tions could not be made. It was the wish of the committee to afford to the President the power of applying these sums to such places as he should think best.

Mr. Quincy wished to know whether the terms of the resolution expressed the intention. He conceived that this sum of money should be placed in the hands of the President of the United States, not only to erect new fortifications, but to repair old ones where necessary. As he understood the resolution the President was to apply the whole sum to new fortifications, and could not appropriate it without misapplication to repair old ones.

Mr. Blount said the object of the committee was to put so much money at the disposal of the President, as to answer both the purposes of repair and erection. If the words did not express that sense, he should cheerfully acquiesce in any amendment which might be made.

An amendment was offered by Mr. Dana, but afterwards withdrawn, to make way for one offered by Mr. Crowninshield to the same effect; by which the resolution was amended to read as follows:

Resolved, That it is expedient to authorise the President of the United States to cause such fortifications to be repaired and erected as will, with the assistance of gun boats, &c.

Mr. Thomas enquired as to filling the blank.

Mr. Blount said he had stated while up before, that 300,000 dollars in time of peace was as much as could be expended in the course of a year. But if they could not enjoy peace, more would be necessary; and from the uncertainty of this, the committee wished to decline filling the blank at the present time. When the bill should be laid before them, they might be better qualified to judge.

Mr. Gardenier was not so much opposed to the not filling up the blank in the resolution at this time as to the reason which had been given for not doing it, or in other words, the reasons why the House should not now debate on that part of the resolution on which it was most important to deliberate; the sum to be allowed. It was hardly necessary except in point of form, to have gone into committee of the whole for any other purpose than this. All agreed that the ports and harbors of the U. S. should be better fortified than they were at present; on that point he trusted there could be but one opinion: but unless a sum certain was named the people in the seaports would remain in the same state of doubt and uncertainty which they had experienced ever since the commencement of the session. He wished to come to that point which it was most important to consider; he wished to know how much gentlemen would give towards the protection of our ports and harbors. If they were not so fully prepared to decide as they might perhaps hereafter be, he thought they might do much by entering into the discussion of the subject. For himself, he could not readily assent to what had fallen from the Chairman of the committee; he could not comprehend the propriety of making a difference between the expence to be incurred in case the appearances of war should increase, and those estimated on a prospect of peace. He had heard nothing said that was calculated to change his uniform opinion on this subject, that a state of peace was the season for a nation which had so many vulnerable points to prepare for war, and place itself in a condition to repel attack. In a state of war, and it seemed to be seriously approaching, it would be impossible to lay out money to so much advantage as in a state of peace. It was in the time of peace peculiarly that they should, as much as they could, erect barriers against some of the most dreadful evils of war: he would here apply the maxim of Washington, quoted by a gentleman from Maryland some days since, "that to preserve peace, we should be prepared for war." Supposing it should happen, improbable as it was, that the country should remain at peace, were they on that account to relax in the fortification of their ports and harbors? How could they, acting in this way, expect ever to be prepared for war, when it should actually arrive? A country whose coasts were so much exposed, and whose cities were so rich, so valuable, and therefore so tempting, should never be unprepared; but if, said he, we should be persuaded to postpone the defence of the country, while we are waiting *for news* and *hoping for peace*, the enemy may be at our doors; our cities may be sacked, and nothing left in them worth defending; it would be too late then, because it will be to no purpose to fortify, and the *money* we now talk of appropriating may be saved, while our cities are destroyed and desolated.

