appear that Mr. Jefferson felt any uncommon solicitude for his own safety. So far from it he engaged in minute attentions to many things which appeared to be necessary, and either gave orders or performed particular acts with apparent equanimity. He acted not like a man who feared for his personal safety, but like one whose own anxiety for the public interest induced him to employ himself in minutiae. Every eye witness will admit that no man could manifest a more ardent desire to serve the public interest.

Perhaps it was Mr. Jefferson's greatest fault that he did not think himself competent to discharge those military duties which his situation required, and therefore he did not call his faculties into action. The part which he played shewed that he was not restrained by the fear of danger. His conduct in all other things shews that he did not want talents. He had a great occasion to distinguish himself in the field, and abandoned it to others, and this is all.

This rapid sketch is thought necessary to give to the reader a competent knowledge of these events, as well as to lay before him the department of Mr. Jefferson while he seemed to direct the operations of the militia.

These events happened in April or May 1781. The legislature were convened to meet at Charlottesville. There they were surprised by the cavalry of Tarleton and compelled to disperse, they next met at Stanton, and some time in the month of June at Stanton, Mr. Jefferson, while engaged in treating with some Indian chiefs became the subject of denunciation, and gen. Nelson to whom Mr. Jefferson had confined the command of the militia was elected governor without opposition. Such was the popularity of the new governor, that the appointment appeared to give new life and vigor to the drooping spirits of the people.

The chief complaint alleged against Mr. Jefferson was that he did not act with sufficient energy. The truth was this. Mr. Jefferson regulated all his conduct according to the constitutional powers of his office. He did not consider himself authorized to execute any important measure without the advise of council. Such he deemed his duty—Such was certainly his oath. This will be evident to any reader who will examine the different articles of that instrument.

A governor of Virginia with a full knowledge of his duty and powers, and a friend to the chartered rights of his country, would not be willing to transcend his powers, unless upon occasions of indispensible necessity. So far as respected military operations this necessity did not exist, because the militia had been ordered out, and the command had been entrusted to gen. Nelson. Upon other occasions, it was necessary to take the advice of council. This was impossible, because the councilors, eight in number, with a small exception had fled hither and thither; Mr. Jefferson was therefore deprived of the constitutional means.

It has long been the custom of some writers to condemn Mr. Jefferson for his general conduct upon this occasion. A little reflection will teach them that it ought to endear him to his countrymen. For what is he blamed? It is because he did not usurp and exercise powers which were forbidden by the constitution and against the exercise of which he had bound himself by a solemn oath. He had assisted in forming that constitution. He had sworn to support it. He was desirous that it should pass unimpaired into the hands of his successors. He complied with the sacred trust, and because he did, he has become the object of vilification. If Mr. Jefferson had acted otherwise, if he had taken upon himself the office of a military dictator; if he had forced the energies of the country into activity, as his calumniators seem to have wished, then indeed he would have exposed himself to the artillery of denunciation and public vengeance. By such conduct, even admitting the expediency, Mr. Jefferson would have forever forfeited the confidence of his country. Would any republican who knew that Mr. Jefferson had availed himself of accidental circumstances, to assume and exercise sovereign or dictatorial power, ever again confide to him the execution of other and similar important duties?

The articles of accusation with which Mr. Jefferson has been arraigned, ought to add lustre to his character. His general conduct, his forbearance, his having appointed a popular leader for the forces, all shew that he made his individual feelings yield to public interest. They prove that he richly deserved and honestly executed the public trust with which he had been invested.

If Mr. Jefferson, when in the bloom of his life, would not, though invited to it by the popular voice, and extraordinary circumstances, assume unconstitutional powers, may we not now expect that a similar deposit may be more safely confided to his age, his experience, and his judgment?

But let us return to gen. Nelson. Immediately after the appointment he took the field. His head quarters were always as near to the enemy as circumstances would admit. He did not regard that article of the constitution to which there has been an allusion, but proceeded according to public exigencies. All this was then deemed necessary and laudable, & ever since has been, not only justified but applauded. No man can question the motives of that revolutionary hero, or will pretend to say that any thing was done which the exigency of the times did not require. Virginia then wanted a dictator, and gen. Nelson without perhaps intending it assumed and exercised the functions.

