

VIRGINIA ARGUS.

[XIVth YEAR.]

A FREE PRESS MAINTAINS THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PEOPLE

[No. 1271.]

RICHMOND:—PRINTED (ON WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS) BY SAMUEL PLEASANTS, JUNIOR, PRINTER TO THE COMMONWEALTH.

[Four Dollars Per Annum....paid in advance.]

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1806.

[12 1-2 Cents Single.]

LETTER OF MR. T. M. RANDOLPH. (CONCLUDED.)

The difference had reached this point, when the executive of the United States determined to proceed no farther, but to lay the matter before the legislature.

In the mean time the conduct of the Spanish officers who loitered at New Orleans, under the pretext of private affairs, became intolerably insolent and injurious to the interests of the United States. The people of the territory were assured by them that Spain meant to revive her claim to the whole country, and that she would certainly, if it was not quietly restored to her, employ all her own power and the auxiliary force of France to wrest it from the hands of the American government. The accommodation of the minds of the French and Spanish inhabitants to the American political and judicial system, was thus obstructed. The partisans of France and Spain among them, were encouraged in their views, and emboldened in their designs. The hopes of those who had enjoyed lucrative privileges under the Spanish government were revived. An idea, strange and inadmissible, as it involved a ruinous departure from primary federative principles, was early suggested by their malevolent ingenuity: That the agreement by which Louisiana was ceded had been violated and annulled on the part of the United States inasmuch as it required the immediate admission of the whole ceded country into the federal union, as one sovereign co-state, which admission had been refused by Congress. A pretension involving the absurd consequence of a state equal in territory to twenty others, and using a language different from all the rest: apparently embracing besides the flagitious scheme of engrossing to the state government the whole unappropriated lands of the territory purchased, and their robbing the United States of the fund destined to discharge the debt assumed. Discontent, clamor, disrespect for American authorities, breaches of the peace, quickly followed. At length aggressions of lawless parties took place upon the territories of the United States, within the boundary established by the treaty with Spain of 1795, or in the parts which were relinquished by her upon the evacuation of New Orleans. At last it became necessary to command the departure of the Spanish officers from the American territory, and orders were accordingly issued to that effect by the executive of the U. S. some time during the last summer. Those orders were reluctantly and tardily obeyed, and still farther troublesome and irritating circumstances have since arisen from the ill humor produced by them. All these unpleasant occurrences might with some justice be attributed to the mischievous policy of Spain, and each served to swell the account of grievances, and to increase the indignation against her. In addition heavy duties were exacted at Mobile from American vessels on their passage out & in, to Fort Stoddert, and the settlements on the Tombigbee. Even the military stores of the U. States, for the supply of the garrisons in that quarter, were made subject to this exaction.

The asperity of these circumstances was in some degree, softened immediately before the meeting of Congress, by a voluntary offer on the part of Spain to assume payment of the Spanish spoliation, if the United States would agree to relinquish all claim for those committed by French subjects within her jurisdiction. Some mitigation too proceeded from a spontaneous order to her cruisers to respect our flag wherever it might be met, and to her courts, to observe scrupulously that principle of the treaty between the two nations, which protects from seizure the property of enemies on board the ships of either.

In this state the legislature found the relations of the United States with Spain. The plan recommended by the select committee of the House of Representatives, to which was referred that part of the message of the President, was simply the augmentation of the army, in order to enable the Executive, to repel and to chastise the aggressions of Spain. It was afterwards acknowledged that an addition of four thousand men was contemplated. The supporters of this proposition considered the aggressions which had been committed in a more serious light than the House in general was disposed to do. The majority looked on them rather as instances of riotous conduct—incident to an approaching or recent change of jurisdiction, than as actual hostilities, or even as serious national insults. They were not disposed to afford to the world the spectacle, of the calm legislature of an agricultural people imitating those thoughtless animals who rushed down precipices to avoid the idle buzz and the feeble stings of insects. They were able to appreciate the emphatic tone of the message, for they were

aware that it would ill-become the chief magistrate to extenuate or palliate even the slightest offences against the dignity of the republic. They knew that the authority whose duty it is to preserve order & enforce the laws, could not be expected to speak feebly about infringements of law violations of order, and they felt that the executive branch is more naturally the exciter than the moderator of the legislature. The term *chastise*, used in the report of the committee, gave an alarm, for it seemed equivalent to offensive war, for which their minds were not prepared. Regardless of the declaration of contrary views, made by the supporters of the proposition, and of the different tenor of the preceding language of the report, they persisted in considering it as a step which would produce the war it was their desire to avert. It could not be denied there was reason to believe that Spain, having full reliance on the strength of her ally felt no disinclination to hostilities, but she had as yet collected no force on our frontier, unless four hundred men sent from the Havana to Mobile might be considered as such; nor did it appear to be easy for her to do it, from the state of her troops in America, and the occupation of the sea by the English. The measure proposed would compel her to make all possible exertions, immediately to strengthen herself on our frontier. In the actual temper of the two nations, it was deemed unsafe by those who had yet strong hopes, and had conceived particular views of reconciliation, to trust large bodies of men, with hostile feelings in sight of each other, even if the United States could collect them immediately on their part. And that was known to be altogether hopeless, in the way proposed, from the slow progress which had been made in all former attempts to recruit. It could not be reasonably expected that even by increasing ten fold the bounty for enlisting, the number desired could be obtained in twelve months. This proposition was accordingly rejected.

