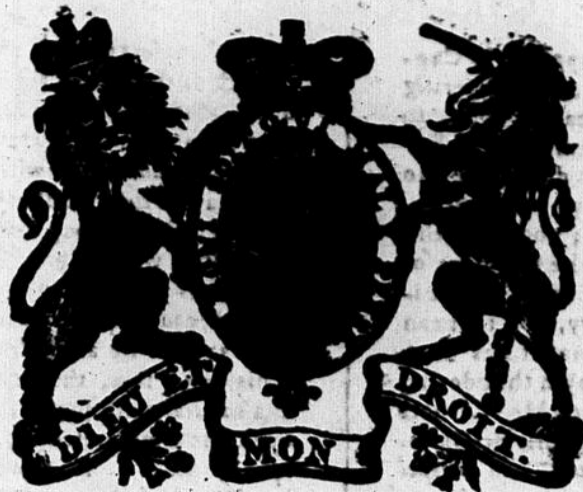


QUEBEC
GAZETTE.



GAZETTE
DE QUEBEC.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1807.

JEUDI, 19 NOVEMBRE, 1807.

J. H. CRAIG, GOVERNOR.



GEORGE the THIRD by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, to our much beloved and faithful Legislative Councillors of our Province of Lower Canada, and to our faithful and well beloved Knights, Citizens and Burgesses of our said Province, to an Assembly at our city of Quebec on the twentieth day of November instant, to have been commenced and held, called and elected, and to every of you Greeting :

Whereas for divers urgent, and arduous affairs, us the state and defence of our said Province concerning, our Assembly at the day and place aforesaid to be present, we did command, to treat, consent and conclude upon, those things which in our Assembly, should then and there be proposed and deliberated upon, and for certain causes and considerations, us to this specially moving, we have thought fit further to prorogue our said Assembly to MONDAY THE TWENTY-FIRST DAY OF DECEMBER next, so that you nor any of you on the said Twentieth day of November, at our said city to appear, are to be held or constrained, for we do will therefore, that you and each of you be as to us in this matter entirely exonerated, Commanding and by the tenor of these presents firmly enjoining you and every of you, and all others, in this behalf interested, that on the said Twenty-first day of December next, at our said City of Quebec, personally you be and appear, to treat, do, act and conclude upon those things, which in our said Assembly by the common Council of our said Province by the favour of God may be ordained. In testimony whereof these Our Letters we have caused to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of our said Province to be thereunto affixed: Witness our trusty and well beloved SIR JAMES HENRY CRAIG, Knight of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over the Provinces of Lower-Canada, Upper-Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and their several Dependencies, General and Commander of all His Majesty's Forces in the said Provinces of Lower Canada and Upper-Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and their several Dependencies, and in the Island of Newfoundland, &c. &c. at our Castle of Saint Lewis in our City of Quebec, and the Province aforesaid, the seventeenth day of November, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and seven, and in the forty eighth year of our Reign.

J. H. C.

HERMAN W. RYLAND, C. C. in Chancery.

DISPUTE WITH AMERICA.

Extracts from two Letters addressed by Mr. COBBETT to the Electors of Westminster.

It has long been a complaint, on the part of England, that the American ships, in all parts of the world, serve as a place of refuge for deserters from the British navy. We claim a right to take our deserters wherever we find them, upon the sea; and this right, though not, in my opinion, rigorously enough, we have exercised. We claim also a right to take our seamen, whether deserters or not, from on board the ships of any other nation, when we find such ships at sea, having, as, I hope, we shall maintain, a right of dominion over the sea as far as we may judge it necessary to exercise that dominion for the preservation of our independence as a people. The Americans, in order to evade these our claims, have fallen upon a device quite novel in the affairs of nations. They have enacted, that any man, be he born where he may becomes a Citizen of the United States from the moment that he gets what they call a certificate of citizenship from some one or other of their magistrates; and, having asserted this to be the law of nations, they represent as an outrage our taking of our men in spite of these miserable bits of paper. Endless disputes have arisen from this source; and, when we consider how difficult it is, in some cases, to distinguish between an American and an Englishman, we cannot wonder at such disputes; but, as I shall endeavour to prove to you, the right of searching cannot, on our part, be given up without giving up that superiority at sea, which alone can give us, under any set of rulers at home, even a chance of remaining an independent people.

The immediate cause of quarrel, however, is of a nature somewhat different. A ship of war, of ours, lying near Norfolk, in Virginia, had occasion to send some of her men on shore. These men desert. The officers are forbidden, by the civil authority, to take them. Some of them enter on board an American 44 gun frigate, called the Chesapeake. Admiral Berkeley, our chief naval commander upon the station, gives his several captains an order to demand the men from the Chesapeake, as soon as she shall be out at sea, and, if refused, to search for them by force. The Leopard, a 50 gun ship, commanded by Captain Humphreys, makes the demand. It is refused by Captain Barron, the American commander. Some shots of mere menace are fired a-head by the Leopard; then a broadside which the Chesapeake returns with some shots badly fired, but, a second broadside from the Leopard brings down the American flag; the frigate is searched, the men are taken out, the Leopard keeps the sea, and the Chesapeake, with several men killed and wounded, returns to port. The American President issues a proclamation forbidding our ships of war all communication with the land (which is, observe a violation of our treaty with America), and in this proclamation he asserts, that the men claimed by us had been proved to be Americans, and not British subjects.

Thus the matter stands at present. The English-hating party in America raging with fury against us, evidently not so much on account of any injustice on our part, as on account of the severe rebuke which their arrogance has received in its being made known to the world, that, after all their boasting, they are unable to stand a moment against British ships of war. At first they asserted, that the Chesapeake was quite unprepared for action; that her cables were lying across her guns; that her decks were

J. H. CRAIG, GOUVERNEUR.



GEORGE TROIS, par la Grace de Dieu, Roi du Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande, Défenseur de la Foi. A nos bien-aimés et fidèles Conseillers Législatifs de notre Province du Bas-Canada, et à nos fidèles et bien aimés Chevaliers, Citoyens et Bourgeois de notre dite Province, appelés, et élus pour l'Assemblée, qui doit être commencée et tenue dans notre Cité de Québec le vingtième jour du présent mois de Novembre, et à chacun de vous Salut. Vu que pour certaines

