We cannot forbear, in presenting to the Public, the following report of the Secretary of the Navy, to congratulate the citizens of the United States, on the prospect of an immediate reduction of those great expenses which have heretofore been incurred by the government of the United States.

Nor can we hesitate one moment to believe, that if the executive department of the government be disposed to reduce those establishments in which hav· originated the extraordinary expenses, the legislature will with chearfulness embrace the occasion of performing a duty peculiarly agreeable to the nation, and which will demonstrate, what cannot too often be demonstrated in a republican government, the obedience of rulers to the unequivocally expressed sentiments of the people.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
12th January 1801.

SIR,

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury, containing a statement of the appropriation necessary for the year 1801, includes the estimates of the expence of maintaining the navy of the same year. It is unnecessary, therefore, for me to repeat them here.

But it will be observed, that these estimates were formed on the idea of employing our whole force in cruising, as heretofore, for the protection of our comerce. Should the United States be so fortunate as to terminate by an honorable treaty, the difference with France, it would be good economy to sell all the public vessels, except the following frigates:

The United States,	The Constellation,
——President,	——Congress,
——Constitution,	——Essex,
——Chesapeak,	——Boston,
——Philadelphia,	——John Adams,
——New-York,	——Adams, and

General Greene.

The rest were either built of materials which do not promise long duration, or are too small to form a part of the national defence. In future wars, the United States will probably be influenced by the example of all other nations, to suffer the capture of vessels merely commercial from their enemy; and, in this event, the enterprizing spirit of our citizens will quietly furnish, for private emolument, nearly all the small vessels necessary to be employed; and will thus add to the national means of annoyance, without adding to the national expence. In th view, it may be suffi ient for the United States to attend principally to a provision for ships of the line and frigates.

The expence of maintaining the thirteen frigates, herein enumerated, in constant service, and to the present establishment of numbers, pay and rations, would amount, annually, to the sum of 1,225,048 dols. 73 cents, as will be seen in paper No. 1. But on a peace establishment, the ration, which is too large, ought to be reduced; seamen's wages will undoubtedly fall, on a general peace; and in such a state of things it would not be necessary to employ in each ship, more than two thirds of the present number of able and ordinary seamen. The paper No. 2, contains an estimate of the annual expence of these ships on a peace establishment, and on the principle of keeping the whole of them in constant service, amounting to 712,724, dols. 35 cents. The paper No. 3, shews the expence of keeping only six of the frigates in constant service; the others, remaining in port, but allowing half pay to a sufficient number of commissioned officers and midshipmen for the ships so laid up, amounting to 387,257 dollars. In the paper No. 4, there is added to the estimate No. 3, the expence of allowing half pay to all the commissioned officers and midshipmen, at present in service, making the whole amount to the annual sum of 444,677 dols.

The act establishing and organizing the marine corps, considers that corps as part of the military establishment, but subject to perform duty on shipboard, as well as in posts and garrisons on the seacoast, and elsewhere on shore. It is questionable, therefore whether the expence of this corps ought to be provided for in the estimates of the War, or the Navy department. It is certainly one of the most useful corps belonging to the United States, and is particularly advantageous in facilitating the means, and lessening the expence of manning our ships; and affords to every vessel a body of experienced and disciplined men, always prepared for action. The war expence of this corps is 270,957 dols. 98 cents per annum; in peace the expence might be reduced to 207,310 dols. per estimate No. 5, which being added to the estimate No. 4. would make the whole amount to 551,987 dols.

The acts of Congress have appropriated one million of dollars, towards building six 74 gun ships, and for procuring, arming, &c. six sloops of war, leaving about 700,000 dollars to be applied towards the six 74 gun ships; also, 200,000 dollars for the purchase of growing or other timber, or of timbered lands for the Navy, and for preparing proper places for securing the timber procured; and 50,000 dollars for the erection of two docks, for repairing the public ships.

Under these acts, contracts have been made for eight frames for 74 gun ships; two of them under the appropriation of 200,000 dollars, and the execution of them as far as six frames, will it is believed, be completed this winter. A considerable part of the other timber necessary for six ships, has been procured. Ground has been purchased at Portsmouth, New-Hampshire, Charleston, (near Boston,) Philadelphia, the City of Washington and Norfolk; and measures have been taken to procure ground at New-York, for capacious building and dock-yards; and progress i making in preparing docks for receiving the timber and wharves for building the ships. —Contracts have also been made for cannon, and for the copper bolts and spikes, and for sheathing copper for the 74 gun ships; but it is impossible to say, how far those which respect copper will be executed; the works for manufacturing sheathing copper being very expensive and it is to be feared beyond the reach of individual capital and enterprize.

