

A memorial from James B. Sullivan, of Dorchester county, was read and referred.

A petition from John Spalding, of Prince-George's county, for an act of insolvency, was read and referred.

Mr. Montgomery delivers a report on the petition of Robert Amos, in his favour; which was read.

Mr. Montgomery delivers a report on the petition of William Amos, senior, in his favour; which was read.

Mr. Yates delivers a bill authorising a lottery to raise a sum of money for building bridges over Conococheague creek, in Washington county; which was read.

Mr. Montgomery delivers a bill to empower the justices of the levy court of Harford county to assess and levy annually a sum of money for the purpose therein mentioned; which was read.

Mr. Montgomery delivers a bill to repeal part of the act of assembly therein mentioned; which was read.

Mr. Montgomery delivers a bill further supplementary to an act to straighten and amend the public roads in Harford county; which was read.

Mr. Hyland delivers a bill granting a loan to the trustees of Washington academy, in Somerset county; which was read.

Mr. Simkins delivers a report on the petition of Thomas Johnson, in his favour; which was read.

A petition from sundry inhabitants of Cecil county was read and referred.

Mr. Ridgely delivers a bill to authorise the levy court of Baltimore county to adjust a claim of Henry Stevenson against said county; which was read.

A petition from Abraham Jarrett, of Harford county, was read and referred.

Mr. Dugan delivers a supplement to an act respecting Ten Feet lane in the city of Baltimore; which was read.

A petition and remonstrance from Lancelot Green, and others, and a petition from sundry inhabitants of the town of Oxford, in Talbot county, were read and referred.

The house took into consideration the bill to provide for the trial of facts in the several counties of this state, and to alter, change and abolish, all such parts of the constitution and form of government as relate to the general court and court of appeals, and the bill being read throughout, Ordered, That the further consideration thereof be postponed till to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21, 1803.

Mr. Carcaud and Mr. Rose appeared in the house.

A petition from Mary Black, and others, of Newcastle county, state of Delaware, was read and referred.

A petition from Abraham Underwood, of Baltimore county, for an act of insolvency, was read and referred.

The bill appointing commissioners to lay out the divisional road between Somerset and Worcester counties, from the mills formerly called John Caldwell's mills to Cox's branch, was read the second time and passed.

Agreeably to the order of the day, the house resumed the consideration of the bill to provide for the trial of facts in the several counties of this state, and to alter, change and abolish, all such parts of the constitution and form of government as relate to the general court and court of appeals, and after some time spent in debate thereon, the question was put, That the said bill do pass with the proposed amendments?

The yeas and nays being required, appeared as follows:

AFFIRMATIVE.

Messrs. Angier, Hatcheson, Thomas, Lemmon, Brown, Rose, Veazey, Miller, Sheredine, Alexander, Van-Horn, Lyles, Thompson, Roberts, Sudler, Lowrey, Sturgis, Williams, Purnell, Hawkins, Shriver, Clarke, Montgomery, Forwood, E. Davis, Lytle, Rich, Pearce, Dickson, Dugan, Kerfuer, Zeller, Smith, Yates. 34.

NEGATIVE.

Messrs. Barber, R. Neale, W. Neale, Hopewell, Mercer, Harwood, Hall, Dorsey, Grahame, Carcaud, Stuart, Jones, Chapman, M'Pherson, Ridgely, Lloyd, Meluy, Dashiell, Carroll, Cottman, Hyland, Goldborough, Frazier, Keene, Bayly, Calvert, Shaaff, Muir, Wilson, Young, Swearingen, T. Davis, Veatch, Linthicum, Bayard, Tomlinson, Cresap, Simkins. 38.
So it was determined in the negative.

BOSTON, December 8.

Yesterday arrived here the brig Tyger, capt. Bartlett, in 37 days from London. She brings accounts to the last of October; but the only measure of consequence, that we can learn, is the expected declaration of war by Britain against Spain and Portugal. Both these powers, says the Morning Chronicle, are sunk under the dominion of France.

The powers of Europe may look with anxiety on the formidable preparations making against this country, but certainly would not do so with unconcern, if they were not blinded to their ultimate interest in the contest. Every part, however, of their conduct, seems more decidedly to prove what little dependence can be placed in them, should appearances indicate the propriety of another confederacy.

