year, that this department could not wait until the other departments had been served? The truth was, that the civil list appropriation had been the only one unnecessarily delayed, and that delay had not arisen in this House. Had they heard any complaints relative to the war department? Had it made a demand of 60 or 70 per cent. on the regular appropriation—while this department was swallowing up money faster than they could provide it. He had heard it insinuated out of doors that there existed a disposition to distress this department. If there had been such a disposition, was it not in the power of any member to call up the bill? He appealed to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, if he had not asked him to call it up in his absence, and if he had not replied, that he would as soon as he could get the floor.

Mr. R. NELSON said the gentleman from Virginia had grossly misunderstood him. When he said this bill had been unusually delayed, he had had no disposition to insinuate that it had been designedly delayed, nor had he meant any reflection on the committee of Ways and Means, or on the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. D. R. WILLIAMS said his object was to get information. He hoped the demand of the House to give the general items would be complied with. He wanted no details—all he wished was a statement of general items.

Mr. R. NELSON remarked that such a statement could be of no use. The contingent fund of the navy embraced articles the extent of which could not be calculated with any precision—it could only be founded on past expenditures—it was known that the last year there was an expenditure of 600,000 dollars beyond the sum appropriated. The whole expences of the navy could not be calculated at the beginning of the year with certainty—particularly when our affairs were unsettled in the Mediterranean. During the last year 300 of our captive seamen had been liberated—and to each seaman arrearage wages had been paid to the amount of four or five hundred dollars. In consequence of this and other circumstances he presumed that neither the Secretary of the navy, or any other mortal man, could have known the expenditure at the beginning of the year. He did not pretend to say there was all the economy in the navy there ought to be—but if they got any information, it could only be a statement of what had been laid out in particular years.

Mr. J. RANDOLPH said he would state a fact, to enable gentlemen to ascertain whether there had been any extraordinary delay on this occasion. Such an insinuation had been thrown out—and this was the place where any insinuation of this kind ought to be made and met; and not at the fire sides or in the newspapers. By recurrence to the journals it would appear that in the first year he had had a seat in the House the act making an appropriation for the navy had been passed on the 10th of May; and that in the first year he had had the honor of being on the committee of Ways and Means, the bill making navy appropriations had passed on the 1st of May. He said he had not had time to turn to the journal of other sessions. But the truth was a spendthrift never could be supplied with money fast enough to anticipate his wants.

The motion to read the bill a third time on Saturday was carried—Ayes 55—when the following motion, made by Mr. D. R. Williams, was agreed to without a division.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the navy be directed to lay before this House an estimate of the respective sums necessary to be appropriated for repair of vessels, store rent, pay of armourers, freight, and contingent expences of the navy for the year 1806.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12.

The bill making appropriations for the support of the navy was read a third time.

Mr. J. C. SMITH moved to recommit it for the purpose of restoring the provision for completing the marine barracks at the city of Washington—the amount of expence attending which he understood had been already partly expended.

Mr. CONRAD hoped the bill would not be recommitted, as he believed the provision unnecessary, and as it had been struck out by a large majority.

Mr. J. C. SMITH said he presumed if the expence was already incurred, the House would not object to providing for it.

Mr. QUINCY said he had received like information. He had not conversed with the chairman of the committee of Ways and Means on the subject; but he had with other members of the committee, and had found them all of opinion that this item ought to be restored. He understood that a part of the sum had been already expended.

The motion to recommit the bill having obtained—Ayes 54—the House went into a committee of the whole—Mr. J. C. SMITH in the chair.

Mr. J. CLAY observed that since the House had agreed to strike out the provision for completing the barracks, he had understood that more money had been applied to this purpose than had been appropriated, and that it had been drawn from the private funds of one of the officers, under an understanding with the head of the department. He therefore moved to restore the item "for completing the marine barracks at the city of Washington, 3,500 dollars.."

Mr. D. R. WILLIAMS said he should not make any objection to this motion. He would only call the attention of the House to the regard they had heretofore manifested to specific appropriations, under the hope that something would be done to circumscribe contingencies. He believed that this particular sum had been expended much to the interest of the country.

Mr. LEIB said he was not very fond of making appropriations in this way—for particular officers to run into unauthorised expenditures and then to call on Congress to make good the deficiency—Is this a provision for completing the House for the Commandant? Is that the Marine Barracks? If not, then under what appropriation is it made? Is it under that of contingencies? Look at the buildings at the Navy Yard? Is all this expence incurred out of the contingent fund? If it is not, it is not authorised by law. Mr. L. said he did not know that he should make any objection to this item; but he thought it full time to check this loose mode of procedure.