Another was immediately brought forward, to put a sum of money into the hands of the executive to open a negotiation with Spain for the purchase of the Floridas, which contained besides the ship of country claimed by the United States, lying eastward of the Mississippi, a separate province of considerable extent and value, and of incalculable local importance to the union. That province, East Florida, contains an immense body of unsettled land of good quality, in a wholesome climate, which admits the culture of the most valuable kind of cotton throughout, and on the eastern extremity, it is said even that coffee to advantage. It has a great extent of sea coast, along which the whole trade of the Mississippi, promising very soon to be much the largest portion of the export trade of the union, must pass. As long as this coast is held by another power that trade may be annoyed by public or private cruisers of all sizes, from the frigate to the barge, which may rise with safety and convenience in its harbors, or lurk behind its reefs for that purpose. But when possessed by the United States, gun boats alone will be sufficient to place the same trade in perfect safety. The U. States have no claim upon any part of this province.

West Florida, which was originally part of Louisiana, and is claimed as such by the United States, contains no great quantity of valuable land. By its position, however, it separates so completely the territory of Orleans from the Mississippi territory, that the mails of the United States cannot be carried by land to New Orleans without the indulgence of the Spanish governor. It includes the only outlets to the sea of the north western part of Georgia, of the eastern, the central, and more than half the western part of the Mississippi territory, which are watered by some of our best rivers. One of those affords the only ready and convenient route for the return trade of the country of the Ohio, the Tennessee, the Missouri, and all the upper branches of the Mississippi. The object of those who brought forward this proposition, was to offer a liberal province to which the United States had no pretensions, yet would derive immense benefit from possessing, upon condition that the province in dispute should be given up in the bargain, and that a boundary between the two nations on their south-western frontier should be established upon a just and equal construction of the terms of the treaty as explained by the evidence of history. The claim for spoliations would of course be urged in the new negotiation, and could be readily provided for out of the money to be paid for East Florida.

Their opponents declared the plan to be nothing less than buying again what we had already paid for, and at least pronounced it to be a disgraceful scheme to purchase peace. They said that the money would be employed in bribes at the French court, to induce that power to compel

Spain to acquiesce in our views. They declared it infamous to form any contract of that nature with Spain, while France had so much control over her councils, that she could not exercise free will.—They laid hold of an expression which had been used in an official conversation by an eminent member of the executive branch of the government, that it appeared to him France discouraged an accommodation of the differences between us and Spain, with the view to produce another purchase of territory for the benefit of their joint coffers. They pronounced that France had dishonorable views of obtaining money at the expense of Spain, and that the proposition to purchase was an ignominious concurrence with those views on our part, produced by the threats of that power. This last assertion is founded solely on a civil and candid answer given by the French minister of foreign affairs to a question of serious interest, put to him by our ambassador at Paris; whether France would take part in the war, in case of hostilities between the United States and Spain; to which the reply was that she would of course give aid to Spain. Merely an avowal that a connection as intimate exists at present between the two nations as that of the ancient family compact through the force of which and its effects upon other powers, Spain was brought in along with France to our aid in the struggle for our independence. A simple confession, which could not at the time have worn the aspect of menace, because expressions of regret at the serious appearance of the differences between Spain and the United States, the sincerity of which there was no sure reason to doubt, had been previously used. But the soundest judgment, the best understanding, and the most ingenuous moral disposition may not always guard warm and quick tempers in the glow of ardent debates, against precipitancy and inconsistency, against unsound views or unwarranted inferences and constructions. They suggested that we should pay our money upon a risk, for the title made by Spain, under the influence of France, might on a favorable occasion be revoked by the former power, when her government fell into the hands of other men. That it was a sacrifice of our future repose as well as our honor to escape a present difficulty.

They did not succeed, however, in communicating their pugnacious sentiments to the majority of the house. The members composing it could not understand why, as France was bound to join in the war on the part of Spain, if the affair came to that issue, she might not with propriety use the influence over her councils which naturally arose out of that obligation, to procure measures which would avert war. They could not see how under such circumstances, the title made to us by Spain would be rendered questionable by the exercise of that influence. They would not admit that we had a right to take into consideration the probable application of the money by Spain, after she had given us her receipt for it. They would not concur in the unjust suspicion that it would be employed for infamous purposes at Paris, and that there was a probability of its being dissipated there, without attaining the end contemplated. They persisted in thinking that if we could get our just rights established, procure a territory of great importance to us, and secure peace at the same time by making a regular purchase of East Florida at a liberal price, although it might be afterwards said something had been allowed to extinguish the claims of Spain upon West Florida, and part of south western Louisiana, yet that the peace not only could not be an ignominious one, but that the termination of the dispute would be entirely honorable and satisfactory. They saw no humiliation to their country in offering to France and Spain combined, the alternative of assured peace and a generous price for Florida, or in the manifest risk, from inevitable collisions of war, with its certain consequences, the invasion of Mexico and Cuba. Two millions of dollars were appropriated and put into the hands of the executive, without an express declaration of the object intended, which could have had no other effect than to shew a want of confidence in the wisdom, purity and disposition of the chief magistrate to promote the views of the legislature, which did not exist except in the breasts of a small minority.

