bars, or islands of various extent. If a boat happen to strike on one of the former, it is usual for the hands instantly to leap into the water, and push her off. Without this precaution, the sand would quickly boil over both bows and gunwales, and swallow up the boat.

While at St. Louis, I was informed of a malancholy catastrophe that once happened to a party of traders on their return. Having landed on a dry sand bar to take some refreshment, the bar suddenly disappeared, carrying down with it both men and boats.

There is a non-descript quadruped found high up the Missouri, about the size of a full grown elk. He is covered with a coat of long fine hair, and has a horn on each side of the head, which turning upwards describes a volute and passes off horizontally parallel with the nose. Some of these horns were presented to the commandant of St. Louis, who informed me, that their diameter, at the root, was equal to the crown of his hat. He had sent them to the Baron de Carondolet, gov. general of Louisiana which deprived me of the satisfaction of seing them. This animal is said to be docile and very useful to the natives, as a beast of burden or an article of food.

Buffaloes are extremely numerous in the Missouri country, as far, at least, as it has been explored, and of various importance to the Indians. The flesh affords a nutritious and well flavoured aliment. Spoons, drinking vessels &c. are made of the horns.—The tallow, and bones serve for several purposes. The hide they dress with the brains, leaving on the wool, and often decorating the other side with paints, or an embroidery of porcupine quills, dyed of various colours, of which the red, yellow, and black are brilliant; and sometimes both are employed together. Thus dressed, they serve as mats, mantles, and blankets, wearing the woolly side inwards in winter, and outwards in summer. They form besides an important article of traffic, many thousand of the dressed skins being brought into St. Louis, on every return of the Ausage and Missouri companies' servants. These *robes de Buffle*, as the French term them, are much used in the Illinois country, both by Spaniards and French, as coverlids in winter; and numbers are sent to New-Orleans, and sold to the shipping. Their wool might be valuably employed in the manufacture of felt hats; and the horns, which are of a glossy black, and readily take a high polish, are convertible to many purposes, both useful and ornamental; such as drinking vessels, handles for knives, forks and cutteaux, powder-horns, &c.

As to the country of the Missouri, it is reported to be desirable for the extent of 8 or 10 leagues from either margin of the river; and then it becomes sterile and sandy, intermixed with high hills. How far the barren country extends I am not informed.

With respect to the natives, it appears the farther they are removed from intercourse with the whites, the more civil and hospitable they are to strangers. As an instance, I was furnished with the following anecdote by the gentlemen who gave rise to it.

"Having penetrated up the river so far that no white man had ever been seen there before, he landed at an Indian village. The chief dispatched to the party four Indians, with a buffaloe robe, with orders to bring up the leading man of the party. Mr. C——being pointed out to them as such, was (without even a word on their part) forcibly seized and thrown upon the robe. Each Indian now took hold of a corner of it, bore him off to the town, and placed him before the chief. A bowl of water was immediately presented for the stranger to drink—and thus ended a ceremony, rough enough in its outset, by which Mr. C. was adopted as a friend in the family of the chief, for whatever time he might think proper to remain in the nation.

Among this people there was an Indian known by the name of the Liar. An appellation so novel excited the curiosity of Mr. C. He desired the Indian to explain the cause of it. 'I have been a great traveller' said the savage. 'I once went to a very far country' (pointing in the direction of Callifornia) 'where I was stopped by a great water' (supposed to be the pacific ocean) 'and there I met with a man made like myself, but who was all over black, and his head was covered with black wool. On my return hither, I described the man I had seen; but nobody would believe me ——and ever since they have dubbed me the liar.'————'Oh!' says Mr. C. there was nothing extraordinary in the man you met with. If you were to come to my town, I could shew a hundred men as woolly and as black as the man you saw.' The poor savage leaped for joy at this corroboration of his disputed veracity, and ran through the village to communicate it. The Indians flocked around C. to hear from himself, the marvellous story. They received it, with marks of astonishment; and the liar was restored to his original name and credit.

WASHINGTON CITY.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21.

REPUBLICAN TRIBUTE TO ILLUSTRIOUS MERIT.

