

A NEW-YEAR'S WISH.

Accept, my dear Chloe, from Martha, thy friend, Each wish that can friendship endear: May the bounty of heaven propitiously send Long health—and a happy new-year.— May every enjoyment which Prudence allows, Thy life long continue to bless; May love & esteem weave a wreath for thy brow, And beauty be crown'd with success.

Congress

United States of America.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, December 27.

Mr. Leib presented a petition from the board of directors of the Philadelphia Typographical Society, praying congress to lay an additional duty on all books imported into the United States for sale. Referred to the committee of Commerce and manufactures.

Mr. Claiborne presented a petition of Amy D. Lee, praying that compensation may be made to her as the widow, relief and administration of David Darden, for the celebra horse Romulus, pressed in the year 1781 into the service of the United States. Referred to the committee of the whole to whom was referred the bill making further provision for the extinguishment of the debts of the United States.

Mr. Lyon presented a petition from a number of the inhabitants of the town and county of Alexandria, praying for the incorporation of a company to erect a bridge across the river Potomac, from the end of the Maryland avenue to Alexander's island in the county of Alexandria. Referred to the committee to whom was referred the several other petitions on this subject, which were presented at the last session.

The engrossed bill for the relief of Charlotte Haze, widow and relief of the late brigadier general Moses Hazen, was read a third time, and on the question shall the bill pass, the yeas and nays being called by Mr. Early, and were Yeas 60—Nays 38.

A bill passed accordingly. Mr. Jackson gave notice that on Monday next he should call on the motion respecting the expenditure of the moneys appropriated for public roads, connecting the waters of the Atlantic with the Ohio.

On motion of Mr. Tenny the letter of yesterday on the subject of saving the lives of persons shipwrecked at sea, was referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures.

On motion of Mr. Lewis the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill to incorporate the Washington building and fire insurance company.

General VARNUM in the chair. After going through the same and making a few amendments thereto, not affecting the principles of the bill, the committee rose and reported their assent to the same.

The House considered the amendments and incorporated them in the bill, which was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading on Monday next.

Mr. Crowninshield from the committee of commerce and manufactures, reported a bill supplementary to the act regulating the collection of duties on imports and tonnage, which was twice read, and referred to a committee of the whole to-morrow.

Mr. Hastings moved to refer the petition of Abner Snow, presented 27th December, 1863, an old militia soldier, claiming to be indemnified his expence for the cure of his wounds, received in the actual service of the United States, during our revolutionary war, referred to the committee of claims. Adjourned.

NEW YORK December 28.

Yesterday about 12 o'clock, a most violent gale commenced at South, and continued when our paper went to press; the wind however, hauled round by dark to W. N. W. Considerable damage was done to the parts of vessels in the harbor; and we fear we shall have melancholy news from along shore. The vessels which arrived yesterday, came in during the gale.

The report of invasion mentioned in yesterday's paper, proved to be, what some folks are very fond of—a political quib. The author is pretty well known, and we have reason to believe, sincerely regrets the circumstance.

Four hundred and twenty three dollars have been collected in the Methodist churches for the benefit of their Free School.

London Courier, of the 21st Sept. contains the following article of intelligence from Constantinople of Au-

gust 16, we learn, that the French Ambassador to that Court, had requested the acknowledgment of the Imperial dignity to Napoleon Bonaparte; and received for answer that the request would not be complied with, until the Courts of St. Petersburg and St. James had come into the measure.—This step will prove more humiliating to the pride of Bonaparte, than any which has taken place since his assumption of kingly powers.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

The MEMORIAL of the Chamber of Commerce of the city of New York, respectfully sheweth—

That your Memorialists are informed a Bill is depending in Congress the object of which is, to restrain merchant vessels of the United States, from sailing in an armed condition. Seriously impressed with the importance of this subject and presuming that their distance from the seat of government, will probably deprive them of an opportunity of considering the tendency of the provisions of the proposed law, prior to the final decision of the Legislature, they respectfully request permission to offer their sentiments on a measure, which must directly affect their interests, and of which the consequences are in their judgment, connected with the security, credit and prosperity of their country. Your Memorialists cordially approve the wise and virtuous policy of cherishing the friendship of all nations, by a strict observance of the obligations of justice and humanity. They acknowledge with satisfaction, that since the commencement of the existing war, the commerce of the United States has not to their knowledge, suffered any injuries which can justly be attributed to the governments of Europe; they explicitly disclaim any intention of seeking to derive unfair advantages, from the misfortunes of the belligerent nations, and they solemnly engage to support with all their influence, any regulations enjoined by treaties, or the established usages of civilized states; they merely desire that so far as is consistent with justice, policy and public compact, a spirit of enterprise suited to the genius and circumstances of the people, which in a short period has raised the United States to a distinguished rank as a commercial nation, may be tolerated and encouraged.