A resolution was exerted from the house, expressive of an opinion, that an exchange of territory was the most eligible mode of settling the dispute about boundaries. But this was a nugatory declaration, for Spain had already rejected a liberal offer of that kind, upon the ground of confidence in the justice of her claim to the whole. The words of the resolution too rendered an arrangement of that kind in strict compliance with it, difficult in general, and impracticable in one point. Retaining all the country watered by the Mississippi, and yielding all the remainder, the line of demarkation would have

been difficult to describe on the earth, and impossible to guard. An ample barrier on the side of New Mexico could not have been given to Spain under that restriction, for the waters of some of the branches of the Mississippi interlock with those on which stands the capital of that province, at no great distance from which some of the sources of the Red river and of the Yellow Stone branch of the Missouri are known to exist. The principle of exchange too was in direct opposition to the spirit of some of the arguments most warmly urged by the opponents of purchase. If, as they said, the national honor was concerned in the support of the claim, what difference could they show between giving one half of the country in dispute to secure the other, and paying a small part of the value of the whole to obtain a relinquishment of the whole? On the score of interest there is a manifest difference in favor of the latter. But it was never contemplated, by a part at least of the favorers of the proposition, to purchase. They considered themselves as holding the following language to Spain—We will not take the purchase of Louisiana from France as the standard whereby to fix the price of East Florida. We will pay for it, all that we can make out of it, or save by its possession. The value of its lands, the convenience of its harbors, the advantage of holding so important a line of coast, the revenue of its ports we shall derive from it, the benefit of having in our own hands the outlet to the sea of the Apalachicola, even the additional command the possession of the province will give us over the Creek nation of Indians, all shall be fairly taken into the estimate, but we must have West Florida in the bargain, and a just arrangement according to treaty, in the south west. This is our final proposal. We do not think ourselves dishonored by making another attempt at accommodation, although that recently made in your own capital through one of our citizens whom we honor most, was met by you with such disrespectful indifference. Tranquility is not our interest only, but the prevalent desire of our people. We shall not sacrifice it to pugnacity. We entreat you, however, to reflect, that from the nature of our political system, insults given to our government touch every breast in the nation, and that a ferment excited in a large mass is not easily allayed. We shall make no application to you this time through your ally, for two reasons. First, because the intimacy of your connexion necessarily involves him in the consequence of a failure to accommodate our differences, and we believe that although he has the least reason of any power on earth to dread war, that he sincerely prefers peace. Next, because we conceive his honor to be implicated in the decision of the question between us, upon principles such as we propose. If the secret explanation between you of the descriptive words of your treaty of 1800, was a promise on his part that you should continue in possession of West Florida, surely it was equivalent to an acknowledgment that West Florida was included by the expressions of his treaty with us, and that it has been fairly conveyed to us, since we were not informed of his secret promise to you. If that explanation was an impartial construction made between you, of the terms of the treaty, he will not hesitate to acknowledge that it is not binding on us, as he made no provision for its adoption in his treaty with us, and that he cannot be a fair arbiter between us, in establishing a construction, since he has given his opinion against us already.—But where can we find an arbitrator if he is thus excluded? What would be his feelings if upon agreeing on one, another construction contrary to his should be rendered, and Spain be deprived of what he has assured to her? In either case an accommodation of the kind we propose must be desirable to him.

It was during the debate on this question, that extraordinary imputation was cast on the Executive branch of our government, by an eminent member in his place, which must have reached your ears, and cannot fail to have given serious disturbance to your mind. He stated, that he had received information from undoubted authority, of a design having been conceived by the Executive to draw a sum of money from the treasury, for the purpose of commencing a negotiation for the purchase of the Floridas, previous to the appropriation by law; and that the intention had been regularly intimated to the head of the treasury department.—An eager and anxious inquiry was of course the immediate effect of such an assertion. The information obtained was, that at a meeting of the heads of departments, convened for consultation, some time before the legislature assembled, the President had given an opinion that the plan of accommodation, since adopted by the legislature, was the most eligible; that the circumstances then existing of the European powers, rendered that juncture the most favorable possible for the

commencement of such a negotiation, and that the probability was, it would become less so, if not wholly unfavorable, before Congress could decide on the measure. He then suggested as a matter of deliberation, how far it might be advisable to anticipate an appropriation, by instructing the minister of the United States, to enter into a negotiation immediately on the basis of purchase. After some discussion on the subject was dismissed, with the determination to wait the decision of Congress. By the official declaration of the Secretary of the Treasury to the House of Representatives, it became certain, that the member was entirely under a mistake, as to the fact of the application to that department. A mistake, which it appeared himself and two others had been led into, by an imperfect communication or comprehension of the occurrences I have stated, in a conversation with that officer.

