half of the first year's salary. By certain officer, it is to be paid in two annual instalments, and by others in four. The first person appointed to a newly created office pays nothing, but the tax is levied on all who succeed him.

Seven dollars is deducted from the sum of 20 paid as pilotage by every vessel entering or leaving the Mississippi; but the treasury provides the boats, and pays the salary of the pilots and sailors employed at the Balize. The remainder of the 20 dollars is thus distributed.—To the head pilot 4—to the pilot who is in the vessel 4, and 5 to the crew of the row-boat, that goes out to put the pilot on board, or take him ashore.

A tax of 40 dollars per annum for licences to sell liquors.

A tax on certain places when sold, such as those of Regidor, Notary, Attorney, &c.

But the principal tax is that of six per cent. levied on all imports and exports according to a low tariff. The proceeds of which nett about 120,000 dollars, whilst all the other taxes are said not to yield more than 5 or 6000 dollars annually.

Expences and Debt.

The expences of the present government, comprehending the pay and support of the Regiment of Louisiana, part of a battalion of the Regiment of Mexico, a company of dragoons, and one of artillery, which form the garrison of the country, including Mobile; the repairs of public buildings and fortifications; the maintenance of a few gallies to convey troops and stores throughout the province; Indian presents and salaries of officers, clergy, and persons employed for public purposes, amount to about 650 dollars. A sum in specie, which does not generally exceed 400,000 dollars is annually sent from Vera Cruz; but this, together with the amount of duties and taxes collected in the province, leaves annually a deficiency of one hundred or one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, for which certificates are issued to the persons who may have furnished supplies or to officers and workmen for their salaries. Hence a debt has accumulated, which, it is said, amounts at present to about 450,000 dollars. It bears no interest, and is now depreciated 30 per cent. The latter circumstance has taken place not from want of confidence in the eventual payment of the certificates; but from the uncertainty of the time when, and the want and general value of specie. The whole of this debt is said to be due to the inhabitants, and to American residents. It would have been long since paid off, but for a diversion of the funds, destined for that purpose, to different and external objects.

Imports and Exports.

The productions of Louisiana are,—sugar, cotton, indigo, rice, furs and peltry; lumber, tar, pitch, lead, flour, horses and cattle. Population alone is wanting to multiply them to an astonishing degree. The soil is fertile; the climate salubrious, and the means of communication between most parts of the province certain, and by water.

The following has been received as a sketch of the present exports of Louisiana, viz.

	Dollars.
20,000 bales cotton 3 cwt. each at 20 cents per lb.	1,344,000 increasing.
45,000 casks sugar 10 cwt. each, at 6 cents per lb.	302,400 ditto
800 do. molasses, 100 gallons each.	32,000 ditto.
Indigo,	100,000 decline
Peltry,	200,000
Lumber,	80,000
Lead, corn, horses, cattle, uncertain,	——
All other articles, suppose,	100,000
	2,158,000

According to official returns in the treasury of the United States, there were imported into our territory from Louisiana and the Floridas, merchandize to the following amount, in the several years prefixed.

	Dollars.
In 1799 to the value of	507,132
1801	904,323
1801	956,635
1802	1,006,214

According to the same authority, which makes the total of the exports to amount to 2,158,000 dollars, the imports, in merchandize, plantation utensils, slaves, &c. amount to two and an half millions, the difference being made up by the money introduced by the government, to pay the expences of governing and protecting the colony.

According to the returns in the treasury of the United States, exports have been made to Louisiana and the Floridas, to the following amount in the years prefixed:

In 1799 to the value of
3,056,268 in foreign articles.
447,824 in domestic do.

Dolls. 3,504,092

In 1800 { 1,795, 26 in foreign articles.
240,672 in domestic do.

Dolls. 2,035,789

In 1801 { 1,770,794 in foreign articles.
137,204 in domestic do.

Dolls. 1,907,998

In 1802 { 1,054,600 in foreign articles.
170,110 in domestic do.

Dolls. 1,224,710

It is to be observed that if the total of the imports and exports into and from these provinces (of which the two Floridas are but a very unimportant part, with respect to both,) be as above supposed, viz.

Imports,	2,500,000	dollars.
Exports,	2,158,000	
Making together	4,658,000	

The duty of six per cent. ought alone to produce the gross sum of two hundred seventy-nine thousand four hundred and eighty dollars, and that the difference between that sum and its actual nett produce, arises partly from the imperfect tariff by which the value of merchandize is ascertained, but principally from the smuggling, which is openly countenanced by most of the revenue officers.

Manufactures.

