before the recess, I gave notice of a motion, the object of which was, an enquiry into the state of the nation. At that time I was perfectly convinced, from the conduct of his majesty's ministers, in withholding all communication since the conclusion of the treaty of Amiens, to the period when his majesty's gracious message was delivered, that they had given strong grounds for an enquiry. During so long an interval nothing was allowed to transpire, which could either enlighten Parliament or the public mind. So far were they from communicating the real situation of this country with respect to France, that they went so far as to hold out confident hopes of peace; that at one moment they gave orders for restoring colonies and conquered possessions; the next moment counter orders, and in every important instance shewed themselves so little acquainted with the real views of the French government, and the true spirit and object of their own, as to furnish against themselves grounds of investigation, which were irresistible.

However, sir, I may be found inadequate to the task I have this day undertaken, permit me to assure the house that I have been induced to it by the sentiments I entertain for the welfare and happiness of my fellow-subjects of Great-Britain. I thought that parliament and this house were entitled to every kind of communication which could be afforded, consistent with circumstances and the duty of his majesty's ministers. I felt that in undertaking it, I was justified by the opinion of the people of Great-Britain, which left no doubt upon the subject. If gentlemen took the trouble to look to the commercial interests of the country, or to the transactions of monied people, they would find that the suspense which then prevailed was fatal to every kind of commerce and speculation. They would find that trade was locked up in our ports, and that the spirit of enterprize, the great source of our opulence when properly directed, was nearly, if not altogether extinguished. But, Sir, it may be asked, why I none took a task, to the execution of which I candidly confess myself incompetent. It was upon this ground, that gentlemen of great talents and rank, not only in the opinion of this country, but of Europe, have been accused of aiming by their difference of sentiment from his majesty ministers, at places and emoluments, and in order to prevent an accusation of so unworthy a nature from being in the slightest degree countenanced, I came forward, and proposed the enquiry.—It was from that motive, that I, an humble individual, both in talents and situation, was induced to offer myself to the attention of the house. I have, however, to state that, which I think will not lower me in the opinion of the house, that I have nothing to hope or fear from the event of my motion; that I feel a grateful and honest pride in observing, I belong to no party, and that I cannot be accused of having for my object the gratification of personal or selfish feelings. I know that I have, since the first notice which I had the honour of giving, subjected myself to a variety of calumnies out of this house, to many misrepresentations, and invectives, beneath my notice. I feel for them the most absolute contempt, but with respect to other gentlemen, who are implicated in them, I cannot avoid expressing my concern that they should have taken place. I have been represented in some of the public papers as the tool and instrument of these gentlemen; and in noticing the accusation, I do it merely from my wish to rescue the right hon. gentlemen below me (pointing to the bench on which Mr. Windham, Mr. T. Grenville, Lord Temple, &c. sat) from any imputation which might attach to them upon that account. Let me, at the same time, assure the house, that I feel no common pride in being classed with such men; men who have established their character on the highest possible grounds in this country, and who are looked up to with respect in every cabinet of Europe. Upon the subject of the attacks that have been made against the conduct of the first Lord of the Admiralty, I have very little to offer.—It has, indeed, been said, that fifty ships of the line would be ready for actual service in the course of a very short time, and that many other things were to be found in papers supposed to be connected with ministers. An hon. gentleman under the gallery has, on a former occasion, alluded to the immense preparations carrying on in the ports of the French Republic, but I cannot bring myself to believe, whatever these preparations have been, that they were designed against this country.

Upon this head, which has been the source of much comment and speculation, I have some information to state derived, I have reason to think, from undoubted authority. It has been the cause of considerable alarm to the country, to hear that formidable naval armaments were carrying on in the ports of France; yet I have heard, from a quarter which leaves no doubt upon the subject, that when lord Whitworth received his majesty's message to parliament, communicating that intelligence, he himself did not know of any such armaments. That this was the fact is confirmed by the statement of the first consul, and by the positive assurances of M. Talleyrand. I am also informed of the sentiments of an officer of great eminence in the civil line of France, who declared that the naval force preparing in the ports of the Republic, was not sufficient for the wants and exigencies of the colonial service.—I now come to a view of the papers and documents which are upon your table, relative to the late negociation, and the immediate causes of the present rupture. I cannot conceive that there is a single man in this house, or in the country, with a spark of English spirit in his breast, or a drop of English blood in his veins, who is not satisfied that the first consul ultimately aimed a fatal blow at the ruin of our power and independence. But although this is a proposition which cannot be controverted, it does not go to extenuate the measures pursued by his majesty's ministers in their discussions with the government of France. We are called upon to take into consideration the conduct of the king's ministers, as it arises out of the papers on the table; and the result is, that they have been kept in a continual state of aggression, insult and degradation, by the first consul. I contend, sir, that the first act of aggression ought not to have been suffered, that a firm and determined stand should have been made to it, and that such an opportunity to consolidate and invalidate the pretensions of France, and to enforce our own just claims, ought not to have been passed by unnoticed and neglected, as I lament to say it was.—But his majesty's ministers not only did not think proper to resist a first and single act of aggression, but they openly admit from the evidence of the papers upon your table, that they have suffered patiently and ignominiously a long series of aggression, injuries, and degradations. It is to so strange, such unaccountable a line of conduct, that I feel it my duty this day to object. Have they, or have they not complained of the unjust views, the unbounded ambition, the extravagant spirit of aggrandizement and encroachment manifested by the government of France? We know from their own admission, that they have not done so when they ought to have been most active in their remonstrances and complaints. But at the same time I readily grant, that all these injuries and causes of complaint, when taken in the aggregate, form an irresistible ground for the vigorous prosecution of hostilities.

