States of America, that they are now ready to proceed to the signature of the treaty of amity, commerce and navigation, on the articles of which they have mutually agreed.

But at the same time they have it in command from his majesty, to call the attention of the commissioners of the United States to some extraordinary proceedings which have lately taken place on the Continent of Europe, & to communicate to them, officially, the sentiments of his majesty's government thereupon.

The proceedings alluded to, are certain declarations and orders of the French government, issued at Berlin, on the 21st of Nov. last.

In these orders, the French government seeks to justify or palliate its own unjust pretensions by imputing to Great Britain, principles which she never professed, and practices which never existed. His majesty is accused of a systematical and general disregard of the law of nations, recognized by civilized states, and more particularly of an unwarrantable extension of the right of blockade; whereas his majesty may confidently appeal to the world, on his uniform respect for neutral rights, and his general and scrupulous adherence to the law of nations, without condescending to contrast his conduct in these particulars with that of his enemy; and with regard to the only specific charge, it is notorious that he has never declared any ports to be in a state of blockade, without alloting to that object, a force sufficient to make the entrance into them manifestly dangerous.

By such allegations, unfounded as they are, the enemy attempts to justify his pretensions of confiscating as lawful prize, all produce of English industry or manufacture, though it be the property of neutrals; of excluding from his harbors every neutral vessel which has touched at any port of his majesty's dominions, though employed in an innocent commerce; and of declaring G. Britain to be in a state of blockade, though his own naval ports and arsenals are actually blockaded, and he is unable to station any naval force whatever, before any port of the United Kingdom.

Such principles are in themselves extravagant and repugnant to the law of nations; and the pretensions founded on them, though professedly directed solely against G. Britain, tend to alter the practice of war among civilized nations, and utterly to subvert the rights and independence of neutral powers.

The undersigned cannot therefore believe that the enemy will ever seriously attempt to enforce such a system. If he should, they are confident that the good sense of the American government will perceive the fatal consequences of such pretensions to neutral commerce, and that its spirit and regard to national honor will prevent its acquiescence in such palpable violations of its rights, and injurious encroachments on its interest.

If however the enemy should carry these threats into execution, and if neutral nations, contrary to all expectation, should acquiesce in such usurpations, his majesty might probably be compelled, however reluctantly, to retaliate in his just defence and to adopt in regard to the commerce of neutral nations with his enemies, the same measures which those shall have permitted to be enforced against their commerce with his subjects. The commissioners of the U. States will therefore feel that at a moment when his majesty and all neutral nations are threatened with such an extension of the belligerent pretensions of his enemies, he cannot enter into the stipulations of the present treaty, without an explanation from the U. States of their intentions, or a reservation on the part of his majesty in the case abovementioned if it should ever occur.

The undersigned considering that the distance of the American government renders any immediate explanation on this subject impossible, and animated by a desire of forwarding the beneficial work in which they are engaged, are authorized by his majesty to conclude the treaty without delay. They proceed to the signature under the full persuasion that before the treaty shall be returned from America, with the ratification of the U. States, the enemy will either have formally abandoned, or tacitly relinquished his unjust pretensions, or that the government of the U. States, by its conduct or assurances, will have given security to his majesty that it will not submit to such innovations in the established system of maritime law: And the undersigned have presented this note from an anxious wish that it should be clearly understood on both sides, that without such an abandonment on the part of the enemy, or such assurances or such conduct on the part of the U. States, his majesty will not consider himself bound by the present signature of his commissioners to ratify the treaty, or precluded from adopting such measures as may seem necessary for counteracting the designs of his enemy.

The undersigned cannot conclude without expressing their satisfaction at the prospect of accomplishing an object so important to the interests and friendly connexion of both nations, and their just sense of the conciliatory disposition manifested by the commissioners of the U. States during the whole course of the negociation

(Signed)

VASSALL HOLLAND,
AUCKLAND.

London, December 31, 1806.

WASHINGTON CITY.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13.

The House of Representatives of the Orleans territory on the 10th of March passed a resolution—Yeas 14, Nays 6—"that after the expiration of the present session the seat of the legislature shall no longer continue in the city of New-Orleans."

The election of the Directors of the Commercial Company of the City of Washington took place on the 16th inst. in pursuance of public notice given thereof, when the following gentlemen were duly appointed:

Thomas Tingey,
Peter Miller,
John M'Gowan,
Charles W. Goldsborough,
Joseph Forrest,
James D. Barry,
Alexander Kerr,
Adam Lindsay,
John P. Van Ness,
William Prout,
Samuel N. Smallwood,
James Cassin.

