American,
AND
Commercial Daily Advertiser.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 1807.

For Freight or Charter,

To any of the Windward Islands,

The fast sailing copper bottomed Brig VIGILANT,
Burthen about 1100 barrels; in neat order, and ready to receive a cargo. Apply to
THOMAS BOYLE,
At John Carrere's Counting-House.
december 31 d

Wanted,

A GOOD HOUSE, for a small family—Any person having such a one for rent, may hear of a tenant by applying to the printer.
december 31 d4t*

F. & C. Focke,

Opposite the Custom-House,

HAVE imported per the ship Friendship, from Hamburg, and on hand from former importations from Bremen,
18 boxes Listados,
16 do. Bouton, No. 2,
7 do. Checks and Stripes,
20 do. Bostongs,
2 do Pistillas Royals,
8 do Cross a la Morlaix,
5 do. Doubles,
4 do Estorillas,
8 bales Hessians,
5 do. Brown Hempen,
Which they offer for sale on very reasonable terms.
december 31 d

Fresh Smyrna FIGS.

80 boxes just received and for sale by
Hollingsworth & Worthington,
County Wharf.
december 31 d4t*

Coffee, Cotton, &c.

JUST arrived and now landing from on board the schooner Father and Sons, from St. Thomas,
About 100,000 wt good retailing COFFEE,
And from on board the brig Lioness, from Charleston,
60 bales Upland COTTON.
In Store,
Sugars, good quality,
Brandy, 4th proof,
Gin, 1st do.
Raisins, in kegs,
Claret, in cases,
HUGH THOMPSON.
december 31 eo4t

Adjourned Sale.

IN consequence of the inclemency of the weather, the sale of that valuable property, advertised by James Mowton for Thursday, the 18th of December instant, was postponed to FRIDAY next, the 2d of January, at 11 o'clock, when it will peremptorily be sold on the premises, near's opposite the residence of Robert Smart, esquire.

This valuable improved property is in fee simple, fronts 35 feet on Duke-street, and is 128 feet deep. On it are erected, two comfortable two story brick dwelling HOUSES; a large brick Stable, Smoke House, &c. The houses will be sold together or separately, as may best suit purchasers. Terms will be made known at the time and place of sale.

COLE & I. BONSAL, Agent's.
december 30 3t

Sweet Oil, &c.

THE subscribers have just received and offer for sale, No. 64, Market-street,
150 cases SWEET OIL, 30 flasks each,
150 boxes do. 12 bottles each,
50 bags old White COFFEE, for family use. The whole of which is for sale.
JACOB & W. NORRIS.
december 30 d3t-2aw3w

Cheshire Cheese.

JUST received direct from the town of Cheshire, in Massachusetts, from the neighborhood where the Mammoth Cheese was made, about 7000 lbs of the finest rich CHESHIRE CHEESE, and for sale by
WILLIAM WOODS.
december 30 d8t

Advertisement.

AS Mr. THOMAS SUTTON was on his passage from Annapolis to this city, he fell overboard and was almost entirely drowned on the morning of the 23d day of December, near North Point.—Means have been used for the recovery of the Body, but the persons employed therein have been unsuccessful. The object of this advertisement is respectfully to request those who may find the body to return it to his afflicted parent, it practicable—a generous reward will be given and commensation made for all expence attending it. If it is not convenient to send the body to Baltimore they will lay his parents under a perpetual obligation by decently interring it.

The following is a description of his person and dress: He had on a black close coat; a pair of orange colored pantaloons, and a great coat of thick home cloth—he was about 5 feet 8 inches high, thin face, with prominent features, and light hair queued.

No. 47, Philpot-street.
December 31 e9

Notice.

THE Ticket No. 10,977 in the German Evangelical Reformed Church, was purchased last evening after it was drawn a prize of one hundred dollars—this is therefore to notify the public that the money will not be paid to the bearer thereof.
december 30 4td

DIVIDEND.

THE President and Directors of the Union Bank of Maryland, have this day declared a dividend of Four per cent, on the capital stock thereof, for the half year ending the 31st instant, and the same will be paid to the stockholders, or their representatives, on or after Friday, 2d January, 1807.

By order of the board,
R. HIGINBOTHAM, Cashier.
december 30 d4t

For Sale,

A healthy Negro MAN, about 20 years of age, who has 10 years to serve.—Apply at this Office
Dec. 18 eo6t

Three or Four Gentlemen

CAN be accommodated with BOARDING at No. 9, Shakespeare-street.
december 31 eo

NOTICE.