affaires importantes et urgentes nous concernant, ainsi que l'état et la défense de notre dite Province, nous avons ordonné à notre Assemblée d'être présente au jour et lieu sus dits, pour traiter, consentir et conclure sur les choses qui dans notre Assemblée pourroient alors et là être proposées et mises en délibération; Néanmoins pour certaines causes et considérations qui nous y engagent spécialement, nous avons jugé à propos de proroger notre dite Assemblée à LUNDI LE VINGT-UNIEME JOUR DE DECEMBRE prochain, de sorte que vous, ni aucun de vous, n'êtes tenus ni obligés de paraître dans notre Cité de Québec, le dit vingtième jour de Novembre; car nous voulons que vous et chacun de vous loiez, quant à nous, entièrement déchargés à cet égard: Ordonnant et par la teneur de ces présentes nous vous enjoignons fermement et à chacun de vous et à tous autres y intéressés, que vous soyez et paraissiez personnellement le dit vingt-unième jour de Decembre prochain, dans notre dite Cité de Québec, pour traiter, faire, agir et conclure sur les choses qui, par la faveur de Dieu, pourront être ordonnées dans notre dite Assemblée par le commun Conseil de notre dite Province.—En Foi de quot nous avons fait rendre ces présentes Lettres Patentes, et à icelles fait apposer le Grand Sceau de notre dite Province. Témoin, notre fidèle et bien aimé SIR JAMES HENRY CRAIG, Chevalier du Très Honorable Ordre du Bain, Capitaine Général et Gouverneur en Chef, dans et pour les Provinces du Bas Canada, Haut Canada, Nouvelle Ecosse, Nouveau Brunswick et leurs différentes dépendances, Général et Commandant de toutes les forces de la Majesté dans les dites Provinces du Bas Canada, du Haut Canada, Nouvelle Ecosse et Nouveau Brunswick et leurs différentes dépendances et dans l'Isle de Terre Neuve &c. &c. &c. au Château Saint Louis, dans notre Cité de Québec, dans la Province sus-dite, le dix-septième jour de Novembre, dans l'An de notre Seigneur, mil huit cent sept et dans la quarante huitième année de notre Règne.

J. H. C.

HERMAN W. RYLAND, C. C. en Chancellerie

covered with stores; and that her powder was out to dry, having somehow or other, got damp. All this was quite incredible; but, the Americans themselves, in their rage against poor Captain Barron, have told the truth. They have now said, that every thing was in perfect readiness for action, and that the guns were loaded, before the Chesapeake left the port. The fact is, that it was want of skill and discipline, and want of the confidence, which those give, which prevented Captain Barron from making such resistance as a British commander, under similar circumstances, would have made. The commander of a British vessel, so acting, would have been shot; but, it does not follow, that Captain Barron, though a great boaster, was a coward; and, if the truth were known, I dare say it would appear, that, with such a crew, no man could have fought the ship for ten minutes.

Having thus, Gentlemen, given you a brief history of the dispute, I shall now offer you my observations upon it, which, I think, cannot be done so well in any other way as in answering an article, which has been published in an excellent weekly paper, called the Independent Whig, which article I shall first insert for your perusal, promising only, that I presume that you love your country better than any other country, and that because the grubs and muck-worms injure your corn, you would not, for that reason, let down the fence and invite the hogs and the cattle to trample it under foot, or devour it:

"We unequivocally declare, that, in our judgments, nothing can authorize such conduct as that which is reported to have been the conduct of the commander of the Leopard, but a spirit of usurpation, and a gross despotic stride of power. Equity revolts against such a species of tyranny being assumed by any single state over that of any other; and, as to the law of nations, no such power has been ever conceded. With respect to the argument, attempted by Mr. Cobbett, that, if we permit the Americans to inveigle and detain our seamen, we cannot have a navy; the Americans would in fact recruit for France, and England would be beaten by our own seamen." The absurdity of this doctrine is almost beneath a comment, and in charity we would fain hope that Mr. Cobbett must have been but half awake when he wrote it. Where one British seaman will be found on board an American, we believe FIFTY AMERICANS (to say nothing of Swedes, Danes, Portuguese, and almost every other country) are to be found on board of British ships of war; and, if this great tenacity is really necessary for the maintenance of the dignity of England, why, we would ask Mr. Cobbett, may not every power that is left in Europe, and which remains neuter, feel the same tenacity and claim the same privilege? We cannot, in EQUITY, see the distinction; therefore, we repel the doctrine.—With respect to the insinuation about the British seamen, we consider it an outrageous imputation upon their LOYALTY that nothing can justify; and, if symptoms of an evil so tremendous were ever to occur, the remedy would always be in the hands of the ministry, seasonably to remonstrate, but not with the fire of broadsides. We will not here attempt a retaliation of what we conceive the unmerited abuse Mr. Cobbett has heaped upon the people of America, in saying, "the Americans are like the worst set of women; they will set up a terrible outcry, they will beat Adm. Berkeley in songs but, if we keep a firm foot, they

will soon listen to reason:" or the remainder of his coarse invective applied to Captain Barron and his frigate, whom he elegantly and classically terms a "swaggering blade, &c.;" we consider it quite sufficient, unless we are farther called upon, to mark this kind of language with the expression of our decided contempt, whether we read it in Mr. Cobbett's Register or Mr. Perry's Chronicle. We deprecate the propriety of reflections upon the courage of a people, whose bravery, when struggling for their rights and independence, has already been proved invincible; and as to the right of insulging their flag with impunity, and forcibly to demand the privilege of searching their ships of war, even under the certainty of their containing British seamen, we insist upon it to be a right unsupported by any principle of equity, and that can only be maintained in argument by the same species of violence that it has been attempted to be enforced by the commander of the Leopard; viz. by a thundering assertion or a thundering broadside. If these are the principles of liberty Mr. Cobbett would teach the British people, he must excuse us from becoming his disciples. Our ideas of liberty are to tolerate that in others, we claim as a right ourselves, and to repel every species of assumption of power not founded in equity and justice as derogatory to humanity and inimical to the natural rights of civilized society.—As to Captain Barron, he seems to have done only his duty, and, under the circumstances in which he was placed, to have acted with exemplary moderation and humanity, how far the epithet of "swaggering blade," therefore, justly applies to him, it remains for the calmer reasoning powers of Mr. Cobbett to substantiate. We like not coarse and harsh epithets at any time, still less when there does not exist any thing in the shape of provocation to justify them. National prejudices are at all times unbecoming the true friend of liberty; he looks to principles and not to men, and seems to justify the perpetration of that by one government he would condemn the practice of in another. Americans, Frenchmen, and all other countries, have an equal right to liberty with Englishmen; and it is high time despotism was banished the world.—The engagement between the British and the American frigate off the Chesapeake has been stated to have arisen from a demand of the British Captain to search the American for deserters, which was refused on the part of the American, who was reduced to submission at the mouth of the cannon.—The visiting by force the ship of a neutral and friendly power, for the purpose of searching for deserters, is a case which does not seem to have been, at any time, in the contemplation of writers on the Law of Nations; for, neither Grotius, Puffendorf nor Vattel, give an opinion on the question; and we scarcely imagine that Civilians will be able to produce any authority for the exercise of a power wholly inconsistent with the sovereignty and independence of the State who submits to it. The right of searching ships for goods contraband of war has its limits, and has not yet been extended to ships bearing the flag of an independent State; nor can we discover any instance where such a ship has been subjected to search at all, much less for deserters; which has never yet become the subject of Treaties settling the contraband of war.—If the principle be once admitted, it will follow as a natural consequence that the Americans or the Danes will possess an EQUAL RIGHT of searching our ships, on the same pretence, and shall we argue that we prevent its exercise by our naval superiority, and call this equal justice?—In the case of the Swedish convoy, there was no claim made to visit and search the ships under convoy. The Swedes contended that even the presence of their ship of war ought to be taken for a security that the convoy carried no contraband; what would they then have said, if we had also insisted on a right to search the ship of war as well as the convoy? And all the learning displayed on this question by the eminent Civilians, Schieffel and Dr. Croke, does not even hint at this right as likely to become a matter of discussion. Indeed, what can be a more direct invasion of the right of sovereignty, or a more flagrant attack on the honor of an independent nation, than to insist, as a matter of right, upon visiting a ship of war and searching for deserters? As a matter of right, we can find no acknowledged law, no case, no treaty, that will support such a demand.—And, if we view the conduct of the British Captain as a matter of prudence, we are equally at a loss for arguments to justify his proceedings. At a time when all the ports of the European Continent are shut against our commerce, we do not expect to find one man hardy enough to assert that it would be prudent to cause the ports of the American Continent to be shut against us also. When our trade on this side the Atlantic is sensibly diminishing, it cannot be prudent to destroy the opportunity of extending it beyond the Atlantic; and yet this must be the mildest effect of a rupture with America.—Since, then, the proceedings of the British Captain can neither be justified by the law of nations nor palliated as a prudent exercise of that discretion which every naval commander must possess, if reparation be not made for the insult offered to the American flag, it will be evident that this occasion was purposely embraced to provoke hostilities with the United States. Had we been treated in the same manner, our complaints might have been louder and more effectual than their's but they would not therefore have been more just.

