American,
AND
Commercial Daily Advertiser.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 1, 1807.

☞ INSTALMENT OF AUGMENTED STOCK to be paid this day—see Notice in the last page !!

FOR THE AMERICAN.

MR. PECHIN,

BY giving the following a place in your useful paper, you will greatly oblige the author:

I have been asked [with apparent anxiety] by several gentlemen of respectability, whether I was, or was not, the author of a piece in the American of the 20th instant, signed SICILIUS, to which I can answer with safety in the *negative*, as I never knew, nor heard of such a publication, until I was asked the above question—and although the production might have done *honor* to my *feeble talents* (*as a writer*) it would not have done *justice* to any heart as *a citizen*, inasmuch as it contained expressions unfavorable to the feelings of several gentlemen, whom I respect.

Being *absent* when the *measure was taken*, the cap does not fit me, consequently sits *rather unpleasant* on the head of your most humble servant,

THOMAS HILLEN.

Mr Robertson, in a late communication made to the Royal Society, has related a remarkable circumstance in the history of the variation of the compass. Since 1660, the compass has not varied at Jamaica. It is now what it was in the times of Halley, 6 1-2 degrees east. Of the grants, a map was given upon a magnetic meridian, and the direction of the magnetic meridian remains the same. Since the original grants, new maps, upon new scales, have been constructed, and all of them are found to agree with the first maps in the direction of the magnetic meridian. If the boundary line passed through a forest of marked trees, such trees as are found are coincident with the present meridian. The districts were formerly by the cardinal points, and examined by the compass, the facts discover to us how little is truly known of the science of magnetism.—And as very much depends upon a full knowledge of the variation, the variation is recommended to every friend of useful discovery.—*Phil. pap.*

COMMERCIAL.

LIVERPOOL, 14th October, 1807.

"Within the last six weeks, a considerable reduction has taken place in the prices of Cotton of every description, but particularly of Uplands; the present quotations of which are, for ordinary 12d. a 12 1-2d. per lb. fair 13d. at 14d. and good 14d. a 15d. The principal part of our stock is of the former description.

This decline in price is to be attributed in part to the general dullness of trade, but in a great measure to the heavy stocks of inferior Cottons, which will not be touched by the consumers until all others are out of the market.

The stock of New-Orleans Cotton bears no proportion to that of Uplands; and arrivals of these being considerably later than of Cottons from the Southern States, there is not much reason to apprehend any farther decline in them.

There are not many fine Sea Islands in the market; but there is little enquiry for this description of Cotton. Should the trade with Lisbon be suspended, fine Cottons would probably experience an advance, until a communication should be established with the Brazils.

The sale of Wheat and Flour is heavy, unless an expected an improvement.—Rice, of the best quality only, is a saleable, and that for home use.

Tobacco which, on the first apprehension of hostilities with the United States, experienced an advance, has since rather declined, except fine qualities, our stock of which is very trifling, and for which we have a demand for Ireland.

Pot and Pearl Ashes have been the last weeks in better demand than for some time past, principally for the Irish market. They are now chiefly in the hands of dealers, whose asking price is 60s. a 61s. but who cannot effect sales at above 62s. per cwt.

In Naval Stores there is nothing: Tar is rather more saleable than Turpentine.

Timber and Staves are in good demand, and there is every prospect that the present prices will continue.

The market for Dyewoods is much depressed.—Mahogany remains dull.

The late heavy sales of E India Indigo have for the present stocked the dealers.—There is no Cochineal at market.—Annatto is not worth more than 17d. a 15d. per lb."

NEW-YORK, Nov. 28.

A gentleman of this city has favored us with a letter from a friend at Marblehead, who came out in the sch'r Spring Bird from Nantz, which place she left about the 12th of October. This letter states—that there was to be another levy of 200,000 men in France—that Bonaparte intended to march an army of 70,000 men through Persia to India, and that the King of Persia was to furnish all the necessary supplies for the French army—that Russia and Germany were to be the mediators for a General Peace—that the King of Denmark had furnished men to man the French ships of war that were at Flushing—and, that legionary honors had been conferred on Gen. Liniers for his able defence of Buenos-Ayres.—

TO THE PRESIDENT SENATE, AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES.—

TO THE MEMORIAL

OF THE MERCHANTS AND TRADERS

OF THE

CITY OF PHILADLAPHIA,

RESPECTFULL REPRESENTS,

THAT a strong confidence in the neutral position & character of their country, and in the pacific policy of its government, has encouraged and induced many of your memorialists to embark their property, extensively in foreign commerce,—and to adventure a large portion of their wealth upon distant voyages—that recent and unexpected events so far affect the security of their enterprizes, as to impel them to make known their sentiments and wishes to Congress.