On the 4th of October, Buonaparte was at Paris, and reviewed a very large body of troops destined for the invasion of England. There were in Holland, on the 13th Oct. 42,000 men, who would be ready to embark in ten days.

From LISBON.

Capt. Burrows who sailed October 19, informs, that expectations were then entertained there by many, that Spain and Portugal would be able to negotiate for the continuance of their neutrality. The hopes of the British merchants, however, were mixed with fears. The British ambassador was expected from Madrid, on whose arrival it was expected something decisive would be announced. The Moorish frigate had sailed from Lisbon; and as the captain had not been apprised of the peace, he went to sea to cruise for American vessels. The Philadelphia frigate, however, was off Lisbon.

NEW-YORK, December 14.

Captain Murphy, from Calcutta, informs, that the news of war had not reached that place when he sailed, but was informed of it at St. Helena. A secret expedition sailed from Calcutta in company with the Swift, supposed to be destined for Ceylon, as a reinforcement to the British troops at that place; at which island there had been some serious disturbances between the British and Khandian chief. It was said some of his Britannic majesty's troops had been massacred. The whole of the troops in the upper provinces had taken the field.

A gentleman who arrived here in the ship Patty, from New-Orleans, informs us, that on the 20th ult. he met in the river a Spanish corvette from Havana, bound up to New-Orleans, having on board 150,000 dollars, in part payment of the colonial debt. He learned from this corvette, that the Spanish government did not intend to give up Louisiana.

GALE OF WIND.

We can hardly recollect so severe a gale of wind as has prevailed during the last 48 hours. It commenced before day on Tuesday, accompanied with violent rain. Our harbour crowded with shipping and coasting craft, was exposed, especially on the Hudson side of the town, to all its rage. The following vessels were either dashed to pieces against the wharfs and adjoining vessels, or sunk. In the North river, near the Hay Scales, a schooner belonging to John Hatfield, of Staten-Island, laden with hay, and a sloop, name unknown; near the Corporation dock, a sloop laden with wood and marketing; off the battery, a sloop laden with pork, beef, cheese, &c. in the East river, near Exchange-slip, a schooner belonging to Mr. Cornwell, owner of the mills at Red Hook, laden with flour, and a schooner belonging to Mr. Ronolds. Exclusive of the above, which have been completely wrecked, a vast number have sustained more or less injury, and the total damage cannot be rated at less than 20,000 dollars.

By the arrival at Newburyport of captain Patch, in the ship Elizabeth, 47 days from Lisbon, we are informed, that it was not expected Portugal could long resist the tide of French influence. It was supposed that the Spaniards would certainly join the French, as they had concluded not to purchase a neutrality on the terms stated in late papers. He understood that England had given the Spanish court to understand, that she should expect a sum not less than should be given to Buonaparte as a consideration for the privilege of remaining neutral. The English merchants were in expectation of being ordered from Lisbon.

A friend has favoured the editors of the New-York Gazette with a letter from Madeira, containing a particular account of the destruction at that place on the 9th of October. The following is an extract:

"On Sunday night, the 9th October, 1803, at about half past eight o'clock, happened a most dreadful disaster to the island of Madeira in general, but more particularly to the city of Funchal. After a day of almost incessant rain, and very close, cloudy, threatening weather for several days antecedent, suddenly burst a torrent of water from the mountains, that in the space of one hour devastated nearly an half of the east part of the city, and did considerable damage to the suburbs in the west. The city is situated upon and intersected by three rivers: The eastern one, which, after making a bow, intersects the town and empties nearly in the middle, although it had a bed at the N. E. suburbs, and a bridge of one arch nearly 100 feet high, the water rose above it, carried away the battlements, and inundated the east part of the city, sweeping every thing before it, and filling the streets to the town wall, to such a height, as to burst up the floors and doors, setting every thing afloat; in this part it was most dangerous; from the quantity of sheds, where the working people lived, who mostly perished for want of refuge above the water. Fortunately it made itself an opening to the sea near its former mouth, after washing down many houses, a church and part of the town wall, and the bridge at its mouth. The North river, which runs through the middle of the city, and had four bridges across it, was also tremendous: Enlarging and turning its course at different places, till it passed the second bridge from its head; then suddenly spreading itself, washed away many houses, and dammed itself at the third bridge, by which the water rose (as appears by the marks on those houses that stood its shock,) from 30 to 40 feet above its usual height; then bursting swept away the houses on both sides of it, and also those of another street to the west. The amount of damages done here was very large, on account of the quantity of dry goods, provision and wine stores. The eastern river was also tremendous: Rising from its bed and rushing through plantations on its banks, carrying away houses, &c. and even near its mouth (which was by far the widest) carried away an extent of near 50 yards of the town wall, and heaping large stones into the sea to a great distance. To a person in safety, the sight at night