In Oct. 1781 the British army capitulated. In Nov. following the Virginia Assembly met at Richmond. Some persons who were dissatisfied with the conduct of gen. Nelson were not only clamorous, but threatened an impeachment. The patriotic veteran disdained to justify himself. He felt and expressed all that honest indignation which a sense of the services which he had rendered could not fail to inspire. At this time Mr Jefferson appeared in Richmond, both to meet the accusations against himself, and to discharge the functions of a member of the legislature to which he had been elected.

It was remarkable that the same assembly, and at the same time, should have under its consideration, complaints against two governors for errors in their administration during the short space of five or six months. Mr. Jefferson was denounced, because he did not transcend his powers. Gen. Nelson was denounced because he had done more than the constitution authorised. Every body admitted that every thing which gen. Nelson had done was necessary, and yet he was blamed. At the same time the accusers of Mr. Jefferson blamed him because he did not act as gen. Nelson had done. It seems then that it was impossible to have given satisfaction. These are strange contradictions.

It is not now recollected whether the enquiry into the public conduct of Mr. Jefferson was demanded by himself, or moved by another; nor is it material to be known. Suffice it to say, that the subject came before the House, and that Mr. Jefferson appeared as his own vindicator. It will be impossible for those who were witnesses to the scene ever to erase the impressions from their memories. He rose in the House, not like one who was conscious of having deserved blame or censure, but with a countenance and demeanor which seemed to speak the consciousness of his own rectitude. His attitude, his eye, his manner, all united to prepossess the audience. Nor were they disappointed. He opened his vindication with mingled portions of manly firmness and modest diffidence, and in a way which the writer of this can neither forget nor describe. He will not therefore attempt to do justice to those impressions and sentiments which seemed alternately to awe and soothe the House, first into forgiveness, next into approbation, and finally into veneration. The commencement of Mr. Jefferson's speech was very impressive—the scene was awful and dignified—the vindictive and tumultuous passions of his accusers appeared to be neutralized and paralised. The result, as might be expected, was honorable to Mr. Jefferson, which was testified and recorded by an unanimous resolution.

It added not a little to the lustre of Mr. Jefferson's character, that he next appeared as the vindicator and champion of gen. Nelson. The legislature were made sensible of the services of that inestimable patriot, and did not hesitate to render necessary satisfaction. Gen. Nelson considered the clamor which had been excited against him as an act of the highest injustice and ingratitude, and was never reconciled to it. Those who knew gen. Nelson, used to say that there could not exist a better patriot or a more upright man. He put every thing at hazard, and saved his country, and his country was grateful.

In consideration of these things the following act was passed:

SESSION *in* NOVEMBER, 1781.

An act to indemnify Thomas Nelson, Jun. esq. late governor of this commonwealth, and to legalize certain acts of his administration.

SEC. 1. Whereas upon an examination it appears, that previous to, and during the siege of York, Thos. Nelson, Jun. esq. late governor of this commonwealth was compelled, by the peculiar circumstances of the state and army, to perform many acts of government, without the advice of the council of state, for the purpose of procuring subsistence and other necessaries for the allied army, under the command of his excellency General Washington.

SEC. 2. Be it enacted, That all such acts of government, evidently productive of general good, and warranted by necessity, be judged and held of the the same validity, and the like procedures be had on them, as if they had been executed by and with the advice of council, and with all the formalities prescribed by law.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the said Thomas Nelson, Jun. esq. be, and he hereby is, in the fullest manner, indemnified and exonerated from all penalties and damages which might have accrued to him for the same.

The conduct of Mr. J. upon this occasion was the more honorable, because it was believed by many that General Nelson had countenanced the denunciation at Stanton. Those however who knew the guileless heart of Gen. Nelson never listened to the tale. But be the fact as it may, it afforded an opportunity to Mr. Jefferson to shew that his mind was great and beneficent.

Mr. Jefferson was soon afterwards employed by the old Congress on a mission to France. He remained there until the present federal constitution was adopted. He desired to be recalled, and was soon after his return employed by President Washington as secretary of state. All these things have been often brought before the public, they are only now mentioned to connect the historical chain, and to shew that, the old Congress saw nothing in his conduct as governor which rendered him unfit for the important duties of minister plenipotentiary to France, the most important appointment which at that time the government could confer.

