

The Swedish treaty with the regency of Tripoli, which appears to have been concluded under his auspices, augurs nothing favourable to our country. While the Swedish fleet acted in concert with ours, against the piratical powers of Barbary, one half the naval force which it will probably now be necessary for the union to equip, was considered sufficient to protect our commerce in the Mediterranean. This treaty will therefore produce an additional load of expense to our government, and perhaps render it necessary to enlarge our navy. This interference of the first consul, also appears to be singular, when compared with his former declarations. But lately he appeared to be violently opposed to all the powers of Barbary—he spurned the idea of negotiation with them, and determined to free the world of this intolerable tax upon their trade.

This appears to have been a fever of the moment—a resolution when the heart beat warm, and which was soon succeeded by cold-blooded policy and selfish views. The accomplished treaty is, according to the above account, “neither advantageous nor honourable.” Still, however, it has been ratified. In consequence the Swedish navy will be withdrawn and the United States left to their own resources. From the manner in which this treaty has been concluded, and the partial embarrassment which it must of consequence occasion to our commerce, a surmise must inevitably arise in the mind, that this is one more link in that chain of French policy, which has for its object the abridgement of the increasing power and property of the United States.

Extract of a letter from Nashville, November 26, to a merchant in this city.

“My last conveyed the disagreeable intelligence of the port of New-Orleans being shut to Americans as a place of deposit. We indulged the hope, that the Spanish government would nevertheless suffer American vessels to take in their cargoes, if not at Orleans at least within the American boundary, and so pass on to the sea; this even is absolutely forbidden: we yesterday had letters to that purport, and you can readily conceive how much this must operate against the whole of the western country. Where and when it may end we know not.”

Copy of the opinion of an eminent barrister on the question, whether a person was liable to pay a bank note which he had endorsed with his name, upon it being discovered that the note was forged?

“The bank note in question, not being an endorsable instrument, it does not seem to me, that Mr. A— can be bound by his endorsement, as it appears from the case of Price against Neale, 5, Burr 1354, that in case of a forged bill or note, the loss arising upon it must rest where it falls, there being no reason to throw off the loss from one innocent man upon another, I am of opinion that Mr. A—, who, I take it for granted, can prove that he came by the note *bona fide*, and for a good and valuable consideration, and that he passed it away in like manner, is not answerable in point of law for the loss arising upon it, which must be borne by the last holder.”

This opinion may prove useful to many of your readers.

LEXINGTON, (Ken.) December 7. We have been very politely favoured with the following letter from a gentleman at New-Orleans to his friend in this state:

New-Orleans, October 20.

“Dear Sir,
“The enclosed is the intendant-general’s proclamation of yesterday, the direct and positive violation of the treaty of amity and commerce between the two nations in the year 1795, and one in which our country to the west, is so very materially concerned, will doubtless rouse the interested citizens to take measures for redress which might in themselves be considered premature, but which must and will be sanctioned by congress. Will the Kentuckians tamely submit to the loss of one of their most dear and precious rights? Will they submit to the death-warrant of their country, signed by an inferior, without, not only coming forward like men and demand their privileges, but putting for ever out of the power of a Spaniard to treat a citizen ill on the east side of the Mississippi? Now is the moment for redress of past injuries; and this is the moment I flatter myself, my countrymen will secure to themselves their rights and privileges which the God of Nature has always intended them, but which, by usurpation, have been withheld!”

“There is, in my opinion, no time to be lost: The French will in all probability be here in a few months to take possession of the province.—If they should arrive during the present state of affairs, they will find a delicious bone to pick. They will take possession under the existing regulations relative to commerce, and will not give up a tittle perhaps until compelled by the sword, or if they do, ’twill not be without a national treaty, which will be in all probability some years in operation, during which time the citizens of the west are ruined. Possession ought to be taken without the loss of time. The old adage certainly holds good in the present instance.—Strike whilst the iron is hot.”