The sums already advanced and expended, on these different objects, cannot be precisely ascertained, but they ar not materially different from the following estimate:

For ground & improvements,	186,800
Timber,	210,070
Copper purchased and advances on contracts for sheathing copper,	76,913
Cannon,	33,000
Purchase of Grover's Island and Black Beard,	22,516 75
	529,299 75

The agents for disbursing this money, are also agents for all other purposes of the Navy, and it can only be seen what has been expended under each head of appropriation, on settlement of their accounts. To remit money to them under each head of appropriation, allowing them to expend on that particular object only the sum remitted, would be to create the necessity of keeping in each agents hands, four or five times as much public money as necessary; hence the practice has arisen in the Navy Department, of drawing on one appropriation for all navy purposes, until the settlement of the agent's accounts the charges against each appropriation for which the money has been expended.

The expence of building six 74 gun ships, and fitting them for sea, with guns and military stores, and every other article, except men and provisions, has heretofore been estimated at 2,403,100 dols. 94 cents to complete the wharves and docks for seasoning timber at the six places, where ground has been purchased, and to erect suitable houses, for the reception of public stores, will cost, including what has already been expended, 600,000 dollars; and to make at two of these places, proper docks for repairing ships, may cost 100,000 dollars, amounting in the whole to 3,103,800 dols

From which is to be deducted the sums already expended,	529,299 75
Leaving a balance still to be appropriated of	2,574,500 25

If this balance should be divided into four equal parts, and one part should be appropriated in the present, and one in each of the three succeeding years, the money will be furnished as fast as it will be proper to build the ships, to give them every chance of duration.

The timber alone of a 74 gun ship, will cost, delivered at the ship yard,

For the frame, consisting of 27,387 cubic feet—

If of live oak, cut to the moulds,		54,774 dols.
If partly of live oak, or other timber as valuable, and partly of white oak,		41,080
If of white oak alone,	27,387	
All the other timber,	40,000	
		67,387 dols.

All the timber for a frigate to mount 44 guns, has been estimated to cost 50,000 dollars.

It will be impracticable to get more live oak from Georgia, after the frames already contracted for are completed; except from the Islands belonging to the United States, and these are too small to furnish more than a few of the most material pieces for many ships. It will also soon be impracticable to obtain in the United States, any other kind of timber, superior to white oak; but there is reason to believe, that when our timber is as well seasoned, our white oak ships will last as long as those of most other countries. The experiment has never yet been fairly made.

When the United States own twelve ships of 74 guns, and double the number of strong frigates, and it is known that they possess the means of encreasing with facility their naval strength; confidence may be indulged, that we may then avoid those wars in which we have no interest, and without submitting to be plundered. An annual sum of 117,387 dols. (over and above the appropriation for the six 74 gun ships already authorised) for the purchase of timber, to be laid up in docks for 74 gun ships and frigates; and the adoption of efficient arrangements to secure the manufacture of copper, the culture of hemp, and the manufacture of canvass, would, in a few years, raise us to this desirable state of security.

Thus then, it appears, that for the small sum of 651,987 dols. 34 cents, the United States may keep in constant service, six frigates; seven others in port, but always ready for service; the corps of marines, consisting of more than 1100 officers and men, and remunerate the past and secure the future services of a meritorious class of men, who in general either sacrificed more profitable and less hazardous private employment, to devote themselves to their country in a season of peril; or who being qualified by education for any pursuits, have entered into the navy, as a profession, at that time of life when professions are usually chosen.

All great maritime nations retain in peace the commissioned navy officers necessary to be employed in war, by allowing them a portion of their monthly pay, on the condition of holding themselves in readiness at all times, to be called into active service. The same provision is not so generally extended to midshipmen; but the discrimination is no where just, and in the United States, in the present instance, it would be extremely impolitic; for the midshipmen are among the most promising young men of our country, possess all the materials to make officers equal to any in the world, and well merit the fostering care of their government. But it would be injurious to themselves and to their country, to pay them for remaining at home. No midshipman ought to receive half pay, without exhibiting satisfactory proof that, at least, four months of the year for which he demanded it, had been employed by him in acquiring a better knowled e of his profession; if not in foreign service, at least in the merchant ships of his own country.

It also appears that for the further sum of 643,625 6-100 dollars appropriated for the present, and for each of the three succeeding years, six 74 gun ships may be added to the navy; two frames for two other 75 gun ships may be placed in dock for seasoning; six capacious building yards with docks for receiving large quantities of timber may be prepared; and suitable houses, which are indispensable for the security of the naval stores, may be erected at each of the building yards.