EUGENIUS.

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

An address to the practitioners of surgery, by THOS. EWELL, *M. D. of Virg. one of the surgeons of the U. States' navy.*

GENTLEMEN:

IN the New York Medical Repository, I have lately published some observations on the union of arteries, and have proposed a new method of treating aneurisms. Notwithstanding the value of this periodical work, which has long since given a lustre to the literary annals of America, yet there are many physicians by whom it is neither received or read. This consideration has led me to call your attention to the subject of my remarks through the medium of the newspapers: in order that if any advantages can result from my suggestions, they may be early felt by the public.

In the communication above alluded to, I have given an epitome of the various theories which have been promulgated to account for the cure of arterial haemorrhagies. The theory advanced by John Bell, of Edinburgh, in his splendid work on the principles of surgery, which is, that the flow of blood is prevented by the union of the sides of the artery, effected by a process analagous to the adhesive inflammation, I concluded was the true explanation. According to this hypothesis, it follows that to cure haemorrhagies, it is only necessary to excite the adhesive action in the mouths of the bleeding vessels. I then proceeded to mention the many methods of treating aneurisms, which had been proposed by the great surgeons of Europe and this country. It appeared that near one third of the patients treated after the best manner by ligatures, terminated fatally. This loudly proclaimed the demand for further innovation, independently of the great difficulty of applying the ligatures to deep seated parts, of the pain and danger attendant on a division of the adjacent nerves, and of the long time necessary for a cure even under the most favorable circumstances. Upon the authority of the most accurate observers, this fatal termination proceeds from the secondary haemorrhagies, inflammations, abscesses and sinusses which follow the use of the ligatures. The secondary haemorrhagies come on in consequence of the too early division of the artery, when the ligatures are tied too tight; and also in consequence of the unequal compression on the irregular folds of the artery, included in the ligature, which so excites the suppurative and the ulcerative actions, that the adhesive inflammation, or union of the parts cannot take place. The inflammations, abscesses and sinusses are caused by the irritation kept up by the ligatures, when they are retained too long in the wound, in consequence of not being drawn in such a particular manner as to divide the artery in a certain time. All will readily agree that the object of the operator in these cases, is to prevent the passage of blood through the artery, by causing the sides to adhere together, thereby obliterating its cavity. To persons possessing common sense, it must in one moment appear, that the union between the sides of the artery can be best effected when the parts are brought precisely and regularly in contact. With a view to secure this end, as well as to guard against those fatal effects following the use of ligatures, I have proposed applying to the artery an instrument to compress it, after it is exposed by the incisions of the surgeon. This instrument is a pair of forceps, delicately constructed, with the handles connected together by a screw or string, by the moving of which the approximation of the blades can be regulated at pleasure. When these forceps are properly applied to the artery, so as to compress its sides equally and exactly together, they can be supported by bandage for a day or two, until the adhesive inflammation has closed its cavity. After this is effected, they are to be withdrawn, and the lips of the wound brought and preserved in contact, to unite by the first intention. By comparative experiments on the arteries of common animals, gentlemen will find how happily the forceps are calculated to cause an union of their sides. In parts however affected by aneurism, the diseased state is probably such as to require a longer application of the forceps.

It must then at once appear, that the superiority of the above forceps over the ligatures is considerable. The advantages resulting from the use of the former in aneurisms, are—

1st. They can be applied with great facility by the operator without including the nerves.

2dly. They must cause a more effectual or complete union of the sides of the artery than ligatures could.

3dly. The recovery of the patient will be in about the same number of days that formerly required weeks.

4thly. The danger of a fatal termination in consequence of haemorrhagies, abscesses, &c. when the ligatures are used, will be removed, as the artery will not be divided, and as the forceps will be speedily extracted.

5thly. They can be applied to arteries in parts where the use of the ligature is not practicable.

In those punctures of the brachial artery, caused by awkward bleeders, it would no doubt be better to close the orifice of the artery by applying the forceps just at its edges, instead of sewing them up, as advised by Mr. Lambert. Punctures in all the large arteries that can be found, might be treated in a similar way, so that their cavities would be in part preserved for the passage of blood. May not the forceps be applied to the varicose veins of the lower extremities?