The question of appropriating money to purchase Florida, was discussed in secret, for the obvious reason that to proclaim the intention of making a bargain, not only renders it more difficult to insure advantageous terms, but exposes the party to the machinations of all who have an interest to defeat his design. In this particular case, it was manifestly the interest of Great Britain to render the design abortive, for she would thereby, not only hinder the efforts of her enemy from being replenished, but might eventually cause to fall into the scale against him, a weight by no means insignificant in the estimation of either. Diplomatic conferences too, which are the materials of debate, and the ground work of measures in all questions relating to foreign affairs, have always been deemed, from their nature, confidential between governments and the publication of them to the world, while the characters concerned are in a way to be affected by it, is apt to produce strong resentment in Europe. And while the great powers of the earth continue to be under the absolute command of single men, who are governed by their passions, and swayed by their transient feelings, there will be room for apprehension, that the unguarded language of the indiscreet, or the violence of warm tempers, may mar the best prospects and produce excitements destructive of the tranquility of nations. Besides, to insure that freedom in debate, which is requisite to fair discussion, it is absolutely necessary when a great foreign power is the object of the measures proposed, to debate in private. The fear of exciting unfavorable feelings abroad by expressions uttered from a body which holds the sword and purse of a nation, will otherwise prove a pernicious restraint upon the minds of the discreet. Thus while the observance of secrecy as to the communications from the Executive of foreign correspondence, and as to the measures contemplated, is dictated by prudence, privacy of debate on certain occasions is not only consistent with the spirit of popular government, but is demanded by its most essential principles. At the same time, however, those principles imperiously demand the earliest promulgation when the considerations stated will admit, and it cannot be neglected or delayed without an unpardonable violation of them. In this case, although the invitation from the Executive to privacy, met no opposition, and was adopted without hesitation, yet very soon exertions were made to give premature publicity to the measure determined on, the sentiments uttered during debate, the confidential communications of the President, and the foreign correspondence on the subject, which succeeded as to the first, and of course the second, though they failed as to the remainder. Privacy of Legislative proceedings in popular governments was pronounced altogether inadmissible, and determinations were proclaimed to oppose all future orders of secrecy on whatever ground they might be proposed. It was said that already, from the slack observance by the members themselves of the order of the House, by the vigilant and dexterous cunning of a certain foreign minister, and by the ardor of the editors of gazettes to gratify public curiosity, the whole substance of the secret proceedings had transpired. An assertion by no means altogether unfounded, yet affording no argument at all to defend a formal promulgation of the whole proceedings at such an unreasonable time. For the public had what information on the subject it possessed entirely on the footing of conjecture, too vague to excite the jealousy of Great Britain, or to inflame the malcontents of Louisiana, who had become quiet at length, from the stronger hope, perhaps, which they cherished of reunion with Spain, and from whose despair events might issue of a nature to prove serious obstacles to the negotiation about to commence. Complaints were uttered of the injustice done the minority in refusing them permission to explain and defend their conduct to their constituents, when it had been rendered necessary by the unpopular vote they had been compelled to

have doubled in number. Three out of four of their vessels they build themselves, the rest are purchased at Naples, Genoa, Venice, &c. The acuteness, intelligence, integrity and enterprise of the Greeks is proverbial; their skill in commercial transactions is not surpassed even by the Chinese. In 1804 nine hundred sail of Greek vessels were loaded in the Archipelago and Euxine, with grain for Spain and Portugal; and as they took but very little of a return cargo, it is supposed that from Spain alone they carried, in that year, four millions and a half of dollars, and it is a fact ascertained, that in the course of three months they carried from the port of Malaga a tonne, in exchange for grain, to the amount of a million of dollars.

Nothing more strongly characterises the activity and perseverance of the Greeks, than the constancy with which they resist and overcome all the oppressive exactions and vexations to which they are subjected under the Turkish rule. The Porte is jealous of them, and with great justice, for they are miserably and cruelly oppressed. The heavy duties and fees, exacted by the officers of the Turkish government, have no doubt retarded and deterred many from commerce; but the progress which they have made is the best proof that even subjected as they are, they are a great people, and form the materials ready prepared for a great nation. The oppression which they have been exposed to, has thrown many under the protection of Russia, and given life and commerce to the Crimea. It is difficult to foresee what course the Greeks will take, because it will be difficult for France to maintain amicable relations with Turkey, and encourage the emancipation of the Greeks; while it will be equally difficult not to afford protection to the Greeks, who would if not countenanced by France, naturally strengthen their connections and adhere more ardently to Russia. The course to be pursued, perhaps, by France, is that of colonization; and the Porte would be readily brought to cede the Morea to France in return for the guarantee of Romania, Bulgaria and Bessarabia, against the designs of Russia, or perhaps in consideration of shutting up the Bosphorus against the Russian flag.

The reader of these papers will keep constantly in mind, that they are but the illustration of certain reasonings and anticipations formed at different times in the Aurora, on the interesting theatre of European politics; and that we pursue the commercial and political relations of the several people as they bear upon and illustrate each other.

(To be continued.)

BOSTON, June 13.

ELECTION OF GOVERNOR.

On Wednesday forenoon, while the House were debating on an amendment offered to the report of the Election Committee by Mr. Upham, Mr. King rose and observed, that as it had been ascertained, that there were returns included in the calculations in the report, which were not conformable to the requisitions of the constitution, and must be rejected; and that as it would appear, when those returns were rejected, that Gov. Strong was re-elected; he moved that the future consideration of the report should subside. This motion was carried.

