

[As the account lately published in the Baltimore papers, of the capture of the ship President, by a number of gallees belonging to the bey of Tripoli, may have created some apprehension in the minds of the friends of commodore Dale, his officers and ship's company, the above extract is given to shew they were safe at the date of the letter, and of the improbability of the report being true.]

Captain Waterman informs us, that when he failed it was rumoured that lord Cornwallis was on the eve of departure from Paris for London, it being understood that he had accomplished the object of his appointment; and that the French fleet had not failed for the West-Indies.

PHILADELPHIA, January 26.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

Joseph Condit, jun. of Bloomfield, in the state of New-Jersey, notifies the public, that he has obtained from the United States a patent, securing to him an exclusive right to use, or vend to others to be by them used, a discovery he has made of a method by which to manufacture paper from the shavings of tanned leather, commonly called currier's shavings.—Applications for rights to use the above discovery, must be made to the patentee at Bloomfield, where different samples of the leather-paper may be seen.

January 27.

In the high court of errors and appeals, of this state, which sat in this city during the last week, the important and interesting question relative to the legal right of holding slaves in this state, coming before the court in the case of negro Flora, plaintiff in error, and the executors of Joseph Grainsberry, deceased, defendants, was discussed and determined. The counsel on the part of the plaintiff were Messrs. Ingersol, Rawle and Lewis, and for the defendant Messrs. M. Levy and McKean. After a lengthy and able discussion, the court, consisting of chief justice Chew, chief justice Shippen, judges Smith, Brackenridge, Coxe, Rush and Addison, unanimously determined in favour of the defendants, to wit, that negro slavery did legally exist before the adoption of the present constitution, and was not abolished thereby, and that the negro Flora was a slave.

RICHMOND, January 19.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

The house of delegates on yesterday resolved, that it is not expedient at present to adopt the Maryland resolutions for amending the federal constitution. And that the mode of choosing representatives to congress proposed by the states of Maryland and North-Carolina, ought to be adopted, so far as it requires the elections to be by districts; but that it ought not to be binding on the states to retain one arrangement of districts for the space of ten years.

NORFOLK, January 19.

Arrived yesterday the ship Nancy, captain Drisdale, 18 days from Turk's Island.

Captain Drisdale has favoured us with the following.—That he cleared out his vessel at Grand Key, and was then informed by the comptroller that a schooner had just touched at that place from Cape Francois, the captain of which reported that he had left the Cape the 25th December; on the night preceding, a heavy cannonading took place at the back of the Cape, and that it was understood to have been an engagement between the whites and negroes.

WASHINGTON, January 26.

Respecting the City of Washington.

MESSAGE.

From the president delivered on the 11th inst. Gentlemen of the senate, and of the house of representatives,

I now communicate to you a memorial of the commissioners for the city of Washington, together with a letter of later date, which, with their memorial of January 28, 1801, will possess the legislature fully of the state of the public interests, and of those of the city of Washington, confided to them. The monies now due, and soon to become due to the state of Maryland, on the loan guaranteed by the United States, call for an early attention. The lots in the city which are chargeable with the payment of these monies, are deemed not only equal to the indemnification of the public, but to ensure a considerable surplus to the city to be employed for its improvement, provided they are offered for sale, only in sufficient numbers, to meet the existing demand; but the act of 1796 requires that they shall be positively sold in such numbers as shall be necessary for the punctual payment of the loans—9000 dollars of interest are lately become due; 2000 dollars quarterly-yearly will continue to become due; and 50,000 dollars, an additional loan, are reimbursable on the 1st day of November next. These sums would require sales so far beyond the actual demand of the market, that it is apprehended that the whole property may be thereby sacrificed, the public security destroyed, and the residuary interest of the city entirely lost. Under these circumstances I have thought it my duty, before I proceed to direct a rigorous execution of the law, to submit the subject to the consideration of the legislature; whether the public interest will be better secured in the end, and that of the city saved by offering sales commensurate only to the demand at market, and advancing from the treasury, in the first instance, what these may prove deficient, to be replaced by subsequent sales, refs for the determination of the legislature; if indulgence for the funds can be admitted, they will probably form a resource of great and permanent value; and their embarrassments have been produced only by

over-strained exertions to provide accommodations for the government of the union.

