National Intelligencer.

& WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

VOL. VIII. WASHINGTON CITY, PRINTED BY SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. NO. 1240.

FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNUM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1808. *PAID IN ADVANCE.*

WASHINGTON CITY.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21.

The American Citizen prefaces the insertion of a political Essay with the following remarks:

"There are one or two very questionable passages in the following communication. That the affair of the Chesapeake, which called for atonement, would have been satisfactorily settled in London, had it on our part been judiciously managed, *I am inclined to believe.* To connect, in the negociation, that peculiar outrage with another and distinct complaint, & to reject reparation for the one unless accompanied with satisfaction for the other, besides that it was trifling with national feeling, was, to say the least of it, extremely inexpedient, as events have shewn: but that it was disigned by the President to furnish him with a favorable opportunity to resort to his strange scheme for converting us into a *manufacturing* nation, will be doubted by many. I should rather attribute the absurd connection to Mr. Madison. Had it not, in the estimation of that gentleman, become in some sort expedient to demolish the character of Mr. Monroe? Why unite in London two distinct subjects and separate them at Washington, if the London management had not reference to the Presidential election?"

To these *modest* remarks, so far as they relate to the Citizen, and *charitable* ones so far as they relate to Mr. Madison, it is only necessary to oppose the following ANTIDOTE, taken from the official communications presented to Congress.

In his letter to Mr. Rose, the Secretary of State observes:

"To this association of the two subjects, the President was determined, 1st. by his regarding both as resting on kindred principles; the immunity of private ships, with the known exceptions made by the law of nations, being as well established as that of public ships; and there being no pretext for including in these exceptions the impressment (if it could be freed from its enormous and notorious abuses) of the subjects of a belligerent by the officers of that belligerent. The rights of a belligerent against the ships of a neutral nation, accrue merely from the relation of the neutral to the other belligerent, as in contraband of war, or in supplying a blockaded port.

"The claim of a belligerent to search for, and seize on board neutral vessels on the high seas, persons under his allegiance, does not therefore rest on any belligerent right under the law of nations, but on a prerogative derived from municipal law; and involves the extravagant supposition, that one nation has a right to execute at all times and in all cases, its municipal laws and regulations, on board ships of another nation not being within its territorial limits.

"The President was led to the same determination, 2dly, by his desire of converting a particular incident into an occasion for removing another and more extensive source of danger to the harmony of the two countries: and 3dly, by his persuasion, that the liberality of the proposions authorised with this view would not fail to induce the ready concurrence of his Britannic Majesty; and that the more extensive source of irritation and perplexity being removed, a satisfactory adjustment of the particular incident would be the less difficult."

Now, let us hear what Mr. Monroe says on the same head, and see in what light he viewed the union of the two subjects:

In his letter to Mr. Canning, he says—"You ask whether I am authorised to separate this latter incident from the general practice, and to treat it as a distinct topic? On this point I have to state, that my instructions, which are explicit, enjoin me to consider the whole of this class of injuries as an entire subject; and, indeed, so intimately are they connected in their nature, that it seems to be difficult, if not impossible, to separate them for any useful purpose to either party. My government being sincerely desirous to place the relations of the two powers on the solid basis of permanent friendship, is satisfied, as well by what has occurred in the general practice, as by the more awful admonition derived from the late incident, that, that can only be done with effect, by mounting to the source of the evil and providing an adequate remedy for it."

Extract from a letter received by the ship Arcturus, from a gentleman of respectability, dated at Paris.

"The embargo was the most fortunate measure ever adopted by a wise and prudent government, and it appears as if the finger of Providence pointed it out, and it is with the most extreme surprise that I find there are persons among you, complaining of the measure, and attributing all the evils to the government for adopting the only alternative left them, to go to war with all Europe at once, or to suspend for a while all intercourse with them, and keep at home our vessels, merchandize and seamen. I wish the discontented (but I presume, they are few, and they foreigners or needy speculators) could be transported to Europe; they would soon find the difference. Be assured the U. States has the greatest cause to be thankful to Divine Providence for their exemption from the miseries and wars to which the greater part of Europe is exposed. It is believed the English government are determined to act upon the orders of 11th November, without any modification. I trust, and that too, with the proud confidence of an American, affectionately attached to his beloved country, that this infamous and novel interference with our innocent commerce and independence, will meet the spirited and determined opposition of our government and country. Can the United States consent to pay a duty on vessels laden wholly with their *own produce*, and be obliged to enter English ports and take out clearances? I will answer in the name of our country—they never can without returning to that state of slavery from which our fathers relieved us. If we are base enough to submit to this degrading slavery, I will say that this government is perfectly correct in seizing every vessel navigating with an English clearance. I am confident that the good sense of our citizens will discover and applaud the wisdom that dictated the embargo, and that it will not be raised till a general peace, or *both* the belligerents agree to respect our neutrality."

Through the vigilance of the Inspectors of this port, there were last seized, the British schooner Polly and Nancy, Russell, master, from Nassau, and the French schooner Friendship, from Guadaloupe, for an attempt to evade the embargo law. We understand that the former had, at the time of seizure, (the above vessels were tried before the district court of Pennsylvania and condemned) cleared out at the custom house.