The House of Representatives of the United States have paid a tribute of respect to the memory of SAMUEL ADAMS, honorable to him, and honorable to themselves. The friends of that great and good man,—and who of the American people are not *his* friends, who, in times of peril, was *their* friend, will feel, with patriotic sensibility, this distinguished mark of a nation's favor. Before him have passed into eternity, full of age and of glory, a Washington and a Franklin, leaving impressions of imperishable gratitude upon the hearts of their countrymen, and rich in the admiration and esteem of the world. A like distinction has been conferred on them, and, we believe, on them only. Dear, then, and emphatic is the bestowal of that honor, which the talents and virtues of a Franklin and Washington earned.

Under the head of Congressional proceedings, our readers will peruse with pleasure the appropriate and eloquent remarks with which Mr. Randolph introduced the resolution, adopted by the House, and which was immediately agreed to by an unanimous vote.

NEW JERSEY ELECTION.

In *Hunterdon* county the republican ticket has succeeded by a majority of between four and five hundred

In *Monmouth*, the republican ticket has prevailed by a majority of 841.

In *Cumberland* county, the republican ticket has prevailed by a majority of 317.

In *Salem* county, the republican ticket has prevailed by a majority of 500.

In *Essex* county, the republican ticket has prevailed by a majority of nearly 2,000.

In *Gloucester* county, the republican ticket has prevailed by a majority of 146.

In Sussex and Morris counties the republican tickets have prevailed by large majorities.—Middlesex, Somerset, Cape May, Bergen, and Burlington, are probably federal.

By several concurring letters, derived from the best informed sources, it is *certain* that a large majority of republican members have been elected to both branches of the legislature; and though not absolutely ascertained, it is highly probable that the numbers will stand as follow:

	Repub.	Fed.
In Assembly—	25	14
Council—	8	5
	33	19
	19	
Maj. in joint meeting	14	

The victory is, therefore, in all respects complete. The republicans, having both branches of the legislature, will be able to pass suitable laws for the choice of Electors of a President and Vice-President, & of Representatives to Congress; and will, in joint meeting, designate proper individuals for Governor, Senator, Chief Justice, and other important offices.

Still more important is this bold prevalence of republican sentiments. The accession of New-Jersey makes three-fourths of the state legislatures republican, and renders the amendment of the Constitution of the United States practicable.

In our last New York was erroneously stated as sending *six federal* representatives to Congress, whereas in truth she only sends *five.*

On Saturday the 15th instant Jacob Van Ness and John C. Dent, Esqs. of this city, were after due examination qualified and admitted by the General Court of this state, now in Session at Annapolis, as Counsellors and attornies at Law.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1803.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. VARNUM in the chair—on the proposition, *amendatary of the Constitution*, offered on Monday by Mr. Dawson, as follows:

Resolved, *By the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* Two thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following article be proposed to the legislatures of the several states, as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which when ratified by three fourths of the said legislatures, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution, viz.

That in all future elections of President and Vice President, the persons voted for shall be particularly designated, by declaring which is voted for as President, and which as Vice President.

MR. NICHOLSON said the proposition now under consideration contemplated an important amendment of the constitution, and he thought it the duty of the House to render it so plain and intelligible, that hereafter no room should be left for doubt. The circumstances attending the election of the present chief Magistrate were uncommon in their nature, and he believed had left an almost universal impression upon the public mind, that some amendment to the constitution should be adopted. In doing this however it was necessary, that the amendment should clearly and precisely express the meaning of those who are to adopt it as a rule for the future government of their conduct. The motion before the committee was sufficiently correct as far as it went, but in his opinion if that alone were to be agreed to, the constitution itself would be extremely equivocal, & future legislatures would be involved in difficulties not very far inferior to those from which we are anxious to relieve them.—The constitution as it now stands, provides that the electors shall assemble and vote for two persons, that the votes thus given shall be sealed up, and sent to the President of the Senate and by him shall be opened in presence of both Houses of Congress, and that the person having the greatest number of votes, if such number be a majority of all the electors appointed, shall be the president; but if more than one have an equal number then the House of Representatives is to choose one of them as president; and if no person has a majority then the House are to choose from the five highest on the list, one of them as president. In *all cases* however, it is further provided *after the choice of a President, the person having the greatest number of votes shall be the Vice-President.* Thus, the constitution now stands; but if it is amended in the manner proposed, it may be extremely uncertain what part of the original constitution is annulled and what is to remain in force—These are to be left to future construction—to make himself more fully comprehended, Mr. N. said he would suppose a case. After adopting the proposed amendment A. and B. being voted for as president have an equal number of the votes of the electors, neither having a majority, and C. and D. have an equal number of votes for Vice-President, neither of these having a majority. In such an event the constitution as it now stands provides that the House of Representatives shall choose a president from the five highest on the list, and unless this provision is annulled by the amendment now proposed, a person voted for by the electors as vice president, may be chosen by this House as president. Again—A. and B. being voted for as president, have an equal number of votes, but neither has a majority; C. D & E. being voted for as Vice-President have likewise an equal number of votes, but neither of them have as great a number as the two first. Here agreeably to the constitution as it now stands, after the president is chosen, the person having the greatest number of votes is to be the Vice President, and of course, the choice must fall upon a man who has not been voted for by the electors as Vice President, but, upon one who has been voted for as President. If these difficulties occur at this time, they will certainly present themselves with much more force, when the facts alluded to happen; and that they may happen no one can deny. To prevent these difficulties, Mr. N. said was his object, and for this purpose he had prepared an amendment to the proposition under consideration. Too extensive a latitude of construction, he had always thought dangerous, as a very great difference of construction might honestly be given, by different men. The committee would discover after hearing the amendment, which he was about to offer, that although he might be mistaken in the opinions he had offered, yet the safest course would be to adopt it. He was anxious to prevent all possibility of doubt on future occasions and to make that clear and unequivocal, which in his opinion would otherwise be involved in obscurity. He then offered the following amendment, to the proposition originally moved by Mr. Dawson.

