

would be better received. He then said, that from respect to our brethren of Philadelphia, and since we were called upon to express an opinion, he inclined to the idea of a letter to those gentlemen, rather than of a memorial. In this view he submitted the draft of a letter to the meeting, in which it had been endeavoured to express, as that gentlemen of every political opinion might join in it.

Mr. RIXER made a few observations stating his opinion that the late Judiciary Act was not only useless, but hurtful and too expensive. He thought the District Judges might do all the judicial business of the United States, subject to the correction of the supreme court. He offered resolutions expressive of the confidence of the meeting in the proper organs of the government, and that it would be improper to interfere with the deliberations of Congress.—He disapproved of the letter proposed by Gen. HAMILTON, because it impeached either the discernment or the integrity of the Senate.

Mr. HARRISON and Gen. HAMILTON followed, and, in a very able, dispassionate and conclusive manner, demonstrated the inefficacy of the former Judiciary System—the importance of an Independent Federal Judiciary—and the trivial amount of its expence, compared with the benefits resulting from it, to every individual in the community. It is impossible to do justice to the very able and elegant remarks made by these gentlemen.

Mr. RIXER proposed an amendment to the draft of a letter which had been read—the amendment was much to the same effect as the resolutions before proposed by Mr. RIXER. He said that after the very eloquent remarks that had been made, he should place the less reliance upon his own opinion, if he were not supported by many of the most eminent men in the Union, whose patriotism was as pure, and whose views as comprehensive as any opposed to them.

Mr. WORTMAN thought, that, after the clamour which had formerly been made about popular and self-created Societies, gentlemen could not, with propriety, come forward to influence the decisions of Congress by such a meeting as this. He had entire confidence in Congress. He moved certain resolutions, expressive of the confidence of the meeting in the wisdom and integrity of Congress, and of an opinion that the question should be left wholly to their discretion, without any interference on the part of this meeting.

Gen. HAMILTON again rose. He felt little zeal upon this subject, because he believed that no possible exertions could arrest the blow aimed at the Constitution. Respecting what was observed of secret popular societies, he said, the baneful effects of them were not confined to modern times, but had been felt in some of the ancient Republics, as was noticed by MONTESQUIEU.—He repeated, that they were the most dangerous engines ever employed against free governments. He mentioned the example of a great kingdom subverted by their influence, and which has found no relief but in the horrid calm of despotism. An occasional and public meeting of individuals to petition the Legislature, have no resemblance to a secret, organized and extensive combination of political societies. He declared in the most emphatic manner, that if the bill for the repeal passed, and the independence of the Judiciary was destroyed, the Constitution was but a shadow, and we should, ere long, be divided into separate confederacies, turning our arms against each other. He solemnly called heaven to witness his devout desire, that the system of government adopted among us might prosper; but his hope in their prosperity was much weakened, when he perceived them becoming the spoil of popular intrigue, and one after another "crumbling beneath him." Between a government of laws, administered by an independent Judiciary, or a despotism supported by an army, there was no medium. If we relinquish one we must submit to the other. He pathetically deplored the event to which we hasten, but intimated no hope that any human exertions could avert it.

We pretend not in this, to give an outline of all the leading ideas of Mr. HAMILTON, much less to sketch the inimitable pathos and force of eloquence with which he spoke.—Those who have longest known and most admired this admirable man, declares that they

never heard him speak with superior ability, force, or effect.

Mr. PENDLETON regretted that to all appearance the hope of unanimity in which the meeting was called, must be given up. He said that since the bar could not agree in any one measure, the minority would certainly not be bound by the sentiments of the majority. He therefore thought it was desirable that the question should be taken upon any one of the motions before the bar, in order to determine which would be the prevalent opinion.

Mr. WORTMAN's resolutions being called for, the previous question was moved upon them, viz:—"Will the meeting take any vote on the resolutions?" and it passed in the negative.

Mr. RIXER's resolutions were then called up—but it being remarked that the state of the question would of course be the same upon them he withdrew them, and the gentlemen who had divided in the minority, withdrew from the meeting.

It was then proposed and agreed, as the draft of the letter before presented by Gen. HAMILTON had avoided the expression of any opinion on the unconstitutionality of the Repeal of the late Judiciary Act, from a hope that it would be joined in by gentlemen of different opinions on that subject—that a clause should now be added expressive of the decided opinion of the gentlemen present, that the Repeal of the Act connected with the destruction of the office and emoluments of the Judges is an unequivocal violation of a vital and essential part of the constitution.

This clause being added, the letter was agreed to, and signed.

New Brunswick.