Balt. Whig.

The following law will shew that a former Congress were more lavish in clothing the execu i es with absolute powers for a specified time, than the present law. *American.*

An act to authorise the President of the United States to lay, regulate and revoke embargoes.

BE *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the President of the United States be and he hereby is authorised and empowered, whenever in his opinion, the public safety shall require, to lay an embargo on all ships and vessels within the ports of the United States, or upon the ships and vessels of the United States, or the ships and vessels of any foreign nation, under such regulations as the circumstances of the case may require, and to continue or revoke the same, whenever he shall think proper. And the President is hereby fully authorised to give all such orders to the officers of the United States, as may be necessary to carry the same into full effect: *Provided,* The authority aforesaid shall not be exercised, while the Congress of the United States shall be in session: and any embargo, which may be laid by the President, as aforesaid, shall cease and determine in fifteen days from the actual meeting of Congress, next after laying the same.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this act shall continue and be in force until fifteen days after the commencement of the next session of Congress, and no longer.

FREDERICK AUG. MUHLENBERG,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

RALPH IZARD,
President of the Senate, pro tempore.

APPROVED,
June the fourth, 1794,

GEO. WASHINGTON,
President of the United States.

TO THOMAS JEFFERSON, Esq.
PREIDENT OF THE U. STATES OF AMERICA.

THE PETITION,
Of the subscribers, officers of merchant ships, belonging to the port of Philadelphia,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That, in consequence of the present embargo laws, the situation of your petitioners is grievous and afflicting; that they have been engaged in the mercantile service since their infancy, with few exceptions, and accustomed only to conduct ships or vessels across the ocean, that from the operation of the present restrictive laws, they find themselves cut off from their usual employment, and of course the means of subsistence are gone.

Your petitioners are well acquainted with the duties of conducting ships from port to port; well versed in naval tactics; but unable to handle the harrow or plough.

Your petitioners have for a long time borne with patience the privations incident to those restrictive laws, without murmur or complaint; but, when imperious necessity compels them to disclose the cause of their grievances, they humbly suppose they have a right so to do in a decent and respectful manner.

Your petitioners therefore pray that your excellency will take their case into consideration, and adopt such measures as will relieve the wants of your petitioners; or if there are vacancies in the navy, to give your petitioners, or some of them, an opportunity of serving therein; as they think themselves capable of performing services of that nature. They however submit their whole case to your consideration, hoping your excellency will adopt such measures as wisdom and justice may point out, and as in duty bound will pray, &c.

Philadelphia, Aug. 10th, 1808.

THE PRESIDENT'S ANSWER.

Sir,

In answer to the petition which you delivered me from the officers of merchant vessels belonging to Philadelphia, I must premise my sincere regret at the sacrifices which our fellow-citizens in general, and the petitioners in particular, have been obliged to meet by the circumstances of the times. We live in an age of affliction, to which the history of nations presents no parallel—we have for years been looking on Europe covered with blood and violence, and seen rapine spreading itself over the ocean. On this element it has reached us, and at length in so serious a degree, that the legislature of the nation has thought it necessary to withdraw our citizens and property from it, either to avoid or to prepare for engaging in the general contest. But for this timely precaution, the petitioners and their property might now have been in the hands of spoilers, who have laid aside all regard to moral right. Withdrawing from the greater evil, a lesser one has been necessarily encountered, and certainly, could the legislature have made provision against this also, I should have had great pleasure as the instrument of its execution, but it was impracticable by any general and just rules, to prescribe in every case the best resource against the inconveniences of this new situation. The difficulties of the crisis, will certainly fall with greater pressure on some descriptions of citizens than others, and on none perhaps with greater than on our seafaring brethren. Should any means of alleviation occur within the range of my duties, I shall with certainty advert to the situation of the petitioners, and in availing the nation of their services, aid them with a substitute for their former occupation. I salute them and yourself with sentiments of sincere regard.

TH: JEFFERSON.

MOVEMENTS WESTWARD.

Detachment from the following corps are under orders for the north western frontier—all belonging to the new-raised troops.

Five companies of the sixth regiment of infantry commanded by col. Jonas Simonds—to wit:

Capt. Bennet, }
Capt. Cherry, } Companies of the
Capt. Gock, } 6th Regt. In'try.
Capt. Cross, }
Capt. Tounsend, light artillery.
Capt. Rose, light cavalry.
Capt. Anderson, rifle corps.

Col. Simonds we understand is under orders of march, in the direction of Oswego.

Colonel Burbeck of artillery, is we understand ordered to Detroit—to which position a respectable force, it is supposed, will soon be detached from the new raised corps.

Aurora.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Pinckneyville, Mississippi Territory, to a gentleman in Philadelphia.

I am sorry to inform you the Indians have became troublesome on the frontiers of this country. An express reached the cantonement, near this place the day before yesterday from governor Williams, requiring two companies of regular troops who will march immediately. As the story goes, an actual engagement has taken place; some mischief has been done, &c.