"The person voted for as President, having the greatest number of votes, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of all the electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the five highest on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse by ballot one of them as President. And in every case, the person voted for as Vice President, having the greatest number of votes shall be the Vice President; but if there should be two or more who have equal votes, the Senate shall chose one of them for Vice President."

MR. DAWSON observed that the resolution, offered by him, was, in his opinion sufficiently clear and precise. But as the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Nicholson) thought otherwise, he had no objection to the amendment proposed by him.

MR. CLOPTON said, that he approved of the principle introduced in the amendment proposed by the gentleman from Maryland, (Mr. Nicholson) but he considered the amendment as liable to some objection—that it was susceptible of objection inasmuch as it proposed to extend to this house a right of deciding the election, by chusing a President amongst five persons in case an event should happen so as to render their decision necessary; and that the same objection might be raised to that part of it which related to the election of Vice-President, in case the interposition of the Senate should become necessary for that purpose. He said that, if the gentleman from Maryland would permit the word *five* to be struck out, and the word *two* to be inserted, he thought the amendment would then be more conformable to the principles of a representative government. Mr. C. said that he conceived the reason, which induced the extension of a right to make a legislative decision from the five highest on the list, in case no person should have a majority of electoral votes, arose from a circumstance, which could not happen if the proposed amendment to the Constitution should be adopted. He said the circumstance he alluded to was that under the existing mode, which requires each elector to vote for two persons indiscriminately, without designating whether for President or for Vice-President, there might be 4 persons, each of whom might have a number of votes but a little less than a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and it might so happen that 5 persons might have a number equal to two fifths of the whole number. He said that therefore it appeared proper to him that the right of chusing from the five highest on the list should be extended to the legislature under the existing mode, as two fifths were so considerable a proportion of the whole number; but, if the proposed amendment, (which requires that the persons voted for should be designated whether voted for as President or as Vice-President) should be adopted, the reason, which existed and heretofore rendered the provision a proper one, will then entirely cease; for each of even two persons cannot then have a majority of the whole number of electoral votes either on the list designated for President or on the list designated for Vice-President. As, therefore, the operation of the resolution, if agreed to and adopted as an amendment to the constitution, will so materially differ from the operation of the existing mode, he thought the alteration he proposed to the amendment of the gentleman from Maryland would be expedient. He said he begged leave to state a case, which might happen even at the next election, if that amendment should be introduced into the resolution without the alteration he proposed. He said that at the next election there will be 176 electors; and it might so happen that one person might have 86 votes, a second person might have 87 votes; a third person might have 1 vote; a fourth person might have 1 vote, and a fifth person might have 1 vote. If therefore the number five, as proposed by the amendment of the gentleman from Maryland, should be retained, either of these persons, to whom only one electoral vote had been given, might be chosen, and both of those persons, one of whom had 86 votes, the other 87 votes, might be rejected. Mr. C. said that he could not conceive that any member of this committee would agree that such a decision could be proper or any way consistent with the vital principles of our government. He therefore wished that the gentleman from Maryland would consent to the alteration he had the honor to suggest to the committee, and after the clause immediately succeeding the word proposed to be struck out, words to this effect might be added, *if on the list designated for President, no person shall have a majority of the whole number of electors appointed, then from the two highest on that list the House of Representatives shall choose, by ballot, one of them for President; unless more than two persons shall have an equal number of votes, in which case the said House shall in like manner choose one of those persons for President*: And that a similar clause might be inserted in relation to a final decision of the election of Vice-President in case no person should have a majority of electoral votes on the list designated for Vice-President.

