from our merchant vessels, under the pretext that the similarity of language and of features between American citizens and British subjects are such as not easily to be distinguished.

But this subject, like all others, is unquestionably susceptible of adjustment by equitable and liberal stipulations. The American government has ever been ready to yield to amicable accommodation. The British ministry has admitted the expediency of the measure, yet never fail to find the means of evading a settlement. In all our negociations with that power, the Executive of the U. States have authorised our ministers to propose & submit propositions perfectly consistent with that spirit of amity which ought to exist between friendly nations and which ought to have been accepted. The government of Great Britain has, more than once, assented to articles to remove this grievance, but when they were ready for signature, her ministers have declined it under various pretexts. An arrangement was settled by Mr. King with the British ministry on the subject of impressments from American vessels on the high seas; but at the moment when the articles were expected to be signed, an exception of the "narrow seas," was urged and insisted on, which being utterly inadmissible on the part of the U. States, the negociation was abandoned.

The following articles were proposed by Messrs. Monroe and Pinckney to the British commissioners in the year 1806.

"Article 1. No person whatever shall, on the high seas and without the jurisdiction of either party, be demanded and taken out of any ship or vessel, belonging to citizens or subjects of one of the parties, by the public or private armed ships belonging to or in the service of the other, unless such person be at the time in the military service of an enemy of such other party.

"No person, being a subject or citizen of one of the parties & resorting to, or residing in the dominions of the other, shall in any case be compelled to serve on board any vessel, whether public or private, belonging to such other party; and all citizens, or subjects whatever, of the respective parties, at this time compulsively serving on board the vessels of the other, shall be forthwith liberated, and enabled by an adequate recompence, to return to their own country.

"In all questions which may arise within the dominions of either power, respecting the national character of any person who claims to be a citizen or subject of the other power, due credit shall be given to such public document as his government may have granted for his protection. And where such documents may have been lost, destroyed, or by casualty not obtained, and any person claims to be a citizen or subject of either party, such other evidence of said claim shall be received and admitted, as would be satisfactory in a court of judicature. The high contracting parties engage that due care shall be taken that such documents shall be granted in their respective ports to such persons only as are justly entitled to them, and by suitable officers who shall be specially designated for the purpose.

"Article 2. It is agreed that no refuge or protection shall be afforded by either party to the mariners, sailors, or other persons, not found to be its own citizens, or subjects, who shall desert from a vessel of the other party, of the crew whereof the deserter made a part; but on the contrary all such deserters shall be delivered up on demand to the commanders of the vessels from which they shall have deserted, or to the commanding officers of the ships of war of the respective nations, or to such other persons as may be duly authorised to make requisition in that behalf, provided that proof be made within two years from the time of desertion, by an exhibition of the ship's papers or authenticated copies thereof, and by satisfactory evidence of the identity of the person that the deserters so demanded were actually part of the crew of the vessels in question.

"And for the more effectual execution of this article, adequate provision shall be made for causing to be arrested, on the application of the respective consuls or vice-consuls to the competent authorities, all deserters duly proved to be such, in order that they may be sent back to the commanders of the vessels to which they belonged, or removed out of the country. And all due aid and assistance shall be given in searching for as well as in seizing and arresting the said deserters, who shall be even detained and kept in the prisons of the country at the request and expence of the said consuls or vice-consuls, until they shall have found an opportunity of sending back or removing them as aforesaid. But if they be not sent back or removed within three months, from the day of their arrests, they shall be set at liberty and shall not be again arrested for the same cause."

These articles to an impartial observer appear to be unexceptionable, as they contain fair and reciprocal provisions to prevent aggressions by either party on the other, relative to their seamen. They were however not agreed to on the part of Great Britain, nor were any others proposed to be substituted.

In order if possible, to establish some arrangement on this head, the American ministers were authorised, by instructions, dated in May 1807, in the event of a rejection of every arrangement before authorised, to admit an article to the following effect:

"It is agreed that after the term of months computed from the exchange of ratifications, and during a war in which either of the parties may be engaged, neither of them will permit any seaman, not being its own citizen or subject, and being a citizen or subject of the other party, who shall not have been, for two years at least prior to that date, constantly and voluntarily in the service, or within the jurisdiction of the parties respectively, to enter, or be employed on board any of its vessels navigating the high seas: and proper regulations, enforced by adequate penalties, shall be mutually established, for distinguishing the seamen of the parties respectively, and for giving full effect to this stipulation."