There are but few domestic manufactures. The Acadians manufacture a little cotton into quilts and cottonades; and in the remote parts of the province the poorer planters spin and weave some negro cloths of cotton and wool mixed. There is one machine for spinning cotton in the parish of Ibervillie, and another in the Opelousas; but they do little or nothing. In the city, besides the trades which are absolutely necessary, there is a considerable manufacture of cordage, and some small ones of shot and hair powder. There are likewise in, and within a few leagues of the town, twelve distilleries for making tassia, which are said to distil annually a very considerable quantity; and one sugar refinery, and to make about 200,000 pounds of loaf sugar.

Navigation employed in the trade of the Province.

In the year 1802 there entered the Mississippi two hundred and sixty-eight vessels of all descriptions, eighteen of which were public armed vessels, and the remainder merchantmen, as follows, viz.

	American.	Spanish.	French.
Ships,	48	15	
Brigs,	63	17	1
Palacres	—	4	
Schooners,	50	61	
Sloops,	9	1	
Total	170	97	1

Of the number of American vessels, twenty-three ships, twenty-five brigs, nineteen schooners, and five sloops came in ballast, the remainder were wholly or in part laden.

Five Spanish ships and seven schooners came in ballast. The united tonnage of all the shipping that entered the river, exclusive of the public armed vessels, was 33,725 register tons.

In the same year there sailed from the Mississippi two hundred and sixty-five sail, viz.

American.		Tons.	Spanish.	Tons.
Ships,	40*	8,972	18	3,714
Brigs,	58	7,556	22*	1,944
Schr's.	52	4,346	58	3,747
Sloops.	8	519	3*	100
Polacres,	—	—	3*	240
	158	21,383	104	9,75.

French.	Tons.	Total.		Tons.
Schr's. 3	105	Am'cans.	158	21,383
—	—	Spanish	104	9,753
		French	3	104
Grand total			265	31,241

*One in ballast.

The tonnage of the vessels which went away in ballast, and that of the public armed ships, are not included in the foregoing account—these latter carried away masts, yards, spars, pitch, tar, &c. at least 1600 tons,

In the first six months or the present year, there entered the Mississippi 173 sail, of all nations, four of which were public armed vessels, viz. two French and two Spanish, whose tonnage is not enumerated.

	American.	Tons.	Spanish.	Tons.	French.	Tons.
Ships,	23	5,399	14	3,080	5	1,002
Brigs,	44	5,701	20	2,170	8	878
Polacres,			3	480	2	436
Schr's.	22	1,899	18	1,187	7	488
Sloops,	4	278	3	167		
Total	93	13,264	58	7,087	22	2,804

Total of Ships.		*Total of Tons*
American,	93	13,264
Spanish,	58	7,087
French,	22	2,804
Grand total,	173	23,155

In the same six months there sailed from the Mississippi one hundred and sixty-six vessels, viz.

	American.	Spanish.	French.
Ships,	21	18	2
Brigs,	18	31	1
Polacres,	—	4	—
Schooners,	17	26	5
Sloops,	2	1	0
	68	80	8

Coasting Trade.

There is a considerable coasting trade, from Pensacola, Mobile, and the creeks and rivers falling into, and in the neighborhood of lake Ponchartrain, from whence New Orleans is principally supplied with ship timber, charcoal, lime, pitch, and tar, and partly with cattle, and the places before named are supplied with articles of foreign growth and produce in the same way, from Orleans. The vessels employed are sloops and schooners, some of which are but half decked, from eight to fifty tons; five hundred of which, including their repeated voyages, and 14 gallies and gun boats entered the Bayou St. Jean last year. There is likewise a small coasting trade between the Atacapas and the New Orleans, by way of the baltze, which would much increase, if there was any encouragement given by government, to clear away a few obstructions, chiefly caused by fallen timber, in the small rivers and creeks leading to them.

From the NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

The PEOPLE of the United States, to the PEOPEE of New Orleans,

BROTHERS,

Spain has transferred the country of Louisiana to France, and France has transferred to us. Spain has received the kingdom of Etruria, and France is to receive sixteen millions of dollars.—The transaction is fair, and attested by the solemnities which bind nations. But it is reported, that Spain will endeavor to break her contract, and violate her honor.

The injustice and impolicy of Spain, can never inspire us with folly and cowardice. We will have our right, but you are to determine, whether you will participate in that right or invade it: for the sake of Spain; whether you will accept a share of our prosperity, or attempt to stem its current.

New Orleans, although old, is yet a dwarf; and states in our confederation, born but yesterday, are already arrived to the prowess of manhood. Planted in a paradise, your growth seems as if checked by drought and nipt by frost; whilst our states up the river with inferior advantages, flourish as if nourished by the dew of heaven. The freedom and moderation of our government is this dew, refreshed thereby, new blessings will suddenly spring from your invigorated energies. In place of monopoly you will have commerce—your village will be transmitted into a city—and from a province you will become a nation.