THE subscriber has obtained from the honorable the orphans' court, letters of administration on the personal estate of the late Widow *Dorcas Bentzel*, deceased, of the city of Baltimore—All persons having claims against said estate are requested to exhibit them with the vouchers thereof; and those that are indebted are desired to make immediate payment to the subscriber.

JOHN SNYDER,
Administrator, with the will annexed.
december 31 2aw3w

Fell's Point Dancing Assembly.

THE subscriber respectfully informs the Ladies and Gentlemen of Fell's Point; at the request of a number of gentlemen, he will continue his BALLS at the house occupied by Capt Phelan, every Wednesday fortnight during the season, where none but subscribers will be admitted.

A subscription is open at his house in Second-street, and at his School Room, Fell's Point, where gentlemen may call and see the subscription and particles necessary for the good government of the Assembly during the season.

No more than forty subscribers will be admitted. His School is held on Monday and Friday evenings.

J. ROBARDET.
december 31 d4t*

Harford County.

At ten Term, 1806.

ON application to the judges of the said county court, by petition in writing, of Corbin Preston, of said county, praying the benefit of the "act for the relief of sundry insolvent debtors," passed at November session, 1805, on the terms mentioned in the said act as by schedule of his property, and a list of his creditors on oath, as far as he can ascertain them, as directed by the said act, being annexed to his petition, and the said county court being satisfied by competent testimony, that the said Corbin Preston, has resided the two preceding years within the state of Maryland, prior to the passage of the said act. It is thereupon adjudged and ordered by the said court that the said Corbin Preston, by causing a copy of this order to be inserted in one of the Baltimore papers twice a week until the first Saturday of the next ensuing March term, give notice for his creditors to appear before the said county court at the court house in said county, for the purpose of recommending a trustee for their benefit.

Signed by order,
HENRY DORSEY, Clk.
december 10 2aw10t*

PROPOSALS

For publishing by Subscription

Robert Frazer's Journal,

From St. Louis, in Louisiana, to the Pacific Ocean

CONTAINING

An accurate description of the Missouri and its several Branches; of the Mountains separating the Eastern from the Western Waters; of the Columbia River and the Bay it forms on the Pacific Ocean; of the Face of the Country in general; of the several Tribes of Indians on the Missouri and Columbia Rivers; of the Vegetable and Animal Productions discovered in the several regions; the Latitudes and Longitudes of some of the most remarkable places.

Together with a variety of curious and interesting occurrences during a voyage of two years, four months and nine days performed by Captains Lewis and Clark.

Published by permission of Captains Meriwether Lewis and Clark.

This Work will be contained in a volume of about four hundred pages octavo, and will be put to press as soon as there shall be a sufficient subscription to defray the expences.

☞ Price to subscribers *Three Dollars*, not bound.

A Book of Subscription is this day opened at the Store of GEORGE HILL, Baltimore, and proposals forwarded by mail to the different Booksellers throughout the United States, which will be kept open for forty-five days only, when the subscription will close, as it is expected the work will then be finished and in a short time ready for delivery.

Nov. 27 eo4tlaw4t

Apples, Brandy, &c.

50 barrels APPLES,
9 pipes COGNIAC BRANDY,
20 hhds. N. E. RUM,
10 hhds. MOLASSES,
English GUN-POWDER,
SUGAR, in barrels and hhds.
For sale by
BRISCOE & PARTRIDGE.
december 12 2aw3w

NOTICE.

THE partnership of PASSMORE and BARE is this day dissolved by mutual consent. All persons having claims against said firm will please present them to *Jacob Bare* for payment, and those indebted are requested to settle with him, he being duly authorised to close the business of the concern.

GEO PASSMORE,
JACOB BARE
Dec. 16 2aw4t

100 Dollars Reward.

RAN AWAY from the subscribers, living in Baltimore, on Sunday morning, the 6th July, a negro man named ELIJAH. He is about twenty years of age, five feet, ten or eleven inches high; slender round the waist, but is a remarkable strong, big limbed fellow. He is a light backman; has a large flat nose, with very thick prominent lips; has his wool cut, so as to form a roll over the top of his head. He is a ready-witted fellow, smart in answering questions; when spoken to in a good humor, generally laughs, and shews a handsome set of teeth; walks with a long step, and rocking motion with his body. He has taken with him a variety of cloths, among which are a pair of nankeen pantaloons; coarse linen shirts and trousers; an old castor hat, and a fustian round about jacket. We purchased him about 12 months since, of Mr. Richard Key Heath, acting as attorney of Susanna Wilson, of Kent county, to which place he has probably gone. Whoever will apprehend the above mentioned slave, and lodge him in any jail, so that we may get him again, shall receive 50 dollars, if taken in Maryland, and the above reward, if taken out of the said state, with all reasonable charges if brought home.