The use of the above forceps, as I have proposed, has been condemned without ceremony, and ridiculed by some of the puppies of the profession, who are as incapable of doing good beyond the confines of a contemptible spot, as they are of exonerating themselves from the shackles of prejudice. On the other hand, they have been highly approved of by several gentlemen of the first standing, by old gentlemen too, who have fortunately escaped that contraction in views, and that illiberality which have so frequently proved a Charybdis and a Scylla to the faculty of medicine.

THOs. EWELL.

George-Town, Dist. Col. 5th Feb. 1806.

TO THE HONORABLE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES.

The post-master general, in compliance with the 20th section of the act to establish the post-office, respectfully

REPORTS:

That the seven following post roads, have been established more than two years, and have not, in the last year, produced one third part of the expense of carrying the mail on the same.

1. From Washington, by Bath to Woodstock, in North Carolina.

The expense of carrying the mail on this route, was two hundred dollars for the year ending September 30th, 1805, and the neat proceeds of postages collected upon it, was seventeen dollars eighty one cents, and value to other offices, by estimate, fourteen dollars eighty one cents, making the whole produce thirty two dollars sixty five cents, for the same period. Hence there results an annual loss to the public of nearly five hundred and thirteen per cent. on the produce.

2. From Charlotte, N. C. by Lancaster court-house to Camden, S. C.

The expense of carrying the mail upon this route, for the last year, was four hundred and fifty dollars, and its produce and value to other offices for the same period, was ninety four dollars ninety seven cents; being an annual loss of nearly three hundred and seventy per cent. on the produce.

This route facilitates the correspondence between Camden and Columbia, in South Carolina, and Charlotte, and sundry other post offices in North Carolina, but the correspondence is not considerable, and those post offices are accommodated with other most useful routes, which make their accommodation, exclusive of this route, an expense to the public.

3. From Morgantown, by Rutherfordton, Gowens' store, Greenville court house and Pickensville, to Pendleton, South Carolina.

The expense of carrying the mail upon this route the last year, was six hundred dollars, its produce and value to other offices, eighty two dollars forty two cents, making a loss of nearly six hundred and twenty per cent. on the produce.

This is another route of communication between the post offices in the western parts of North Carolina and South Carolina; but from the accounts of the post-masters it seems that very few letters are conveyed by this route.

4. From Greenbrier to Kenhawa court house in Virginia.

The expense of carrying the mail on this route for the last year was three hundred dollars, and its produce and value to other offices was thirty four dollars fifty seven cents, making a loss of nearly two hundred and ninety per cent. on the produce. This route was extended from Kenhawa court house to Chilicothe, by an act of the last Congress, with a view of making it a route of communication to the state of Ohio, from the southerly parts of Virginia. But the route is so mountainous and unimproved that the mail cannot yet be conveyed upon it so expeditiously as by other routes.

5. From Standford to Wayne court house in Kentucky.

The expense of carrying the mail upon this route, was one hundred and ninety five dollars the last year, and its produce and value to other offices fifty dollars thirty one cents, making an annual loss of nearly two hundred and ninety per cent. on the produce.

6. From George town, by Bridge branch, N. W. Fork Bridge and Newmarket, to Cambridge.

The expense of carrying the mail on this route for the last year, was two hundred and ninety nine dollars, and its produce and value to other offices only sixteen dollars and eighty five cents, making an annual loss of nearly one thousand six hundred per cent. on the produce.

7. From Baltimore, by Reisterstown, Westminster, Union Mills, Petersburg, and Gettesburg, to Chambersburg.

The expense of carrying the mail on this route, was five hundred and fifty dollars the last year, and its produce and value to other offices fifty one dollars five cents, making a loss of nearly nine hundred and eighty per cent. on the produce. In making this estimate, only the produce of the post offices at Westminster and Union Mills, is taken into view. There is actually a correspondence carried on between all the other post offices by this route, but they are situate on routes previously established, which afforded as good accommodation to their correspondence as its value to the public would warrant. If the whole value of the correspondence actually transmitted on this route, is taken into view, it will more than defray the expense of conveying the mail, although it is believed, that if this route was discontinued, the public would save five hundred dollars a year.