Your Memorialists are deliberately convinced, that the commerce of the United States is too diversified and widely extended, to admit of an adequate protection against unauthorised depredations, by means of public convoys, except at an expence, which the public opinion of this country, is unprepared to support; at the same time, they perceive with anxiety, and the deep concern that a state of things has commenced and is rapidly advancing, for which some new and effectual remedy must be provided or from which consequences must ensue of a most alarming nature: Consequences which may first impoverish and then depopulate our cities, and dissipate the maritime resources of our country; thereby undermining every source of national industry, whether employed in commerce, agriculture or manufactures. Though the resources of the commercial interest, are probably adequate at present, to the protection of their rights, yet the evils with which they are menaced, must soon be controuled, or become inveterate; to organize, develop and regulate the management of these resources, is an object of momentous concern to your Memorialists in which they pray the aid and direction of the public councils. The duties of neutral merchants, as understood by your Memorialists, consist in the due observance of the following rules—

- 1st. Not to protect under false appearances, the ships or property of the subjects of belligerent nations.
2nd. Not to resist the reasonable visitation and search of the ships of war of belligerent nations.
3rd. Not to supply either party with articles contraband of war. And
4th. Not to enter ports in a state of blockade.

Your Memorialists do not consider it as a duty or usage of a neutral nation, to enforce by legal sanction the observance of these rules; but merely to appreciate citizens of the nature of their obligations arising under treaties or the general law of nations, thereby subjecting them to such penalties as custom has established; these penalties can only be rightfully inflicted by regular tribunals, established by the belligerent nations; nor can they exceed the right of condemning the property attempted to be illegally concealed or transported.

Your Memorialists, being however desirous of evincing, that they are influenced by no other than pure and reasonable intentions, will cheerfully submit to a law for restraining the armament of private vessels, except in conformity with the following principles.

- 1st. That the vessels shall wholly belong to citizens of the United States.
2nd. That the cargoes laden on board such vessels, shall wholly belong to citizens of the United States, and except necessary munitions and merchandizes to or from ports, eastward of the Cape of Good Hope, and westward of Cape Horn, shall in no degree consist of articles declared contraband of war, either by the general law of nations or by treaty with the United States.
3rd. That owners of armed vessels be

required to give bonds for a reasonable amount that they will not sell or charter such vessels in the dominions of any foreign state or nation, in America, or elsewhere in foreign countries to the subjects of the belligerent parties.

4th. That the masters and chief officers of all armed vessels, be required to give bonds that they will not attempt to enter a blockaded port, and they will not resist the lawful visitation and search of a national ship of any European belligerent power; If deemed expedient, the masters and chief officers may be further rendered liable, to such personal penalties, as the wisdom of Congress may prescribe. But your memorialists beg leave to observe that as the property of Merchants is frequently exposed to condemnation in foreign countries, in consequence of irregularities committed by masters of vessels, they deem it inequitable, that the rigor of this severe penalty should be increased by subjecting merchants, or ship owners, to additional forfeiture, or by compelling them to become sureties for the conduct of individuals in their service, exceeding the value of the cargo; indemnities, which persons of this description may be presumed generally able to provide. Having stated their opinion of the nature of the restrictions on armed vessels, which it may be prudent to establish, your memorialists respectfully request that the arguments in favour of their expediency and fitness for the circumstances of the present times, may be attentively considered. It is a fact too notorious to require illustration, that the naval power of Great Britain has obtained such an ascendancy as to afford almost complete protection to her extensive commerce, by regular convoys: To secure her foreign possessions from all probable danger of internal attacks. And to compel the colonies of her enemies to maintain a defensive system. A consequence of this naval superiority of Great Britain is, that the authority of the other European governments, in their respective colonies, has been greatly weakened and the national responsibility for the conduct of their local administrations, has of course proportionably diminished. In the West Indies, the evils and dangers incident to this state of things, are extensive and imminent. The colony of St Domingo has declared itself in a state of independence, and is at open war with the remaining colonies of France, not a vestige of the commercial marine of France remains in any part of the West Indies. All these colonies require essential supplies which can only be obtained from the U. States, by commerce, by force, or by submission to the power of Great Britain. But though all the French colonies are desirous of encouraging commerce with the United States, yet in consequence of their mutual dissensions, and the state of society in certain places, property in unarmed vessels is utterly insecure.