Mr. Bigelow then moved, that the return from Lincolnville should be rejected, as it did not appear in the return when the votes were given. This motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Bacon then moved, that the return from Cambridge, which appeared (by the date of the certificate of the Selectmen of April 29,) not to have been sealed in town-meeting, should be rejected. Carried unanimously.

It was next moved to re-commit the report, that it might be brought into a new draft; which was agreed to.

In the afternoon, the committee reported, that the House should concur with the Senate, in the report of the joint committee as taken into a new draft. This draft merely stated, that His Excellency Caleb Strong, had a majority of the votes for Governor, and the Hon. William Heath a majority of the votes for Lieutenant Governor, and were elected to those offices. This report was unanimously accepted; and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

All the contested points, in the former report, were purposely avoided in the new draft; as, whatever decisions might have been made on them, after long discussions, the fact, it was agreed, would remain the same, that Governor Strong had a majority of the suffrages.

In the Senate the new draft was committed. In about half an hour the committee recommended a concurrence with the House, which was unanimously agreed to.

A committee was then appointed to wait upon His Excellency Gov. Strong, and the Hon. Mr. Heath, and inform them of their election, and that the Legislature is ready to administer the necessary oaths of office, at any time most agreeable to them.

Yesterday the Senate and House of Representatives assembled in Convention, when His Excellency Gov. Strong, attended by the Council, entered the Representatives' Chamber, and His Excellency the Governor took the oaths of office, and declaration of his election was made by the Sheriff of Suffolk; after which the Governor and Council withdrew.—The Convention then proceeded to the choice of Councillors, when the Honorable Messrs. Howe, Maynard, Hill, Deane, Coffin, Childs, Woodman, Farley, and Willis, were chosen. The members of the Senate then withdrew.

It is supposed the gentlemen now chosen to the Council will resign, and that an election will be made at large this day.

The following letter was received from the Hon. WILLIAM HEATH:—

To the Honorable Senate, and the Honorable House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

GENTLEMEN, I have been notified, by a very respectable committee of both Houses, that I have been elected Lt. Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the year ensuing, by a majority of the votes of the electors.

Impressed with the most lively sense of gratitude, for this mark of confidence and esteem, I present to you, and through you to my fellow citizens, my most sincere and hearty thanks. Having been more than forty years in public life, contemporary with the early assertions of American rights, and the adoption of measures for their defence, and near the illustrious WASHINGTON, during the revolutionary war, in the most difficult, perilous and interesting periods of our country, as yet experienced, the prime of my life has passed away, and I have arrived at nearly the common age of man, when the vigor of the mind abates, and the most splendid offices cease to charm.

I have seen my beloved country in deep distress, struggling to retain the life of that equal liberty which Heaven has given as an unalienable legacy to man; I have seen her triumph in peace, sovereignty and independence; forming constitutions of civil government, selected and combined of principles calculated for durability, superior to those found in any other republics yet seen. I now see her under a wise and prudent administration of the general government, respected abroad, and prosperous at home, beyond a parallel in any other nation; and this, my native state, whose prosperity is the increasing wish of my heart, one of the most respectable and prosperous among her sisters.

Fausing, at this point of view with thankful admiration, although a laudable ambition to serve my country, and a long public life, which has rendered its duties familiar, tend to excite a wish for continuance in it, reason points me to retirement rather than to the acceptance of a new station.—I do therefore, decline qualifying myself to attempt a discharge of the duties of the honorable Office to which I have been elected.

Be-ecching the all-wise Councilors, to guide and direct the Legislature in all the important business which may come before them, and that this Commonwealth and the United States, may be a name and a praise in the earth, so long as time shall endure.

I have the honor to be, with the most profound respect, Gentlemen, your most obedient servant, W. HEATH.

Roxbury, June 12, 1805.

After the declaration of the election of Governor was made, the bells of the town were rung for an hour.

Mr. Heath having declined the office to which he was elected, the State will be without a Lt. Governor the present year.

By a gentleman who left Halifax on the 3d inst. we learn that considerable rain had fallen, & extinguished the fires which had been spreading in the interior.

NEW YORK, June 14.

We have been favoured by a respectable Merchant of this city, with the following letter, received at Liverpool from Elsinore.

"ELSINORE, 12th April.

"We take the liberty to advise you that under date of the 22d ult. an ordinance was passed, directing that unless American ships as well as others from America, were provided with bills of health from that country, signed, either by the Danish, Russian, Prussian, or Swedish Consul, that they would be subject to quarantine; and, altho' they may have delivered in Europe, yet it is expected, that they should bring with them such American bills of health. However, in case of their not having such bill of Health, they ought to provide themselves with one from the last port of discharge, attested, either by the Danish, or Russian Consul. We had, yesterday, an American from Lisbon, who, for want of such attest, met with much difficulty."

The commander of the Russian squadron has placed all the harbors and the coast of the Adriatic, owned or possessed by the French, under a rigid blockade.

Stocks at London May 1.—3 per cent. cons. 59 7-8, 60 for money—omnium 2 1-4.

June 17.

By the brig William, captain Warner, which arrived at this port last evening from Liverpool, the editor of the Mercantile Advertiser has been favored with London papers to the 3d of May, two days later than any previously received; but no event of magnitude having occurred on the European continent in the intermediate space between our former and present advices from that quarter, these papers are almost without interest. We have selected all the leading articles. The trial of Lord Melville was progressing; and it was supposed would not terminate in less than four or five weeks.