SAINT JOHN,
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1802.

By the arrival of the Schooner *Industry*, Capt. Carnell, in 6 days from Boston, we have been favoured with Papers to the 4th inst. by which it appears—That the brig *Hunter*, Captain *Hourston*, had arrived at Baltimore from Bourdeaux, bringing intelligence from that place as late as the 10th Jan. stating, that the *Definitive Treaty* with England had been signed; and that several ships of war had sailed from Brest for the West-Indies; the troops, however, it was said, would not sail until April.

The postscript of a letter received at New-Bedford, from Liverpool, of the date of Dec. 22, states, "that a motion had been made in Parliament to continue the prohibition of the use of Grain in Distilleries; but as the motion has been rejected, the prohibition will cease on the first of January next."

By a report lately made to the Legislative Body of France, it appears to be the intention of the French Government, that in *Guadeloupe* and *St. Domingo*, where the blacks have been declared free by law, they shall remain so; but that in *Martinique*, *Iles of Frante*, and *Bourbon*, slavery not having been abolished, shall be maintained. The report mentions, that an army and a fleet being destined for *St. Domingo*, &c. tranquillity will be restored; and prudence and wisdom will bring about cultivation and industry; but that experiments in favour of the freedom of the blacks, had cost humanity too much blood to be repeated again.

Jan. 21st, in lat. 20, long. 44, was seen in with, the *French Fleet*, from Brest for the West-Indies, full of troops, very near the Western Islands.

It is intimated that a French Commercial house in New-York, has contracted to supply with provisions the army and navy which are to be stationed in the West-Indies.

We understand that the British sloop of war *Fairy*, was wrecked in the Chesapeake, on the 10th inst.—of 150, only five of the crew were saved.

A person has been detected at Philadelphia, in attempting to negotiate false Bills on the British Government.

FROM EUROPE.

An arrival at Norfolk, has furnished London News to the 31st Dec. The substance, which appears to be of little importance, is thus summarily stated:

—"That the Negotiations at *Amiens* were in a favourable train.—A rumour had circulated, which appeared unfounded, that Spain had refused to cede *Trinidad*—which had led to the report of general hostilities.—The differences between Austria and Prussia, on the subject of indemnities, are likely to be settled by a convention through the interposition of France—and the horrors of renewed hostilities on the Continent thereby prevented.—The Treaty of *Badajos*, according to Mr. Addington's declaration to Mr. Windham, is to be considered as the basis of the Negotiations between Great Britain and France as far as they respect Portugal, while that of *Madrid* is to be annulled—the interests of their faithful ally being thus far attended to by the British Ministry.—The Brest fleet, joined by the squadrons of *L'Orient* and *Rocheport*, amounting to 23 ships, of which 5 are Spanish, sailed with a fair wind the 14th of Dec. conveying transports containing 25,000 troops. The Spanish general *Gravina* goes out with the expedition as Governor it is said of the *Havannah*.—Although no intentions hostile to Great-Britain are apprehended, four ships of the line from the Squadron of *Sir James Saumarez*, are ordered to augment the fleet in the West-Indies."

The Papers received by this arrival furnish the following anecdote:—

"Private advices from Paris relate an anecdote of so extraordinary a nature that we cannot venture to give credit to the relation, although the circumstance is mentioned in letters from persons of the greatest respectability. The following is said to have lately occurred: *Talleyrand* waited on the first Consul and acquainted him that he had reason to believe, the Consular Majesty might obtain an *Infanta* of Spain in marriage, provided he would divorce himself from his present wife, whose conduct while she lived with *Barras*, is well known. Bonaparte heard the proposition of his Minister, but was cautious of taking any step in it, until he had sounded *Fouche*, the minister of the Police, who knows more of the state of the different factions and the intrigues of the Capital, than any person in France.

"*Fouche*, who is a determined enemy of *Talleyrand*, availed himself of the opportunity (as the story goes) of endeavouring to compass the ruin of the ex-bishop, and conceived that no method could be so certain as to inform *Madame Bonaparte* of the proposal that had been made to her husband. It is not difficult to foresee the *Denouement*. The enraged lady sent her mandat for the Secretary of State to appear before her, and made it very plain to him, that she had no intention of being divorced any more. *Talleyrand* it is said, is become fully sensible of the danger of interfering between a man and his lawful wife, and the *Infanta* is to get herself another husband."

LONDON Dec. 20.

Such is the favourable state of the negotiation at *Amiens*, that Lord *Whitworth*, our Ambassador is to proceed immediately to *Paris*.