“You will observe in the intendant’s proclamation, that no other place or deposit on the Mississippi is even named, which if it had been intended, ought to have been done some months previous to shutting it here. It however appears as plain as possible, that there is no intention whatever in the government to appoint or give to the Americans any other in the province. We (meaning the Americans residing

here) are in a state of the most extreme anxiety, and shall continue to be so until we are made acquainted with the resolutions of our country.

“I have not time at present to say any thing on any other subject, except that I am with my family in health. You will promulgate this in the country as much as you may think proper, but let the copies not have my name to them—if they should and return to this place, the consequence might be serious even to contemplate.”

“Your affectionate,” &c.

Extract of a letter from New-Orleans to a gentleman in this town, dated 28th October, 1802.

“We addressed a few hurried lines to you by an express which left this place a few days ago for the seat of government, informing you of the port being shut, and that the Americans were deprived of the right of deposit here, by a decree of the intendant of this province; which information we now fully confirm. This proceeding of the intendant, must, no doubt, be productive of serious consequences.—The U. States will not suffer themselves to be robbed of a right which they enjoyed by virtue of a sacred treaty.—However we must wait with patience to see the result.”

“The footing upon which you will hereafter stand with respect to vending or exporting your produce, will be this.—The western produce of every description will be permitted to enter here by paying the established duties of the place, viz. 6 per cent. at the following valuations.—Flour 4 dollars per barrel, tobacco 40 dollars per hhd. cotton 18 cents per lb. and other articles in proportion.—The same duties must be paid if exported after being stored. But should produce be forwarded for exportation the duties may still be saved, but it must remain in boats in a place of safety until an opportunity offers of shipping in American vessels, which must lay in the stream: Although they have robbed us of our right of deposit, we still enjoy the free navigation of the river.”

“There is now no doubt whatever, but that the French are to possess this country.—This event will in all probability take place in the course of the spring.—M. Otto is, we learn, to go as minister to the U. States, to settle the terms and other matters relative to the two countries; the result of this business will be very interesting, as we shall then know upon what ground we stand with respect to our commercial prospects.”

WASHINGTON, December 17.

Extract of a letter from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, dated December 7.

“Logan, the famous Mingo chief, mentioned by Mr. Jefferson in his Notes, is now at this place, on his way to the seat of government; with many other chiefs of Indian tribes, from the Wabash and White rivers.”

Extract of a letter from Columbia, dated the 3d. instant.

“Yesterday Mr. Allston gave notice, that tomorrow he would ask leave to bring in a bill to direct, that the eight members this state is entitled to, in the house of representatives of the United States, should be chosen by a general ticket; but so limited, that a member should be chosen from each district, into which it is supposed the state will be divided.”

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Friday, December 17, 1802.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the state of the union, Mr. John C. Smith, in the chair.

On the president’s message.

Mr. Dawson then submitted the following resolutions:

1. Resolved, as the opinion of this committee, that so much of the message of the president of the United States as relates to our navigation and the protection of our commerce ought to be referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures.

This resolution was objected to by Messrs. Dana, Nicholson, Griswold, Dennis, Rutledge and Mitchell; on the ground that it was too extensive for reference to a single committee. To overcome this difficulty, Mr. Dennis moved to amend the resolution offered, so as to read, that so much of the message of the president as relates to discriminating and countervailing duties, and the act of the British parliament on that subject, ought to be referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures.

Carried without a division.
The following further resolutions offered by Mr. Dawson, were then agreed to without a division.

2. Resolved, as the opinion of this committee, that so much of the message as relates to our finances ought to be referred to the committee of ways and means.

3. That so much as relates to our concerns with the Indian tribes and the establishment of a new settlement ought to be referred to a select committee.

4. That so much as relates to our navy yards, and the building of docks, ought to be referred to a select committee.

Mr. Mitchell offered the following resolution:

5. Resolved, That so much as relates to providing for the return of American seamen discharged in foreign ports and left abroad, ought to be referred to a select committee.