LONDON, May 3.

The letters by the Lisbon mail are very contradictory. Some of them express great apprehensions with respect to the designs of Spain and France, while others say that the fears upon this head have greatly subsided. The Topaze, French frigate, which had been so long in the Tagus, had slipped out, and passed the British sloop of war Star, in safety; the latter being prevented from immediately following the frigate by the batteries on shore; a circumstance which is considered by some as an hostile interference on the part of the Portuguese; but which we cannot view in this light when we consider that the neutrality of Portugal binds her to protect alike the ships of all nations within her several ports and harbors.

An order has been issued by the Spanish Government for removing all restraint from American vessels trading to the ports of South America.

The surrender of Cattaro to the Russians continues to be an object of complaint on the part of Bonaparte against the Court of Vienna.—Though the number of French troops in Istria and Dalmatia is represented as not less than 20,000, and of course capable of expelling with ease the Russians at Cattaro, who are said to be but a few hundreds, the burthen of this expulsion is thrown on the Austrian Government from whose hands alone Bonaparte will receive the possession, and who are called upon to expel the Russians by force, a proceeding which has a direct tendency to involve Austria in a war with France.

A letter from Dial states that a very heavy cannonade was distinctly heard about 5 o'clock on Thursday morning.—As the sound came in a direction off Bologne, it is conjectured that Commodore Owen's squadron had begun his spring pish of annoying the French batteries.

The peace establishment of France is estimated, by a report on that subject presented by Gaudin to Bonaparte, to be 600 millions of livres and the expense for the current year 804 millions.

The great commercial house of Bogle, French, Burrows and Canning, stopped payment yesterday.

Consols 60 3/4 Omnium 2 1/4.

VIRGINIA ARGUS.

RICHMOND.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1805.

RICHMOND PRICE CURRENT.

(CORRECTED WEEKLY.)

Tobacco,	33s — CASH
Wheat,	none do.
Flour, fine,	39s — do.
Flour, superfine,	42s — do.
Corn,	15s 6d do.
Hemp, clean,	£ 55 — do.
Iron,	£ 35 — do.
Bacon,	9d do.

HIGHLY INTERESTING.

We lately laid before our readers some extracts from a Pamphlet written in England, avowedly in defence of Neutral Rights, particularly as they regard the relations between England & the U. States. Many enquiries and conjectures have been made as to the author of this work. Some have even intimated that it is the production of a pen under the influence of Mr. Monroe, our Minister at London; and of course are unwilling to admit that its doctrines and opinions can in any manner be considered as a criterion of the disposition and views of the New British Cabinet towards this country. We are extremely happy in being able to assure our readers and the American public generally, that the author of this interesting work is no less a person than Lord Holland, nephew of Mr. Fox, and that it has been issued in England with the view of preparing the public mind for the reception of certain liberal stipulations between that government and America, in which some important and advantageous principles will be conceded to us.

In our estimation of this article, we conceive the most important intelligence that could be announced. Its authenticity is indisputable.—Phil. Gaz.

Dr. J. J. Giraud, of Baltimore, states, that he has discovered an infallible cure for the Yellow Fever; Castile soap, he says is the basis of his specific. His declaration is supported by the certificates of about 100 persons, who have, in the course of 5 years, been cured by his remedy.—Fed. Gaz.

New-York, June 15.

GENERAL MIRANDA SUCCESSFUL.

The Editor has been politely favored with the Political and Commercial Gazette of Hayti, of the 22d of May, containing the following highly interesting letter from Gen. KIRKLAND, one of the commanders under Gen. Miranda.

(Translated for the Commercial Advertiser.)

SOUTH AMERICA.

Extract of a letter from general KIRKLAND from Cumana, the 19th of April, to his Haytian Friend.

My Dear Friend,

Veni, Vidi, Vici, (I came, I saw, I conquered,) was the motto of Caesar.—Bonaparte has lately applied it to himself; it has now become mine, thanks to the Genius, who presides over liberty and independence.

To my great regret I cannot permit myself to enter into the details which I had promised you respecting the celerity of our operations on account of the rapidity of the events which hurry us on; and the favorable opportunity which requires haste to take advantage of the error which such successes impress. Let it suffice to you for the moment to know that the island of Santa Margaretti, Barcelona and Cumana are in our possession, and that at the moment I am writing to you, the army is fling off for Carracas. At every step we take our army is increased by these illustrious unfortunates, who think that they behold in the Generalissimo Miranda, a new Washington, who comes to re-establish them in the primitive state of liberty, which the barbarity of the Spaniards had ravished from them. There is not the shadow of doubt but that new successes will crown so holy an enterprise.

The Generalissimo desires to be remembered to you. His first Aide-de-camp, whom you well know, joins with his commander and myself in wishing you every kind of prosperity.

We request you instantly to communicate our progress to his majesty the emperor of Hayti. Tell him that the first intelligence which we shall have the honor to give him, will be dated from Carracas.

Forget us not, my dear friend, and believe, that as long as I live I shall feel for you the most sincere affection. Vive L'Independence! Vive la Liberte! The General, KIRKLAND.