FREEMAN & WATSON.

N. B. Masters of vessels and others, are warned from harboring or carrying off said slave at their peril.

October 15 2aw

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17.

DEBATE

On the Bill to prohibit the Importation or bringing of Slaves into the United States, or the Territories thereof after the 31st day of December, 1807.

[CONCLUDED.]

Mr. Early thought some alteration in the wording of the section highly necessary. He believed it might be so altered as to guard not only against the apprehended evil, but likewise against one still greater than the bringing slaves into the southern country. He alluded to the introduction of persons of color from the West India Islands, who under the existing laws were not considered slaves. To afford an opportunity to mature some such amendment he moved that the committee should rise.

Mr. Ely said there was another circumstance which rendered it necessary for the committee to rise; there was another evil which required cure; according to two of the sections of the bill, the cargo was to be forfeited if it should be brought into a state where there was no slavery. What would the effect be there? It would be a question whether they would be thereby committed? They were as liable to be brought into Massachusetts where slavery was not permitted, as into any other state, and if sold in Massachusetts he wished to know what effect would ensue? If they were about to adopt a system of slavery in their state, he hoped neither the gentlemen from the north or the south would be in favor of the provision, as it would be in direct contravention of one of the principles of her constitution. For this reason among others he thought the subject required serious consideration, and that it was advisable for the committee to rise, that the bill might go to a select committee for further investigation.

The question was then taken on the rising of the committee, which was carried without a division and leave granted them by the House to sit again.

THURSDAY, December 18.

The consideration of the bill was resumed in committee of the whole—Mr. VARNUM in the chair.

After a few remarks from different gentlemen, on the amendment of Mr. Dellinger, and a like proviso, suggested by Mr. Early, which he said we would enter in case the former should be negatived, the question was taken on Mr. Dellinger's amendment, which was not agreed to.

Mr Early said the 4th section required one or two small amendments; he accordingly moved to strike out the words "condemnation" and its previous part "under a sentence of condemnation by a court having competent jurisdiction"—As the bill stood there might be some doubt, whether the forfeiture would not attach to a life subsequent to that consequent on condemnation.

Mr Bidwell said, in case the committee should disagree to this amendment, he would move to strike out that part of the section which declared that persons of colour imported into the U. S. should be forfeited.

The debate that ensued turned principally on the expediency of agreeing to this amendment, which was supported by Mr. Bidwell and opposed by Mr. Early.

Mr. Bidwell observed that there were strong objections against the forfeiture of persons of color, imported into the U. S. As the bill stood the forfeiture was to be followed by a sale of those persons as property, as slaves. On this point there was a great diversity in the laws and habits of the respective states; to avoid an interference with which it appeared to him most advisable to do away the forfeiture, leaving their disposition to the provisions of the laws of the several states. If this part of the section should be struck out, those laws would operate on this point.

There would, he said, be a serious difficulty in adopting the principle of forfeiture accompanied with a sale. In some of the states the idea of property in slaves was excluded by their constitutions; in those states there could be no such things as slaves. It was true that the constitutions and laws of such states did not go the length of interfering with the laws of other states, where slavery was permitted. If fugitives from them sought an asylum in the state of Massachusetts, for instance, they were faithfully protected under the provisions of the constitution of the U. S. Neither did the laws of Massachusetts interfere with travellers passing through it with slaves; but so far as it respected persons coming to reside in the state, they were manumitted as a matter of course. He believed that no contract for their sale within the state would be of any validity; nor did he believe any power had been given to the U. S. to render such sale valid. If there were such a power, its tendency would be to introduce into that state persons, contrary to its laws. If such a sale were valid, it would interfere with those laws; and if not valid, it would be a perfect nullity, and the provision be thus altogether inoperative. It was admitted that there was no probability of such an importation into states where slavery was not allowed; yet such a thing might take place, and Congress ought not to legislate under the idea that it would not take place. Mr. B. said he also felt reluctant to this provision, because it gave to the U. S. the price of this species of plunder, and carried it into the public treasury—thus substituting the U. S. in the place of the first owners. His wish was that the U. S. should themselves decline giving their legal sanction to any such sale, by leaving the business altogether to the several state authorities. This difficulty might be entirely avoided by striking out the forfeiture of persons, confining the penalty to a forfeiture of the ships, and imposing a fine on the owners. If this part of the bill should be struck out, other measures of prevention, in case they should be thought necessary, might be provided.