In considering this writer's complaint against me, with regard to the dispute with America, I will first notice what relates to the particular case in question, and then trouble you with a few observations as to the general principle, upon which his reasoning proceeds.

We, Gentlemen, have a treaty of amity and commerce with the Americans, in which treaty we grant them great benefits and indulgences, and, almost the only stipulation in our favour, is, that our ships shall have free entry into their ports and harbours, there to water, victual, and refit (if necessary) without let or molestation of any sort. But if this stipulation does not include the liberty of having command over our ships' crews upon such occasions, of what use is it to us? Or, rather, is not the stipulation, in such case, a despicable fraud? To inveigle away any part of our ship's crew, under such circumstances; or, to secret them, or withhold them, from their officers, is a gross violation of this article of the treaty; is an act of hostility, the most hostile act, that the party is able to commit against us; and, therefore, if Capt. Humphreys had proceeded, at once to attack the Chesapeake, without any previous application for the men, he would have done no more than strict justice would have warranted. Suppose that the whole of a ship's crew were, while lying at Norfolk, to run the ship aground, and insist upon keeping her in that situation. Will this writer contend, that we should not have a right to treat it as an act of hostility, if the American people, or government, were to receive these men, and prevent us, no matter by what law, from seizing them? If some of the men may be received and with held from us, why not the whole; and, why not in one case as well as in another case? So that, at this rate, a treaty of amity would mean, a thing whereby one nation is inveigled into the arms of another, for the purpose of that other doing it all the mischief in its power. This writer chooses to begin with what he calls the insult given to the American flag; he talks about the right of searching American flag-ships for deserters, just as if nothing previous had occurred. If it had suited him to notice, that, by taking the deserters on board, the Americans had committed an act of hostility against us, his conclusion, or, at least, the conclusion of his readers, must have been very different from that which he has drawn.—If, indeed, the deserters were not British subjects, but really Americans born; if this was proved to the reasonable satisfaction of our minister in America, or to our commander upon station, that alters the case; but, if that proof was not given, and, it is my decided opinion, that it will appear that it was not given, Admiral Berkeley, in giving orders for the search, and Captain Humphreys in so manfully executing those orders, deserve the praises of their country.

But, Gentlemen, I contend for the right of searching for deserters, upon the general principle, that the seas are the dominion of those who are able to maintain a mastery over all that swims upon them. The waters, within cannon shot, of a coast, are held, by civilians, to belong to those who dwell upon the coast. But, what right have they to the exclusive use and enjoyment of these, any more than we have to the dominion of the whole of the seas, when we are able to maintain a superiority of force?—The writer before us, has said a great deal about equity and equal justice and equal liberty. But, with submission, I must express my belief, that he has not taken time, duly to discriminate between the rights and liberties of individuals and the rights and liberties of nations. Individuals enter into a compact, express or tacit, to enjoy each of them such and such rights and liberties; or, rather, they all consent to surrender a part of their liberties; to put their natural rights into a common stock, whence, in well regulated states, each draws an equal share and enjoys it upon conditions common to all. But, it is impossible, that any such compact should exist amongst nations, who have no common stock of rights or liberties, who have no common government, who have no general head, who acknowledge no sovereign, who appeal to no arbiter but the sword, and with whom

conflict confers the best possible right of dominion. But, while this last mentioned right, with respect to the land is regarded as indubitable by all the Dutch and German and French writers upon what is called the law of nations, they all seem to deny, that there can be any rightful dominion upon the waters; except, indeed, as I have before mentioned, as far out from the shore as a cannon ball will reach; which, you will observe, amounts exactly to this, that they have a right to shoot at us, whenever we go within cannon shot of their shores without their permission, but that we can by no means obtain any right of dominion in the other waters where they want to go. It is a favourite doctrine, in America, that the sea is the high way of nations; but, why is it so any more than the land? I can see no other reason than this: that, because upon the land, nations are able to prevent their country from being common to all; and, if we are able to prevent this upon the sea, is not our right quite as good as theirs? This writer says, that if the right of searching for deserters, be once admitted, it will follow, as a natural consequence, that the Americans will possess an equal right of searching our ships upon the same pretence; "and shall we argue, that we have the superiority; and call this equal justice?" No; we will not mind the equal; but we will call it justice; because, we will say, "you sail upon these seas only by our permission, only by our forbearance and indulgence; and, as to the question of moral justice, while the exercise of the right of search is not at all necessary to your existence, it is absolutely necessary to ours." This, be assured, gentlemen, is the doctrine we must now maintain at the cannon's mouth, if our enemies, no matter how they have been stirred up, shall refuse to listen to any other voice.

"Americans," says this writer, "Frenchmen, and all others, have an equal right to liberty with Englishmen; and it is high time despotism was banished from the world." With all my heart. But, what has this to do with the right of search, or with dominion upon the seas? I want not to take away any of the liberties of the Americans, I only want to see my country assert her rights of dominion, where she has dominion; and, if this writer will have it to be a question of liberty or of despotism, where has he found a justification for the distinction, which, in imitation of the Morning Chronicle, he makes between American merchantships and American ships of war? Is not liberty violated in the searching of the former as well as in the searching of the latter?

Gentlemen, the notions of universal equality, upon which this writer proceeds, are chimerical, and never can be brought into practice, as long as it shall please God to continue the world divided into nations and tongues. They are, too, unichievous as well as chimerical; because they lead to a laxity of feelings towards one's own country, which, upon every account, we are as much bound to prefer before all other countries, as we are bound to prefer our own brethren before all the rest of our countrymen. Guard your hearts, too, I beseech you, against abetting the cause of the Americans, or any other nation, upon the ground of their being friends to liberty; for, be assured, that, if they could destroy the navy of England they would; and, though it is possible that they might love liberty themselves, if they could get it, they would not stir one inch to save us from dungeons and chains; but, on the contrary, when they saw us manacled, would laugh at our folly. This tender feeling, Gentlemen, for the interests and honour of foreign nations, is a feeling of modern date in the English patriot's breast.