Agreed to.
Mr. Mitchell offered the following resolution:

6. Resolved, That so much as relates to the war with Tripoli and to our relation to the other

Barbary powers, ought to be referred to a select committee.

Agreed to.

Mr. Nicholson offered the following resolution:
Resolved, That the laws for regulating the militia of the United States ought to be revised and amended.

Mr. Griswold suggested the propriety of referring the subject generally to a committee without any opinion being expressed by the house.

Mr. Gregg said a long bill respecting the militia had been introduced last session, which had not been acted upon. This was noticed in the report of the committee of revision and unfinished business. The most regular disposition of the subject was, therefore, to act upon that report.

Mr. Nicholson withdrew his resolution.

7. Mr. Varnum renewed it somewhat modified, so as to read, that so much of the president’s message as relates to the militia institutions of the United States ought to be referred to a select committee.

Agreed to.

Mr. Griswold offered the following resolution:
8. That so much of the president’s message as relates to the fostering the fisheries of the United States ought to be referred to a select committee.

Agreed to.

The committee then rose, and reported the foregoing eight resolutions, which were immediately agreed to in the house, and committees accordingly appointed.

Mr. Randolph observed that there had been a recent occurrence, in which every member of the house was interested, though every member might not perhaps, possess competent information respecting it. He said it would be useless in him to impress the magnitude of a subject, that related to the free navigation of the Mississippi, which materially affected a district of country growing every day in wealth and importance, and which it behoved the whole United States to cherish and protect. He moved, therefore, the following resolution.

Resolved, that the president of the United States be requested to cause to be laid before this house such papers as are in the possession of the department of state, as relate to the violation on the part of Spain, of the treaty of friendship, limits and navigation between the United States of America and the king of Spain.

This resolution was immediately agreed to unanimously, and Messrs. Randolph and Huger appointed the committee.

Mr. Randolph moved the following resolution:

Resolved, that the committee of ways and means be instructed to inquire whether any and what alterations are necessary in the laws imposing duties on tonnage, and on goods, wares and merchandise imported into the United States.

Ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Randolph offered a resolution for repealing so much of certain specified laws as related to the establishment of the mint.

Referred to a committee of the whole house on Monday.

BALTIMORE, December 25.

Extract of a letter from the Havana, dated the 27th ult. to a correspondent in Charleston.

“It is with no small degree of indignation and sorrow, that we inform you of the loss you have sustained from the obstinacy of our government—your flour, which we had stored, they are at this moment throwing into the sea from the Moro. Had it been of quality to justify our paying freight, we would have re-shipped it, but we even offered it as a donation to the poor of the city, and it was refused. If it were any consolation we would say, that several thousand barrels will share the same fate with yours.”

Annapolis, December 30.

Richard Sprigg, Esquire, is appointed judge of the general court of the state of Maryland vice Gabriel Duvall, Esquire, resigned.

“Ah! in what perils is vain life engag’d,
“What slight neglects, what trivial faults destroy
“The hardiest frame!
“The all surrounding Heav’n, the vital air
“Is big with death.”

ARMSTRONG.

DIED, on Saturday last, in this city, RICHARD CROMWELL, Esquire, a member of the house of delegates of this state, from Washington county; he remains were interred the following day, attended by the members of both houses of the legislature, in mourning, and a large concourse of respectable citizens. We understand he has left a disconsolate widow, and a large family of children, to lament his irreparable loss. He was a worthy, honest man.

* * * This Gazette, No. 2920, completes the year with all our customers.

In pursuance of an order from the orphans court of Anne-Arundel county, will be SOLD, at PUBLIC SALE, for READY MONEY, on Thursday the 20th of January, if fair, if not the first fair day, at the dwelling of the subscriber, on the north side of Severn.

PART of the personal property of WILLIAM SAPPINGTON, late of said county, deceased, consisting chiefly of cattle. The sale to commence at 11 o’clock, and continue till all is sold.

REBECCA SAPPINGTON, Executrix.
December 24, 1802.