Your memorialists consider it to be incontrovertibly, that no nation can justly authorise the capture or detention of neutral vessels in consequence of rights incident to a state of war, without establishing at the same time, regular and impartial tribunals for deciding on the legality of such captures, according to principles recognised in treaties, or by the general law of nations. Whether the tribunals, in all or any of the French colonies are of the description required by the usages of civilized states, your memorialists will not presume to enquire; nor is the solution of this question important, it being a well known and indisputable fact, that American vessels have been repeatedly captured and the property divided and appropriated, by vessels fitted out from small ports not under the controul of the Governor of the said colonies. If as appears probable, Spain has already or will speedily become a party to the existing war, the colonial commerce of this nation will probably be soon reduced to a state of inaction, and in this case, the extensive and thinly settled dominions of this power in America, will present opportunities and motives to restless buccanniers to extend their depredations on the commerce of the United States. Your memorialists however, expressly disavow an intention by their observations to reflect unjustly on the general character of the French or Spanish administrations, as conniving at acts of piracy; on the contrary, they are willing to presume that the evils of which they complain, and the increase of which they seriously apprehend, are of a nature not to be precisely foreseen or prevented by the existing authorities. Your Memorialists further represent, that they perceive no principle which can justify or require a restriction on the commerce of the United States with St. Domingo in armed vessels, which will not, considering the circumstances of that country, more strongly demand that the commerce should not be totally interdicted. If considerations of state policy require that trade with any colony in the West Indies should be interdicted, this necessity must of itself furnish an additional argument in favor of arming American vessels, under proper regulations. To interdict commerce with a country desirous of encouraging such commerce, and incapable of supplying without it, will certainly be viewed as evidence of hostility or dependence, and it may be feared that the natural suggestions of resentment will be stimulated by inducements of private interest, and the more cogent pleas of necessity. It may, therefore, happen that the United States, by disarming their vessels, to prevent the possibility of conflicts with unauthorised

cruisers, may cause to concenter in St. Domingo, dangerous power, and thereby lay the foundation of a war of serious magnitude. Your memorialists being feverishly anxious to preserve peace with all nations, by observing a fair and impartial neutrality, and being only desirous of protecting the prosperity against a description of cruisers whose conduct cannot be controuled by regular tribunals have considered with all the attention in their power, whether any, and if any what objections can be advanced against the regulations now proposed. In respect to Great Britain it may be observed that it would be preposterous and absurd to suspect that any American merchant would arm a vessel at his own expence, with designs hostile to the rights or interests of that nation. Besides the proposition would provide for an inspection of the vessels which may be armed, thereby virtually pledging the honour of the United States, that such vessels are designed to be employed only in commerce unequivocally neutral or innocent. As not only Great Britain, but the other belligerent nations, employed consuls and other agents in our principal ports, who are vigilant sentinels in favor of the interests they represent, an auxiliary pledge may be derived from their examination, that the officers of the customs will remove every just cause of suspicion. In this mode, the neutral character of armed vessels & their true destination, may be more completely ascertained, than in the case of vessels sailing under public convoys, which are protected from the visitation of privateers on the high seas, by a recent treaty between Great Britain and Russia.

It is deserving of remark, that the present war as yet furnishes no considerable object for privateers on the part of Great Britain, and that the owners of armed American vessels would perceive an interest in instructing their commanders to observe a friendly and inoffensive deportment towards armed vessels of every description. Experience of the conduct of American vessels has hitherto afforded proof of the justice of this reasoning, and as irregular conduct would be utterly unauthorised by the proposed law, the consequences of misconduct in any particular instance would attach to the offending individuals, and could not endanger the peace of the United States. It may also be fairly presumed, that the British government is not unmindful of existing tendencies, nor indifferent to the danger which would remotely affect their own colonies, from the establishment of a predatory system in the West Indies; a system which has commenced, but which presents no insupportable evidence of a decline of their national ships, which offers no reward to the enterprise of their privateers; which attracts but little attention from the British merchants, whose commerce is protected by convoys; which, therefore, can only be restrained by means possessed by the United States, and which if unrestrained, will be nourished by depredations on the unprotected commerce of the United States, and eventually become dangerous to the interests of all civilized nations. In reflecting on the interests and probable views of France, and the other European nations, which have and are likely to become parties with her in the existing war, your memorialists are unable to discover a motive founded in public policy, which can excite their opposition to the regulations now proposed. The commerce of neutral nations, even under the greatest limitations authorised by the laws of nations, must remain to France and her allies a source of essential comfort and advantage. The depression of the American commerce, from whatever cause, would necessarily increase the relative force and influence of their rival and enemy. A measure tending to obstruct or deprive any of their colonies, however situated, of necessary supplies, cannot fail to discourage regular industry, to heighten sentiments of hostility, to render a future re-establishment of their ancient authority more difficult and uncertain, to direct commerce into new channels less beneficial to the present, to the interest of the parent state, and possibly to induce submission to the power of Great Britain. Independent of these considerations, the obligations of justice, and a regard to their own honor, require of the governments of Europe to controul, if possible, and at all events disavow, these depredations which render the armament of American vessels an indispensable precaution for their security. As by the events of war, France has lost the power of controuling abuses in her colonies in the West Indies, it is just to consider her responsibility as for the present suspended, but it follows as a necessary consequence, that the United States may, without giving offence, authorise reasonable measures for the security of their own rights. A defence by means of private armed vessels under proper regulations is not only reasonable, but from the nature of things, is that kind of defence which ought to excite the least suspicions, it being certain, that the degree of force employed and exercised will never exceed the measure required by necessity, as it will be regulated by calculations of commercial advantage to individuals and in no degree by views of political aggrandizement.