Gentlemen seemed to take great delight in flattering themselves that they might yet escape war; they wished, and from wishing, hoped for peace. Mr. G. had no hope that at a period when all the world was convulsed, kingdoms and thrones were overturned in such rapid succession, when all the free states of the world had perished as it were before our eyes, that we should be able to escape without enduring some part of the general calamity. He entertained now the same opinion which he had done ever since the attack on the Chesapeake was made, that the country would be compelled to go to war, or sacrifice its honor forever. They could not avoid it, unless they would accept of peace, on terms, to which no independent nation could listen. An attack like that on the Chesapeake had never occurred before. The making of it was not alone an outrage of the very worst character, but also an assertion of the most positive kind, that Great Britain was about to introduce a new principle into the law of nations. We have endeavored, said he, to soothe ourselves with a hope, that this attack was the mere unauthorised act of a British commander, which his government might afterwards disavow or not as they pleased. And while we went on hoping we might as well hope too, that they would disavow it. In this hope, said he, we have wrapped ourselves so securely up, that at the very moment I am speaking, the cannon of Britain may be carrying ruin and havoc into our defenceless sea-ports. Mr. G. could not persuade himself, that a British admiral would voluntarily assume so awful a responsibility. He could not believe that the admiral's own orders were less precise and positive than those which he gave to the captain of the Leopard. Yet, if he could even believe *that*, he could not believe that this outrage would have been followed up, and consummated by bringing to trial, condemning, and executing one of the unfortunate men, who owed his death to his confidence in the inviolability of the American flag; and that too, after it was known at Halifax, what poignant sensations the attack itself had excited here; after the President's proclamation itself was known there. He would have paused, said Mr. G. before he proceeded to this dreadful extremity. He would have waited for new, and more precise orders, if his instruction had not been already clear and explicit. Can we, said he, in events subsequent to this, find any cause to console each other with a hope of peace? No, sir. From the time the proclamation was issued, to this very moment, has a British squadron remained in our waters, persisting in the violation of our territory, with an air of scorn and defiance, which while it ought to awaken all that is American in us, excludes almost every ray of hope. Could gentlemen indulge in hope, when they heard that the British vessels in the lakes had been armed? That the British forces in Canada were encreased and concentrated? That the fortifications at Quebec were repairing? That at Halifax, 100 men were draughted from the militia, to assist in placing that post in a state of defence? That an additional number of ships and troops were expected? Did any thing from our ministers at St. James's encourage hope? Any thing that could be collected from the political journals there? When, we see the British ministry, said he, preparing for war, taking those steps which this government ought to have taken long ago, could they longer console each other with the hope of peace? There was nothing to induce them to delay for a moment, the most active preparation. It is true, they were in some degree excusable, for not having acted on this subject hitherto. The President's Message, tho' it had communicated to them information of the attack on the Chesapeake, did not state, whether it was in the opinion of the executive most probable that we should have war, or that we should not have war; it merely stated, that peace might not continue. They were left, therefore, to deliberate as they could, uninfluenced and undirected by an expression of what was the opinion of the executive. But, as from their own impulse, they had at last arrived at the subject, he hoped they would go fully into it. Our ports, he said, ought to be fortified, whether we are ultimately to have peace or war. But if only in case of war seeming inevitable, he entreated gentlemen to consider, whether the prospect was not as gloomy as it could be in any state of things short of actual war. But if, contrary to all sound calculation, our peace should continue, the determination to fortify ought in his opinion not to be given up; that, at another time, we may be better prepared than we are now. He hoped, therefore, some opinion would be expressed as to the sum to be appropriated for fortification: he must profess his conviction that neither of the sums mentioned by the chairman of the committee were enough to satisfy that part of the people to whose safety effectual fortifications were so essential. The sum of 750,000 dollars had been mentioned as a sufficient sum; if they once attempted to fortify, they must do it effectually; if they appropriated a sum for defence it must be sufficient, or the money they did expend, would be completely thrown away. He hoped the House would resolve effectually to protect our ports and harbors: when they did that, they did what their country demanded and had a right to demand of them. When they only half fortified, they made a show to induce the people to believe they would do something for them. He should as soon expect a farmer to fence but half his ground, and thus leave his crop exposed, as that they would go but half way in fortifying against an enemy. He hoped they would not squander away money to no purpose; for his part he would not vote for less than a sufficient sum; for if he did, he should consider himself as violating those principles of economy which should always be attended to in government. Mr. G. wished the House not only to make a sound, but act as though they meant to do something. Upon this subject his constituents were feelingly alive to every thing which transpired from that House: they had petitioned formerly and had received petty appropriations which might all have been expended on 15 feet of ground. This would not do any longer; something must either be done for them, or they must be told that they must take care of themselves, and then they would know what to do.