Your memorialists cannot but view with extreme solicitude, the apparent state of the negociation between their country & Great-Britain, upon the event of which, the safety of their property so materially depends.—Their alarm and anxiety, increased by reports (perhaps unfounded) of the nature & extent of the demands made by the government of the United States, cannot but be great; while they are wholly destitute of information from official sources, calculated to direct their conduct.—They mean not, however, to intimate a wish for disclosures incompatible with the due reserve of government, but candidly to present to its view their difficulties and embarrassments.

In common with their fellow-citizens, your memorialists entertain the strongest sense of the necessity of supporting the honor and independence of their country—they feel that the national interest is inseparably connected with its support; and, although in the event of war, as individuals, they must be deeply affected, they have not a wish that considerations of private interest should induce a sacrifice of national honor and independence—but, from the wisdom and patriotism of the national Legislature, they conceive the expectation well founded, that the commercial interests of the United States, with which the common welfare is inseparably connected, will not be committed by an unyielding adherence to doubtful or unessential principles.—They therefore, with confidence, submit their hopes that, while essential rights, to which as an independent nation, we are indisputably entitled, will be maintained to the last extremity—matters of seeming interest, but of less importance, will be referred to a more propitious, and less hazardous, moment for adjustment.

Under these impressions, your memorialists deem it an indispensable duty to themselves, and to their fellow citizens of the landed and other interests, most respectfully to suggest to Congress that the act (at present suspended) entitled, "An act to prohibit the importation of certain goods, wares and merchandize, passed the 18th of April, 1806," should it go into operation, will not tend to promote the desirable results of national reputation, and amicable adjustment of our differences with Great-Britain. In effect, that your Memorialists consider the said act, in its application to this country, as extremely embarrassing; and, in its operation on the government and people of G. Britain, as irritating and inefficient—That the repeal of the said act would be productive of beneficial effects, inasmuch as it would relieve our own citizens from embarrassment, demonstrate a disposition to treat on terms of liberality, and be considered as a pledge of candour and magnanimity in the conduct of the negociation—which, in the event of failure to produce a fair & honorable accommodation, the evils of war, which must severely, and equally, affect the farmer, merchant, and mechanic, would be borne with less regret, as being rendered inevitable.

In submitting their opinion to the national legislature, your memorialists have not, they conceived, overlooked the delicacy of the subject, to which they relate—and they have anxiously endeavoured, in representing the objects of this memorial, to connect the national honor and interest with their individual claims and privileges.

Relying on the exercise of a wise, just & dignified policy, your Memorialists respectfully refer the matters, herein stated, to the consideration and decision of Congress.

(Signed by the Merchants and Traders of Philadelphia.)

PARIS, Sept. 19.

The report of the situation of the Empire presented by the minsters of internal relations to the legislative body, states the religious societies of the Empire as highly commendable to their different ministers and worthy the tenets they profess. It states farther, that the complaints presented to the Emperor from the inhabitants of his dominions near the Rhine, respecting the usurious oppressions they suffer from the Jews has been taken into consideration by his majesty, who convoked a delegation from the Jews of the different provinces throughout the empire, and from the different countries in Europe, to devise methods for obviating the further recurrence of these evils, only excited by ancient maxims and the false interpretations of some of their points of doctrine. These delegates having associated themselves under the title of the Sanhedrim, have expounded the Jewish laws, ably and more liberally than they formerly existed, and have answered the different questions put to them, so satisfactorily, that his majesty has decreed that the Jews throughout the empire be considered as Frenchmen protected by the laws, and enjoying all their rights and privileges; and bound also to protect and defend these blessings. The report of the minister concludes with stating, that this reformation which will make an epoch in the annals of the Israelites, will be for them a subject of eternal gratitude, the severity deserved by some unworthy individuals has been the occasion of these great benefits conferred on the nation.

AUGSBOURG, Sept. 28.

The English re appeared in the Asiatic Gulf, and before the road of Venice, as soon as the Italian fleet, which had been cruising in the gulph, had returned into port. The English squadron consists of 8 ships, some of which are large frigates, which sometimes approach within cannon shot of the ports of Colozza. Their return again breaks off all intercourse between Venice and the neighboring ports.

The English are extremely exasperated, that the Russians have given up the Seven Isles to the French; and their admiral immediately ordered a blockade of their ports, and the capture of their ships.

Died at St. Jago de Cuba, Oct. 24, 1807, William Middleton, first officer of the sch'r Linnett, of Baltimore. His friends may rest assured, every attention was shewn him, and that he had the best medical attendance the city would furnish.