There are some other important points, upon which I shall, in my next letter, trouble you with some observations, such, for instance, as the danger, which this writer apprehends, from the closing of the American ports against us, in which he happens most harmoniously to coincide in expression with those whom I hope, be most desirous. The character of the Americans, too, and especially that of their sea-faring people, he has adventurously taken upon him to vindicate. The probable number of our seamen on board of American ships I shall be able to state with a little more accuracy than he has done. In the meanwhile, suffer me to exhort you, not to let your resentment against our calumniators carry you one inch towards an indifference with respect to the fate of our country from without; for, be assured, that, if a conqueror were to take possession of it, we should be the principal sufferers, and not they, who would readily enlist in his service, and who would be gladly received, as ready-made instruments in his work of rapacity and plunder.

I am, Gentlemen, Your faithful friend, and obedient servant, WM. COBBETT.
Boley, 13th Aug. 1807.

(From the 2d Letter.)
The writer of the Independent Whig, whose talents and whose undaunted courage is quite worthy of all the admiration they have excited, is, notwithstanding his talents, mistaken, as he very well may be; with respect to what he calls the impolicy of the conduct of our commanders upon the American station. He says, that it is absurd to apprehend any serious injury to our maritime power from permitting the Americans to inveigle away and detain our seamen; and, he asserts, that, for one British sailor that there is on board the ships of America, there are fifty Americans, and others, on board of British ships. This is an assertion calculated to give us a higher opinion of this writer's boldness than of his information upon the subject on which he is writing; for, the seamen on board the American ships amount to about 70,000, and, upon divers occasions, when I was in America, it was stated, and generally acknowledged, that one fourth part of the seamen on board of American ships, were subjects born of this country; and, as to foreigners on board of our ships, the number is comparatively trifling, and must be so, because our officers have so great a dislike to them. It is hinted, that desertion from our ships might be prevented by availing to impress men on board, and by treating the seamen better when on board. Now, though, upon any of the principles of a free government, the impressing of seamen cannot be fully defended, still it is a thing which has always existed in England; and, it follows, of course, that, when a man, or boy, first enters a coal or any other merchant ship, he is well aware of the condition, namely, that when the greater service of the country requires him, he is liable to be taken into that service. When a practice has existed for so many ages, under all descriptions of kings and queens, and under all political revolutions, it requires much thought upon the matter before it be held up to public execration. I will draw no comparison between the impressing of seamen and the ballot for the militia, the latter being evidently partial in the last degree; but, those who are the most strenuous advocates for the liberties of the people, are ready to acknowledge, and, indeed, to insist, that every landman, capable of bearing arms, is, and ought to be, liable to be called forth in defence of the country, if need require; and, if this be just, what injustice is there in calling forth seamen, in cases of similar need? Nor will it, I think, be objected, that, in the latter case, the call operates partially; it applies to all seamen; and, observe, that, from all calls in defence by land, seamen are exempted; to which may be added this circumstance, that seamen, when impressed, are not taken from their homes, and put into a new and strange state of life; but are taken from one ship to be put into another, have the same sort of labour to perform, and the same sort of life to lead; whereas the landman, called forth to bear arms, is taken from his home and his business, is exposed to hardships unfamiliar to him, and returns, in all probability, injured in his mind, body, or estate. As to the treatment of our sailors when on board, my belief is, that much improvement might be made; but, Gentlemen, be you assured, that, as long as confinement shall be irksome to man; as long as change of scene shall be delightful to him; as long as a hankering after recreation and an indulgence of his desires shall form the leading propensities of his mind, so long will seamen, to whatever country belonging, and however treated while on board, continue, occasionally, to desert, and especially when they can do it with certain impunity. Numerous, therefore, as the ships of America are; met with as they are in all the ports of the world, how could we possibly keep our seamen, unless we maintained and exercised the right of searching for them? Their we might have in return; but, theirs we do not want. We want to keep our own; we want to avoid confusion, a mixture of nations. Ships of war, indeed, the Americans have not many; but, if we admit the principle, that the national flag is to cover every thing, I will warrant it, that we shall soon see enough of the American national flags; and, as I before stated, we should see our own seamen, collected by the Americans, transferred to the service of France, by whom special care would be taken, that they should not again desert. This would, unquestionably, be the greatest evil that we could possibly experience; and this evil, unless we submitted to all the demands of America, however extravagant in themselves and however insolently urged, we should very soon have to encounter.

But, Gentlemen, this writer, feels, or, at least, he expresses, great alarm, lest the Americans should shut their ports against our goods, in which feeling he has for rivals those disinterested patriots and profound politicians, the merchants trading with America, whose Proclamation I will here insert for your perusal. It is dated from the American "CHAMBER OF COMMERCE" at Liverpool, August 11th, 1807. "At a general and very numerous meeting of the members of this association held this day, it was resolved unanimously, that the following circular letter, prefixed by this resolution, be printed, and that the vice-president (in the absence of the president) be requested to sign the same, on behalf of the American Chamber of Commerce in Liverpool, and to transmit a copy thereof to Philip Sanson, Esq. Chairman of the Committee of American Merchants in London.—Resolved, that

the
mitt
in C
" (C
" Com
" fider
" twee
" essen
" lair
" wish
" tim
" perio
" gow
" kno
" State
" wing
" can
" brif
" the
" sequ
" be co
" bet
" greif
" clun
" unju
" auth
" of th
" the
" to re
" pom
" sh. u
" then
" of G
" I ha
" Now
" Society,
" go-0
" though
" no ma
" Society
" and per
" b. ter
" Society
" greatly
" hanged
" ease in
" But,
" rival of
" sed by
" Americ
" Gent
" which
" of Engl
" bour, a
" that in
" this cl
" and of
" cloth;
" if they
" of the I
" and;
" cloth m
" Gent
" our clo
" would
" the cor
" be that
" would
" * T
" Americ
" dent an
" His
" Tharp
" ting a
" The
" tion of
" Provin
" The
" be con
" message
" tain; n
" ly rail
" service
" expect
" Off
" years
" of Ton
" rable to
" be con
" of the
" N. Yo
" he so
" fation,
" Lou
" ences b
" the se
" Two
" defect
" it coul
" defect
" gress
" Col
" in Eu
" will l
" the U
" money
" it will
" have b
" cessar
" subjec

the secretary do also furnish the several members of this association with copies, to be transmitted, as they in their discretion may deem expedient, to their respective correspondents in Great Britain and Ireland.