Your Memorialists might conclude their petition with these observations, but the great importance of the proposed Law, not only in respect to the revenue and commercial prosperity of the United States, but as it may effect the right of every citizen to keep and bear arms,

will it is hoped be these expressions, and joining a few additional observations on the subject.

The constituents of the United States have unanimously claimed the right of possessing arms for the defence of their houses, their lives, and property; this privilege, has neither been surrendered nor abridged, and every citizen, whether at home or upon the ocean has been that he might lawfully carry arms of defence. If this right be deemed important in the bosom of the State, to protect the laws and magistrates are ready to afford protection to the persons and property of its citizens, but no nation has ever been supposed to be secured to them by the constitutions of the several states. Your memorialists are therefore, humbly to request that no law may be passed to prevent private vessels from sailing in an armed condition; or in case a law on this subject is deemed necessary, that its provisions may be confined to the principles contained in the present memorial and as in duty they will ever pray:

Your memorialists are duly sensible that Congress possesses the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations among the several states, and with the Indian tribes, but with all deference they presume to enquire, whether under this power a law may be enacted by which the citizens of the United States shall be deprived of a right which has been supposed to be secured to them by the constitutions of the several states. Your memorialists are therefore, humbly to request that no law may be passed to prevent private vessels from sailing in an armed condition; or in case a law on this subject is deemed necessary, that its provisions may be confined to the principles contained in the present memorial and as in duty they will ever pray:

Signed by order of the Corporation of the Chamber of Commerce.

JOHN MURRAY President, New York, 21st December, 1864.

LOUISVILLE (Geo) December 28th

On Wednesday the 6th instant, the electors of president and vice president met at the state house and gave an unanimous vote for THOMAS JEFFERSON as president and GEORGE CLINTON as vice president of the United States for the next term. When the vote was announced a salute of 17 cannon was fired by the artillery of the United States, and the cheering of the electors and general officers of militia ended with the governor.

In the evening, the town was beautifully illuminated and a ball given was the ruling sentiment and every one viewed the scene through the eyes of the last election, and contrasted with the different circumstances of the present; not a soul but expanded in the sweet emotions it excited. Now behold, not the dangers of a sedition and excise laws, but light and liberty and plenty secured on a ballot from a ballot. Every patriot's pride of his country when he votes the name of Jefferson, every Georgian felt proud of his name when he reflected there was not a federalist in the legislature.

LONDON, October 23.

The apprehension that we should possess ourselves of the colonies of Spain, in South America, was no doubt, one of Bonaparte's principal motives for not forcing Spain to be forced Holland, to take a decided part in the present contest. By the war, which is about to commence, these fine provinces, while they present a most spacious field of speculation to this great commercial state, will themselves have an opportunity of being emancipated from the trammels of a debasing monopoly and emerging from a state of political childhood.

The last French papers contained a translation of letters from Hamburg, in which the writers despair of getting rid of the blockade of the Elbe. They state that the reply to the solicitations of their deputy at London was—"That as long as the French shall occupy the German states of his Britannic majesty, the blockade of the Elbe and the Weiser shall be continued with the greatest rigor."

A letter has been received from a missionary in China, addressed to the superior elder of foreign missionaries at Paris, which states that the Catholic religion daily makes great progress in that vast empire; but that there is a great want of new evangelic apostles from Europe. In the course of the last year, these Catholic missionaries baptized in one province, 4,999 children.

The capture of the Spanish frigates has been followed with other acts on the part of government symptomatic of immediate war. The Spanish brig St. Joseph, laden with linen and wheat; and the Spanish ship Esperanza, in ballast, were taken possession of at Cowes on Thursday, by order of admiral Montague.

IMPERIAL PRINCESS. - On Thursday the 19th instant, (says a French paper of the 28th Vendemiaire) at half past 2 P. M. her Imperial Highness Princess Louise was happily delivered of a Prince, in conformity with the 40th article of the Constitution of the Empire, his Serene Highness the Lord High Chancellor of the Empire was present at the birth. The dispatch was immediately sent to the Emperor with the news.