Nature has pronounced that the inhabitants upon the Mississippi and on the island of New Orleans, shall be one people; and it is your peculiar felicity, that her decree is to be executed, under the auspices of a philosopher, who prefers justice to conquest; whose glory is to make men free, and not slaves, and who delights in benevolence, and not in surrender. But studious of your happiness, he will not permit you to destroy it, by withholding our rights.

Your alternative is plain. It lies between making your little district, a field of war, or garden of peace. Circumscribed as it is, the most rigid discipline could not save it from devastation. It is your own fiat, which will strew it with ruins or with palaces. Spain may advice you to exclaim "let there be war, and all its calamities." But she will not intend to make you more prosperous, or more happy. She will involve you in war, only to advance the interest of Spain, which nature has not made the interest of New-Orleans. We advise you to bestow on yourselves peace, and all its blessings. In this advice we have also an interest; the benefits of a free commerce. But in these benefits you must share. If they are advantageous to us, they must be more so to you.—Orleans will become the emporium of this commerce. Nature has made our interest one. We are the children of the west, not of the east. Let not the old world, cause us to forget that we both belong to the new.

To the cessions under which we claim, you were parties. The faith of governments, is the faith of nations; and your loyalty was pledged to us through the competent organ. The government of of Spain, and then that of France, could rightfully bind you, so long as Louisiana belonging to them; but neither government can bind you, now that it is ceded to us. Will you break your obligations, contracted whilst belonging to these governments, and also those incurred from being united with ours?—Pledged by the ties which create allegiance, can disloyalty, attended with war, monopoly and provincial degradation, appear more lovely, than good faith, attended with peace, commerce and federal equality?

It is for your good, or from the influence of ministerial intrigue and jealousy, that Spain will strive to rob you of the brilliant destiny now inviting your acceptance? Will you seize her sword, and vainly endeavor to kill the fate of New-Orleans? It is a duty of friendship to arrest the self-murdering arm of a maniac. We will perform this duty.

We send this talk, because it is reported, that Spain will violate her faith; but we hope it is an aspersion. From our cradle we have grown up in habits of friendship and intercourse with Spain. She has been just and honorable to us, and we have been just and honorable to her. It has been our glory to emulate her integrity, Reciprocal good offices have begotten a friendship, which will become stronger, the longer it lasts. But we regard Spain, as a man does an old friend from whom he apprehends an injury. Doubt, affection, regret and resentment, alternately occupy his mind. The dispersion of these sensations, by a continuance of integrity and good faith, would be a new cement to an old friendship, and a strong pledge for its future continuance.

Then, when Spain beholds us extending to you, the descendants of her children and once her subjects, every blessing we can gain by the cession of Louisiana, and every blessing we derive from our form of government, our justice and her gratitude, will constitute a new link in the chain of national friendship. But if the corruptions of Europe shall at length have tainted the honor and good faith of Spaniards themselves, fortune has bestowed upon you, the high responsibility, of planting and cultivating them as your best birth-right, in America.

If a state, now in our union, should break its faith, withhold our rights or be wanting in loyalty; we should act towards it, as we will act towards you. We would enforce our rights, and extort its duties. But we should previously address the people of such a state, as we address you; not as provincials or subjects, but as

FELLOW CITIZENS AND BROTHERS.

From the Pittsfield Sun.

A writer in the *Sun* of October 31, under the signature of "*A plain Republican*," has propounded several questions relative to the doctrine of "*Libels*," and requested some of the *able* correspondents of the *Sun* to solve them. Although the writer of this makes no claim to the character of an *able* correspondent, yet he hopes to give some light on the subject.

The writer who has assumed the signature of "*A plain Republican*," states, whether truly or not he best knows, that he was happy to see the "*gag law*" expire, and that he is astonished to find, that printers are prosecuted at common law, and that "*the truth cannot be given in evidence in justification of a libel.*" The writer doubtless refers to the case of Mr. Croswell, and considers his situation as peculiarly unfortunate. I also was pleased to see the "*gag law*" expire, because I believed it to have been an unconstitutional law, and because I believe it to have been intended to operate only on one class of citizens. But as we seem to be agreed on the utility of its repeal, it will be unnecessary to make any further remarks. It may be proper to observe, to relieve "*A plain Republican*" from his newly acquired astonishment, that Mr. Croswell is not the *first* man who has been indicted and punished under the common law doctrine of libels in this country. Both antecedent to the "*gag law*" and subsequent, divers printers have been prosecuted and punished. It so happened that those printers were principally if not all, of that class of men called *Republicans*.—It so happened likewise that the printers who were imprisoned under the "*gag law*" were of the same class. During these prosecutions not a doubt of the legallity or propriety of the procedure was ever suggested by *federalism*. The common law was our birth-right, a glorious part of "*the most stupendous fabric of human invention.*"—But the moment it was inforced on one *federal* printer, a general howling is heard.