Mr. Early observed that this motion could only be viewed as an old thing offered in a new shape, intended to have the same effect as the motion offered the preceding day declaring persons of color imported into the United States free. He thought it betrayed great inconsistency. Those who advocated it had yesterday supported an amendment, which by declaring all such persons free, went directly to interfere with the laws of states where slavery was permitted; to-day they gravely maintained the inexpediency of any such interference whatever. The great difficulty insisted upon was that the operation of this law in states where slavery was not permitted would contravene the existing laws by forfeiting the imported slaves. But this difficulty had no solidity in it; it was altogether ideal, as from the nature of things the case of an importation in such states could not occur; at all events it was among the most improbable events in nature. It could not therefore be conceived that the present opposition to this provision of the bill was founded on the avowed ground; it must be bottomed on some other. As to the assumption that it would be an infraction of principle on the part of the United States to be concerned in any act which would involve a transfer of this description of persons, how did gentlemen, who felt these scruples, reconcile their objections with the act imposing a direct tax, in the collection of which slaves were considered as property, and were sold for its satisfaction in cases of default? How could they get over the difficulty which arose from the execution of laws imposing fines and penalties in the southern states, under which slaves were sold as property? If it were still found that this was a violation of principle, it must be allowed that it was a violation which had been practised from the infancy of the government.

Mr. Ely considered by observing that he had no objection to modify the bill so as to get over this local objection, to do which he had proposed an amendment, the purport of which was to alter the bill so as to provide that the owner and master of ships in which slaves should be imported should each pay ——dollars; and that such ships should be forfeited in cases not permitting slavery.

On agreeing to this amendment, the House divided—ayes 53—noes 47.

Mr Ely then moved his amendment, on which as well as on the other provisions of the bill the following debate arose, in which Messrs Quincy, D R Williams, Sloan, Kelly, Alston and Early, for various reasons alleged by them, opposed the amendment.

It was said that it would be highly inexpedient to agree to the amendment, for even should the provision in the bill, until a future day considered for it, on which the propriety of striking out must depend, that without this substitute two great evils would follow; that in states not permitting slavery no provision whatever would be made for persons of color that should be imported, who would prey upon society, and that Congress by avoiding to make a proper provision, would give this important point to the precautions of police of those states; from which it would almost necessarily flow, that the alarming evil intended to be remedied by the interposition of the constitutional power of Congress, would remain unattached. It was contended, if the first interest in point of the slave was abandoned, no effectual and practicable penalty would remain. To these it was replied that in the southern states there were laws which gave the forfeiture of ships in the slave trade, and to officers and others a reward for seizure of the vessel; and, therefore, as in the case of land, consequently the forfeiture of the slaves was the only desirable remedy. It was stated that the slave trade might be carried on where slavery existed. But was it expedient or safe to trust the adoption of such an important provision to the states? And how far was the power over the uncertainty of the event taken? The naked fact, therefore, was that the adoption of this sentiment, unconnected with the other provisions, would be a dereliction of the power of the constitutional power on this subject.

In this stage of the debate Mr. Pitkin rose, and took an extensive view of the subject, and of the incompetency of the several provisions of the bill to guard against the cases of importation likely to occur. He said there appeared to him to be many defects in the bill which it would be far more convenient to amend in a select committee, than in committee of the whole—As the bill stood, persons brought to this country contrary to the provisions of the bill, are forfeited to the U. States, they are libelled, as in cases of merchandize, and must be sold at auction—To this he could not consent, if any other mode could possibly be adopted. He knew not what other mode could be found to prevent this evil, yet he was confident some other might be adopted.

By the law of May 1800, our armed vessels were authorised to seize all vessels holding persons of this description—So ought they to be by this bill.—The provisions of the bill were not strong enough against the owners or commanders of vessels that might be employed in this business. Gentlemen have said that a vessel might arrive anywhere on the coast of the southern states, land a cargo of these people, and be off in a few hours; where then was the remedy? Vessels were not liable to forfeiture unless found laden in whole, or in part, with these persons within the jurisdiction of the United States. Now what was this jurisdiction? Did it extend one, three, or ten leagues from shore, or how far? A vessel laden with these people might come near the jurisdiction of the United States, unlade her cargo, & afterwards, even within this jurisdiction she could not be touched, according to the bill, because she was not then found thus loaded in whole or in part.—American vessels only were liable to penalty: how easily could foreign vessels be engaged and employed.

In cases of suspicion, when vessels are fitting for any part of Africa, bonds ought to be given by the owner——The law ought to be more severe against the owner of a vessel who employed it in this traffic; his whole estate ought to be confiscated; he ought to be imprisoned for life.