Mr. R. NELSON said he did not understand the force of the reasoning of the gentleman from South Carolina and Pennsylvania. Both made a great show of liberality, by saying they would not oppose this particular appropriation, at the same time that they condemned the course of proceeding, and represented the country as crying aloud at this kind of expenditure before an appropriation was made by law to cover it. He believed, however, that it was almost next to impossible that the money should be misapplied. The estimates were made—the money appropriated—and when, in the application of it, either from the rise of materials, or other unexpected circumstances, they found a particular object unfinished, was it right to suffer it to be exposed to the weather and not done for the want of a few thousand dollars; & like a young spendthrift, only half build his house and let it fall in ruins? Mr. N. said he should rather suppose the gentleman deserved credit for asking a less sum than was necessary, and trusting to the honor of Congress to supply any deficiency that might arise.

It had been enquired if the expence of this building was not paid out of the contingent fund—Mr. N. said he did did not know how this was. But he did know that a great part of the work had been done by the soldiary; and for that he thought the officer deserved the applause of the House and the public, instead of their censure.

Mr. D. R. WILLIAMS said he had not dropt any such expression as had been intimated. He had felt no censure—he had expressed none. If he had conveyed any opinion of this officer, it was that this sum had been economically expended. He had observed that much noise had been heretofore made about expences incurred before an appropriation for them; and he was much mistaken if the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Nelson) had not assisted in making it.

Mr. DANA said he was in favor of this appropriation. But he believed the gentleman from South Carolina was correct in saying that much noise had heretofore been made about adhering to specific appropriations. He had, however, never had much faith in this doctrine. And as to the navy, especially, he believed the thing was unattainable; and less money was required for general than specific appropriations. He believed, however, that there need not be much talk on this appropriation, when they had recently made an appropriation of two millions of dollars without any specification of the object.

The question was then put, and the motion of Mr. J. Clay agreed to without a division.

Mr. D. R. WILLIAMS said he wished so to modify that part of the bill which appropriated 411,950 dollars "for repair of vessels, store rent, pay of armourers, freight and other contingent expences," as to separate the items, to give the department all it asked; but to fix a particular sum to each item. He held, he said, the report of the secretary of the navy in his hand and if he was disposed to be ill natured, he could make a handle of it. But his opposition was to the system, not to the man; for if he was correctly informed, the motives on which the gentleman went into office were honorable to him. To gain his object he would move to strike out this provision.

Mr. CONRAD opposed the motion, and remarked that the expenditure under one item might fall short of the sum appropriated, which would require that the deficiency should be made up from the surplus of another.

Mr. DANA said this amendment was warranted by the former usage of the House, and the message of the President of the U. S. At the first session of the 7th Congress the President had observed that

"In our care too of the public contributions entrusted to our direction, it would be prudent to multiply barriers against their dissipation by appropriating specific sums to every specific purpose susceptible of definition: by disallowing all applications of money varying from the appropriation in object or transcending it in amount by reducing the undefined field of contingencies, and thereby circumscribing discretionary powers over money."

This opinion had been given five years ago—and they might now infer that it had been found that it could not be conveniently carried into effect as to the military or naval service. Mr. D. said he considered the gentleman from South Carolina as bringing up this question directly before the House—will you adhere to specific appropriations, or will you abandon them. Mr. Dana said he had never been in favor of them in relation to the navy or army.

Mr. R. NELSON said that like the gentleman from South Carolina, he had been very early in favor of specific appropriations. The message which had been read was founded in good sense, and met his approbation; but it had never been intended to apply the recommendations it contained to such a case as this; and it was totally impossible to make the navy efficient if such a specification were to be made. Did the gentleman know how the accounts of the public vessels at a distance were kept? He had gained some information on this point from navy men. The vessels in the Mediterranean were exposed to various expenses. The captain drew a bill on the navy agent in London or at some other place. This was sent to the secretary of the navy, who did not know for what the amount had been expended till the vessel returned to the U. S. when the account was settled. So that it was impossible for them sitting there in Washington, to tell for what the amounts of these bills had been expended. If they appropriated specifically for every object of expenditure, the over sum for each object must lie, although wanted for another object for which a sufficient sum had not been appropriated. Thus much, required to be done, must remain undone—For although money enough might have been appropriated, it could not be got at for the purpose for which it was wanted. This result would be inevitable. Besides, in military affairs, it was impossible to calculate with precision—Ten thousand things might arise which could not be anticipated by any human wisdom. It followed that although an adherence to specific appropriations was highly desirable in all cases where it was practicable, as in meeting civil expenses, yet that for military purposes they must necessarily go on in the old way.

The question was then put on the motion of *Mr. D. R. Williams* which was disagreed to——Ayes 32—Noes 51—when the committee rose, and reported the bill, which was passed without a division.

The following is the report of the Secretary of the Navy, alluded to in the above.

Navy Department,
April 11, 1806.

