

to gratify "the reasonable wishes and just expectations" of the people.

The idea of danger from any thing England can do, says the government paper, is idle and absurd. Is it indeed? Does this tool of the ministry know, that the general calculation of the best informed men in our city, makes the amount of American property now in English possession, and liable, in the event of war, to confiscation, one hundred millions of dollars!

Can the English government, it is asked, be so mad as to send troops for invasion! No. But in spite of all this to prove the contrary at Washington, they may send a half dozen 74 gun ships, which, with a leading breeze, would pass our beautiful circular stone forts, and lay our city in ashes, before we could get our families beyond the pavement. "Some of our towns (he might have said all our towns on the sea board) it is admitted, may be exposed to danger from ships of war, but, with suitable precautions it will soon vanish."—What but indignation restrains our contempt for such arrant non-sense?

We have the consolation, however, notwithstanding all the rant and bluster in the National Intelligencer, to reflect, that, whatever may be the wishes and designs of the Executive, the Constitution has wisely vested the power of declaring war solely in Congress, and that a majority of that body are hardly frantic enough yet, to rush into a war, without men or money, or the means of getting either, and with a seacoast unprotected. But even were it otherwise, and their appetites ever so keen, the news of the Massachusetts election would prove a complete damper. *N. Y. Even. Post.*

By an arrival at New-York, from St. Mary's it is found, that General Mathews was organizing and administering the government of Amelia Island in the name of the United States. He has appointed a collector; and is permitting American vessels to clear out for ports in the United States, with cargoes of dry goods, &c. Three ships with cargoes for Philadelphia, were to sail the day after Capt. Johnson left St. Mary's.

The Revolutionists who had marched against St. Augustine, were repelled by the garrison, and obliged to retire. The United States armed brig Vixen, it is said, had been ordered round to St. Augustine; and a body of our regular troops were on their march to reinforce the Revolutionary Band.

It is also said, that the English brig Racoon and a frigate, with troops were on their way from New-Providence to strengthen the garrison at St. Augustine, and to aid the Spanish government in protecting their Colony.

It is likewise whispered at New-York, but we believe on mere conjecture, that the President and the Essex, both of which sailed from that port lately under the command of Commodore Rogers, are ordered to St. Augustine.

If these things are true, the people of the United States may be plunged into a wanton and devastating war before they are aware of it.—British blood, for which the Bedlamites of Congress, your Porters, and your Clays, and your Grundies, appear so ardently to thirst after, may stream upon Spanish ground; and our Canadian neighbors may possibly have a short respite from the ravages of the American soldiers.

APRIL 30.

FRENCH TREATY.—A gentleman from Holmes' Hole, which he left on Tuesday last, at noon, states, that the schooner Zephyr, Olcott, had arrived there in 39 days from Rochelle, (France) bound to New-York; that the Capt. of the Zephyr informed him that a treaty was to be sent out in the Hornet, and was such a one as might be expected from the French Emperor, unfavorable to America.

WAR.—Beside the clamor of War with England, we have some chance of a war with Spain—and a course of similar experiments with the whole tribe of Indians from North to South. Our warhaws must, therefore, bestir themselves, or they will be worsted in the conflict, of striving "which shall do the other the most harm."

AMELIA.—A gentleman arrived at Savannah, who left Amelia on the 10th instant, informs that the Governor of Augustine was determined not to surrender the place till he was compelled by superior force, and that the taking it should cost the Patriots and their adherents dear—the force in the place was not known—the Patriots force was from 400 to 460.

MORE DEMOCRATIC MORALITY!

Extract from Washington City to the Editor of the Virginia Argus, April 10, 1812.

"The capture of Amelia Island is altogether unauthorised by government; but, then, as it is taken, I think we might as well keep it."

THINGS AS THEY ARE.

[The following paragraph, from the Baltimore Federal Republican, of Friday last, contains "Multum in parvo." The suggestions, we believe, perfectly well founded; and furnish the only clue to the present shuffling, paradoxical conduct of Administration.]