Spain it is said, has peremptorily refused to ratify the Preliminaries of Peace, or surrender the Island of *Trinidad*. She has as yet refused passports to English shipping.

December 24.

It is highly probable that government is in expectation of the immediate conclusion of the *Definitive Treaty of Peace*; and to this hope may be attributed the unexpected adjournment of both Houses of Parliament, to next Monday, instead of the intended adjournment for the recess.—Mr. *Addington's* declaration, in answer to the question put to him by Mr. *Windham*, that the Treaty of *Badajos*, is to be considered as the basis of the negotiations between Great-Britain and France, as far as they respect Portugal, while that of *Madrid* is to be annulled: must prove a subject of great satisfaction to the country. It evinces the peculiar attention given by Ministers to the interests of our most faithful ally, as well as their firmness in resisting the encroachments aimed at by France upon the Portuguese territory in *Guiana*, although the measure had been ratified by the tribunate and legislative body.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 24.

A letter from *Algiers*, dated Dec. 31st. 1801, from Capt. *Blackwell* to Capt. *Monteath*, states that the Phila-

delphia frigate had taken a *Tripolitan* Brig of fourteen guns and two hundred men. The *Boston* frigate had arrived at *Algiers*.

"The frigate *President*, Commodore *Dale*, and *Philadelphia*, *Barron*, were cruising off *Tripoli*, in December.

"The *Essex*, Capt. *Bainbridge*, was off *Gibraltar*.

FURTHER FROM PHILAD.

"By the arrival in the Delaware of the French Cutter *La Terreur*, from Brest, authentic accounts are received of the sailing of the French and Spanish fleet for the West-Indies, on the 14th Dec.—It is further stated, that Gen. *Le Clerc*, brother-in-law to *Bonaparte*, is Commander in Chief, of the expedition, and appointed Governor of *St. Domingo*; and that another Squadron would follow the destination of the above mentioned fleet. This arrival brought dispatches to the Consul General of the French Government."

FROM WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.

"The public mind is highly agitated here.—The holders of City Lots seem much alarmed. Not a lot has been sold for many days past; and the prospect of a dependent Judiciary, and of Judges who are to be the creatures, and puppets of the Virginia party, prevents the sale of the landed property here. Many of the sober-minded men of Virginia are endeavouring to sell their lands and slaves and contemplate removing to New-England. From the violation of the constitution, disunion must, they think, ensue; and when it shall, they mean to be on the safe side of the boundary."

SALEM, MARCH 2.

MELANCHOLY.

On Sunday, last week, the three following ships sailed from this port on foreign voyages, viz. the *Ulysses* and *Brutus*, Capts. *William Brown* and *James Cook*, belonging to Messrs. *Crowninshield*, and the *Volusia*, Capt. *Samuel Cook*, belonging to Capt. *Israel Williams* and others. The severe snow storm which followed a few hours after they sailed has occasioned much anxiety for their safety; and it is with extreme pain we state, that last evening accounts came to town from Cape Cod which make it appear too probable that the whole were cast away on the back of the Cape. We have not heard particulars of the disasters; from the intenseness of the cold, as well as violence of the storm, we have too much to fear. Numerous are the connexions and extreme the anxiety which exists; and until the worst is known, we would indulge every favourable hope that can be derived from conjecture.

CLEARANCES.

Brig *May*, for *Wilmington*; Schooners *Lark*, and *Olive*, for *New-York*.

DIED] On Sunday last (very suddenly,) Mr. *WILLIAM THOMSON*, late Merchant of this City, in the 58th year of his age.

A BILL For the easy and speedy recovery of small Debts, and for Regulating the proceedings thereon.

BE IT enacted by the Lieutenant Governor, Council and Assembly, that all Actions wherein the sum or matter in demand shall not exceed Five pounds, shall be heard and determined before any one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, in the respective Counties of this Province, and no other Court shall hold Plea or Jurisdiction of the same, and that the ordinary process shall be by summons under the Hand and Seal of such Justice directed to the Constable of the Town or Parish, where the Defendant shall reside, which process shall express the time and place of appearance and cause of action and shall be served at least six days before the time of Trial, and such service shall be by reading the same in the Defendant's hearing, or by leaving a true and attested copy thereof at the Defendant's usual place of abode.

11. And be it further enacted, That every Constable shall indorse on such Process, a true return of the service thereof and make return of the summons to the Justice who issued the same; and upon such return the Justice shall proceed to hear the parties and their proofs and evidences and give such judgment thereon, as to him shall appear just and equitable; unless the Defendant two days before such Trial shall give notice to such Justice