(CIRCULAR.)—Sir,—A Meeting of the Members of the American Chamber of Commerce, at this port, has been convened this day, for the purpose of taking into consideration the present serious and critical state of affairs, as relating to the intercourse between the British Empire and the United States of America.—When it is considered how essentially the vital interests of both the countries are concerned in a maintenance of the relations of amity and commerce, and particularly at the present juncture, it must be the wish of every sincere friend to his country, whether Briton or American, that these relations should not be interrupted, unless such interruption be rendered inevitable by some imperious and irresistible necessity, arising from that regard which it is incumbent on every country to pay to its honour and its interest.—If the manufacturers and merchants of this kingdom shall be convinced that the conduct of the British government towards the United States of America has been and continues, such as becomes a government desirous of preferring the relations of peace and amity; and if it should now be found that these relations cannot longer be preserved, without compromising the honour, and thereby sacrificing the best interests of the British Empire, it is hoped there are no sacrifices or privations to which the manufacturers and merchants will not cheerfully submit, in order to prevent such consequences.—If, on the contrary, the manufacturers and merchants of this kingdom shall be convinced that the intercourse, which has now subsisted for more than twenty years, between the British Empire and the United States of America, with so many, and such progressively increasing advantages to each, is in danger of being interrupted by an assertion of claims, incompatible with a due regard to the EQUAL RIGHTS of both countries, or by unjust conduct on the part either of the British government, or of any persons acting under its authority, it then becomes a duty to exercise that invaluable privilege, —the essential bulwark of the British constitution,—of respectfully making such representations to the government as the circumstances of the case may require.—And as these circumstances may be such as to render it highly important that the persons making such representations should act with promptness, and in concert;—I am requested to inform you that, if such circumstances should arise, the Members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Liverpool hold themselves in readiness to correspond and co-operate with the manufacturers and merchants of Great Britain and Ireland, for the attainment of the important objects herein-mentioned. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant.—JOHN RICHARDSON, Vice President.

Now, Gentlemen, though I do not deny, that Mr. John Richardson and the Corresponding Society, of which he is Vice-President, have a perfect right to assemble and to invite others to co-operate with them in order to act with promptitude; yet, in endeavouring to obtain, though contrary to the will of government, the objects which they have in view; though I by no means deny them this right, I greatly fear, that, if you were to form a Corresponding Society, for the purpose of effecting, by promptness and concert, an abolition of useless places and pensions, and for a restoration of the act passed in the reign of King William III. for the better securing of the rights and liberties of people; if you were to form a Corresponding Society for this purpose, and were to do me the honour to make me Vice-President of it, I greatly fear, that John Richardson and his Society would, to a man, vote for my being hanged, and your being transported; and yet, it is, I think, evident, that our right, in the case supposed, would be as clear as that of the Chamber of Commerce now is.

But, leaving this sort of all aristocracies to enjoy its day, and waiting patiently for the arrival of our day, let us examine a little, Gentlemen, into the grounds of the alarm, expressed by the Independent Whig and the Chamber of Commerce, at the probability of seeing the American ports shut against our goods.

Gentlemen, part of the wool (one article is enough, for the same reasoning applies to all), which grows upon the backs of sheep, which feed upon the grass, which grows upon the land of England, is made into cloth of various denominations, which cloth is made by English labour, and is afterwards sent to clothe the Americans. Now, does it appear to you, that it would do us any great injury, if the Americans were to refuse to wear this cloth; if they were to refuse to receive the benefit of so much of the produce of the soil and of the labour of our country? They must go naked and absolutely perish without this cloth; but, that I lay aside, for the present, as of no account. What injury would it do us, if they were to be able to prevent our wools from entering their ports? Why, my assistant of the Independent Whig, will say, perhaps, that such prevention would be the ruin of thousands; that it would break up our cloth manufactures, and produce starvation amongst the cloth makers. This sweeping way of describing is always resorted to in such cases; but, Gentlemen, though we actually clothe the Americans, they do not take off one tenth part of our cloth. And, supposing it possible for them effectually to put a stop to this outlet, how would it injure us? The consequence would be, that cloth would be cheaper in England; and the consequence of that would be, that wool would be cheaper; the consequence of that would be, that sheep would be less valuable; the consequence of that would be, that less of them would be raised. But, the feed which now goes to the keeping of part of our sheep, would go

* This Proclamation, as Mr. Cobbett calls it, affords a striking contrast between English and American liberty. If the British merchants in America had adopted a similar proceeding the president and probably all the members would have been tarred and feathered.

QUEBEC, 19 Nov. 1807.

YORK, October 31, 1807.

His Majesty's pleasure, has been received by the Lieutenant Governor, to suspend Mr. Thorne from the office of Judge in Upper Canada; and measures are to be taken for appointing a Successor.

The Secretary of State has also signified to the Lieutenant Governor his Majesty's approbation of his having suspended Mr. Wyatt from the office of Surveyor General of Lands in this Province.

The New-York papers by yesterday's Mail contain the Message of the President of the United States to Congress, at the opening of the Session. It will be found at full length in this day's Gazette. This message leaves every thing in uncertainty respecting the issue of the present differences with Great Britain; it is however calculated to keep up the animosities against Great Britain, which were so industriously raised by falsehood and clamour, after the affair of the Chesapeake. These animosities can only be of service in the event of a war; and it may reasonably be supposed that the Government of the United States expect or wish it to be believed that they expect such a result.

Of this, we believe the public will agree that the message contains strong evidence. But it also appears that the President of the U. S. has written a letter to Mr. Paine (commonly known by the name of Tom Paine) at New-York, in which it is said that no reasonable expectation can be formed of an amicable termination of our differences with England. It is with regret that we mention this letter as it may be considered as inconsistent with that respect with which the subjects of one country ought always speak of the established authorities of other countries; but the fact is stated in such a positive manner in the N. York Evening Post of the 27th ult. that we have thought it inconsistent with our duty to the public to remain silent. "The letter alluded to," says the Evening Post, "is now in Mr. Paine's possession, dated Oct. 9, 1807, and subscribed with the proper hand of Thomas Jefferson."

London dates of the 14th September have been received at Boston. The adjustment of the differences between Great Britain and America is again reported. Copenhagen had not surrendered on the 4th Sept.

Two of the 44 mutineers of the Jason who rose on their Officers off New-York, for the purpose of defecting to that city, have been hanged at Halifax: Five others condemned to death, were respited. If it could once be established that American ships at sea are asylums, like their Ports, for mutineers and deserters, the United States would have done more to destroy the British Navy than all the maritime powers of Europe after a contest of some hundreds of years duration.

Col. Burr, after having been acquitted twice at Richmond in Virginia, has been committed for a third trial in the State of Ohio. The circumstances which have come out on his trial will give a horrid idea in Europe of the leading political characters in America. Well might Citizen Fauchet exclaim "what will be the old age of this **** if it is thus early decrepid!"

* * * We recommend to the attention of the public the observations on the dispute with the United States, extracted from Cobbett's Political Register. Devoid of some acrimony against the mercantile interest and former administrations in England, we believe it will be found to contain sound doctrine. The DOMINION OF THE SEA which has been purchased by the blood of so many heroes, which is now more than ever necessary to the existence of the British Empire, will always be a rallying word for British subjects of all parties whenever and in whatsoever manner it may be attacked.

to the keeping of something else, and the labour now bestowed upon part of our woollen cloths, would be bestowed upon something else; in all probability upon the land, which always calls for labour, and which never fails to yield a grateful return.