By order of the Commissioners,
WILLIAM PROUT.

No. 3.

To the PEOPLE of the UNITED STATES.

The most important measure of the last session of Congress is the EMBARGO. As the same considerations which dictated it led likewise to most of the other steps taken, if it shall appear to have been the result of correct views, there can be little dispute with regard to them.

Against this measure the collected artillery of the opposition has been brought to bear. It has inspired new hopes, and has given new life blood to party. The shattered fragments of federalism are industriously collected together, and we are exultingly told that the proud column, which once marked its triumphs, is again to rise on the ruins of the principles of the present administration.

Montesquieu and other distinguished political writers have laid it down as an axiom, that the duration of a republican government is dependent upon the virtue of the people. Our political adversaries, let it be remembered, have invariably treated the existence of this sentiment as chimerical; and hence, probably, their uniform ridicule of the feasibility of the principle of self-government, and their confidence that we must, eventually, perhaps in their own day, go the way of all other nations.

It is to this belief that their aspiring hopes at this crisis are to be traced. The ignorant, unruly and factious body, whose whole history, in their view, is that of a succession of storms and vices, is once more, under a different sky, but still under the same baleful star, to be wrought upon by those means which have heretofore always proved successful. Their mistaken interests, their momentary gratifications, the fickleness of their feelings, their sudden hatred of those whom they lately respected, their pleasure in exercising despotic power by tumbling down one system and building up another, is to mark, in unerring characters, their total inability to govern themselves, and to prove to the world, and even to themselves, the policy of bending their necks to a regal usurper.

Fantastic as this picture may, in some of its features, appear, let us not too lightly treat it with contempt. It is only necessary to establish one fact, to reconcile all its apparent contradictions, and to soften down its discordances into one harmonious hue. Once establish the fact, that the people cannot command their own feelings, and it irresistibly follows that they must be commanded by others; the republican system vanishes; and liberty is entombed.

The discussion of this topic is, therefore, of awful magnitude; it involves, not merely the fugitive interests of the day, the happiness of the present generation; but that of ages; that of a people, whose numbers and power are hereafter to guide the civilized world.

To establish the wisdom of the Embargo seems to my mind a very simple process. Few premises are required to supply the materials of a perfect demonstration.

Had not the embargo been laid, or some measure equally prohibitory of commerce been adopted, war would have been inevitable.

The effects of war would have been more injurious than those of the Embargo.

Hence the imposition of the Embargo was called for from a provident government, by that *principle which required it to adopt the BEST MEASURE which existing circumstances admitted.*

Of deity only it is the prerogative to do absolute, unqualified good, because such an act implies infinite wisdom. To the limited capacity of man, it belongs to do the best he can, which in its most intelligent exercise blends evil with good. It is, however, enough for the purest virtue and highest wisdom of man, that he does his best, and that the condition of those, who are the subjects of his power, is rendered as happy as circumstances warrant.

As the inferences here drawn are plain and indisputable, the whole of this discussion must consist in examining the soundness of the premises. To do this, it will be requisite,

In the first place, to shew that, but for the imposition of the Embargo, war would have been inevitable.

Secondly, to shew that the Embargo is the lesser evil; in doing which a contrasted view will be taken of the effects of war and of the Embargo.

To carry me successfully through this discussion, it is necessary to require one thing from my countrymen. In pronouncing judgment they must *think* as well as *feel*. While they realize the extent of the evil they suffer, they must not shut their minds to the evils they would suffer, but for the existence of that which they feel. They must exercise their *rational* as well as *animal* faculties. They must look to their permanent and ultimate, no less than to their fleeting and present interests; & they must not forget that their whole welfare, present as well as future, is inseparable from that of the nation.

I proceed, then, in the *first place*, to shew, that but for the imposition of the Embargo war would have been inevitable.

The French decree declares the British Isles in a state of blockade, prohibits the trade in British goods, and confiscates as lawful prize the neutral vessel and cargo which shall have submitted to British search on the high seas, touched at her ports or received her license. While the British orders authorize the forcible capture of all British subjects found on board American vessels, making subordinate British officers the judges of the fact; and, under the form of a blockade of all the ports of the continent of Europe, interdicts all trade with it, except through England, and under such fiscal and political restrictions as she may think fit to impose.