We have indeed something like a new subject of the hostile views of the French government in the appointment of commercial commissioners; but in that case I most decidedly contend, that no remonstrance on our part was necessary—A remonstrance was, in my humble opinion, on the contrary, a proof of our weakness and fears. What was the conduct which his majesty's ministers were in that instance bound to pursue? They ought to have sent them away at once, as unworthy of credit, and then they should have followed it up by a demand of satisfaction. In adverting to the melancholy situation of Switzerland and Holland, I feel myself actuated by considerations which affect my own country very nearly. I cannot be ignorant that they contended for their independence and liberties, and cannot but lament that their struggle has proved ineffectual. They have even, in the wretched and abject condition to which they are reduced, less to hope for than the most servile province dependent upon France. The petty states of Italy may exist, and even possess some gratification under the power of France because that gratification necessarily arises from a comparison between their present and their former situation, but neither Switzerland nor Holland can be contented under the controul of the French Republic. France can never forgive the importance, the boldness, and the desire to rescue themselves from the yoke, manifested by Switzerland and Holland. In the feelings and wrongs of these countries we are deeply implicated, because we have the same tyranny to oppose which enslaved them. At the time, when orders were issued for the surrender of the Cape of Good Hope, were not ministers as fully acquainted with every act of aggression and injury offered by France as they are now, when I have the honor of addressing you, with the single exception of Col. Sebastiani's mission to Egypt? There are, sir, many other strong grounds, on the justice of which I could rest my charges against his majesty's ministers, but I shall content myself with accusing them of withholding all communication from Parliament; of suspending the functions of this house; of having issued such orders as they were not warranted to do from their own knowledge and conviction; of compromising the honor and dignity of his majesty's crown; and of essentially injuring the interests of his people. I beg, sir, I may be clearly understood when I state, that at this moment gentlemen are called upon to direct their attention solely to external objects; that this is not a time for them to enter into disputes and contests with respect to internal regulations; and that questions of a more important nature, involving as they do the very existence of the country, demand their consideration and decision. We are now in a crisis which calls for all the talent, all the mental ability, the country can afford; and as we require of the people every aid which their resources and property can supply, we should, in our turn, contribute to their security, by the exertion and combination of those mental powers that are best calculated to enforce their safety, and promote their dearest interests. I shall not trouble the house any longer, more particularly when I reflect that I have trespassed more upon their indulgence than I originally intended. I shall therefore, sir, read the resolutions which I intend to submit to their consideration.

"1. *Resolved*, That it appears to this house, from the declaration of his majesty, which has been laid before the house by his majesty's command, that the conduct of the French Republic since the conclusion of the definitive treaty, has been such, as to be construed by his majesty's ministers as inconsistent with good faith, moderation and justice, and as forming one series of aggression pursued by France for the purpose of degrading, villifying and insulting his majesty's government.

"2. That his majesty's ministers have not since the treaty of peace to the time of issuing his majesty's declaration, neither communicated to parliament the real sense which they entertained of the system of conduct pursued by France, nor the steps taken by his majesty's government thereupon; and that they have thereby prevented this house from having the opportunity of properly discharging its real functions; and that by their having thus improperly withheld such communications, they have materially embarrassed the commerce of the country, deceived the expectations, and depressed the spirit of the people.

"3. That it was the duty of his majesty's ministers to embrace some more early opportunity of obtaining reparation to this country for the insults which had been offered to it by the continued aggression on the part of France, and that such reparation was to be procured by dignified and temperate remonstrances, and that if such conduct had been pursued more seasonably, this country might have avoided the necessity of going to war, even before his majesty, by the reduction of his forces, had in a manner put out of his hands the most essential means of procuring reparation after the failure of others; and that such a conduct on the part of ministers, was a manifest neglect and omission highly injurious to the public interest.