There is, Gentlemen, as it were by preconcert, by regular system, a loud cry, upon all occasions, set up about our loss of commerce. Ways have been made, over and over again, for the sake of commerce; and, when the rights and honour of the nation are to be sacrificed by a peace, the regaining or preserving of commerce is invariably the plea. To hear these merchants and their ignorant partisans talk; one would almost suppose, that, if sincere in their expressions of alarm, they must look upon commerce as the sole source of our food and raiment; and even of the elements which are necessary to man's existence. Commerce, they tell us, is essential to the vital interests of the country. Who would not suppose, that commerce brought us our bread and our water. Gentlemen, to support commerce, the wars in Egypt were undertaken; the wars in India are carried on without ceasing, the war in South America, and in Africa are now undertaken. Oh! What English blood and English labour and English happiness and English honour has not this commerce cost! But, without commerce, how are we to defray the expences of government, and the interest of the national debt? This is a question that every frightened female puts to one; and, really, notwithstanding it is well known that England has been upon the decline of power ever since she became decidedly commercial; and that France has grown in power in the same proportion as her commerce has declined, till, at last, having lost all her commerce, she is become absolute mistress of the whole of the continent of Europe; notwithstanding this, the commercial tribe, have so long and so impudently affirmed, that it is commerce that supports the nation, that it is not to be wondered at, that a man who is foolish enough to have his all in the funds, should be alarmed, lest he should lose dividends with the loss of commerce. The merchant would fain persuade us (perhaps they may really think so) that their goods and their ships pay the greater part of the taxes. "Look, here!" say they, pointing to their imports and exports. "That is very fine, for a few hundreds of them; but what is it to the wools of the nation?" But, say they, "look at the Custom-House duties." Yes; and who pay those duties? It is we, Gentlemen, who pay those duties. The payment comes out of our labour, and from no other source whatever. The people of America have been cajoled by this sort of doctrine. "We pay no taxes," says one of their boasting citizens, "except such as are imposed upon foreign commodities." That is to say, except such as are imposed upon Rum, which is to them what beer is to us; Sugar and Coffee, of which, in part, the breakfast of every human creature in the country is composed; Woollens and Linens and Cottons, without which the people must go naked by day and be frost-bitten by night. But, what is the difference, Gentlemen, whether they pay a tax upon their coats, or whether they pay it upon their candles?

But, Gentlemen, bearing in mind, however, that we pay the custom-house duties, let us see what proportion those duties bear to the whole of the taxes raised upon us. The whole of the taxes, collected last year, amount to about 50 millions; the custom-house duties, exclusive of coals, and goods carried from one part of the kingdom to another, to about 5 millions! Supposing, therefore, that, if we did not pay these 5 millions in this way, we should not possess them, to pay in any other way, if called upon; supposing this, is there here any falling off to be alarmed at? Why, Gentlemen, the Barley alone of England, pays, in malt and in beer, more clear money into the Exchequer than all the shipping and all the foreign commerce put together; and, as to the revenue arising from the trade with America, it is less than what arises from the porter which you drink in the City of Westminster alone. The fact is, Gentlemen, that the means of supporting fleets and armies, the means of meeting all the squanderings that we witness, the means of paying the dividends at the bank, come out of the land of the country and the labour of its people. These are the sources, from which all these means proceed; and all that the merchants, and ministers like merchants, tell us, about the resources of commerce, means merely this; that while we are sweating at every pore to pay the taxes, we ought to believe, that the taxes are paid by others.

I will tell you Gentlemen who would be injured by the shutting of the American ports against our goods. A few great merchants and manufacturers; and observe it well some hundreds of men, and some of these very great men, who have their money in the American funds. These and these alone be you well assured would suffer any serious inconveniences from the shutting of the American ports; and these men are amongst the very worst enemies that the people of England have to themselves.

Nothing is more convenient for the purpose of a squandering jobbing corrupting bribing minister, than a persuasion amongst the people, that it is from the commerce, and not from their labour, that the taxes come; and it has long been a fashionable way of thinking that it is no matter how great the expences are, so that the commerce does but keep pace with them in increase. Nothing can better suit such a minister and his minions than the propagation of opinions like these. But Gentlemen, you have seen the commerce tripled and you have found that your taxes have not been increased? The commerce has been tripled, and you have the parish paupers. Away then! beseech you, with this destructive delusion! See the thing in its true light. Look upon all the taxes as arising out of the land and the labour and distress either the head or the heart of the man who would cajole you with a notion of their arising from any other source.

(To be continued.)

QUEBEC, 19 Nov. 1807.

Les papiers de New York par la maille d'hier contiennent le message du Président des Etats Unis au congrès, à l'ouverture de la Session. On le trouvera en entier dans la Gazette d'aujourd'hui. Ce message laisse tout dans l'incertitude quant à l'issue des différends actuels avec la Grande Bretagne; cependant il est calculé de manière à entretenir les animosités contre la Grande Bretagne, qui ont été créées avec tant d'industrie par le mensonge et la clameur, après l'affaire de la Chesapeake. Ces animosités ne peuvent être utiles que dans l'événement d'une guerre; et on peut supposer raisonnablement que le gouvernement des Etats Unis s'attend ou désire qu'on croie qu'il attend un semblable résultat.

Nous sommes portés à croire que le public conviendra que le message contient un fort témoignage de cet avis. Mais il paraît aussi que le Président des Etats-Unis a écrit une lettre à Mr. Paine, (vulgairement connu sous le nom de Tom Paine,) à New-York, dans laquelle il est dit "qu'on ne peut raisonnablement espérer de voir se terminer à l'amiable nos différends avec l'Angleterre." C'est avec regret que nous faisons mention de cette lettre, par ce qu'elle peut être considérée comme incompatible avec ce respect avec lequel les sujets d'un pays doivent toujours parler des autorités établies des autres pays; mais le fait est cité d'une manière si positive dans le New-York Evening Post du 27 du mois dernier, que nous aurions cru manquer à notre devoir envers le public de garder le silence. "La lettre en question," dit l'Evening Post, "est maintenant en la possession de Mr. Paine, en date du 9 Octobre, 1807, et signée de la main propre de Thomas Jefferson."

On a reçu à Boston les dates de Londres du 14 Septembre. On fait circuler la nouvelle de l'ajustement des différends entre la Grande Bretagne et les Etats-Unis. Copenhague ne s'étoit point rendu le 4 Septembre.

Deux des 44 séditieux du Jason, qui se soulevèrent contre leurs officiers à la hauteur de New-York, à l'effet de defecter à cette ville, ont été pendus à Halifax: cinq autres condamnés à mort ont obtenu un respit. Si on pouvoit une fois établir que les vaisseaux américains en mer sont aussi bien un asile que dans leurs ports, pour les mutins et les defecteurs, les Etats-Unis seroient plus fait pour détruire la marine Britannique, que toutes les puissances maritimes de l'Europe après un lutte de quelques siècles de durée.

Le Col. Burr ayant été acquitté deux fois à Richmond dans la Virginie, a été commis pour subir un troisième procès dans l'Etat d'Ohio. Les circonstances qui ont paru au jour dans son procès, donneront en Europe une idée horrible des caractères politiques qui dominent en Amérique. C'est avec raison que le citoyen Fauchet s'écrioit quelle sera la vieillesse de ce **** s'il est ainsi décrépité dans sa jeunesse!

