

privateers, 15 in number, laying close under two forts, which we thought too strong for us to attack, having only the United States ship Merrimack to support us. At the same time, spoke the British frigate *Neriade*, who had the governor of Curacao, and the American consul on board. The latter informed captain Geddes that the enemy intended to take the town by storm that night, and that to preserve the property of the American merchants afloat as well as ashore, it was his opinion one of our ships ought to run into the harbour in order to prevent the enemy's entering. At 5 in the evening we stood in, when the French opened a quick and well directed fire upon us from a fort of two 18, one 12, and two 9 pounders, within half pistol-shot, and from the windows, roofs of the houses in the L'othra-Banda, which was filled with the enemy's troops—who kept up a constant fire of musketry, which was warmly returned from the cannon and muskets of the *Patapco*, and those deluded people who escaped death, returned to their camps, but at intervals, engaged us all night, which we returned from our great guns. On the 23d they appeared to be more in motion than in common, but kept up a constant fire from their batteries; they embarked with great precipitation, leaving behind them eighty or an hundred men, all their guns, ammunition, provisions, &c.—With pleasure I am enabled to state we had but two wounded, one of which was Mr. Calder—the loss on the part of the French is computed about 150, with one general officer.—We received considerable damage in our hull, rigging, and sails. On the 24th the British frigate *Neriade* entered and hoisted the British flag, agreeably to the capitulation entered into with the governor previous to our arrival.—All the American property is safe.”—  
November 20.

Upon the best authority we state, that the secretary of state has not yet received any intimation of the conclusion of a treaty between the United States and France.

The chamber of the senate of the United States is upon the ground-floor of the capitol—that of the representatives in the second story, which reverses the usual phrase of *upper and lower house*. Nothing can exceed the elegance of the former. The portraits of the king and queen of France, instead of being placed in an outer chamber as in this city formerly, are now placed one on each side of the president's chair: so that Mr. Jefferson can neither look to the right or the left without having royalty staring him in the face.

There are fifteen candidates for the post of chaplain to the house of representatives of the United States.

The hon. John Rutledge, of South-Carolina, is re-elected member of congress by a majority of 274 votes.

The hon. Elijah Paine, is re-elected senator from Vermont, by a majority of 34.

The conference which was held on Monday evening, between the committees of the two houses, terminated, as their other meetings have done, without an adjustment of the differences between them, as will be seen by the following

*Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Lancaster, dated Tuesday evening, the 18th instant.*

“The committee of conference made their report to the house of representatives this morning. It contains a long string of elaborate reasoning in the justification of the house for the part it has acted in the business, and calculated to impress the minds of the people that it is the fault of the senate, that there is no election bill; and it winds up with a resolution not to recede from the vote of non-concurrence. The question was instantly taken on this resolution, and carried by a large majority. William Penrose then read a new bill in his place, containing the principle of a joint vote, but so modified that the senate should nominate fifteen electors and the house of representatives the like number; that on Friday next (after such nomination and a mutual notification thereof) the members of the two houses should meet together and choose fifteen—five whereof to be out of the senator's nomination and ten of the nomination of the house of representatives. This bill was made the order of the day for this afternoon—the usual rules being dispensed with.

“At four o'clock the house met, and, the first section being under consideration, Mr. Mitchell, from Cumberland, rose, and solemnly declared his opposition to it—Not a word was uttered by any body else on either side of the house. The question was put, and, to the amazement of all parties, was lost!—thirty members only rising in favour of it,—on the question being reversed thirty-six rose. The house directly adjourned.”

NORFOLK, November 11.

*Extract of a letter from New Providence to a gentleman in this borough, dated October 28th.*

“Before this can reach you, you will have heard that the British cruisers have orders to capture all neutrals with cargoes, or any part of their cargoes, the production of a country the enemy of Great-Britain, unless bound home where they belong, or to Great-Britain or Ireland. This, I am afraid, will cause great uneasiness in the United States. There are several vessels sent in lately, merely because part of their cargoes were sugar and coffee, bound to Spain.

ALEXANDRIA, November 19.

FIRE!

