

letter further adds, that general Lake had been defeated in three several actions, and that the Irish rebels were carrying every thing before them, in consequence of the distraction which the universality of the rising had occasioned—Several of the nobility had been made prisoners, with two general officers, who were taken care of in the court-house of Derry, and to be kept as hostages.

A second letter of the same date from Ballanahinch, corroborates the above particulars, but says that Carrickfergus had been already taken possession of by the people, and that the English troops were flying in a disorganized state in every direction. Belfast was expected to be in the hands of the revolutionists on the 12th of October. A great part of the English fugitives had fled towards Dublin, where it was expected a last and decisive stand would be made.

Annapolis, December 20.

The Christmas vacation in St. John's College begins on Monday the 24th instant, and continues during the remainder of the month only.

On the 8th instant, at 12 o'clock, the president of the United States met both houses of congress in the representatives chamber and delivered the following

S P E E C H :

Gentleman of the Senate, and

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

WHILE with reverence and resignation we contemplate the dispensations of Divine Providence, in the alarming and destructive pestilence, with which several of our cities and towns have been visited, there is cause for gratitude and mutual congratulations, that the malady has disappeared; and that we are again permitted to assemble in safety, at the seat of government, for the discharge of our important duties. But when we reflect that this fatal disorder has within a few years made repeated ravages in some of our principal sea ports and with increased malignancy, and when we consider the magnitude of the evils arising from the interruption of public and private business, whereby the national interests are deeply affected, I think it my duty to invite the legislature of the union to examine the expediency of establishing suitable regulations in aid of the health laws of the respective States; for these being formed on the idea, that contagious sickness may be communicated through the channels of commerce, there seems to be a necessity that congress, who alone can regulate trade, should frame a system, which, while it may tend to preserve the general health, may be compatible with the interests of commerce and the safety of the revenue.

While we think on this calamity and sympathize with the immediate sufferers, we have abundant reason to present to the Supreme Being our annual obligations of gratitude for a liberal participation in the ordinary blessings of his providence. To the usual subjects of gratitude, I cannot omit to add one of the first importance to our well being and safety; I mean that spirit which has arisen in our country against the menaces and aggressions of a foreign nation. A manly sense of national honour, dignity and independence has appeared, which if encouraged and invigorated by every branch of the government, will enable us to view undismayed, the enterprizes of any foreign power, and become the sure foundation of national prosperity and glory.

The course of the transactions in relation to the United States and France, which have come to my knowledge during your recess, will be made the subject of a future communication—that communication will confirm the ultimate failure of the measures which have been taken by the government of the United States towards an amicable adjustment of differences with that power. You will at the same time perceive, that the French government appears solicitous to impress the opinion, that it is averse to a rupture with this country, and that it has in a qualified manner declared itself willing to receive a minister from the United States for the purpose of restoring a good understanding. It is unfortunate for professions of this kind, that they should be expressed in terms which may countenance the inadmissible pretension of a right to prescribe the qualifications which a minister from the United States should possess, and that while France is asserting the existence of a disposition on her part to conciliate with sincerity the differences which have arisen, the necessity of a like disposition on the part of the United States, of which so many demonstrative proofs have been given, should even be indirectly questioned. It is also worthy of observation, that the decree of the Directory alleged to be intended to restrain the depredations of French cruizers on our commerce, has not given and cannot give any relief; it enjoins them to conform to all the laws of France relative to cruising and prizes; while these laws are themselves the sources of the depredations of which we have so long, so justly, and so fruitlessly complained.

The law of France enacted in January last, which subjects to capture and condemnation neutral vessels and their cargoes, if any portion of the latter are of British fabric or produce, although the entire property belong to neutrals, instead of being rescinded, has lately received a confirmation by the failure of a proposition for its repeal. While this law, which is an unequivocal act of war on the commerce of nations it attacks, continues in force, those nations can see in the French government only a power regardless of their essential rights of their independence and sovereignty; and if they possess the means, they can avail themselves of them to their interest and honor, but without any influence.