SIR,

IN compliance with the resolution of the House of Representatives, I herewith transmit to you, to be laid before them, paper A. which specifies the several sums of money, respectively, wanted for repairs of vessels, for store rent, for pay of armourers, for freight, and for contingent expenses of the navy for the year 1806.

The estimate for repairs, as well as for the other items in this statement, is obviously altogether conjectural. Universal experience has ascertained, that practical men, however conversant in naval architecture, can form no precise opinion from any previous survey of a ship requiring repair of consequence, as to the extent and cost of such repair. The sum stated as necessary may not, and I hope will not be wanted. In such case it, of course, will not be expended. But I have deemed it expedient to estimate for the largest sum that I have reason to apprehend in any state of things may be required. This I have done as a measure of precaution, and under an impression that at all times, and especially at a crisis like the present, all the frigates and other vessels of the navy, ought to be completely prepared for service at any moment government may have occasion for them

I am, respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

ROBERT SMITH.

Hon. NATHANIEL MACON, *Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

ESTIMATE

Of the sums necessary to be appropriated for repairs of vessels, store-rent, pay of armourers, freight, and contingent expenses of the navy, for the year 1806, prepared in obedience to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 10th April, 1806.

For repairs of vessel.—This item comprises the expense of procuring the necessary timber, masts, yards, copper, iron, anchors, cables, standing & running rigging, canvas, &c. the making and repairing the necessary boats of a ship water casks, &c. and all the professional and manual labor, required for the purpose of repairing and keeping in repair, all the vessels of whatever description, belonging to the navy of the United States,	303,300
For store rent, in the Mediterranean, the United States, and elsewhere,	3,500
For pay of armourers,	650
For freight.—This item comprises the expense of transporting, in the United States, and from the United States to the Mediterranean, timber, masts, yards, plank, cordage, canvas, powder ball, beef, pork, flour, bread, spirit, molasses, peas, suet, butter, and every other description of articles required, either for the repairs of vessels, or the maintenance of the crews of vessels,	60,000
For contingent expenses.—This item comprises commissions to agents in foreign countries and in the United States, officers' travelling expenses the expense of nautical instruments, chests, books, models, drawings, signals, lanthorns, lamps, oil, fuel, candles, hammocks, trumpets, glass, cisterns, cans, mess kids, buckets, axes, gridirons, tea kettles, shovels, tongs, charcoal, sulphur, saltpetre, fire engines, bread bags, and an infinite variety of other such articles,	45,000
Dollars,	411,950

WASHINGTON CITY.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2.

No paper will be issued on the 4th of July.

The following is a copy of a letter from COMMODORE PREBLE *to the* SECRETARY *of the* NAVY.

PORTLAND, June 17, 1806.

SIR,

BY Lieutenant Jones, of the Navy, I had this day the honor to receive your letter of the 17th ult. accompanying a Gold Medal struck in pursuance of a resolution of Congress of the 3d March, 1805, emblematical of the attacks on the town, batteries and naval forces of Tripoli, by the squadron under my command. You will be pleased to communicate to the President of the United States, that I accept with gratitude this honorable testimony of the approbation of my Country. And I pray you to be assured that I am truly sensible of the very handsome and obliging manner in which it has been presented.

I have the honor to be,
With the highest respect,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant.
EDWARD PREBLE.

Hon. ROBERT SMITH.

THE Anniversary of our existence as a nation again returns, and with it the mingled feelings of joy and regret, which it is so well fitted to excite. The leading event it commemorates is great beyond parralle!. Other nations have been founded on the best principles of wisdom and justice then extant; but no nation, before our own, has been founded on the principles of eternal wisdom and eternal justice, alone to be found in the enjoyment of equal rights. A prince or a priest, surrounded with the terror of arms, has, in every other nation, willed its fate, and rested the success of his will on the strength of his arm. *Here*, for the first time, a nation declared itself free, a nation assumed to itself the supreme power, a nation guarantied to all its citizens the enjoyment of equal rights. This is a theme for joy and felicitation, for honest pride. But, unfortunately, these feelings are not permitted to be unalloyed. As if the author of nature had ordained that pure and unmixed felicity should never be the lot of man, he has, by the association of ideas inseparable from the character of a reflecting being, given us cause for sadness and sorrow in the loss of many of our greatest and best men, of men, whose pens or swords, whose eloquence or virtues, gave splendor and permanency to the day we now celebrate. Yes, they are gone—our best friends are no longer the inhabitants of this orb! A Washington and Franklin lead on to higher scenes, to nobler enjoyments, to purer pleasures, the illustrious band of revolutionary patriots and heroes, whose names will live on the imperishable pages of history, as the founders of principles destined to be eternal in their existence and unbounded in their extension.