At this time, when they saw approaching so nearly to them—when they saw almost realized that state of war which they had so often been told might happen, and for which the people had been so often warned to prepare, Mr. G. hoped they would give up some of that tenacious hard-fistedness which had hitherto clinched their fingers so closely in the purse strings of the national treasury. It was their cities which now called for protection—it was better to expend money in protecting these deposits of individual wealth, these sources of national revenue, than in buying unproductive wildernesses, or speculating in hot beds of sedition and treason; better protect what they had, than purchase that which might become a curse to them. They had better do something, for what a gentleman of that House once called "the good old thirteen United States," and not let all their care and all their tenderness travel westward. Do something for us, said Mr. G. but do not think of satisfying us by merely pretending to do it; let us know what you mean to do: I feel myself authorised to demand that what we have asked shall be granted to us, or that we shall be told in direct terms that you will do nothing for us. At least deal plainly with us. When you come with your 300,000 or 750,000 dollars, what does it amount to? Can any member in the House lay his hand upon his heart, and say, that either of these sums would answer the purpose of effectual defence for the whole sea coast of the United States. Mr. G. hoped the chairman of the committee of aggressions would not misconceive him; he meant no reflection on the committee or its chairman. He avowed his belief that the committee meant to discharge their duty—but they must forgive me said Mr. G. if I too feel the necessity of doing mine.

(DEBATE TO BE CONTINUED.)

Both resolutions were adopted; the first without a division, and the second, Ayes 93. When the committee rose, and the House agreed to the resolutions, which were referred to the same committee that introduced them, to bring in a bill.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1.

Mr. Quincy offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Secretary for the Department of War be directed to lay before this House an account of the state of the fortifications of the respective ports and harbors of the United States, with a statement of the monies appropriated for fortifications remaining unexpended; and an estimate of the sums necessary for completing such fortifications as may be deemed requisite for their defense.

Which being under consideration,

Mr. Quincy said, the House would perceive the object of this resolution was to obtain information: there was a document on their table which gave some information on the subject, but was not explicit. This resolution was exactly similar to one passed last session, by which the House obtained some important and interesting information; this being the case, he hoped no objection would be made to it.

The resolution was agreed to without a division.

Mr. Bard presented the petition of Duncan M'Vicker, which was referred to the committee of Claims.

Mr. Basset moved that the petitions of Edward Brook and Presley Thornton, presented at a former session, be referred to the committee on Claims barred, &c. Agreed.

Mr. Barker moved that the petition of a number of inhabitants of Plymouth, Duxbury, and Kinston (Mass.) praying for erection of buoys, &c. presented at a former session, be referred to the committee of Commerce and Manufactures. Agreed.

Mr. M. Williams offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire whether any additional compensation ought to be made to the marshal for the district of North Carolina, and that they have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

On motion of *Mr. Southard* the resolution was amended, so as to include the state of New-Jersey; and so amended, was agreed to, and a committee of five appointed.

On motion of Mr. *Lewis*, the House went into committee of the whole on the report of the committee to whom was re-committed the bill for erecting a bridge over the river Potomac, Mr. Pitkin in the chair. Having fixed 60 years as the term of the corporation previous to the right of the U. S. to purchase the bridge, the committee rose, and the bill was ordered to a third reading to-morrow.

Mr. Randolph, after preliminary remarks of some length, which shall be given in our next, offered the following resolutions:

Resolved, That provision ought to be made by law for an adequate and comfortable support of such officers and soldiers of the revolutionary army as are still existing in a state of indigence, disgraceful to the country which owes its liberties to their valor.

Resolved, That provision ought to be made by law for arming and equipping the whole body of the militia of the United States.

Resolved, That provision ought to be made by law for procuring a formidable train of field artillery for the service of the United States.

These resolutions were referred to a committee of the whole House to morrow.

Mr. Blount from the committee to whom the resolutions on the subject yesterday agreed to were referred, reported a bill for fortifying the harbors of the United States, and for building gun boats, which was read twice and referred to a committee of the whole on Thursday next.

On motion of Mr. Winn, the House went into committee of the whole on the report of the committee appointed to prepare standing rules and orders for the House. The committee having made some progress, and the usual hour of adjournment being arrived, the committee rose and obtained leave to sit again.

SENATE UNITED STATES,

November 30.

Mr. Adams from the committee appointed in the case of Mr. Smith, made a report, recommending the adoption of the following resolutions, which were agreed to:

Resolved, That the committee appointed on the 27th inst. to enquire & report the facts, respecting the conduct of John Smith, a Senator from the state of Ohio, as an alleged associate of Aaron Burr, be authorised to extend their enquiries to any other facts, which in their opinion would be incompatible with his duty as a Senator of the U. S. and that they be authorised to send for persons, papers and records.

Resolved, That the President of the U. S. be requested to cause to be laid before the Senate such information as may be in his possession, in relation to the conduct of John Smith, a Senator from the state of Ohio, as an alleged associate of Aaron Burr.

DECEMBER 1.