MAURICE ROGERS.

American Consulate,

St. Jago de Cuba, Oct. 26th 1807.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Washing, November 26.

Mr. J. Clay presented a memorial from sundry merchants and traders of the city of Philadelphia, praying that the act prohibiting the importation of certain goods, wares and merchandize, passed the 18th April, 1806, may be repealed.

Mr. Clay moved the memorial be referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures.

Mr. Rowan hoped the petition would not be referred to any committee. He thought it would be beneath the dignity of the house to give it any consideration. Had he been in Congress at the time the law passed, he would have voted against it, but as it *had* passed and as we had received a fresh insult from Great-Britain in the attack on the Chesapeak, he would not vote for its repeal.

Mr. J. Clay said, that the petition was couched in decent language, and involved a question of great national importance, it could not be inconsistent either with the dignity or the justice of the house to refer it to the committee of commerce and manufactures. As to giving it consideration, whoever would examine it would find, that many of its provisions were very deficient, and in some cases totally nugatory. He pointed out some of its defects, and observed, that it contained so many absurdities, that he doubted whether it could ever go into operation.

Mr. Crowninshield said, that as to the non-importation law, it might be obscure in some parts, but there were more than a few articles, on which there could be no doubt at all. Under what circumstances had that law passed? We had made many demands on Great-Britain for many years, which she had refused to satisfy [illegible] had been passed a nearly one [illegible] Since that period she had committed the outrage on the Chesapeake, [illegible] of American citizens had been flogged [illegible] vessels, whose crews had known this for some months, and have had no redress. He now understood that for a [illegible] person was disposed that for a short time at present from the ratifiers which were afloat, [illegible] of the dispute [illegible] of our rights [illegible]. We know that Great-Britain was making extensive preparations, and it was [illegible] that she was [illegible] Nova Scotia [illegible] [illegible] a view to [illegible] regard to justice or the law of nations [illegible] friend of that nation [illegible] Court was [illegible] better to [illegible] than Denmark, [illegible] the most wanton depredations, as well as Copenhagen. The petitioners state that they are alarmed at the demands of our government, what are those demands? Do they know them? He knew not, although a member of that house, and yet the petitioners are "alarmed" at them. He therefore moved that the petition lie on the table.

Mr. [illegible] could not see any impropriety in referring the petition. He was acquainted with the characters who had signed it, and he knew some of them to be most respectable, men who would not lightly commit themselves. As to the non-importation law, he had always regarded it as a weak and inane measure, calculated to produce no other effect than to irritate G. Britain. He would rather have seen a law to prohibit some [illegible] He agreed with the gentleman last up that we were so ending at [illegible] our affairs with G. Britain were in such a situation as to render it extremely doubtful whether they would be amicably settled, and that under these circumstances we ought not to be idle.

Mr. Nelson moved that the petition be referred to a committee of the whole house.

Mr. Smilie thought that referring this petition to the committee of the whole would be giving it too much importance. He saw there was a party in this country strongly prejudiced in favor of the British government, he never doubted for a moment, that this was a measure of that party, he was equally certain

Mr. Basset hoped the petition would be referred to a committee of the whole on the state of the Union; not out of respect for the petition, but out of respect for the nation. This would afford the house an opportunity of expressing their sentiments on the present interesting state of affairs. The house had been sitting some time, and not one word had been uttered on the subject. He wished this silence to be broken.

Mr. Chandler knew not who these petitioners were; he did not know but that they were British subjects residing among us; if he were certain that such was the fact, he would move to have the petition thrown under the table, without taking any further notice of it but as he was not certain of it, he was willing to let it lie on the table.

Mr. J. Clay said, that with respect to the assertion of his colleague (Mr. Smilie) he would merely remark, that there was a man's name signed to that petition, with whom he was immediately acquainted, who, he knew did as much good for this country as his colleague, notwithstanding his situation. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Crowninshield) had made a long harangue on the subject of the non-importation law, and had said that it would not embarass the merchants. But so extremely ridiculous was some of the provisions of that law, that it was doubtful whether a gold watch could be imported, on account of the glass being prohibited. He said he felt extremely hurt at the observations of the gentleman from Pensylvania (Mr. Smilie) when he knew that the signers of the petition were native American citizens. But it seemed natural that a member of congress must speak on all subjects, whether he understood them or not.

Mr Elliot spoke in favor of referring the petition, and against the insinuation of a British party. He said that he feared there might soon be two watch words established, to vote down any measure which might be disagreeable—and these were "Confidence in the Executive," and "British Party."