He felt the force of what the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Early) said respecting their being left to the care and the laws of individual states, as recommended by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Bidwell). But he thought some plan might be suggested, better than selling them. He could not consent to see them sold, like a bale of goods at public auction, for the benefit of the U. S. and the money put into the public coffers—The preservation of property or life, absolute necessity alone would induce him to consent to this provision of the bill—By the first part of the fourth section of the bill, the officers of the U. S. were to sell these persons at public auction; and by the latter part of the same section a heavy penalty was inflicted on any person who should buy or sell——A palpable contradiction.

They might be bound or indented for terms of years; proper officers of the general government might be appointed to take care of them.

For these reasons he trusted the committee would rise and the bill be recommitted to a select committee, as well with the view of making a proper provision on this head, as for reinforcing the other provisions of the bill with stronger penalties.

After a few words from Messrs. Smilie, Early, and Bidwell, the question on the committee rising was carried—Ayes 72—when the bill was recommitted to a select committee of seven members.

Mr. Smilie invited the attention of the House to the introduction of a new principle into the bill, a principle which, in his opinion, involved the reputation of the country. In looking over the bill he had been struck with surprise to find no penalty attached to one of the highest crimes man could commit. He believed there was not a state in the union that did not inflict the punishment of death on wilful murder. A captain of a ship engaged in the traffic was guilty of murder.

Mr. Smilie said he was well aware of the propriety of proportioning punishments to crimes. In this instance, he thought, by annexing death to the perpetration of this crime, this proportion would not be violated. He did also perceive that the people of the U. S. viewed the subject in the same light. He was certain those of the state in which he lived did. Under this impression, he would offer for the consideration of the select committee, a new section—prescribing that if any person should take any negro or mulatto without their consent, with an intention to sell them as slaves, & transport them into any place within the jurisdiction of the U. S. they should be considered as guilty of felony and on being convicted suffer death.

The Speaker observed that it was not at present in order to receive this motion, unless in the shape of an instruction to the committee to whom the bill had been recommitted.

Mr. Smilie said as the hour was late he would withdraw the motion for the present, and take occasion to renew it on a future day.

ALBANY, December 23.

On Sunday morning last, just before daybreak, a most daring and flagrant attempt at robbery was made at the house of Mr. Pye, inn-keeper, about three miles from town, on the road from here to Troy. The robber, who calls himself [illegible] son, after he had got into the house extinguished the fires and threw open doors below in order to secure his retreat in case of emergency. He then proceeded to Mr. Pye's bed-room with pistols and holding a dark lantern in his hand: and approaching the bed demanded of Mr. P. the delivery of money he had in the house. Threatening him with death if he refused. Mr. Pye rose, and went down with the villain to the bar-room for the money, having Mrs. Pye in bed—but forgot to take down with him the key of the bar-room. He returned for the key, the villain at his heels—but in the interim Mrs Pye had risen, and seized her husband's fowling piece—this she handed to him as soon as he entered the room, calling upon him to shoot the robber: but the villain instantly levelled a pistol and shot Mr. Pye through the arm, the ball lodging in his side—he returned the fire and gave the fellow a shocking wound in the back part of his head—but did not fracture his skull, the shot glancing from the bone—they both fell, but the villain immediately recovered himself, and made off. By this time a couple of pedlers who lodged in the house were alarmed, and had risen. One of them was immediately dispatched to town on horse-back for surgical aid for Mr. Pye. On his return in company with Dr. Willard, and Mr. Alyn, of the Colonie, a particular friend of Mr. Pye, they espied the robber under the side of a hay-stack, not far from the road. He immediately mounted his horse and rode off full speed towards town, dropping a loaded pistol, which the pedler picked up. Mr. Alyn and the pedler followed, the former keeping up with and frequently trying, but without success, to seize the reins of the villain's horse—the day was now somewhat advanced—After entering Water Vliet-Streeet, Mr. Alyn got far enough before the robber to level a blow at him in front with his whip, which struck him in the breast, but without any other effect than to disconcert him for a moment—he then discharged a pistol at Mr. *Alyn*, which missed him, but so frightened his horse that he became unmanageable and ran off down Market-street, the fellow seizing the opportunity to turn off to the quay—the pedler followed, however, and before the fellow had reached the river, came within pistol shot of and fired upon him, the shot grazing his hat.—The villain then leaped his horse from the dock upon the ice, and crossed the river full speed. By this time, however, a number of citizens who witnessed the chase, were prepared to mingle in it, and accordingly followed on across the ice, some on horseback, others on foot. The robber, however, got far enough a-head