* * * Nous recommandons à l'attention du Public les observations sur la dispute avec les Etats Unis, extraites du Register Politique de Cobbett. Depouillées d'un peu d'aigreur contre l'intérêt mercantile et les administrations précédentes en Angleterre, nous croyons qu'on les trouvera contenir une saine Doctrine. L'Empire des mers qui a été acheté avec le sang d'un si grand nombre de Héros, et qui est maintenant plus que jamais nécessaire à l'existence de l'Empire Britannique, sera toujours le mot de ralliement pour les sujets Britanniques de toutes les parties, toutefois et en quelque manière qu'il puisse être attaqué.

WASHINGTON CITY, Oct. 27.

This day at 12 o'clock, the President of the United States communicated, by Mr. Coles, his Secretary, the following Message to both Houses of Congress.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

Circumstances fellow-citizens, which seriously threatened the peace of our country have made it a duty to convene you at an earlier period than usual. The love of peace so much cherished in the bosom of our citizens, which had so long guided the proceedings of their public councils, and induced forbearance under so many wrongs, may not ensure our continuance in the quiet pursuits of industry. The many injuries and depredations committed on our commerce and navigation upon the high seas, for years past, the successive innovations on those principles of public law, which have been established by the reason and usage of nations, as the rule of their intercourse, and the empire and security of their rights and peace, and all the circumstances which induced the extraordinary mission to London, are already known to you. The instructions given to our ministers were framed in the sincerest spirit of amity and moderation. They accordingly proceeded, in conformity therewith, to propose arrangements which might embrace and settle all the points in difference between us, which might bring us to a mutual understanding on our neutral and national rights, and provide for a commercial intercourse on conditions of some equality. After long and fruitless endeavours to effect the purposes of their mission, and to obtain arrangements within the limits of their instructions, they concluded to sign such as could be obtained, and send them for consideration, candidly declaring to the other negotiators, that they were acting against their instructions, and that their government therefore could not be pledged for ratification. Some of the articles proposed might have been admitted on a principle of compromise, but others were too highly disadvantageous, and no sufficient provision was made against the principal source of the irritations and collisions which were constantly endangering the peace of the two nations. The question therefore whether a treaty should be accepted in that form, could have admitted but of one decision, even had no declaration of the other party impaired our confidence in it. Still anxious not to close the door against friendly adjustment, new modifications were framed, and further concessions authorized, than could before have been supposed necessary, and our ministers were instructed to resume their negotiations on those grounds.

On this new reference to amicable discussion, we were reposing in confidence, when on the 22d day of June last, by a formal order from a British admiral, the frigate Chesapeake, leaving her port for a distant service, was attacked by one of those vessels which had been lying in our harbors under the indulgences of hospitality, was disabled from proceeding, had several of her crew killed, and four taken away. On this outrage no commentaries are necessary. Its character has been pronounced by the indignant voice of our citizens with an emphasis and unanimity never exceeded. I immediately by Proclamation, interdicted our harbors and waters to all British armed vessels, forbade intercourse with them, and uncertain how far hostilities were intended, and the town of Norfolk indeed being threatened with immediate attack, a sufficient force was ordered for the protection of that place, and such other preparations commenced and pursued as the prospect rendered proper. An armed vessel of the United States was dispatched with instructions to our ministers at London, to call on that government for the satisfaction and security required by the outrage. A very short interval ought now to bring the answer, which shall be communicated to you as soon as received: then also, or as soon after as the public interests shall be found to admit, the unratified treaty, and proceedings relative to it, shall be made known to you.

The aggression thus begun, has been continued on the part of the British Commanders, by remaining within our waters in defiance of the authority of the country, by habitual violations of its jurisdiction, and at length by putting to death one of the persons whom they had forcibly taken from on board the Chesapeake. These aggravations necessarily lead to the policy either of never admitting an armed vessel into our harbors, or of maintaining in every harbor such an armed force as may constrain obedience to the laws, and protect the lives and property of our citizens against their armed guests; but the expense of such a standing force, and its inconsistency with our principles, dispense with those courtesies which would necessarily call for it, and leave us equally free to exclude the navy, as we are the army of a foreign power, from entering our limits.

To former violations of maritime rights, another is now added of very extensive effect. The government of that nation has issued an order interdicting all trade by neutrals between ports not in amity with them, and being now at war with nearly every nation on the Atlantic and Mediterranean seas, our vessels are required to sacrifice their cargoes at the first port they touch, or to return home without the benefit of going to any other market. Under this new law of the ocean, our trade on the Mediterranean has been swept away by seizures and condemnations, and that in other seas is threatened with the same fate.

Our differences with Spain remain still unsettled, no measure having been taken on her part, since my last communications to congress, to bring them to a close. But under a state of things, which may favour reconsideration, they have been recently pressed, and an expectation is entertained they may now soon be brought to an issue of some sort. With their subjects on our borders, no new collisions have taken place, nor seem immediately to be apprehended. To our former grounds of complaint has been added a very serious one as you will see by the decree, a copy of which is now communicated. Whether this decree, which professes to be conformable to that of the French government of Nov. 21, 1806, heretofore communicated to congress, will also be conformed to that in its construction and application in relation to the United States had not been ascertained at the date of our last communications. These, however, gave reason to expect such a conformity.

With the other nations of Europe our harmony has been uninterrupted, and commerce and friendly intercourse have been maintained on their usual footing.

Our peace with the several states on the coast of Barbary appears as firm as at any former period, and as likely to continue as that of any other nation.

Among our Indian neighbours, in the north western quarter, some fermentation was observed soon after the late occurrences threatening the continuance of our peace. Messages were said to be interchanged, and tokens to be passing, which usually denotes a state of restlessness among them, and the character of the agitators pointed to the sources of excitement.

BY AUCTION,

Will be sold, on Friday next, the 20th inst, at Jones and White's Auction Room.

AN extensive assortment of Dry Goods, Groceries and Liquors, as particularised in handbills, with two bales deer skins.—ALSO for account of the Underwriters or others concerned,

Two pieces, 15 inch cable together about 100 fathoms long, an anchor about 15 cwt. a buoy and rope, belonging to the Ship Hope, Capt. Hinds. The anchor and one piece of the cable may be viewed previous to the sale, on Mr. Munn's ground at l'Ance des Meres, and the other piece of cable on board the ship Hope at Mr. Morrough's Wharf.

Quebec, 18th Nov. 1807.

BY AUCTION,

Will be sold, on next Saturday at noon, the 21st inst. at the Subscriber's Rooms,

THE Schooner ANGELIQUE, burthen 47 tons, as she now lies in the Cul-de-sac, with her anchors, cables and other materials as per inventory. And afterwards an assortment of Dry Goods, Groceries, Carpeting and Hardware, Sugar and 3 hhd's. Benicarlo wine, by JOHN JONES, Auc. & Brok.

Quebec, 18th Nov. 1807.

FOR SALE BY JOHN PAINTER.

MADEIRA, Pico, Fayal and Sherry Wine.

ALSO,

French Brandy of the first quality.