"It would be difficult to answer the question for what purpose congress are adjourning? But they must find out some occupation as an apology for renewing the session, and what the next move will be is equally as difficult to foresee. The state of the political game is desperate, hence nothing can be expected but desperate play. As Mr. Madison is canvassing for votes with all his might and has none to spare, his situation is highly embarrassing. Suppose Mr. Clay demands war, on pain of deserting him with all the mettlesome troops he can gather to his standard.—Poor Madison must affect to use his influence and declare his opinion for war. Suppose Messrs. Lowndes, Cheves and others call for the permanent or temporary removal of the non-importation law—this must also be assented to—

Suppose Mr. Rhea of Tennessee should be able to raise a band of twenty determined followers, who should boldly declare that if that law is not left untouched, their resentment shall be felt in the election—why then again the non-importation must remain in statu quo. It is readily perceived that no steady course can be pursued by a wight so circumstanced. No separate interest is promoted by it, and it is not more pernicious to the mass of the nation than it will prove fatal to the hands which have laid it. It must therefore, it seems, be considered a plant of foreign origin. The manufacturing concern would be sufficiently accommodating by the non-importation, without it; and the high spirits which pant for the bloody arena, must feel themselves enthralled in the chains of an embargo.

It is now nearly a month since an officer of the United States took military possession of the territory of a neighbouring power, in amity and peaceful intercourse with our country; yet so totally and disgracefully negligent of their duty have our congressmen been, that no demand of the executive has been made, why, or upon what authority, this extraordinary proceeding has taken place—a proceeding involving not only the peace of our country, but the lives and property of many of its citizens. Surely such an instance of criminal inattention has hardly ever occurred before in any country calling itself free, or claiming to be governed by laws.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in the country.

"The contracts for provisions on Connecticut river, and other preparations in that quarter, indicate that our army is to march to Canada, where it will be six months at least, before they overcome all the obstacles in their approach to Quebec, or at any rate, before they take the place—especially as the British have now a sufficient force there to meet our army in the field; so that it is possible they may not find the journey quite so pleasant as was expected. This may prolong the campaign to a year. "Thinks I to myself," what will the British navy be doing all this time? We have some ports not so strongly fortified as Quebec, and the British might take and plunder half a dozen of them, while we are looking at the fortress: and as this is to be a "contest which shall do the other the most harm," who can doubt that it must be a very "unprofitable" one to us? There is but little for us to gain, where the enemy are so much better secured from our attacks, than we are from theirs. Our attempts to take Quebec are as absurd, as for the Terrapin to make war on the Eagle, for the purpose of taking possession of her nest, built on the dizzy summit of her own native rock—both equally difficult to take, and equally useless when taken. The assailant climbs the rock with difficulty, while the Eagle, mistress of another element, pounces upon the poor tortoise when and where she pleases."

MORE OF THE FRENCH WAR.

THE ENEMY ON THE COAST.

In the Regulator which arrived on Thursday, came passenger Capt. Hincks, late of the schooner Ruthy taken by the French in the Mediterranean, retaken by the English, and sold by Capt. H. at Gibraltar. Capt. H. was a passenger in the brig Betsy, Brimblecome, from Gibraltar for Boston, which went into the Capes of the Delaware on the 9th inst. for water, 62 days out.

The Betsy was boarded March 23, lat. 30½ lon. 69, from two French frigates, from Nantz, which put on board the mate and four men belonging to the brig ADVENTURE, CURTIS, of BOSTON, from the West Indies with a cargo of 90 puncheons of rum and 7 hhd's molasses—and three men belonging to a PORTSMOUTH BRIG Captain SAUNDERS, also from the West Indies bound home—both of which they had SCUTTLED. Capts. Curtis and Saunders were detained on board the frigates. An English merchant, a prisoner, was put on board the Betsy. He understood the frigates had destroyed about FOURTEEN AMERICAN VESSELS.

One of the frigates had about 70 prisoners, who had been near taking her.

NEW-YORK, APRIL 21.

GREAT MEETING AT ALBANY.—Last week an extraordinary meeting of the people without distinction of parties, (the chairman of one sect and the secretary of another,) was held at Albany to take into consideration the Embargo and the present alarming proceedings of Congress. Mr. Foot of the Democratic party addressed them in an eloquent speech, at some length; petition, he said, should lead the way, if unsuccessful it should be followed by remonstrance, and if remonstrance, was disregarded he should be for seizing the earliest opportunity provided by the laws, for turning every soul out of office, as they already were out of confidence. A spirited petition and remonstrance was forthwith drawn up and received with unanimous approbation.—*Even. Post.*

EARTHQUAKE IN CARRACCAS.