There are two obviously distinct views of which this point is susceptible; the one, political; the other, pecuniary.

Individual interest out of the question, would it comport with the character of an independent nation to permit its merchants to carry on a traffic under such restrictions? Would not such a permission betray a destitution of spirit inconsistent with independence; and would not our nominal independence but clumsily cover our actual vassalage? Our spirits have risen indignant at Algerine tribute, although in rendering it we only trod in the steps of the most powerful nations; and at a recent period, the universal cry of the country has been "millions for defence, but not a cent for tribute." Are these feelings dead? Is the generous spirit that excited them fled forever? Has the magnitude of the present evil deprived us of the power of estimating it, and made us insensible of its effects upon our national character? Has the record of our valor, traced in the blood of our heroes, become defaced and obliterated? Is the proud monument of our triumph annihilated? Can we think of what we did when a trifling, a disconnected, a poor nation; and not sink, in abasement, at the idea of now, when we are a numerous, a united, a rich people, doing less, nay undoing what we then did? For the cases are in principle most strikingly analogous. The only difference is in the degree in which it is applied. Then, although a colony, we denied the right of Britain to lay a tax even of a cent on a pound of tea; we appealed to arms to resist the exercise of the right, and we triumphed. Now, although an independent nation, acknowledged as such by herself, she does not hesitate to impose taxes a thousand fold as onerous. *Then* the tax attempted to be rivetted was on a foreign commodity; *now* it is imposed on our own domestic products. She tells us you shall bring all these products into my ports, you shall pay such duties on their importation as I prescribe, and, then, you shall, as I please, as my interest dictates, either not export them at all, or pay such taxes on their exportation as I shall fix. So fully does this view of the subject present itself to an unprejudiced mind, that we find it has not escaped the intelligent and independent writers in England. Mr. Baring, in his celebrated tract, on the conduct of Britain towards this country, says, "The American patriot will probably see with pleasure, that if he must have war, the provocation (by England) is of a nature to unite every prejudice, and every real interest of his country. By attempting to confine the European trade of America to G. Britain, and by the avowal of an intention to tax that trade on its passage to the continent, *we are returning to those principles to which, even as a colony, she would not submit. It is immaterial whether it be a tax on stamps or on cotton: this question has already been the subject of a long and bloody war, and it can hardly be supposed that America will now submit to a direct attack on her sovereign and independent rights.*"

Attend on this same point to the language of Mr. Rathbone, an eminent merchant of Liverpool, which place has been electrified by the effect of the British orders—"Can we expect," says he, "she (America) will ever consent that we shall dictate the terms on which her commerce shall traverse the ocean; or that her ships shall be forcibly compelled to enter our ports, and be subject to taxation, in return for which she obtains no advantage? On the subject of foreign taxation, America may naturally be expected to be jealous in the extreme. Will she who voluntarily encountered all dangers, struggled under all difficulties, enduring all privations, submitted to all sacrifices, and largely expended both her treasure and blood, rather than submit to taxation by a foreign state; will she, now that her independence has been acknowledged and established, submit to be taxed by us?"

Such are the sentiments imbibed by intelligent men, on the other side of the Atlantic, of our character, and of the conduct which a maintenance of that character must produce. They consider submission on our part as out of the question. Contemplating the principles to which we owe our political birth, the success with which they were asserted, and the vast accessions of strength which have since crowned our adherence to them, they do not dream of the possibility of our submitting as a nation to the exercise of a power as unjust in itself as injurious to us. They consider the exertion of this power as an act of war, as a forcible invasion of our essential rights of sovereignty.

And can it be conceived that our regard for our own country is less ardent than their regard for it; or that our perception of our interests is less clear than theirs? Is the spirit of liberty dead? Are we insensible to the wide spread prosperity with which it has covered our whole country; and that its absence for any length of time would turn our cultivated fields into deserts, and our populous towns into neglected ruins? Are we ready, for the enjoyment of a commerce, without profit, to pay tributary millions into the coffers of our rival and our enemy? More millions than feed our own treasury? The thing is impossible. Throwing aside altogether its effects on individual interest, submission is impossible. It would sink us deeper in disgrace than any people has hitherto ever sunk. The thought of what we were, contrasted with the feeling of our degradation, would be intolerable; and the government that should be base enough to submit would be instantly despoiled by an incensed people of its blighted honors.

AN AMERICAN WHIG.

CELEBRATION

Of the Anniversary of the Sons of St. Tammany or Columbian Order, of the City of Washington.