They were further instructed, that "as long as negociation can be honorably protracted, it is a resource to be preferred, under existing circumstances, to the peremptory alternative of improper concessions, or inevitable collisions."

These extracts from the mass of public matter before referred to, are faithfully made, and prove indisputably the honest solicitude of the American government to obtain a just and honorable accommodation: and if the British government shall persist in refusing a settlement, it will prove that adjustment is not her policy, and that she prefers a continuance of a vexatious and unfounded claim, to equitable and friendly arrangement.

PLAIN TRUTH.

(To be Continued.)

The Arcturus brings French advises to the latter end of June. We understand that permission had been given by the French government to the St. Michael to return to France if she saw fit, after touching at England.

Rhode-Island Election.—By official statements it appearrs that Elisha R. Porter and Richard Jackson, both federal, are elected Representatives in the next Congress by a majority of 449 votes.

PRESIDENT'S ANSWER to the BOSTON PETITION.

August, 26, 1808.

SIR,

I ask leave to communicate through you the inclosed answer to the representatation which came to me under cover from you, and to add the assurances of my respect.

TH: JEFFERSON.

CHARLES BULFINCH, Esq.
for the Selectmen of Boston.

To the inhabitants of the town Boston, in legal town meeting assembled.

YOUR representation and request were received on the 22d instant, and have been considered with the attention due to every expression of the sentiments and feelings of so respectable a body of my fellow-citizens. No person has seen with more concern than myself, the inconveniences brought on our country in general, by the circumstances of the times in which we happen to live; times to which the history of nations present no parallel. For years we have been looking as spectators on our brethren of Europe, afflicted with all those evils which necessarily follow an abandonment of the moral rule which bind men and nations together. Connected with them in friendship and commerce, we have happily so far kept aloof from their calamitous conflicts, by a steady observance of justice towards all, by much forbearance, and multiplied sacrifices. At length however, all regard to the rights of others having been thrown aside, the belligerent powers have beset the highway of commercial intercoure with edicts, which taken together, expose our commerce and mariners, under almost every destination, a prey to their fleets and armies. Each party indeed would admit our commerce with themselves, with the view of associating us in their war against the other. But we have wished war with neither. Under these circumstances were passed the laws of which you complain, by those delegated to exercise the powers of legislation for you, with every sympathy of a common interest in exercising them faithfully. In reviewing these measures therefore we should advert to the difficulties out of which a choice was of necessity to be made. To have submitted our rightful commerce to prohibitions & tributary exactions from others, would have been to surrender our independence. To resist them by arms waswar, without consulting the state of things or the choice of the nation. The alternative preferred by the Legislature of suspending a commerce placed under such unexampled difficulties, besides saving to our citizens their property, & our mariners to their country, has the peculiar advantage of giving time to the belligerent nations to revise a conduct as contrary to their interests as it is to our rights.

"In the events of such peace, or suspension, of hostilities between the belligerent powers of Europe, or of such a change in their measures affecting neutral commerce, as may render that of the United States sufficiently safe, in the judgement of the President," he is authorised to suspend the embargo. But no peace or suspension of hostilities, no change of measures affecting neutral commerce, is known to have taken place. The orders of England, and the decrees of France and Spain existing at the date of these laws, are still unrepealed, as far as we know. In Spain indeed a contest for the government appears to have arisen; but of its course or prospects, we have *no* information on which prudence would undertake a hasty change in our policy, even were the authority of the executive competent to such a decision.

You desire that, in this defect of power Congress may be specially convened. It is unnecessary to examine the evidence or the character of the facts which are supposed to dictate such a call: Because you will be sensible, on an attention to dates, that the legal period of their meeting is as early as, in this extensive country, they could be fully convened by a special call.

I should, with great willingess, have executed the wishes of the inhabitants of the town of Boston, had peace, or a repeal of the obnoxious edicts, or other changes, produced the case in which alone the laws have given me that authority; and so many motives of justice and interest lead to such changes, that we ought continually to expect them. But while these edicts remain, the Legislature alone can prescribe the course to be pursued.

TH: JEFFERSON.

Aug. 26, 1808.

PROSPECTS.

Republican prospects in New Jersey were never brighter. From every quarter of the state from which we have heard, we have intelligence of the utmost union and harmony among the friends of our government, and of a firm and general determination to turn out to election like a band of brothers in support of the present administration and its measures.