Further, therefore, nothing is discoverable in the conduct of France, which ought to change or relax

our measures of defence—on the contrary to extend and invigorate them, is our true policy. We have no reason to regret that these measures have been thus far adopted and pursued, and in proportion as we enlarge our view of the portentous and incalculable situation of Europe, we shall discover, new and cogent motives for the full development of our energies and resources.

But in demonstrating by our conduct that we do not fear war in the necessary protection of our rights and honour, we shall give no room to infer that we abandon the desire of peace. An efficient preparation for war can alone insure peace. It is peace that we have uniformly and perseveringly cultivated, and harmony between us and France may be restored at her option.—But to send another minister, without more determinate assurances that he would be received, would be an act of humiliation, to which the United States ought not to submit. It must therefore be left to France, if she is indeed desirous of accommodation, to take the requisite steps. The United States will readily observe the maxims by which they have hitherto been governed. They will respect the sacred rights of embassy. And with a sincere disposition on the part of France to desist from hostility, to make reparation for the injuries heretofore inflicted on our commerce, and to do justice in future, there will be no obstacle to the restoration of a friendly intercourse. In making to you this declaration I give a pledge to France and the world that the executive authority of this country still adhere to the humane and pacific policy which has invariably governed its proceedings in conformity with the wishes of the other branches of the government and of the people of the United States. But considering the late manifestation of her policy towards foreign nations, I deem it a duty deliberately and solemnly to declare my opinion, that whether we negotiate with her or not, vigorous preparations for war will be alike indispensable. These alone will give to us an equal treaty, and ensure its observance.

Among the measures of preparation, which appear expedient, I take the liberty to recal your attention to the naval establishment. The beneficial effects of the small naval armament, provided under the acts of the last session, are known and acknowledged.—Perhaps no country ever experienced more sudden and remarkable advantages from any measure of policy, than we have derived from the arming for our maritime protection and defence. We ought, without loss of time, to lay the foundation for an increase of our navy to a size sufficient to guard our coast and protect our trade. Such a naval force, as it is doubtless in the power of the United States to create and maintain, would also afford to them the best means of general defence, by facilitating the safe transportation of troops and stores to every part of our extensive coast. To accomplish this important object, a prudent foresight requires that systematical measures be adopted for procuring at all times, the requisite timber and other supplies. In what manner this shall be done, I leave to your consideration.

I will now advert, gentlemen, to some matters of less moment, but proper to be communicated to the national legislature.

After the Spanish garrisons had evacuated the posts they occupied at the Natchez and Walnut Hills, the commissioner of the United States commenced his observations, to ascertain the point near the Mississippi, which terminated the northern most part of the thirty-first degree of north latitude. From thence he proceeded to run the boundary line between the United States and Spain. He was afterwards joined by the Spanish commissioner, when the work of the former was confirmed; and they proceeded together to the demarkation of the line. Recent information renders it probable, that the Southern Indians, either incited to oppose the demarkation, or jealous of the consequences of suffering white people to run a line over lands, to which the Indian title had not been extinguished, have ere this time, stopped the progress of the commissioners. And considering the mischief which may result from continuing the demarkation, in opposition to the will of the Indian tribes, the great expence attending it, and that the boundaries which the commissioners have actually established, probably extend at least as far as the Indian title has been extinguished, it will perhaps become expedient and necessary to suspend further proceedings by recalling our commissioner.

The commissioners appointed in pursuance of the fifth article of the treaty of amity, commerce and navigation, between the United States and his Britannic majesty, to determine what river was truly intended under the name of the river St. Croix, mentioned in the treaty of peace, and forming a part of the boundary therein described, have finally decided that question. On the twenty-fifth of October, they made their declaration that a river called Scodiac, which falls into Passamaquoddy Bay, at its north-western quarter, was the true St. Croix intended in the treaty of peace, as far as its great fork, where one of its streams comes from the westward and the other from the northward, and that the latter stream is the continuation of the St. Croix to its source. This decision, it is understood, will preclude all contention among individual claimants, as it seems that the Scodiac and its northern branch, bound the grants of the lands which have been made by the respective adjoining governments.