At the very moment when the British cruizers are blockading our ports, pillaging our sh-

armed merchantmen, imperiling and murdering our seamen, we are told that the British ministry are extremely anxious to preserve harmony between the two nations!—N. Y. J. J.

After the Massacre at Cape Francois on the 14th of May last, a Priest, a Physician and an Officer in the Custom-house, were the only white Frenchmen left alive.

A small village to the leeward of the city of St. Domingo, was taken, pillaged and burnt by the negroes about the first of May.

From Amherst, (N. H.) June 10.

LEGISLATIVE.

On Wednesday last, the Government of this state was organized at Hopkinton for the current year.—The honorable Clement Storer was chosen President of the Senate; and the honorable Samuel Bell unanimously chosen Speaker of the House of Representatives.

On Thursday, his excellency Gov. LANSBORO, met both branches of the Legislature.

Extract from his Speech. "The time will soon arrive, when the sense of the citizens of this State is to be taken on the subject of a revision of the Constitution. It would, in my opinion, be a happy circumstance, if it should be generally agreed to recommend an alteration of it, so far as to have only one session of the Legislature annually, to be holden at a proper season, when it would be more convenient for the members to attend a sufficient length of time to complete the business of the year."

A large quantity of Marble stone, of different colors, has lately been discovered on the plantation of Mr. John Henckel, near Harper's Ferry in this State. It is said to be equal to the marble of Italy, or that of any other country.

The General KIRKLAND's LETTER.

Many are disposed to give credit to this production. The more we view it the more are we confirmed in the opinion of its being spurious. Now, it is well ascertained that Miranda's squadron did not leave the island of Aruba until after the 16th of April; and that letters from Carracas as late as the 16th of May, a month subsequent to their sailing, confidently state that his two ships, had been captured, and that the Leander had retired from the coast.—Unless the date of the letter be incorrectly stated, this contradiction is complete.—It is also rumored that the Spanish Minister in this city, has actually received a list of the crews of the ships captured.—Phil. Gaz.

George W. Sweney was on Monday called before the examining court of this city, on the charge of poisoning his great Uncle, the venerable George Wythe, and a servant boy. He was unanimously remanded to jail for further trial before the district court to be had in September next.

Yesterday, (says the Augusta Chronicle of the 7th inst.) POLLY BARCLAY was executed, as an accessory in the murder of her husband.

PHILADELPHIA FASHIONS

FOR JUNE.

THE THERMOMETER AT 85

The taste discovered in the head dresses of the ladies, including the equipment of their straw bonnets and hats with various colored ribbons and flowers, is truly pleasing; their loose-flowing body dresses are also inviting, where too much gains is not taken either to suppress or force natural appearances. The past called the waist, and which used to be admired, has disappeared, and we are left to conjecture where it may be found.

An entire metamorphosis has taken place in the shapes of our young gentlemen, owing to the make and wear of their small clothes and trousers. The prominence that was formerly contained in a vest, or jacket, has found its way into a pair of wide pantaloons, making a correspondent swell or protuberance in front and rear; and these are made the more conspicuous by a short jacket, that merely covers the breast and shoulders; in fact the appearance of some is so remarkable, that if one of their grand mothers could now see them, she would conclude they were ready to tumble to pieces.—United States Gazette.

CUSTOM HOUSE—RICHMOND.

ENTERED.

Schr. Alliance,	Roche,	New York.
Good Intent,	Gerard,	Norfolk.
Appomattox,	Bouchon,	Do.
Sloop Resolution,	Gray,	Do.
Schr. Charles Mary,	Potter,	New York
Brothers,	Rose,	Norfolk.
Sloop Orange,	Jennings,	Philadelphia
Independence,	Sommers,	G E Harbor
Happy Return,	Ireland,	Philadelphia
Schr. Felicity,	Willing,	Alexandria.
Rising Sun,	Baker,	Philadelphia.
Betsy,	Aberdeen,	Norfolk
Ark,	Mayel,	Wilmington.
Sally Anne,	Jones,	Norfolk
Jane,	Pearson,	Philadelphia
Sloop Three Sisters,	Harbet,	New York.

CLEARED.

Brig Zervia,	Hidden,	Rotterdam.
Britannia,	Douglas,	Hull.
Sloop Mary Maria,	Storer,	New York.
Schr. Three Friends,	Fisher,	Philadelphia
Packer,	Lucy,	Boston.
Sloop Hope,	Hoven,	Wilmington.
Schr. Sea,	Hewet,	New York.
Rebecca,	Tyler,	Do.
Regulator,	Scars,	Baltimore.
Sloop Rising Sun,	Baker,	Philadelphia
President,	Ireland,	Do.
Happy Return,	Ireland,	Do.
Good Intent,	Gifford,	Marcus Hook
Three Sisters,	Harbet,	Philadelphia
Bark Two Brothers,	Swain,	Dublin

FOR SALE.

At the store of A. HEWES & CO opposite the market, ALEXANDRIA CHACKERS, in half bbls, & kegs—ENGLISH WALNUTS, fresh LEMONS & ORANGES, NEW ENGLAND RUM, of high proof, in barrels; which they lately received and will sell low for cash. Richmond, June 24th, 1805.

SALES AT AUCTION.