"I beg leave, sir, to state here, that I shall move the two first resolutions, and then wait the pleasure of the house, which, if favorable, I shall follow by two more, and conclude with a fifth.

"4. That it appears to this house, that upon the 4th day of October last, counter orders were issued by his majesty's government for the evacuation of the Cape of Good Hope, and that on the 16th of November the spirit of France had been manifested by aggression, violence and insults, for which no redress had been attempted to be obtained; that the Spaniards and other Priories had been withdrawn from the island of Malta, and that Parma and Placentia had been added to the dominion of the French Republic; Switzerland had been attacked, and the territory of the Batavian Republic occupied by armies of the French government; that the first consul of France at the same time entertained all his plans relative to the Turkish Empire, which appear from the papers before the house; and from all these circumstances it is evident, that by the evacuation of the Cape, during such transactions, his majesty's ministers have acted contrary to their duty, and have imprudently exposed to danger his majesty's government.

"5. That by all these instances of misconduct in the present ministers of his majesty's government, they have proved themselves unworthy of the confidence reposed in them, in such an important crisis as the present undoubtedly is."

The first resolution was seconded by Mr. T. Grenville, and read from the Chair.

(*To be continued.*)

TWENTY DOLLARS REWARD

RAN AWAY from the subscriber on the 24th of June last, near the Eastern Branch ferry, City of Washington, a Negro man named ABRAHAM, but being an artful fellow, I expect he will change his name, and pass for a free man. He is about 28 years of age, about 5 feet 9 or 10 inches high, well made: He is rather of a yellow complexion; his wool is very short, and a scar on one side of his head near the top; he speaks very quick, and stammers in his speech. He was formerly the property of Doctor Blake of Calvert county. I have some reason to believe he has made for that place, or otherwise for Baltimore. He had no cloathing with him but what he had on, which was Osnaburg trowsers, an old shirt, a grey short coat. Whoever delivers the said fellow to me, shall receive the above reward.

LEWIN TALBURTT.

July 11. 1803. tawtf

FOR Sale One hundred and fifty acres of land, One hundred acres of which is in wood—it is situated within six miles of the Eastern Branch ferry. For terms apply to

MICHAEL LOWE.

Prince George county, July 22. 5taw

WASHINGTON CITY.

FRIDAY, August 19.

We learn that, the CONVENTION between the United States and France, ceding to us LOUISIANA, was ratified on the part of France by the First Consul on the 22nd of May; and that Mr. Jay is on his way to this country with the ratifications.

A statement, in some measure incorrect, having been made in an Alexandria print of the reported capture of an American vessel by an Algerine frigate, it becomes proper to state the circumstances on which the report is founded.

Mr. Cathcart, our former consul at Tripoli, but residing now at Leghorn, has enclosed to the secretary of state an extract from the Florence Gazette containing an article under the Naples head, dated June 1st, stating that an action had a short time before taken place between an Algerine frigate and an American vessel which had lately sailed from Naples, with Mr. Smith, charge des affaires, on board, who had come from Rome for the purpose of taking a passage home. The American vessel was obliged to yield to superior force.

Since the receipt of this letter, another of subsequent date, viz. June 22, has been received from Mr. Cathcart, advising that he had received no further information respecting the capture. Considering it, however, possible, he immediately wrote circulars to the several American consuls on the Barbary coast requesting their interposition in case the vessel should prove to be captured.

The belief of this information should, in our opinion, be received with some hesitation. It may be no other than a report arising from the capture, about the same time, of a Neapolitan frigate by the Adams. Or if an American vessel has been captured, it may have been by a Tripoline cruiser. The vessels of the Barbary powers are so similar to each other in appearance, that frequent mistakes arise in appropriating them to their respective nations.

The New-York board of health announce that on the 13th inst. there were 19 new cases and 4 deaths, and on the 14th, 11 new cases, and 1 death, of the prevailing fever.

KENTUCKY ELECTIONS.

The elections for Representatives in Congress have taken place in Kentucky.

John Fowler is re-elected without opposition.

John Boyle, is also elected without opposition.

In the fourth district, four counties give Mr. Sandford 1,609 votes; Mr. Johnson 374, Mr. Henry 370, and Mr. Daveiss 168.

Mr. Sandford is probably elected.

General Walton and Major Bedinger are probably elected by two other districts.

The Frankfort Palladium says "Our republican friends at a distance may rest assured, that Kentucky will send to the eighth Congress *an unanimous republican representation.*"

Thus it appears, notwithstanding all the measures of violence or intrigue, pursued by the opponents of the present administration, to alienate the affections of the Western people, they remain stedfast in the faith of their fathers, and bid fair to leave it as their best legacy to their children. We have been told, from high authorities, that Kentucky had changed her politics. We doubted, and demanded proofs. Our enemies were silent. We now give them demonstration that they have *not changed*, but that they remain as firm republicans as they ever were.