The bill reported by Mr. Adams "For the preservation of peace and maintenance of the authority of the United States, in the ports, harbors, and waters under their jurisdiction," after undergoing a slight amendment, was ordered to a third reading without a division. The question was taken on striking out the 5th section, which interdicts the entrance of all British armed vessels into the ports and waters of the U. S. and vests the President with power to take off the prohibition whenever, in his opinion, due reparation shall be made, and lost. Yeas 3—Nays 26. Messrs. Pickering, Hillhouse and Goodrich voting in the affirmative; and Messrs. Adams, Anderson, Bradley, Condit, Franklin, Gaillard, Gilman, Gregg, Howland, Kitchel, Maclay, Mathewson, Milledge, Mitchill, Moore, Parker, Pope, Robinson, Smith, of Maryland, Smith, of New York, Smith, of Tennesse, Sumpter, Thruston, Tiffin, Turner, and White, voting in the negative.

WASHINGTON CITY.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2.

We have received the following as the purport of Mr. Canning's answer to Mr. Munroe. As this statement is altogether derived from public rumor, we should decline inserting it, but for the great importance of the subject, and from the right of our readers to be informed even of rumors so interesting, especially when credited by intelligent men.

The Note is said to state—That the British government has always claimed and exercised the right to take British seamen wherever found—That according to the modern usage of civilized nations, national vessels were not liable to search—That G. Britain will conform to this usage—That for the affair of the Chesapeake reparation will be made, and a minister sent to the U. States for that purpose—No hint is given as to the nature or extent of the reparation—On the contrary it is expressly stated, that the claim of the American government to reparation is lessened by the refusal to deliver up their men, and by the President's proclamation, both of which are considered as acts of hostility on our part—That the minister sent to the U. S. would be expressly instructed not to blend with the affair of the Chesapeake either the impressment of seamen, or any other subject of difference between the two countries—The letter is in a style more haughty than conciliatory, and calculated rather to increase than lessen the sentiment of indignation so generally excited by the unprincipled conduct of G. B. towards neutrals generally, and particularly towards the U. States.

To keep pace with the great mass of interesting debate in Congress we have covered the last page of the paper with a continuation of that on the report of the Committee of Elections.

Benjamin Williams is elected Governor of North Carolina.

The Legislature of Georgia have elected William H. Crawford, a Senator of the United States, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of Abraham Baldwin.

New York, November 29.

A gentleman of this city has favored us with a letter from a friend at Marblehead, who came out in the sch'r Spring-Bird, from Nantz, which place she left about the 12th of Oct. This letter states, that there was to be another levy of 200,000 men in France—that Bonaparte intended to march an army of 70,000 men through Persia to India, and that the king of Persia was to furnish all the necessary supplies for the French army—that Russia and Germany were to be the mediators for a General Peace—that the king of Denmark had furnished men to man 9 French ships of war that were at Flushing—and that legionary honors had been conferred on Gen. Linniers for his able defence of Buenos Ayres. [This is the latest news from France, and coming from a respectable source, is entitled to consideration.]

NOTICE.

A GENTLEMAN, unencumbered with a wife or family, of unexceptionable moral character and uniform exemplary deportment, who is qualified to teach the English Language, and the Rudiments of Mathematics, may find employment, in the capacity of private Tutor, by applying to the Rev. David Wiley, Georgetown, Columbia; or to

ARMISTEAD T. MASON,
Loudon, Virginia.

December 30—8w

FOR SALE,

A likely young Negro Woman and Boy, both bred up as servants in a genteel family. Enquire of the Printer.

December 2—4w

TEN DOLLARS REWARD.

LAST Thursday was stolen or taken out of the British Minister's entry, a new Drab colored SURTOUT, with buttons of the same cloth, and silk lining in the sleeves. Any body that brings the said Surtout to the British Minister's House, will receive the above mentioned reward.

December 2—2t

TO BE SOLD AT PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SALE,

ON Wednesday the 9th day of December, on a credit of nine months, by giving bond with approved security at the Dwelling plantation of Mrs. Masters, two miles on the east side of the Eastern Branch bridge, some Negroes, Horses, cattle, and Household Furniture—also Corn and Fodder.

December 2—3t

MURRAY'S SHOES.

THE Subscriber has received by the brig Betsy from Philadelphia an Assortment of Murray's Shoes, of every description—a new supply of

FALL & WINTER GOODS.

3 barrels of Cranberry's, which he offers for sale very low for cash, or to punctual customers.

P. MAURO.

December 2—tf