The best celebration of such a day is the employment of our minds in forming a proper estimate of our own condition contrasted with that of others. In every situation of life man is too prone to embitter the present moment with indulging an habitual spirit of dissatisfaction at his peculiar lot, in surrounding the situation of others with sunshine, and throwing his own into shade. As happiness is the great end of his existence, it is proper for him to improve every opportunity that offers to excite in his mind a pleasurable train of reflections, or to banish those of a painful complexion.

If then we compare the situation of the United States with that of any other country, if we compare its government with that of any other on earth, if we compare the condition of the private citizen with that of the subject of any foreign power, we shall have abundant reason for gratitude to the Author of Nature, and for considering ourselves as crowned with a pre-eminent share of felicity. There are many among us whose hearts are still in the countries from which they emigrated, whose eyes are here blind to the splendors of a meridian sun, and whose hearts are insensible to the blessings of peace and plenty that surround them. We do not ask such men to sympathise with us in the feelings we indulge on this day. It is scarcely in their power to do so. The chains of habit and prejudice have enslaved them. The charms of nature, and the harmony of a well ordered system have no attractions for them. We call only on them, who prize with us the blessings of liberty, to accompany us in a rapid survey of our situation.

The United States, viewed in its physical relations, is more advantageously situated than any other country on earth. No nation, united by one government, has such extensive limits, in a climate so temperate and fertile, so abundantly supplied by the beneficence of nature with deep and long streams, and so diversified in aspect and rich in the production of whatever administers to subsistence and comfort. There is no species of grain, of any considerable value, that does not grow with luxuriance, and that is not raised in greater abundance than is required by our wants. Every valuable root, useful either to man, or to the domestic animals that surround him, is raised with equal facility. We enumerate among our products, wheat, rye, maize, barley, oats, buckwheat, rice, potatoes, and turnips. Other nations are satisfied with the growth of a few of these articles; we alone produce the whole of them. Besides these our rivers, in connection with the bordering ocean, supply us with inexhaustible stores of the best fish of almost every description.

For raimant, we have an immense production of cotton infinitely transcending our wants; hemp, and flax; and a climate well fitted to the production of wool.

In this list we have a full supply of every necessary of life. Of luxuries & innocent enjoyments nature & art have been equally prodigal. We have the apple, the peach, the plumb, the cherry, the grape, a vast variety of melons, and almost every vegetable valued for its nutritive properties or exquisite taste. We have in addition ample materials for the manufacture of sugar, with the prospect of possessing a country that will completely supply us with coffee. Besides the articles enumerated several are raised which, though articles of luxury, are sources of great wealth, among which tobacco holds pre-eminent rank.

The superficial observer has not fully weighed the great benefits, which a nation derives from having within its own borders the chief articles of its consumption. It renders it more independent of other nations, less vulnerable by any conduct which may characterise them, insures a more certain and abundant supply of our wants, and by raising at our own doors whatever we consume diminishes the quantity of labor requisite to their production, and thence elevates the condition of the laboring part of the community by insuring to them an abundance and allowing them leisure to improve their minds or to indulge in rational recreation.

Passing on to a comparison of our government with that of any other nation, we find equal cause for gratulation. Ours is literally and truly a government of the people, administered by them for their own happiness. It completely protects them in the enjoyment of equal political rights, in the sacred rights of conscience, in the secure enjoyment of property, and the undisturbed employment of their mental or corporeal faculties. Is there a government on earth of which the same can be said? Is there another government, in which these rights are not grossly, are not systematically violated? There is none in which the liberty of conscience is not invaded by intolerance or superstition, in which political rights are not unjustly monopolised by the hand of violence or fraud, in which the rights of property are not sported with, either by open violence or an oppressive system of taxation, and in which the sphere of individual exertion is not limited by multifarious conditions and restrictions. In the United States we have no privileged orders, no monopolies, no standing armies, (deserving of the name) or vast naval establishments—those pregnant sources of tyranny and oppression, and concomitants of a wretched and starving population. Two great consequences follow, of themselves sufficient distinctively to characterise the lot of nations—light taxes and a permanent state of peace. While these continue, the republic is in little danger. War and money are the great instruments of tyrants. The annals of the world, accordingly, shew that they have been the most powerful agents in the subversion of the fairest and proudest fabrics it has ever beheld.

But if we wish to contemplate the strongest attestations to the superior lot of the American over every other people, we ought to compare the situation of the private citizen of these states with that of the subjects of foreign powers. It is here that we strip the pageant of government of its gaudy trappings, and see its effects delineated, such as they truly are, at the fire side of the honest yeoman. The favored sons of fortune assume the same characters, and deck themselves off in the same colors, with but little variation, in every clime and under every species of government. They strive to appear gay and happy, and seem, through a deceitful medium, are really thought to be so by the common observer. But in the middling and lower ranks of society there is no disguise. Among them there exists