IN SENATE OF THE U. STATES.

FEBRUARY 17, 1806.

MR. HILLHOUSE presented the following memorial, which was read for consideration:

To the President of the United States, and the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, the memorial of the chamber of commerce in New Haven,

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS:—

That your memorialists have observed with no common degree of surprize and solicitude, the numerous embarrassments which the commerce of the United States has suffered, during the present war in Europe and the Indies; arising from the adoption of new principles by the admiralty courts of G. Britain, as well as from the depredations committed on our unprotected trade by lawless freebooters, and the unwarrantable impressment of our seamen. Your memorialists will not attempt to discuss at large the principle, which they understand, has been adopted by the admiralty courts of Great Britain, in recent decisions respecting the rights of neutral nations; it is sufficient for them to observe that, in their opinion, the principle assumed by G. Britain, of considering all the trade of a neutral nation as unlawful, which the same nation cannot carry on in time of peace, to be new and unwarrantable; a principle not authorised by the maxims of sound justice, which have long been received and respected by nations, as laws by which their mutual intercourse ought to be regulated.

Among independent nations, there are certain equal rights, founded on common principles of justice, from which proceed their reciprocal duties. These rights and duties have been long since ascertained by the mutual consent or express stipulations of civilized nations. They constitute the political morality of kingdoms and states; the basis of that code of laws, which the commercial nations of Europe have long held themselves bound to respect, to which we cheerfully submit; and which we conceive, no nation can infringe without doing injustice to the whole family of mankind. So long as the councils of nations and their courts of justice observe these laws, mutual confidence between nations can be maintained, and the rights of individuals preserved. But your memorialists cannot behold, without surprise and regret, a powerful and respectable nation, bending these principles of the common law of nations, to answer political purposes, and introducing a versatile policy into the solemn adjudications of her courts. We hold it to be extremely important that all nations should combine against such innovations upon their rights; and in particular, that the United States, whose geographical position gives them the best chance for maintaining neutrality during wars in Europe, should firmly resist every encroachment upon the rights of neutral commerce.

In regard to the impressment of American seamen, your memorialists feel, in common with their fellow citizens, a lively indignation at the abuses of power often exercised by British officers upon American citizens. We have full confidence that the government of the U. S. will adopt and pursue such measures for restraining these injurious proceedings, as the honor and interest of the U. S. shall require.

The depredations upon our defenceless commerce on the high seas, and even at the very entrance of our harbors, impress your memorialists with a lively sense of our national degradation, and of the urgent necessity for vigorous, effectual, and permanent measures for protecting the property of private citizens, and securing our country from the repetition of similar insults. Whatever system of policy a chimerical theory may suggest, we are persuaded that the question whether the U. S. shall have an active or passive commerce, is not now to be determined. Our citizens have already formed commercial habits which are too firmly established to yield to a different policy; and an active commerce is so directly connected with the agricultural interest, which it serves to cherish and encourage, that we apprehend the farmer, as well as the merchant, is deeply interested in the protection of trade. Nor can we hesitate to express our decided opinion, that, as a general proposition, the commerce of our country will amply reimburse the necessary expenses of protection. The situation of our country, and its true policy forbid that a great navy should be maintained for the purposes of carrying on maritime war, or for settling and defending distant colonies: but we conceive that a number of ships sufficient effectually to protect our harbors, our sea coast, and great commercial towns, and secure the honor of the American flag on the waters adjacent to our own territories, will furnish not only the safest, but the cheapest bulwark of defence. We highly applaud the policy that seeks to preserve peace; but even peace may be purchased at too high a price; and the history of all nations evinces that a state is never secure of peace, which has not at command the means of annoying an enemy, and repelling aggressions; and that an over timid policy, serves only to invite insults and generate a necessity for resorting to arms, which a state of preparation for war, and a bold attitude, would have preserved.

With these impressions of the necessity of measures for defending our commercial rights, which shall be firm, but temperate and bold, yet marked with a spirit of concilation, your memorialists cordially unite with their fellow citizens of other commercial towns, in expressing their sentiments freely to the legislative and executive authorities of their