Mr. Nelson was opposed to referring the petition to any committee. He thought the house ought not to hesitate a moment about throwing under the table all applications for a repeal of the law in question; particularly now, when we were, he feared on the eve of a war, and after the British government had boasted that we dared not put it in force, as she would consider it as a declaration of war.

Mr. Rhea (Ten.) spoke against referring the petition. He observed, that when these colonies presented petitions to the British parliament for a redress of grievances, they were thrown under the table. He thought that would be the most proper course on the present occasion.

Mr Fisk contended, that the petition was disrespectful to the house, in as much as it conveyed a distrust of the measures taken by government.

Several other members spoke on the subject, when

Mr. Randolph observed, that attempts had been made to denounce his friend from Pennsylvania, (Mr. J. Clay)—a man, he said, whom he would not *disgrace* by comparing, either in regard to talent or patriotism, with any of his denunciators. [Mr. Crowninshield rose to explain, but he was twice called to order by Mr Randolph.] He said that it was the indubitable right of the citizens of this country to present their petitions to this house, & a refusal to refer those petitions was a refusal to consider them. He never expected to hear the conduct of the corrupt and hireling majority of Lord North, brought forward to justify a similar conduct in that house. We had exercised the right of petitioning the British Parliament, and they had pursued the very conduct which was now recommended here—our petitions were treated with derision and contempt. If the prayer of the petitioners was improper, would it not be better to expose their errors in a masterly report from a committee, than to slam the door in their faces and ascending to the airs of an Asiatic sovereign, refuse to hear them? We were he believed, on the eve of a war with Great Britain, and we were treading in the very footsteps of the British ministry on the eve of the American war, and on the eve of the French war. Even the commanding genius of Mr. Fox, would [illegible] House of Commons [illegible] with was the consequence, he was [illegible] by the [illegible] of the nation to correct [illegible] which he was [illegible] first raised his [illegible] But it was said, that the language of the petitioners was disrespectful. What do they say? That they would wish us to make any sacrifice of our [illegible] And what is the [illegible] of our national honor [illegible] Why, a miserable [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible], Mr R. said had now been in session five weeks, and on the eve of a war, they were discussing whether we should import locks with brass nobs or locks with iron nobs. They were sitting there looking at one another, reading newspapers [illegible] and the nation was precisely in the same situation as it was when the house assembled. If we were to have a war with Great Britain, as he believed we were, it would become the house at the outset to consider whose war it was. [illegible] was to be carried on [illegible] the [illegible] of the American [illegible] and not the [illegible] more than the [illegible]. The house were to begin a war on the same principle as the [illegible] with France, every prosecution, every man who dared to question [illegible] But he trusted if it began in the [illegible] way, it would not have a similar end.

Mr. Crowninshield hoped the house would do him the justice to believe that he did not wish to derogate from the character of his friend from Pennsylvania; he had always had the highest esteem for that gentleman, and he always should. He had said that the language of the petition was disrespectful, and he wished it to lie on the table, but that was merely as [illegible] it. He had since, however, discovered a sentiment in the petition which had escaped him before, and which confirmed him in his opinion of it. The petitioners say, that "they hope the peace of the country will not be endangered by an adherence to doubtful or unessential principles." Was it an unessential principle that a national vessel could not be searched? He thought not. He had always considered a national vessel a national territory, and that it should be maintained as such. He had formerly been of opinion [illegible] pass a *total* non-importation law, but for the sake of conciliating Great Britain, he had voted for a partial [illegible].

Mr. [illegible] said, that the gentleman from [illegible] Chandler) *had* [illegible] him; he [illegible] to that gentleman as denouncing [illegible] Pennsylvania, (Mr. J. Clay.) The denunciations had been heard by the house—at least they had been by him. (See above.)—But he had said that the gentleman had endeavored to make this a party question, he still thought so, and his calling for the yeas and nays proved it. He would call the attention of the house to a period when men of different political sentiments held the reins of government, petition after petition had been presented against the sedition law, and yet they had always been received and heard, although he said, it was almost impossible to couch such petition in respectful language. He contended that the merchants did not allude to the rights of the words, which the gentleman (Mr. Crowninshield) had quoted; but they said that doubts were entertained that OTHER subjects had been connected with that. And had *they* not a right to *doubt*? He thought if the gentleman [Mr. Crowninshield] would exchange a few of his *certainties* for some of their *doubts*, he would not be a worse man or a less efficient politician. He believed it to be a novel thing in legislation, that because the house differed in opinion from a petitioner, the petition should be rejected.

The question was then taken on referring the petition to committee of the whole house and it was LOST, ayes 50, noes 80.

The petition was ordered to lie on the table.

This interesting discussion [of which the above is but a *Sketch*] lasted about 3 hours.