It is worthy of notice that the prosecution against Croswell for a libel on the President of the United States, was not instigated by the General Government nor grounded on any law made by it. It is a State prosecution under the laws of the State of New York. By the laws of that State as well as Massachusetts, the common law of England as practiced by our fore-fathers is still in force. Whether the common law of England is in all cases founded on right reason is a question, and for myself I have no hesitation in saying, that the common law doctrine of libels is highly absurd—Nevertheless, so long as it remains ingrafted into the State Constitution or laws, it must be inforced. It rests with the state sovereignties to conform that part of the common law of England which has been adopted here, to the genius of our country. The present administration of the General Government disclaims all right to make any law on the subject of libels. Notwithstanding *federalism* has poured out a torrent of calumny, from her thousand presses, on the well acquired fame of the President, he is not heard to complain. Not a printer has ever been indicted in the federal court for a libel, since his accession to the chair. Had *republicans* pursued the same unconstitutional mode, of crushing *federalism*, as was practiced under the "*gag law*" against *republicanism* not a *federal* printer in the union would have escaped the walls of a prison. Neither this, nor any other country, hath ever before witnessed such a series of *mean, malicious falsehoods*, as have been propagated for these two last years, by men, who, under the name of *federalists*, claim to be exclusively the men of "*virtue and talents.*"

A REPUBLICAN.

Congress

OF THE

UNITED STATES.

House of Representatives.

Tuesday, Nov. 22.

A message was received from the senate, informing the house that they had passed the bill authorising hostilities against Morocco.

Mr. Newton called for the order of the day on a resolution, laid by him on the table, for repealing the

BANKRUPT LAW.

Mr. J. Clay moved a postponement till the 2d of February 1804, in order to allow, in the mean time, an opportunity to enquire into the practicability of so amending the law as to render its provisions just, and agreeable to the community.

This motion was supported by Messrs. J. Clay, Nicholson and Gregg, and opposed by Messrs Newton, Elliot, Smilie and Eustis.

Mr. Griswold suggested the propriety of postponing the consideration of the subject to a shorter day. Mr. J. Clay acquiesced.

Mr. Nicholson moved a postponement to the 1st Monday of January.

This motion was supported by Messrs. Huger, Dana, Alston and Goddard; and opposed by Messrs. Newton, Dawson, Rodney, Smille and Randolph.

When the question on postponement was taken, and lost—ayes 19.

The house then went into a committee of the whole—Mr. *Dawson* in the chair—on Mr. Newton's resolution for repealing the Bankrupt Law.

Mr. Newton advocated a repeal, and Messrs. Jackson, Early and Smilie opposed it; when the committee rose and asked leave to set again.

Wednesday, Nov. 23.

The house again resolved itself into a committee of the whole—Mr. Dawson in the chair—on the resolution, offered by Mr. Newton, for *repealing the* BANKRUPT LAW.

The debate was resumed by Messrs. Elliot, Hasting, Sanford and Randolph in favor of and by Messrs. Skinner and Eustis against the repeal of the Bankrupt Law.

About 4 o'clock, the debate being closed, the question on the resolution to repeal, was taken and carried in the affirmative—ayes 94.

The committee rose, and the house immediately took up their report, on agreeing to which the yeas and nays were required, and were, yeas 99—nays 13.

Thursday, Nov. 24.

A committee was appointed to enquire into the expediency of amending the acts of congress for the sale of lands.

On motion of Mr. Claiborne, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole—Mr. *Varnum* in the chair—on the report of the committee of claims on the petition of AMEY DARDEN. The report is unfavorable to the prayer of the petitioner.

On agreeing to this report, a discussion took place, which occupied the whole of the day.

Messrs. I. C. Smith, Gregg and Macon supported, and Messrs. Claiborne, Smllie and Elliott opposed the report; when the question was taken on agreeing to the report of the committee of clrims, and lost—ayes 33.

Mr. Claiborne then moved a resolution—"that the prayer of Amey Darden is reasonable and ought to be granted."

Messrs. Claiborne and Nicholson supported, and Messrs. Griswold and Gregg opposed this resolution, which, on the question being taken, was carried—ayes 61—noes 38.

The committee then rose, and reported their agreement to the resolution.

Mr. Gregg moved an amendment directing the proper accounting officer of the treasury to settle the claim of Amey Darden on the same principles with similar cases, the statute of limitations notwithstanding.

Messrs. Griswold and Gregg supported, and Messrs. Nicholson and Claiborne opposed this amendment.

Lost—ayes 47—noes 61.

A concurrence in the report was then agreed to, and the committee of claims instructed to bring in a bill.