When the story transpires, you shall have the particulars.

Aurora.

FROM THE MONITER.

THE TWO MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

Washington City, Sept. 13th, 1808.

SIR,

Will you be so good as to state to me for the better information of my fellow-citizens, any fact within your knowledge, relative to the payment of two millions of dollars to France by the executive of the United States? You have doubtless heard of the tales propagated on that head. It is my wish to put an end completely to the story by contradicting it under the authority of a name so well known and highly appreciated in the nation as yours. I apply to the comptrolling officer of the treasury, inasmuch as I presume no money could have been paid by the American government, or any member of it, in any shape, without your knowledge.

I am, Sir,
With the most sincere respect and esteem,
Your very humble servant,
J. B. COLVIN.
Editor of the Monitor.

The hon. G. DUVALL, Esq.
Comptroller of the Treasury.

Washington, Sept. 14, 1808.

SIR,

Your letter of yesterday's date was delivered to me late last evening.

In the absence of the Secretary of the Treasury, I will answer your enquiry relative to the two millions of dollars appropriated by an act of Congress, passed on the 13th of February, 1806. This sum of money was intended to be applied to the purchase of the Floridas, but our minister in Spain not having accomplished a treaty to that effect, it still remains in the treasury. No part of it has been drawn out of the treasury of the U S. It could not have been done without my privity, as the warrant must have been issued and signed by the Secretary of the Treasury & countersigned by me as Comptroller, to authorise the payment of it; which has not been done.

You will see, I expect, in a few days, an official certificate from the Register of the Treasury to the foregoing effect, published in the newspapers. It has been forwarded to the Secretary of the Treasury, at his request by the Register.

I am, respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
G. DUVALL.

MR. COLVIN.

Chillicothe, Sept. 6.

The United States circuit court, for the seventh circuit, commenced its session on Monday last, in this town. Neither col. Burr nor Mr. Blannerhassett have, nor is it expected they will make their appearance, to answer the indictments found against them at the last term.

New-Orleans, August 10.

The report mentioned yesterday of an American deserter having been taken by one of our officers within the Spanish territory, is confirmed by an official communication to Gov. Grand Pre, stating that a man by the name of Armstrong had been taken away from the house of Mr. Guidey in West Florida, by force, by the commanding officer of one of our gun-boats aided by a detachment of marines. Two Spanish officers (Hickey and Fulton) demanded the release of Armstrong, but the commander of the gun-boat refused to give him up without orders from his commodore.

The Louisiana Gazette of yesterday says—"We are informed from a source that deserves credit, that a sergeant and a commander of United States' troops, ascending the river from this city some short time ago, went on shore in the Spanish territory captured two American deserters, & carried them up to Fort Adams."

New-Orleans, August 10, 1808.

Gentlemen,

I have read in the Telegraphe of yesterday, a statement of the affair of Mr. Owings, commanding Gun-Boat No. 21, as represented by Mess. Philip Hickey and Sam. Fulton, to his excellency the civil and military governor of the fort and jurisdiction of Baton Rouge in West Florida.

I shall make no reply to the illiberal remarks which follow the above mentioned statement, further than the two following letters, which I send for your publication, the perusal of which, I presume, will quiet every liberal mind until our government have decided.

I have received through the mayor of the city, Governor Grand Pre's statement of the case, with a demand for satisfaction, have written him through the same channel, and sent him copies of those letters, as well as the one on the subject to the hon. Secretary of the navy.

I should not probably have troubled you in this affair, did it not appear evident that the Editor of the Telegraphe, or some other evil disposed person, was desirous of adding to the recent tumults of the city by swelling this ant hill to a mountain.

Respectfully,
D. PORTER, Comg.
Nl. Officer, N. O. Station.

Messrs. Bradford & Anderson.

(COPY.)

Manchac, July 22, 1808,
On Board No. 21.

Sir,

After the departure of Mr. Still, master's mate, on the 15th instant, nothing material happened until the 18th, when two men, (who with several others were sent to the wood, to cut some spars) deserted. They were missed about noon, when search was immediately made for them, but without success. Towards night I got intelligence that they were in the Spanish territory, and proceeding to Baton Rouge; at night I procured a horse and went in pursuit of them. I arrived at Baton Rouge early in the morning of the 19th inst. and found I had got ahead of the deserters; on my return I fell in with and seized them one mile below Baton Rouge; when conducting them to the gun-boat, one of them was taken so ill I was obliged to leave him on the way, the other (Armstrong by name) found means to excite the interest of some inhabitants of the Spanish territory, who went on before me to the next Spanish officer, who demanded that I should immediately liberate him; at this juncture I could do no other than comply with their demand. Armstrong had formerly deserted from No. 17, and had been taken at New-Orleans, and by commodore Leonard's order put on board No. 21, shortly before I left that place.

It was late in the evening when I quit my second man, I returned immediately to the gun-boat, got the small boat ready and set out with four hands, with the intention to wait a small distance below Baton Rouge, where I thought it probable Armstrong would pass the next morning, arrived at the place last mentioned