WILL BE SOLD, by the subscribers, at their auction office, for cash, on Thursday next, the 25th of this month, June, for the benefit of the underwriters.

6 bales Onaburgs, damaged on board the Columbus, Wm. Findlay, master, from Liverpool—Also,

32 pieces Irish Linens, and A quantity of Sack Bags, damaged on board the Herald, John Murphy, master, from Dublin and Liverpool

Prosser & Moncure, v. m. Richmond, June 20th, 1805.

A LIKELY AND VALUABLE

Negro Woman and Child,

WILL BE SOLD, at Prosser and Moncure's Vendue Store, on Thursday next, at 11 o'clock, for negotiable notes on the Bank of Virginia. Terms of Sale 90 days. June 24, 1806.

A COACH AND HARNESS,

FOR SALE.

WILL be SOLD, at vendue, on Thursday next, by Prosser and Moncure, a large and strong family COACH, made of the best materials, all the body being mahogany, with HARNESS complete for four horses—on a credit of ninety days Richmond, June 21, 1806.

FOR RENT,

A possession given at Christmas, the PLANTATION and DWELLING HOUSE, which is very convenient, belonging to the estate of the late Major Stephen Southall, lying on the Westham road, about three miles from Richmond. For terms apply to

G. F. Stras.

Richmond, June 24, 1806.

A request to the Benevolent and Humane.

WHEREAS in September last, I took John Jones, son of Mary Jones, a lad then about twelve years of age, from the Berkeley Spring to this city, under a mistaken notion, that his mother had a right, (since she actually exercised it) to bind her son to me, and when as the said John Jones, getting probably informed, as I have since been of the reality of the Indenture, did on the 21st or 22d of October, after my setting out for Alexandria, leave my house and stand several days at Mr. Albert's, a baker, on Shockoe hill, by whom he was bro't back, but left my house a second time on the same or next day, (as I have been informed on my return) saying, that he wished to go back to his mother; that he knew every step of the road, and should find in Fredericksburg plenty of wagons to carry him to Winchester; and whereas I learned lately to my great surprise, from Capt. John Hunter, at the Berkeley Spring, to whom I had occasion to write, that the said John Jones had neither been seen, nor heard of, which has been confirmed since, a letter from his mother to me. I therefore request, by this public notice, all and every person, or persons, who may harbor the before named John Jones, or know his place of abode or what has become of him, to communicate their intelligence to his disconsolate mother, at the Berkeley Spring, or to the subscriber in Richmond.

G. F. Stras.

June 21, 1806.

The said Jones is rather tall for his age, slender, but well made, has a fair complexion, blue eyes, light hair, a number of freckles in his face; he is sprightly and active, rides well on horse-back and can drive a wagon.

* The printers in the different parts of this state, are humbly solicited by a distressed mother, to give a place to the foregoing in their papers.

ON Monday the 16th of June, in the county of Powhatan, there was taken from a servant by an Indian man, who had for some time been loitering in said county, a small ROAN MARE, of the Gimerack breed, with a saddle almost new, and placed a truss. The mare is not more than 4 feet 5 or 6 inches high, 4 years old, of a handsome form; with a great mixture of white hair, and that which is not white, I believe is of a sorrel or perhaps a red bay color. Any person who will secure the mare, saddle and bridle, so that I get them again, shall be well rewarded for their trouble, by

Mary Meade.

Amelia, June 20th, 1806. P. S. From the information given me, I think it uncertain whether the Indian will go to the City of Washington, to Richmond, or to the upper country.

THE subscriber offers for Sale, twenty five acres of LAND, adjoining his farm, about one mile from his city, on the main road leading from thence to Williamsburg; pleasantly situated, and convenient to good water. An inalienable title will be given to the purchaser.

John Glynn.

Richmond, June 20th, 1806.

AN EXCELLENT RIDING HORSE, FOR SALE.

Enquire of Mr. Halkam at the Washington tavern. Richmond, June 23d 1806.

SIX CENTS REWARD.

RUN away from the subscriber, living in Charlottesville, Albemarle county, on the 10th of this month, an apprentice boy named MERIWETHER STARKS. He is about 14 years old. Whoever will deliver the said apprentice to me in this place, shall receive the above reward, and no thanks given.

JOHN BISHOP.

Charlottesville, June 21, 1806. N. B. All masters of vessels and others are hereby forewarned to harbor the said apprentice.

In Hanover County Court, 23th April 1806.

Burnley and Brackenridge, Against Phoebe Jirvas, adm'x. of John Tyler, dec'd and David Tyler, heir at law of the said John Tyler, deceased.

This day came the plaintiffs by their counsel, and the defendant David Tyler, not having entered his appearance, and given security according to the act of Assembly, and the rules of this court, and it appearing to the satisfaction of the court, that he is not an inhabitant of this county, on the motion of the plaintiffs, it is ordered, That the defendant David Tyler do appear here on the first day of the next term, and answer the bill of the plaintiffs, and that a copy of this order be forthwith published in some public newspaper printed in this city of Richmond for two months successively, and that another copy be posted at the front door of the courthouse of this county.

A copy—Trio.

THOS FOLGARD v. v. c.

A FEW COPIES OF THE American Clerks Magazine, Or, POCKET CONFESSOR, Are just received at S. Picaqua's Book-Store.