Mr. Randolph asked and obtained leave of absence for Mr. J. Clay, for the remainder of the session.

Mr. Randolph, from the committee appointed for the purpose, reported a bill to explain the act to prohibit the importation of slaves into the U. S. after the 31st Dec. 1807, which was read twice, and ordered to be referred to a committee of the whole on Monday.

Mr. Blount called for the order of the day on the *second report in part* of the committee of aggressions, &c. This motion occasioned a debate of about two hours, principally relating to the attack on the Chesapeake frigate, and to the conduct of the British squadron in remaining in our waters contrary to the president's proclamation.

A few minutes before five o'clock, the house adjourned till Monday.

EXTRACTS

From interesting facts and observations made and collected principally by an eye-witness, very recently returned from the continent.

FROM THE LONDON GLOBE.

KING OF SWEDEN.

Little information can be afforded of this character. His impetuosity of temper it is justly feared, augurs small advantage to the cause in which he is engaged. His character it would seem is forming on the model of his renowned ancestor, Charles XII, justly termed by our excellent poet, Thompson, "The frantic Alexander of the North." Let us hope, however, that his career will have a very different termination; he is quite a soldier, and seems ready to brave the hardships of a military life. In his conduct, he is arbitrary, consistent with the nature of the Swedish constitution; a single anecdote will sufficiently illustrate this last circumstance. One of his attendants (and, who it would seem was a person of consequence) having offended him, the king without the least ceremony knocked him down; this instantly produced a sort of menace from the suffering offender, intimating that the insult would not be forgotten: the haughty monarch, finding he had carried matters too far, was fain to offer a soothing apology.

KING OF PRUSSIA.

The fate of the king of Prussia excites very generally commiseration amongst those who are acquainted with his character, and the circumstances of his case; after all that has been said of him, it appears from the testimony of those who are in every respect best qualified to judge, that the conduct of this ill fated monarch, in a domestic point of view, has uniformly been highly estimable and exemplary: He is known to be a kind and affectionate husband and father; socially considered, he is a most humane and benevolent; and there is no proof that he is deficient in the best qualification requisite in a sovereign. It would however, seem that he is greatly wanting in that Machiavelian policy which governs too many of the European courts at the present day, and that his honesty may have indirectly contributed to lay the foundation of his misfortunes. Happy would it have been for mankind, had all other monarchs adopted his governing principle; Europe, in such a case, would at this moment have been reposing in the arms of peace, and the lives of millions of our fellow men (sacrificed to the mad ambition of a very few insatiable individuals) whose blood has deluged the earth in melancholy succession, would have been spared. Had the King of Prussia, however, not been cursed with dishonest advice in the cabinet, and his armies headed by cowards and traitors in the field, his present unmerited and galling degradation, in all likelihood, would never have taken place. This is strong language, but it is the language of truth. It is a well known fact, that in different engagements with the French, the Prussian officers, almost to a man, deserted their posts, and left their troops under their command to fight alone; when the latter found there were none to head or direct them they very naturally gave way—the disaster and defeat which followed are too generally known to require any re-statement. When the issue of the battle of Friedland first reached the King of Prussia, he appeared exceedingly affected; he has been observed slowly pacing the avenues of Memel in the uniform of his guards, quite alone, for hours, with his eyes fixed on the ground, and would frequently stand fixed to one spot, lost in thought, for half an hour together; before our informant left Memel, however, he appeared to have recovered, considerably, his wonted cheerfulness.

Interments in the city of Baltimore last week

Consumption,		5
Stillborn,		2
Dropsey,		1
Lock jaw,		1
Old age,		1
Pleurisy,		1
Adults,	12	
Children,		5—17

COMET.—In London Sept. 28, a Comet made its appearance, visible to the naked eye, in the neighborhood of London. Its place formed nearly a right angle with the bright star Arcturus, and the elegant constellation Corona, or the Northern Crown, and set almost due west about eight o'clock. Its appearance to the naked eye was that of a star of the first magnitude, having a very distinguishable beam of light or nebulosity, extending to the left or south of its body, of about a foot or eighteen inches, in length. The color of the whole was very white.

LONGEVITY.

There are now living in this city (Charleston) three ladies, whose united ages amount to 292 years. The first is a native of Gibraltar, and recollects perfectly the taking of that place by Sir George Rooke, when she was a girl, and is now supposed to be 109 years old, as that event took place 103 years ago. The two others, are 93 and 90 years of age; and all of them enjoying good health. *Times.*

A Carrier.

Wanted, a sober industrious man, to carry the AMERICAN, to whom adequate wages will be given.

Office of the American, December 1. d