Mr. C. said that he believed the provision, if conformed to the ideas suggested by him, would be more likely to ensure the ultimate election of President and Vice-President according to the will of the people, as the electoral votes are to be considered as *their* expression of the public will, than if the amendment should be agreed to exactly as proposed by the gentleman from Maryland; and if the alteration suggested did not obtain his assent, he (Mr. C.) begged leave to move the committee to that effect.

MR. NICHOLSON could not say that he had any material objection to the amendment recommended by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Clopton). In framing the resolution he had submitted, he had pursued the language of the Constitution by inserting the word "five." The object of the gentleman might be obtained by striking out the word "five." To give time, however, for the House to reflect on the subject, and to compare the several propositions, he would move that the committee should rise.

This motion was carried without dissent; when the House ordered the resolutions to be printed.

On motion of Mr. Mitchill, the resolutions, offered yesterday by Mr. Randolph, referring several parts of the President's Message to a select committee, were referred to the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures, and the Select Committee discharged from the further consideration of them.

Ayes 55—Noes 40.

MOURNING FOR SAMUEL ADAMS.

Mr. J. Randolph observed that it had been lately announced to the public that one of the earliest patriots of the revolution had paid his last debt to nature. He had hoped that some other gentleman, better qualified for the task, would have undertaken to call the attention of the House to this interesting event. It could not indeed be a matter of deep regret that one of the first statesmen of our country had descended to the grave full of years and full of honors,—that his character and fame were put beyond the reach of that time and chance to which every thing mortal is exposed;—but it became that House to cherish a sentiment of veneration for such men—since such men are rare—and to keep alive the spirit to which they owed the constitution under which they were then deliberating. This great man, the associate of Hancock, shared with him the honor of being proscribed by a flagitious ministry, whose object was to triumph over the liberties of their country, by trampling on those of her colonies. With his great compatriot he made an early and decided stand against British encroachment, whilst souls more timid, were trembling and irresolute. It is the glorious privilege of minds of this stamp to give an impulse to a people and fix the destiny of nations.

Mr. R. said that he felt himself every way unequal to the attempt of doing justice to the merits of their departed country man. Called upon by the occasion to pay something, he could not have said less. He would not, by any poor eulogium of his, enfeeble the sentiment which pervaded the House; but content himself with moving the following resolution.

Resolved unanimously, that this House is penetrated with a full sense of the eminent services rendered to his country in the most arduous times by the late SAMUEL ADAMS, deceased; and that the members thereof wear crape on the left arm for one month, in testimony of the national gratitude and reverence towards the memory of that undaunted and illustrious patriot.

MR. ELLIOT, (a new member from Vermont) spoke as follows:—

Mr. Speaker. If any apology could be necessary for a new member, unversed in parliamentary proceedings, to offer for rising so early in the session, it would be, that the topic which arrests his attention, is connected with the illustrious and ever memorable name of Samuel Adams. The eloquence of the gentleman from Virginia, I shall not attempt to rival; his remarks were peculiarly impressive, and the more so from his remarking that, he was unable to do justice to the subject. I have been extremely affected by his calling the attention of the House to the circumstance that the name of that patriot was united with that of John Hancock in an exemption from the general pardon which the British government offered to those American revolutionists, whom they dared to style rebels. The longer I should address the House upon this subject, the more feeble would be my language, as the greater would be my sensibility. I shall, therefore, only farther observe that I shall most cordially support the motion of the gentleman from Virginia.

The question was then taken on Mr. Randolph's motion, which was agreed to UNANIMOUSLY.

MR. NICHOLLON observed that on occasions like the present, it had been usual for the House to adjourn. He, therefore, moved an adjournment which was carried.