an address to his Majesty to *suspend the operation of the orders in council.*

TRURO, FEB 27.

The Expedition under Spencer sailed on the 20th The troops amount to 9000. They are supposed to be bound to Gibraltar.

The true friends of their country will rejoice to find the leading commercial town of the union taking the following enlightened, honest and commanding ground.

GENERAL MEETING.

At an uncommonly numerous and respectable meeting of the Republican Electors of the city and county of New York, called together by public notice from their committee, held at Martling's Long Room on Tuesday evening, April 5, 1808.

WILLIAM ...., in the chair,
A. C. VAN SLYCK, Sec.

The following resolutions were unanimously passed, viz.

Resolved, That this meeting highly and unreservedly approve of the conduct of the President and government of the U. S. in the late representations to, and negociations with the government of G. Britain and France; that in our opinion the general administration of the union has manifested as great a degree and spirit of conciliation as is consistent with the elevated honor and independent rights of their country; and that in the present critical and interesting situation of our affairs, they are entitled to our gratitude and warmest support.

Resolved, That we also decidedly and unreservedly approve of the Proclamation of the President of the U. S. of the 2d of July last, and also of the embargo which has been recently laid upon American vessels; because in the present exigency of affairs, when the rights of neutrals are entirely disregarded by belligerent powers, and no security whatsoever is allowed to their commerce or their flags, it would have been in the highest degree impolitic and unsafe to have suffered the property of our fellow-citizens to be exposed to the depredations of foreign nations, and our government by the rash and improvident enterprizes of individuals without its authority and consent, liable to be called upon with demands of indemnity and protection, and the channels of negociation obstructed with additional difficulties.

Resolved, That the President and government of these U. S. in their negociations with the late special minister of G. Britain, by consenting to separate the particular question of reparation for the attack upon the frigate Chesapeake from the general subjects of negociation in relation to impressments and captures, and affording to such minister a general declaration and assurance, that upon receiving an adequate satisfaction and apology for the outrage, the proclamation of the President should be revoked, instanter, have proceeded to every reasonable and even justinable length for the preservation of peace, and if unfortunately and against our ardent wishes it should happen that negociation shall eventually terminate without a settlement, the King and ministry of G. Britain must be answerable for the consequences, whilst we, relying with firm conviction upon the justice of our cause, will support our country and our government against the aggressions of any foreign nation, with our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

Resolved, That the frank and satisfactory communication which has been made by the President to both Houses of Congress of the United States, and published at his request for general information, of the instructions to our ministers, and the correspondence which has taken place in our respective negociations with G. Britain and with France, completely justifies the confidence which has been reposed in, and expressed towards the President, and entitles him to the thanks and approbation of his country.

Resolved as the opinion of this meeting, that harmony among republicans in their elections, is at all times desirable, and particularly so at the present important crisis in our public affairs.

Resolved, That it appears to us both reasonable and consistent with the principles we profess as republicans, that when a difference of opinion arises among ourselves, in regard to particular men, that the minority should give up to, and acquiesce in the opinion of the majority, whenever such opinion has been fairly ascertained.

Resolved, That we prefer principles to men, because principles are immutable and unchangeable; and always the same, whether applied to an individual state or to the U. States.

[Here follow resolutions relative to the arrangements for the ensuing election.]