Yesterday about one o'clock the citizens of Alexandria were alarmed by the cry of fire. It originated in a small house adjoining the Long Ordinary, and in a few minutes the Long Ordinary and three adjacent buildings were enveloped in flames, and soon entirely consumed.

In the evening about nine the cry of fire was renewed, and the citizens again turned out with their usual alacrity; and notwithstanding the scene of calamity was a mile and a half from the town, the engines and a large number of people were speedily collected at the spot. A large cooper's shop and a dwelling-house a few feet to the eastward of the valuable mills belonging to Ricketts and Newton and Messrs. Vowell's were burnt to the ground.

The wind blew violently the whole day from the westward; had it been otherwise the damage which might probably have been sustained from the two fires would have been incalculable. On the eastern side of the street opposite the Long Ordinary there were no buildings; and the direction of the wind effectually protected the mills from the fire of the cooper's shop.

WASHINGTON, November 14.

No dispatches have been received by the government of the United States, as stated in a Philadelphia paper; but from concurring advices there is the greatest probability that the account, taken from an English paper, that a treaty has been concluded between this country and France, is true. We know this belief is entertained by the best informed men in Washington.

BALTIMORE, November 15.

The extraordinary method which the state of Tennessee has adopted to appoint presidential electors, renders it very difficult to anticipate the result of the election in that state. The legislature, which meet but once in two years, after dividing the state into three districts, have appointed three men in each county, who are to form a convention in each district, for the choice of an elector.

November 17.

*Extract of a letter from a merchant in Havana to his correspondent in this city, dated 17th October.*

“I have just heard that dispatches have been received by the government, in this city, of the French and Spanish, with 14 ships of the line and 17 frigates, having taken Trinidad, and that their present object is Jamaica—and have requisited a supply of provisions for 20,000 men: this may, probably produce some alterations in our market for the better.

November 18.

Accounts from St. Mary's inform that Bowles and his adherents, consisting only of 10 renegado white and black men, were lately driven from their encampment above Coleraine and obliged to swim across the river, by a party of militia from that neighbourhood. One negro who was in the camp, was made prisoner.

A Paris paper observes, that “gambling houses have increased to an immoderate extent at Paris. They are public, open, and lighted up with the greatest brilliancy. The women crowd to them as to a public theatre. Formerly gamblers appeared only to gamblers, but now they court publicity. A fine woman is no longer ashamed to expose to every eye a countenance distorted with hope, despair, and avarice. She does not blush at risking the fortune of herself and family on the cast of a die!”

Annapolis, November 27.

On Saturday last, the 22d instant,

The president of the United States met both houses of congress in the senate chamber, in the city of Washington, and delivered the following

SPEECH:

*Gentlemen of the senate and Gentlemen of the house of representatives,*

IMMEDIATELY after the adjournment of congress, at their last session in Philadelphia, I gave direction, in compliance with the laws, for the removal of the public offices, records and property. These directions have been executed, and the public officers have since resided and conducted the ordinary business of the government in this place.

I congratulate the people of the United States on the assembling of congress, at the permanent seat of their government, and I congratulate you, gentlemen, on the prospect of a residence not to be changed. Although there is cause to apprehend that accommodations are not now so complete, as might be wished, yet there is great reason to believe, that this inconvenience will cease with the present session.

It would be unbecoming the representatives of this nation to assemble for the first time, in this solemn temple, without looking up to the Supreme Ruler of the universe and imploring his blessing.

May this territory be the residence of virtue and happiness. In this city—may that piety and virtue, that wisdom and magnanimity—that constancy and self-government which adorned the great character, whose name it bears, be for ever held in veneration. Here and throughout our country, may simple manners, pure morals, and true religion flourish for ever.

It is with you gentlemen to consider whether the local powers over the district of Columbia vested by the constitution in the congress of the United States, shall be immediately exercised. If in your opinion this important trust ought now to be executed, you cannot fail while performing it, to take into view the future probable situation of the territory, for the happiness of which you are about to provide. You will consider it, as the capitol of a great nation, advancing with unexampled rapidity—in arts, in commerce, in wealth, and in population, and possessing, within itself those energies and resources, which if not thrown away or lamentably misdirected, secure to it a long course of prosperity and self-government.