And that for the further appropriation of 117,387 dollars, for the timber of a 74 and a 44 gun ship to be repeatedly annually, until an adequate quantity of timber shall be obtained, the United States may acquire the means of suddenly raising their navy to any size, which the exigency of their affairs may demand.

It will require years to cut the timber from the woods and to build a ship of 74 guns, and after she is built of green timber she will not last longer than the time consumed in building her. A ship of the same size, besides the immense advantage in point of duration, may be built and sent to sea in less than a year, if all the materials are on the spot. Timber may be preserved for ages in docks, and at little expense; and the knowledge that we possess it in that state, will inspire nearly as much respect for our flag, as if the ships were built, and on the ocean.

In a pecuniary point of view, there can be no comparison between the expense of creating a sufficient navy, and the loss a commerce, so great as ours, will too certainly sustain for want of such protection. But the loss of property is but a paltry consideration, compared with all the humiliating and destructive consequences which must flow from that debasement of mind, which a system of eternal submission to injury and injustice cannot fail to produce.

Before I conclude, I will take the liberty of observing, that the business of the navy department embraces too many objects for the superintendance of one person, however gifted. The public interest, I am very sensible, has already suffered from this cause; and I have no doubt, that the establishment of a board, to consist of three or five experienced navy officers, to superintend, in subordination to the head of the department, such parts of the duties as nautical men are best qualified to understand and to direct, would produce a saving to the public, far beyond the expense of such establishmen . Their full pay as officers indeed and full rations, might be deemed sufficient compensation for such duty, as it would be proper that the members of the board should retain their rank in the navy.

I have the honor to be
With respect, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
BEN. STODDERT.

Harrison Gray Otis, esq. chairman of the committee of naval affairs.

Kid, Eliot & co.

HAVE received by late arrivals, a general assortment of Hard ware and Ironmongery, which they offer for Sale at their Store opposite the Great Hotel.

They have also on hand

Madeira, Sherry & Lisbon } Wines.
Cogniac Brandy.
Jamaica Spirits,
Holland Gin,
Loaf and Brown Sugar,
Tea, Coffee, &c. &c.

Washington, Dec 18. tf.

CONVEYANCER'S OFFICE.

THOMAS HERTY has opened an office a few yards from the CAPITOL, on the New Jersey venue, where he will attend daily till 3 o'clock during the sitting of Congress, and in the afternoon, at his office opposite the LITTLE HOTEL.—Conveyances of land, wills, mortgages, leases, assignments, copartnership deeds and dissolutions, marriage settlements and separations, letters of licence and composition, bills of sale of vessels, slaves, and other chattels, bonds of conveyance, and other bonds, powers of attorney, awards, manumissions, partitions, exchanges, petitions, annuities, post obits, seamen's wills and powers, and all other instruments in the above line, are drawn according to the legal import of the same respectively, with the utmost punctuality, accuracy, secrecy, and dispatch, and on moderate terms.

Titles investigated, and opinions given where necessary.

N. B. Herty's Abridgment of the laws of Maryland, approved and sanctioned by the Attorney General and Legislature of Maryland, may be had at at the above office, price Six Dollars neatly bound and lettered; also Herty's Digest of the Laws of the United States, price Three Dollars, neatly bound and lettered

December, 1800. twtf

For Sale.

A Small tract of land containing 150 acres more or less. It is on the road to Frederic about five miles from George Town, and is a high and healthy situation. Terms are one third to be paid on possession being given, the remainder in two yearly payments. Enquire of the printer, or at the Commissioners Office, City of Washington.

If not sold within a month it will be rented on easy terms.

January, 28th, 1801. tf

Conrad & M'Munn

HAVE opened houses of entertainment in the range of buildings formerly occupied by Mr LAW, about two hundred paces from the Capitol, in New Jersey avenue, leading from thence to the Eastern Branch. They are spacious and convenient, one of which is designed for stage passengers and travellers, the o her for the accommodation of boarders. There is stableage sufficient for 60 horses——They hope to merit public patronage.

City of Washington, Nov. 24, 1800. tf

Kid, Eliot & Co.

At the Brick Store opposite BLODGETS' HOTEL.

HAVE received by the Brig UNION, Capt. Leonard, from Liverpool, a large supply of Crockery Ware. Some of which is well assorted in small casks for the country.

Also, by the same Vessel.

White Lead, ground in oil.
Spanish Brown do.
Red Lead, Patent yellow, &c. &c.

They expect by the Roba and Betsey arrived at Norfolk, an additional Invoice of crockery and a large assortment of Glass ware. All which will be sold at the Philadelphia prices.

December 28.