From Gloucester county we hear, that the republican meeting for the selection of candidates on Monday last, was much more numerous and respectably attended than usual—that a ticket was agreed upon with perfect unanimity—and that a resolution approbating the nomination of Mr. Madison, was carried with but two dissenting voices—Mr. Sloan's and his son's.

The republican meeting at Mount Holly, on the 27th ultimo, to form a ticket for Burlington county, was larger than had ever before convened on a similar occasion—and the business of the meeting was gone through with universal satisfaction. The particulars we shall probably have next week.

In Salem county, the republicans will have a larger majority than they have had any past election.

In Cumberland, federalists have but faint hopes of success—and the republican meeting this day will probably dissipate these.

In this county, Hunterdon, at the republican meeting on Saturday at Flemington, about three hundred and thirty were present—and the utmost harmony and union prevailed through the transaction of the whole business. Particulars next week.

True American.

The captain of the schooner West Indian, arrived at Baltimore on Saturday morning from Jamacia, states that the embargo is most severely felt in that island—that flour is 48 dollars per barrel, and cod fish 39 dollars per cwt—and every other article of necessity at a proportionate price.

The latest accounts from Jamaica, which are to the 10th ult. represent that island to be in state of great distress. from the scarcity of flour and other provisions. Flour is as high as 48 dollars per barrel, and very little on hand. The crops had failed. Indian corn was extraordinary high and very scarce. *Phil. Gaz.*

New-York, Sept. 9.

Letters received in this city yesterday mention the death of JAMES SULLIVAN, Esq. Governor of the state of Massachusetts.

We learn by a passenger in the Arcturus, that Col. Burr and General Miranda arrived in Corunna (Spain) on the 5th of July, via England.

Letters from Bordeaux by the Arcturus, as well as passengers state the existence of an embargo in France.

Extract of a letter from Bordeaux, dated the 18th of July.

"French troops are continually marching through this place for Spain, by forced marches, where 40,000 have already arrived."

Sept. 10.

Captain Lovett, arrived at Salem from the Havanna, informs, that the Spaniards, of Cuba are determined to maintain their independence, even if Old Spain should be reduced under the yoke of Bonaparte. The French had twelve days from the time of his sailing to leave the island. Their situation had been extremely dangerous there, from the wrath of the Spaniards; some had been assassinated, for having spoken lightly of the Spanish cause, and saying that the Spaniards would soon be suppressed by Bonaparte. They would not bear such language. Captain Lovett having lost several of his hands, shipped a number of French sailors, who were glad of this opportunity to get away.

A letter received in this city from Bordeaux, by the Arcturus, dated 27th June, says, "A general embargo, it is apprehended, will ere long take place on all American vessels in the ports of France; and it is feared a rupture will be the consequence. Sixty-two American vessels have been lately condemned by the council of prizes at Paris. Our markets for colonial and American produce have been very favorable for some time past; prices in consequence were pushed extremely high, but are now lowering, and in no demand."

The Boston papers received yesterday are silent as to the death of Governor Sullivan. In the Repertory he is said to be "very seriously indisposed."

In addition to the intelligence we have already given respecting Spain, we learn, from papers received at Boston by the Arcturus, that General Lefebvre had surrendered to the Arragonese, who had taken the provisions and ammunition destined for his relief; and that Jerome Bonaparte was to be king of Naples, and Murat of Westphalia.

It was reported, that about 60,000 French troops had been recently marched into Spain, including many of the national guards. The patriots are said to have 50,000 cavalry.

The French papers contain some accounts of advantages obtained over the REBELS, as those are called who fight for their country. But the circumstances under which those papers are published prevents their obtaining credit.

It appears that orders have been given for disarming all Spaniards. A Bayonne article of June 17, says that Gens. Lasalle and Merle, who went to disarm the people at and near Palencia, met 1200 rebels under general Cuesta, whom they dispersed, killing about 1000. The French losing 6 killed and 8 or 10 wounded! The French proceeded to Valladolid disarming the people, and 50 of the most culpable were shot.

"On the 12th of June Gen. Lefebver attacked the army of insurgents of Saragossa, and dispersed them; more than 2000 of them were thrown into the river and perished. The French had four killed and four wounded." [*French Paper.*]

"The emperor had directed that those Spaniards who renounce their errors shall be treated with indulgence; but that a terrible example shall be made of such as persist." [*Ibid.*]

"The rebels killed Gen. Cevallos at Valladolid." [*Ibid.*]

Col. Gibbs (one of the passengers in the Acturus) was informed, when in Paris, that an attack had been contemplated on the Austrian dominions before the disturbances in Spain broke out. That Austria was more formidable than ever, having organized a force of 400,000.