The members of this Society having assembled at the Council fire of their Great Wigwam the twelfth day of the month of flowers, in the three hundred and sixteenth year of discovery, proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing twelve months, when the following were declared duly elected:

Grand Sachem——*William Patterson Gardner.*

Father of the Council——*Richard Dinmore.*

Secretary——*Bernard Smith.*

Treasurer——*Joshua John Moore.*

SACHEMS.

Cornelius Conyngham, Benjamin Moore, Francis P. Hamilton, Benjamin Burch, Samuel Hamilton, R. C. Weightman, James W. Bryson, Charles Jones, John Sessford, Ezra Varden, Henry Aborn, Bernard Smith, Richard Dinmore, William R. Cozens, Samuel M'Intire, Henry Herford, Joshua John Moore.

They then adjourned to Lindsay's Hotel, Capitol Hill, where an appropriate and eloquent long talk was delivered by brother *Joshua John Moore*, after which the Society partook of an elegant repast at which the following toasts & sentiments were drunk accompanied with patriotic songs, and music:—

1. *The Anniversary of St. Tammany*—May each revolving year find the white children of the Western World as patriotic and virtuous as at this day, and as willing to incur privations when the good of their common country shall require it.

2. *The seventeen tribes of America*—May their Union be perpetual and may they prefer "Liberty with danger, to servitude with security."

3. *The chain of Union*—Supported by national independence and cemented by individual rights—may its links continue untarnished for a thousand generations.

4. *The principles of Tammany*—Death when our country's good requires it.

5. *Our virtuous and enlightened Grand Sachem*—Jefferson. Amidst the din of war and the wreck of nations his wisdom has hitherto secured our peace; his eminent public services are engraved on the hearts of his children—6 *cheers*—*Hail liberty supreme delight.*

6. *The venerable father of the council*—Clinton—The warrior and statesman. May his country long enjoy the benefit of his wisdom and experience—3 *cheers*—*Hail Great Republic.*

7. *James Madison and James Monroe*—Pre-eminent in diplomacy—The splendid and solid talents of the New World have cast into shade the boasted talents of the Old—May these brilliant stars long illumine our horizon—3 *cheers.*

8. *The Great Council of the nation*—At its next session may internal improvements, the great sources of public and private wealth and national independence, occupy a more than ordinary portion of attention.

9. *The Embargo*—The best and wisest policy of this nation—May its effects on the European World bring the mad monarchs of that unfortunate hemisphere to a just sense of our neutral and national rights—3 *cheers.*

10. *The warriors of United America*—Their persevering and successful industry in the acquisition of military knowledge* is a sure pledge of their patriotism. Their enemies will never be able to contend against the combined force of military precision and the propelling enthusiasm of civil liberty—3 *cheers.*

11. *Domestic manufactures*—One of the pillars of national independence—Let Europe madden while we apply to the spinning wheel and the loom.

12. *The Republicans of the Union*—May the partial success which their political opponents have recently met with, shew the necessity of henceforth making unanimity the order of the day—3 *cheers.*

13. *The Legislature of New-York*—They have evinced a regard to the true interest of their country by the encouragement of internal manufactures and agricultural improvement.

14. *The Tammany Society of New-York*—The monument at the Wallabout will be an eternal record of their patriotism—*Awful silence.*

15. *The Commercial Company of the City of Washington*—May it succeed in its object, and draw to our ports the trading vessels of every nation of the world.

16. *The Election of the next Grand Sachem*—May republican virtue induce each individual to sacrifice personal feeling and concentrate the national energies in the hands of a virtuous Executive.—*United we stand, divided we fall*—6 *cheers.*

17. *Our sisters of the Seventeen Tribes*—May they never smile on the man who palliates the mad attempts that have invaded our independence, enslaved our brethern & dishonored our flag.

VOLUNTEERS.

1. *Neutral rights*—May the leviathan of the ocean soon be compelled to respect them.

2. May the *Baring* of the British House of Commons soon *bear* down the unjust and tyrannical orders of the British council.

3. *Democracy*—May the principles contained in the Rights of Man and Common Sense prevail throughout the Globe.

4. *The unfair trader*—The masked enemy of his country—May the lightening of public opinion wither his energies & sweep him forever from our shores.

5. May the members of the Tammany Society of the District of Columbia support and cherish with as much zeal as that which characterizes our red brethern, the spirit and fun-