TH. JEFFERSON.

January 11, 1802.

BALTIMORE, January 25.

CAUTION.

A number of counterfeit notes of the bank of the United States are in circulation. They resemble, as nearly as possible, the genuine notes, except in the water mark. They were made in Springfield, New-Jersey. One of the accomplices has been discovered, but was lucky enough to make his escape before he could be arrested. It is said he has gone off to the western country. [N. Y. paper.]

From the Bay of Honduras.

Captain Tryon, from the Bay of Honduras, informs, that that port is shut against the entry of all American vessels, and those laying in port had received orders to put to sea immediately, without a cargo. [N. Y. paper.]

The legislature of Vermont, at their late session, passed an act inflicting the punishment of DEATH on any person killing another in a duel: the seconds, the person knowingly concerned in conveying the challenge, and (if death should not ensue) both the parties are to be deprived, for ever thereafter, of the right of citizenship.

February 1.

On Wednesday evening last, arrived at Washington, thirteen Indians (Shawnee and Delawares) with two interpreters, on business with the president of the United States.

A letter from Bombay the 2d March, says, "On Wednesday the brother of Rajah Petumber, departed this life; and shocking to relate, with the corpse, which was burnt on Thursday morning between eleven and twelve, at Gaudinau Baaboo's Ghaut, two young women, wives of the deceased, were also committed to the flames.

LAW CASE.—At the late meeting of the judges, held in Charleston, in pursuance of the terms of the constitution, a question was urged respecting the constitutionality of the late acts, prohibiting negroes from being brought into the state of South-Carolina. Five judges were present, and on the 9th inst. they delivered their opinions, and were unanimous in declaring that those laws were constitutional.

A London article of Nov. 16 states, that by report the king of Prussia is negotiating a commercial treaty with England, by which the importation of British manufactures into the Prussian dominions, is to be permitted.

Citizen Daure is appointed commissary in chief of the expedition to St. Domingo.

Gen. Le Clerc, is commander in chief, and will take with him Toussaint's sons.

Citizen Sotin, is appointed by the French government, deputy-commissary of commercial relations at Savanna, Georgia.

Citizen Barbe, sub-commissary at Norfolk, is appointed commissary at New-York.

Annapolis, February 4.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Tuesday, January 26.

Mr. Sprigg, from the committee appointed for the purpose, reported a bill for the government of the territory of Columbia.

The bill proposes to establish a legislature to be composed of a house of representatives, to consist for the present of 25 members, 7 to be chosen by that part of the county of Washington lying on the east of Rock-creek, 7 from that part of said county west of Rock-creek, and 11 by the county of Alexandria. The numbers to vary according to the population of the territory. There is to be a governor to be appointed by the president, by and with the advice and consent of the senate. A census to be made every four years. The legislature to be paid out of the treasury of the territory. The salary of the governor to be paid out of the treasury of the United States. The judges to hold their offices during life, unless removed by the president, on the application of two successive legislatures. The qualification of the votes to be—a male white person a citizen of the United States and a resident one year in the territory and having paid a tax. The bill was referred to the committee of the whole, made the order of the day for Tuesday and to be printed.

Mr. Brent presented a memorial and remonstrance signed by a number of inhabitants of Alexandria against having a legislature and governor for this territory. Referred as the bill and to be printed.

Laws of Maryland.

PASSED NOVEMBER SESSION, 1801.

An ACT to alter such parts of the constitution and form of government as relate to voters, and qualifications of voters.

BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That every free white male citizen of this state, and no other, above twenty-one years of age, having resided twelve months in the county next preceding the election at which he offers to vote, and every free white male citizen of this state above twenty-one years of age, and having obtained a residence of twelve months next preceding the election in the city of Baltimore or the city of Annapolis, and at which he offers to vote, shall have a

right of suffrage, and shall vote by ballot in the election of such county or city, or either of them, for delegates to the general assembly, electors of the senate, and sheriffs.

And be it enacted, That all and every part of the constitution and form of government of this state repugnant to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this act, shall be and the same are hereby abrogated, annulled, and made void.

And be it enacted, That if this act shall be confirmed by the general assembly, after the next election of delegates, in the first session after such new election, as the constitution and form of government directs, that in such case this act, and the alteration of the said constitution contained therein, shall be considered as a part, and shall constitute and be valid as a part, of the said constitution and form of government, to all intents and purposes, any thing therein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

An ACT respecting free negroes.

BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That slaves shall in all cases in which a free negro or mulatto, or other person of colour, free or freed, charged with stealing goods, or with the receipt of stolen goods, shall be admitted to give evidence for or against the person accused.

RESOLUTIONS.

ASSENTED TO NOVEMBER SESSION, 1801.

WHEREAS by a resolution of the general assembly of Maryland, passed at November session, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, William Pinkney, William Cooke and Philip Barton Key, Esquires, were appointed on behalf of this state to settle and adjust the western and southern boundaries between this state and the commonwealth of Virginia: And whereas at November session, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-six, William Cooke signified to the general assembly that he could not attend the execution of the above powers, and that William Pinkney was on business out of this state, and Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, and Jeremiah Townley Chase, Esquires, were appointed, with Philip Barton Key, to carry the foregoing resolution into effect: And whereas the said resolution hath not yet been carried into effect, and Philip Barton Key hath removed out of this state, and Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, and Jeremiah Townley Chase, have signified to this general assembly that they cannot attend to the execution of the above powers; therefore, Resolved, That the governor and council be and they are hereby authorized and required to appoint three proper persons as commissioners on the part of this state, to meet such commissioners as may be appointed for the same purpose by the commonwealth of Virginia, to settle and adjust, by mutual compact between the two governments, the western and southern limits of this state, and the dividing lines and boundaries between this state and the said commonwealth; and also to settle and adjust as aforesaid any claim of this state, or the said commonwealth, to territory within the limits of the other; and the said commissioners, so to be appointed, are hereby required to report their proceedings in virtue of their said appointment and authority to the general assembly of this state, at their next session after the same shall have been concluded, for confirmation.

Resolved, That the governor of this state be requested to transmit, without delay, to the governor of Virginia, a copy of the foregoing resolve, in order to its being laid before the legislature of that commonwealth; and at the same time to communicate the wish of this general assembly that a similar resolution may be passed by the general assembly of Virginia, with a clause specifying the time and place when and where the commissioners, appointed on the part of the said commonwealth, shall meet those appointed on the part of this state.

Resolved, That in case of the death, resignation or disqualification, of any of the said commissioners, the governor and council for the time being may and they are hereby authorized and required to supply any vacancy or vacancies so happening, by the appointment of one or more, (as the case may require,) suitable character or characters to discharge the duties aforesaid.

Resolved, That the governor and council for the time being be and they are hereby authorized and required to make such compensation to the said commissioners so as aforesaid to be appointed, when they shall have discharged the duties and trusts reposed in them as aforesaid, as they shall deem just and reasonable, by orders drawn on the treasury of the western shore, who is hereby authorized and required to pay the same out of any unappropriated money in the treasury.

Law of the Union.

An ACT for the apportionment of Representatives among the several States, according to the second enumeration.

BE IT ENACTED, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in congress assembled, That from and after the third day of March, one thousand eight hundred and three, the House of Representatives shall be composed of members elected agreeably to a ratio of one member for every thirty-three thousand persons in each state, computed according to the rule prescribed by the constitution, that is to say, Within the state of New-Hampshire, five; within the state of Massachusetts, seventeen; within the state of Vermont, four; within the state of Rhode-Island, two; within the state of Connecticut, seven; within the state of