The Acturus stopped at Fayal, and while there, a Portuguese 74 arrived on her way to England, from Brazils, and informed that sir Sidney Smith was about proceeding with an allied army of British and Portuguese, against Buenos Ayres.

A letter from Halifax, (N. S.) dated Aug. 22d, received at Boston, mentions the arrival of the Hussar frigate from Barbadoes, and that she had obtained from a vessel she spoke the same information we published in this paper on Thursday—"That Russia, Sweden, Denmark and England had concluded a treaty of peace."

MANLIUS, AUG. 30.

We are happy to learn that a stop is to be put to the unprincipled speculation, which has been so long carried on by the inhabitants of this vicinity, that those whom duty or patriotism could not restrain will be compelled by force to observe the laws of the country. The governor's aid, Mr. Livingston, has arrived in this county, with orders for the detachment of one hundred militia, who commenced their march this morning for Oswego, where, as well as Sodus, and other places on the lake, a sufficient number will be continued to frustrate the running of property, so long as the existing laws shall be continued in force.

We saw a letter on Saturday evening, from an eminent mercantile house at St. Sebastians, of July 7, to a merchant in this city, from which we copy the following:

A decree of our government, directs the setting at liberty of American vessels that had been arrested, for having been visited by the English; this proves that your flag will be respected in our ports.

Aurora.

A gentleman arrived in town yesterday from Vermont, informs, that CAPT. MOTT had received his trial and was found guilty of murder, by the jury.

Boston Gaz.

WASHINGTON THEATRE.

(FOR FIVE NIGHTS ONLY.)

ON WEDNESDAY EVENING,

SEPTEMBER 14, 1808.

Will be presented an admired Comedy

IN FIVE ACTS,

CALLED,

THE ROAD TO RUIN.

Dornton,	Mr. M'Kenzie,
Harry Dornton,	Mr. Cone,
Mr. Sulky,	Mr. Francis,
Mr. Silky,	Mr. Blissett,
Goldfinch,	Mr. Jefferson,
Milford,	Mr. Miller,
Mr. Smith,	Mr. Briers,
Hosier,	Mr. Cross,
Sheriff's Officer,	Mr. Seymour,
Tradesmen,	Messrs. Jacobs, &c.
Jacob,	Mr. Harris,
Post Boy,	Master Scrivener,
Widow Warren,	Mrs. Francis,
Sophia,	Mrs. Wilmot,
Jenny,	Mrs. Seymour,
Mrs. Ledger,	Jefferson.

To which will be added

A MUCH ADMIRED ENTERTAINMENT,

In two Acts,

called

THE MOCK DOCTOR,

OR

DUMB LADY CURED.

Sir Jasper,	Mr. Bray,
Leander,	Mr. Miller,
Gregory,	Mr. Jefferson,
Robert,	Mr. Briers,
James,	Mr. Cross,
Harry,	Mr. Jacobs,
Davy,	Mr. Blisset,
Hellebore,	Mr. Francis,
Dorcas,	Mrs. Francis,
Charlotte,	Miss Root.

☞ The next night's Performance will be on SATURDAY.

*** Tickets to be had of *Mr. Charnock* at *Mr. Stibbins's*, Cabinet-maker, in F street, near the Bank.

††† Box One Dollar—Pitt Three-quarters of a Dollar.

Doors will be open at Six—Curtain rise a quarter before Seven o'clock.

THIS IS TO GIVE NOTICE

THAT the subscriber of Prince Georges county hath obtained from the Orphans Court of Prince Georges county in Maryland letters of administration on the *Personal Estate* of Isaac Magruder late of Prince Georges county, deceased. All persons having claims against the said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same with the vouchers thereof to the subscriber at or before the 15th day of March next; they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate.

Given under our hands, this 13th day of September 1808.

ANN MAGRUDER,
THOS. MAGRUDER,
Administrators.

September 14——w6t

FOR SALE.

FOUR HUNDRED acres of land adjoining land of Samuel Aurent, lying in Beaver Township, Northumberland county, state of Pennsylvania—or exchanged for merchandize or good property well situated in this city.

For terms apply to

JOSEPH WHEATON.

Washington City, may 18—ttf