Quebec, 18th Nov. 1807.

Measures were immediately taken for providing against that danger; instructions were given to require explanations, and, with assurances of our continued friendship; to admonish the tribes to remain quiet at home, taking no part in quarrels not belonging to them. As far as we are yet informed, the tribes in our vicinity, who are most advanced in the pursuits of industry, are sincerely disposed to adhere to their friendship with us, and to their peace with all others.—While those remote, do not present appearances sufficiently quiet to justify the intermission of military precaution on our part.

The great tribes on our south western quarter much advanced beyond the others in agriculture and household arts, appear tranquil and indentifying their views with ours in proportion to their advancement. With the whole of these people in every quarter, I shall continue to inculcate peace and friendship with all their neighbours, and perseverance in those occupations and pursuits which will best promote their own well being.

The appropriations of the last session, for the defence of our seaport towns and harbours, were made under expectation, that a continuation of our peace would permit us to proceed in that work according to our convenience.—It has been thought better to apply the sums then given towards the defence of New-York, Charlestown, and New-Orleans, chiefly, as most open and most likely first to need protection, and to leave places less immediately in danger to the provisions of the present session.

The gun boats too already provided, have on a like principle, been chiefly assigned to New-York, New Orleans, and the Chesapeake. Whether our movable force on the water, so material in aid of the defensive works on the land, should be augmented in this or any other form, is left to the wisdom of the legislature. For the purpose of manning the vessels, in sudden attack on our harbours, it is a matter for consideration whether the seamen of the United States may not justly be formed into a special militia, to be called on for tours of duty, in defence of the harbours where they shall happen to be, the ordinary militia of the place furnishing that portion which may consist of landmen.

The moment our peace was threatened, I deemed it indispensable to secure a greater provision of those articles of military stores with which our magazines were not sufficiently furnished; to have awaited a previous and special sanction by law would have lost occasions which might not be retrieved. I did not hesitate, therefore, to authorize engagements for such supplements to our existing stock, as would render it adequate to the emergencies threatening us; and I trust that the legislature, feeling the same anxiety for the safety of our country, so materially advanced by this precaution, will approve when done, what they would have seen so important to be done, if then assembled. Expenses, also unprovided for, arose out of the necessity of calling all our gun-boats into actual service, for the defence of our harbours, of all which accounts will be laid before you.

Whether a regular army is to be raised and to what extent, must depend on the information so shortly expected. In the mean time, I have called on the states for quotas of militia to be in readiness for present defence; and have, moreover, encouraged the acceptance of volunteers, and I am happy to inform you, that these have offered themselves with great alacrity in every part of the union; they are ordered to be organized, and ready at a moment's warning, to proceed on any service to which they may be called, and every preparation within the executive powers, has been made to ensure us the benefit of early exertions.

I informed Congress, at their last session, of the enterprises against the public peace, which were believed to be in preparation by Aaron Burr and his associates, of the measures taken to defeat them, and to bring the offenders to justice. Their enterprises were happily defeated, by the fidelity of the army, and energy of the commander in chief, in promptly arranging the difficulties presenting themselves on the Sabine, repairing to meet those arising on the Mississippi, and dissipating before their explosion the plots engendered there: I shall think it my duty to lay before you, the proceedings, and the evidence publicly exhibited on the arraignment of the principal offenders before the District Court of Virginia. You will be enabled to judge whether the defect was in the testimony, in the law, or in the administration of the law; and wherever it shall be found, the Legislature alone can apply or originate the remedy. The framers of our constitution certainly supposed they had guarded as well their government against destruction by treason, as their citizens against oppression under pretence of it; and if these ends are not attained, it is of importance to enquire by what means more effectually, they may be secured.

The accounts of the receipts of revenue during the year ending on the thirtieth day of September last, being not yet made up; a correct statement will be hereafter transmitted from the Treasury. In the mean time it is ascertained that the receipts, have amounted to near sixteen millions of dollars; which, with the five millions and a half in the Treasury at the beginning of the year, have enabled us, after meeting the current demands and interest incurred, to pay more than four millions of the principle of our funded debt. These payments with those of the preceding five and a half years, have extinguished of the funded debt, twenty-five million and a half of dollars, being the whole which could be paid or purchased within the limits of the law, and of our contracts, and have left us in the treasury eight millions and an half of dollars. A portion of this sum, may be considered as a commencement of accumulation of the surpluses of revenue, which, after paying the instalments of debt, as they shall become payable, will remain without any specific object. It may partly be applied towards completing the defence of the exposed points of our country, on such a scale as shall be adapted to our principles and circumstances.

This object is doubtless among the first entitled to attention in such a state of our finances, and it is one which, whether we have peace or war, will provide security where it is due. Whether what shall remain of this, with the future surpluses, may be usefully applied to purposes already authorized, or more usefully to others requiring new authorities, or how otherwise they shall be disposed of, are questions calling for the notice of congress: unless indeed they shall be superseded by a change in our public relations, now awaiting the determination of others. Whatever be that determination, it is a great consolation that it will become known at a moment when the supreme council of the nation is assembled at its post, and ready to give the aids of its wisdom and authority to what ever course the good of our country shall then call us to pursue.

Matters of minor importance will be the subjects of future communications; and nothing shall be wanting on my part which may give information or dispatch to the proceedings of the legislature in the exercise of their high duties, and at a moment so interesting to the public welfare.

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 1807.

TH: JEFFERSON.

A VENDRE PAR ENCAN

Vendredi prochain, le 20 de ce mois, à la Chambre d'encan de Jones & White.

UN assortiment considérable de marchandises seches, d'épiceries et de liqueurs, tel que détaillé dans des affiches, avec deux bales de peaux, aulii, pour le Compte des assureurs, et autres intéressés—Deux morceaux de cable de 15 pouces, formant ensemble environ 100 bialles de longueur, une ancre d'environ 15 quintaux, une bouée et cable appartenants au Navire Hope, Capit. Hinds. On pourra voir l'ancre et le morceau de cable avant la vente sur le terrain de Mr. Munn à l'Ance des Meres, et l'autre morceau de cable à bord du Navire Hope, au quat de Mr. Morrough.

La vente commencera à une heure.

Quebec, 18 Novembre, 1807.

PAR ENCAN SERA VENDU.

Samedi prochain, à midi, le 21e du courant, aux Chambres du Souffigné.

LA Goëlette ANGLIQUE du port de 47 tonneaux, telle qu'elle est actuellement dans le Cul-de-sac, avec ses ancres, cables et autres matériaux comme l'on pourra voir par l'inventaire. Et ensuite un assortiment de Marchandises Seches, Epiceries, Tapis, Coutell rie, Sucre et 3 barriques de Vin de Benicarlo, par JOHN JONES, Enc. & Court. Québec, 18e Nov. 1807.

LE SOUSSIGNE' informe respectueusement le Public qu'il a reçu la commission de Notaire le 24 Octobre dernier, et qu'il est maintenant résidant au Chateau Riché. Il espere que la ponctualité à ses devoirs lui attirera la confiance de ceux qui voudront bien se servir de lui.

Quebec, 19e Nov. 1807.

LOUIS BERNIER.