Several additional accounts of the late earthquake have been received both from Carraccas and Laguiria, and we have hopes, the first accounts of the loss of human lives have been exaggerated, though those actually ascertained are very melancholy. The great shock on the 26th March, was in the season of Lent, and on the eve of Good Friday, when the churches was filled with worshippers.—Of 40 places of worship, 38 were destroyed, and being principally of stone, the destruction of many in their fall was inevitable. The earth undulated like water in waves from eighteen inches to two feet high. The first shock was preceded and attended with noise equaling the roaring of a thousand cannon;—this excited so much terror as to deprive many of the power of running out doors, and escaping. Hundreds were crushed by falling walls while on their knees in the act of supplication, who had time to have got into open places. The scene thus occasioned was distressing beyond description. The great shock con-

tinued from one to four minutes—others less violent succeeded for several days, and on the 4th April, (the last date) another was felt, which the ship-master who brought the account describes as having made the mountains rock like a vessel in a heavy sea. The extent of the destruction of lives had not been fully ascertained—500 had been dug out of the ruins in Laguiria; and at Carraccas about 2500. The dead were either carried off and sunk in the sea or burned to prevent infection. To add to the calamity, the blacks immediately commenced the robbery and destruction of what the Earthquake had spared. Of the Americans at these places, we have only heard of one, Mr. Crowe, of New-York, who perished.

NEW-YORK, APRIL 15.

The Recess.—By our Congressional sketches it will be seen, that a Committee of five has been appointed, on the part of the House of Representatives to join a Committee from the Senate, to enquire into the expediency of a Recess of six or eight weeks. That our Readers may see the motives which have led to this step, we copy from the "National Intelligencer," the following explanatory remarks of Mr. Bibb, the Member who introduced the motion for the appointment of the Committee:—

Mr. Bibb said he rose for the purpose of submitting to the House a proposition on the subject of an adjournment for a short time. He believed in doing so, he should consult the feelings and opinions of a considerable majority, although it might be his misfortune not to receive the concurrence of some gentlemen whom he highly respected. The motion he was about to make was the result of the most deliberate consideration he had been able to bestow on the present state of our public affairs. Every effort (said Mr. B.) which the love of peace could suggest, every sacrifice which national independence could permit, have been made to induce the belligerents to abstain from violating our rights. Having been made in vain, we have now solemnly determined to seek that redress by arms which has been refused to negotiation, and, he would add, to supplication. With that determination, all the important measures preparatory to war, which it belonged to Congress to adopt, have been taken; and before we can proceed further, it is necessary that the Executive branch of the government shall have raised to a certain extent, organized, and distributed the different species of force which the national legislature has authorised. Considering the widely extended territory over which the people of this country are scattered, and various other circumstances connected with this subject, it could not be expected that the raising, organization, and distribution of a large army should be the work of a day. Time must and would be required to perfect a system on which we are about to rely for the defence of the nation, and for redressing the multiplied wrongs it has suffered. The passage of the Embargo law ought to remove all doubts from every mind in regard to the question of War. That question he considered settled—the stand was taken, and it would be maintained. Viewing then the measures of an Embargo as intended to keep our property at home, and to notify our citizens abroad of the storm which is approaching, its duration had been fixed with reference to the present state of preparation for war, and to the probable period when such preparation would be sufficient to authorise the commencement of hostilities. In the space of ninety days, it is understood, the country will be prepared to embark in contest, a contest which the American people are convinced could not have been avoided without an abandonment of their essential interests. If then all the legislative acts are passed, which, for the present, it is important should be passed, he could perceive no substantial objection to a recess for a few weeks. Will such recess retard the preparations for war? Certainly not. On the contrary, it appeared to him calculated to expedite them. The head of the war department would be relieved from the daily interruptions to which during the session of Congress he is liable, and the other members of administration would be enabled to unite their exertions in the important duties which at this moment press so heavily on that department. Will a continuance of the session now enable us eventually to adjourn sooner, than if a recess he had? Obviously not. Congress must be in session at the termination of the Embargo, and the only question to be decided is, shall we remain here with nothing to do, or spend a part of the intermediate time at our respective homes. The considerations in favour of the latter course were so imposing and so apparent that it could not be necessary for him to use them.

Mr. B. said he was aware of the fears entertained by some as to the impression which a recess might produce on the public mind, but thought they were altogether groundless. The people of this country possessed a great share of intelligence, and would judge correctly upon the subject. They would have before them the evidence of busy warlike preparations throughout the nation; and with the information that Congress had adjourned only for a few weeks, to convene again under peculiar circumstances, at an unusual and inclement season, they could not fail to perceive, what he believed time would confirm, that their representatives intend not to disappoint their expectations.

Mr. B. said, the few remarks he had offered were intended to prevent any misconception of his views.—His object was to adjourn from about the 20th of the present month to the 15th of June.—The resolution, however, only proposed an enquiry on the subject.

The following resolution was submitted:
Resolved, That a committee be appointed to join such committee as the Senate may appoint, to consider and report what business demands the immediate attention of Congress, and whether a recess be compatible with the public interest, and the term of such recess.