In compliance with a law of the last session of congress, the officers and soldiers of the temporary army, have been discharged. It affords real pleasure to recollect, the honourable testimony they gave, of the patriotic motives, which brought them into the service of their country, by the readiness and regularity, with which they returned to the station of private citizens.

It is in every point of view of such primary importance, to carry the laws into prompt and faithful execution, and to render that part of the administration of justice, which the constitution and laws devolve on the federal courts, as convenient to the people, as may consist with their present circumstances, that I cannot omit once more to recommend to your serious consideration, the judiciary system of the United States. No subject is more interesting than this to the public happiness, and to none can those improvements, which may have been suggested by experience, be more beneficially applied.

A treaty of amity and commerce with the king of Prussia has been concluded and ratified. The ratifications have been exchanged, and I have directed the treaty to be promulgated by proclamation.

The difficulties, which suspended the execution of the 6th article of our treaty of amity, commerce and navigation, with Great-Britain, have not yet been removed. The negotiation on this subject is still depending. As it must be for the interest and honour of both nations to adjust this difference with good faith, I indulge confidently the expectation, that the sincere endeavours of the government of the United States, to bring it to an amicable termination will not be disappointed.

The envoys extraordinary, and ministers plenipotentiary, from the United States to France were received by the first consul with the respect due to their character, and three persons with equal powers were appointed to treat with them. Although at the date of the last official intelligence, the negotiation had not terminated, yet it is to be hoped that our efforts to effect an accommodation will at length meet with a success proportioned to the sincerity with which they have been so often repeated.

While our best endeavours for the preservation of harmony with all nations, will continue to be used, the experience of the world, our own experience admonish us of the insecurity of trusting too confidently to their success.—We cannot without committing a dangerous imprudence, abandon those measures of self protection, which are adapted to our situation, and to which, notwithstanding our pacific policy, the violence and injustice of others may again compel us to resort. While our vast extent of sea coast, the commercial and agricultural habits of our people, the great capital they will continue to trust on the ocean, suggest the system of defence, which will be most beneficial to ourselves. Our distance from Europe and our resources for maritime strength will enable us to employ it with effect.

Seasonable and systematic arrangements, so far as our resources will justify, for a navy adapted to defensive war, and which may in case of necessity, be quickly brought into use, seem to be as much recommended by a wise and true economy, as by a just regard for our future tranquillity, for the safety of our shores, and for the protection of our property committed to the ocean. The present navy of the United States, called suddenly into existence, by a great national exigency, has raised us in our own esteem, and by the protection afforded to our commerce, has effected, to the extent of our expectations, the objects for which it was created.

In connexion with a navy, ought to be contemplated the fortification of some of our principal sea ports and harbours. A variety of considerations which will readily suggest themselves, urge an attention to this measure of precaution.

To give security to our principal ports, considerable sums have already been expended; but the works remain incomplete. It is for congress to determine whether additional appropriations shall be made, in order to render competent to the intended purposes the fortifications which have been commenced. The manufacture of arms within the United States, still invites the attention of the national legislature.

At a considerable expence to the public this manufactory has been brought to such a state of maturity, as with continued encouragement, will supersede the necessity of future importations from foreign countries.

*Gentlemen of the house of representatives,*

I shall direct the estimates of the appropriations, necessary for the ensuing year, together with an account of the public revenue and expenditures to a late period, to be laid before you. I observe with much satisfaction that the product of the revenue, during the present year, has been more considerable, than during any former equal period. This result affords conclusive evidence, of the great resources of this country, and of the wisdom and efficacy of the measures which have been adopted by congress for the protection of commerce and preservation of public credit.

*Gentlemen of the senate, and Gentlemen of the house of representatives,*

As one of the grand community of nations, our attention is irresistibly drawn to the important scenes which surround us. If they have exhibited an uncommon portion of calamity, it is the province of humanity to deplore and of wisdom to avoid the causes which may have produced it. If turning our eyes homeward, we find reason to rejoice at the prospect which presents itself; if we perceive the interior of our country prosperous, free, and happy; if all enjoy in safety under the protection of laws emanating only from the general will, the fruits of their own labour, we ought to fortify and cling to those insti-