We believe these sentiments in that region of America will be immutable—Why?—Because there a spirit, truly American, prevails; there, there are no shackles of prejudice for either France or England; and there the leading interest is agriculture, which will long continue to be predominant.

There is considerable force in many of the remarks of the Editor of the National Ægis on the manifesto of the French government, which are inserted in our subsequent columns. But the idea of the Editor, that in entertaining such sentiments of the conduct of the present government of France, he stands "almost alone among the advocates of the republican cause," is certainly erroneous. On the contrary, so far as our observations has extended, there is scarcely a respectable republican press in the United States that has not condemned in terms of the severest reprehension most of the leading measures of the First Consul.

The same observation has induced us to consider the only sincere friends of that distinguished character as numbered among the enemies of republicanism in this country.

The fact is that the French revolution in its early stages kindled among our citizens the liveliest enthusiasm. There was a sublimity in the spectacle of a great nation breaking the chains which had been imposed upon her for ages, that drew forth the admiration of every genuine friend to liberty. Nor was it surprising that a people, who had recently established their own liberties, by the assistance of France, should hail with transports of joy the dawn of liberty in that country. When too it is recollected that the revolution, for several years, proceeded without reproach, and developed a succession of acts only equalled by the brilliant talents of those who atchieved them, it is pronouncing an eulogium upon the hearts of our countrymen to say that they rejoiced in all the triumphs and sympathised in all the disasters of the republic. Such feelings demonstrated their ardent and sincere devotion to liberty, and that they cherished them not only on account of the happiness it promoted among themselves, but from the good which it was calculated to bestow on others.

Unfortunately, however, the scene changed. The people of France were not permitted to manage their concerns in their own way. The tyrants of Europe interposed; armed forces threatened their subjugation, and intrigue and corruption filled the interior. Though the valour of the French soldiery vanquished all external force, the seeds of dissention were sown within; the arm of citizen soon was raised against citizen; and the most cruel outrages on humanity ensued. These chilled the enthusiasm of our feelings in favor of the revolution. Still we hesitated to abandon the cause of those who, it was hoped, would return to those just, humane and magnanimous sentiments which had so conspicuously shone in their early conduct. Estimating as of no light value the blessings of liberty, we entertained a liberal and honorable indulgence for the failings of those engaged in asserting it for a nation containing twenty-five millions of souls. As yet, however the spark might be obscured, it was not extinguished, and we hoped that events would prove it inextinguishable.

But a dark cloud soon overshadowed those hopes. We saw a military man, in violation of the laws of his country, those laws which he had sworn to support, draw his sword upon all legitimate authority, disperse by the bayonet the representatives of the people, and dictate a system of government that deprived the people of all their rights.

With the establishment of this system, with the empire of this man, fell the liberties of his country. All the measures that have since followed have been so many features of a gloomy system of military usurpation.

With those events the favour of America has perished. Our attachment to France was not a blind devotion to a particular country, but to the sacred cause of liberty. Had that cause been asserted, with equal glory in Great Britain or Turkey, equally great would have been our enthusiasm. No sooner, therefore, did the degeneracy of the French nation abandon their great cause, than we withdrew our admiration and affection, all ground of sympathy was removed. We continued to wish the welfare of the nation, as we wish that of every other nation, but we viewed her in the same light with all the nations that surrounded her.

And with regard to him who had seized the rod of empire, however dazzled with the glory of his military fame, we contemplated him in his true character;—that of a military usurper and the subverter of the liberties of his country.

Copy of a letter from Lord Hawkesbury to Mr. King, dated,

Downing-street, May 19, 1803.

SIR,

Having laid before the king your letter of the 15th of this month, in which you inform me, that a treaty was signed at Paris on the 30th of last month, by the Plenipotentiaries of America and France, by which the complete sovereignty of the town and territory of New-Orleans, as well as of all Louisiana, has been acquired by the United States:—I have received his majesty's commands to express to you the pleasure with which his majesty has received this intelligence, and to add, that his majesty regards the care which has been taken so to frame this treaty as not to infringe any right of Great Britain in the navigation of the Mississippi as the most satisfactory evidence of a disposition on the part of the government of the United States, correspondent to that which his majesty entertains, to promote and improve that harmony and good understanding which so happily subsists between the two countries, and which are so conducive to their mutual benefit. I have it also in command to assure you sir, that the sentiments which you have expressed in making this communication, are considered by his majesty's government as an additional proof of that cordiality and confidence which you have uniformly manifested in the whole course of your public mission, and which have so justly entitled you to the esteem and regard of his majesty's government.

I desire you to accept the assurance of the distinguished consideration with which I have the honor to be, &c.

HAWKESBURY.

Rufus King, Esq. &c.