A subordinate question, however, it has been suggested, still remains to be determined. Between the mouth of the St. Croix, as now settled, and what is usually called the Bay of Fundy, lie a number of valuable islands. The commissioners have not continued the boundary line through any channel of these islands, and unless the Bay of Passamaquoddy

be a part of the Bay of Fundy, this further adjustment of boundary will be necessary. But it is apprehended that this will not be a matter of any difficulty.

Such progress has been made in the examination and decision of cases, of captures and condemnations of American vessels, which were the subject of the 7th article of the treaty of amity, commerce and navigation, between the United States and Great Britain, that it is supposed the commissioners will be able to bring their business to a conclusion in August of the ensuing year.

The commissioners acting under the twenty-fifth article of the treaty between the United States and Spain, have adjusted most of the claims of our citizens, for losses sustained in consequence of their vessels and cargoes having been taken by the subjects of his Catholic majesty, during the late war between France and Spain.

Various circumstances have concurred to delay the execution of the law for augmenting the military establishment. Among these, the desire of obtaining the fullest information to direct the best selection of officers. As this object will now be speedily accomplished, it is expected that the raising and organizing of the troops will proceed without obstacle and with effect.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

I have directed an estimate of the appropriations which will be necessary for the service of the ensuing year, to be laid before you, accompanied with a view of the public receipts and expenditures to a recent period. It will afford you satisfaction to infer the great extent and solicitude of the public resources from the prosperous state of the finances, notwithstanding the unexampled embarrassments which have attended commerce. When you reflect on the conspicuous examples of patriotism and liberality, which have been exhibited by our mercantile fellow-citizens, and how great a proportion of the public resources depends on their enterprize, you will naturally consider whether their conveniences cannot be promoted and reconciled with the security of the revenue by a revision of the system by which the collection is at present regulated.

During your recess, measures have been readily pursued for effecting the valuations and returns, directed by the act of the last session, preliminary to the assessment and collection of a direct tax—no other delays or obstacles have been experienced, except such as were expected to arise from the great extent of our country, and the magnitude and novelty of the operation, and enough has been accomplished to assure a fulfilment of the views of the legislature.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

I cannot close this address, without once more adverting to our political situation and inculcating the essential importance of uniting in the maintenance of our dearest interests; and I trust, that by the temper and wisdom of your proceedings, and by a harmony of measures, we shall secure to our country that weight and respect to which it is so justly entitled.

JOHN ADAMS.

On the 12th the Senate, in a body, waited on the President of the United States, and presented him the following

A N S W E R .

To the PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES.

S I R,

THE senate of the United States join you in thanks to Almighty God for the removal of the late afflicting dispensations of his Providence, and for the patriotic spirit and general prosperity of our country. Sympathy for the sufferings of fellow-citizens, from disease, and the important interests of the union, demand of the national legislature a ready co-operation with the state governments, in the use of such means as seem best calculated to prevent the return of this fatal calamity.

Although we have sincerely wished that an adjustment of our differences with the republic of France might be effected on safe and honourable terms, yet the information you have given us of the ultimate failure of the negotiation has not surprised us: In the general conduct of that republic, we have seen a design of universal influence, incompatible with the self government, and destructive of the independence of other states. In its conduct towards the United States, we have seen a plan of hostility pursued with unremitting constancy, equally disregarding the obligation of treaties, and the rights of individuals. We have seen two embassies formed for the purpose of mutual explanations, and clothed with the most extensive and liberal powers, dismissed without recognition, and even without a hearing.

The government of France has not only refused to repeal, but has recently enjoined the observance of its former edicts, respecting merchandise of British fabric or produce, the property of neutrals, by which the interruption of our lawful commerce, and the spoliation of the property of our citizens, have again received a public sanction.—These facts indicate a change of system or disposition—they speak a more intelligible language than professions of solicitude to avoid a rupture, however ardently made. But, if after the repeated proofs we have given of a sincere desire for peace, these professions should be accompanied by insinuations, implicating the integrity with which it has been pursued.—If neglecting and repaying by the constitutional and authorized organs of the government they are made through the medium of individuals without public character or authority—and above all, if they carry with them a claim to prefer the political qualifications of the minister of the United States, to be employed in the negotiation, they are not entitled to attention or consideration, but