must have been most awful, from the number of torches in the city and every part of the adjacent country, with dreadful noise of the water and stones rolling. It is supposed upwards of 4000 pipes of new wine were lost, as well as a large quantity of old; the goods in the stores spoiled; about 200 houses and near 300 lives lost; the beach, reaching near a mile, was covered with trunks of trees, pipes, wrecks of boats, and the timber of the houses; the sea with many large patches of the same, to a great distance. The village of Machico and Santa Cruz, to the eastward, have hardly a vestige of a house; To the north side of the island nearly the same. The villages to the northward of the city have not suffered near so much; but yet many plantations were washed entirely away. This misfortune is the more lamentable from the vintage having only just begun, by which it will be nearly all lost. The greatest part of the remaining city is very unsafe; as on the north and west sides, had it continued half an hour longer it must have rushed in and laid it in ruins. As near as can be judged at present, the loss in the city and suburbs amount to upwards of one million sterling; and that in the country to about half that sum. The city will be deserted as fast as they can build houses on the height to the west.

"It is to be lamented that to all probable appearance the inhabitants will suffer much through the winter—As yet, every one is in a state of stupor, and struck with the loss of his neighbour; but no doubt it will be severely felt in time.

"The electrical matter must have accumulated to an amazing quantity, as on Monday night following, at about nine o'clock, a pillar of bright flame rose from the middle of the island to an amazing height, and the breadth of a rainbow, having a separation in the middle; this phenomenon continued nearly an hour, and then vanished. A large proportion of the provisions were also lost or damaged.

"Our market remains in the same state as our last price current, and for a few months must remain so, government having passed an edict against raising the prices. It is in agitation to desert the city, and build a new one to the westward."

PHILADELPHIA, December 15.

By the Matilda, captain Talbot, arrived yesterday, we have received New-Orleans papers to the 13th, and letters to the 17th of November. Their contents are not very important: Our correspondent observes, "the most interesting subject here now, is the delivery of the colony to the United States; and although you would probably suppose no difficulty could arise, yet apprehensions are entertained that some will be offered by the Spanish commissioners, who, it is said, pretend to declare that they are not authorized to deliver up the colony to M. L'Auffatt. How this will terminate, time only can disclose. It is to be hoped, however, if the treaty be ratified, and commissioners appointed on the part of the United States to take possession, that they may be men of spirit, as well as address. In that case we need apprehend very little. No opposition on the part of the inhabitants is expected. They will all to a man join with the American interest; for those who were formerly attached to the French, are now, in consequence of L'Auffatt's conduct, staunch Americans. The Spanish party are anxious for some regular and permanent government, and they look with pleasure to the American system for security and repose.—The 19th of this month is the day on which we are to know the final decision on the question of delivery; of which I will immediately apprise you. Dry goods are at present very abundant and cheap, and produce scarce and high. Cotton, 15 dolls. logwood, 60 dolls. per tun, sugar, 6 1-2 dolls. and the ensuing crop, both of cotton and sugar, very unpromising." [Phil. Gaz.]

Extract of a letter from a respectable house in Netherlands, dated 22d November.

"Every preparation is making to take possession of Orleans; about 600 men, under general Wilkinson will leave this for that place in six or eight days. Mr. C. C. Claiborne and general Wilkinson are appointed commissioners to receive the ceded country, and Mr. C. C. Claiborne, governor and intendant of Louisiana for the time being. No opposition is expected to the taking possession of the country."

R A L E I G H, (N. C.) December 5.

A bed of gold ore has been lately discovered in Cabarrus county, in this state, in a creek running through the land of Mr. John Reed, a native of Hesse-Cassel, in Germany, which promises to be a source of great riches to the proprietor. The metal was first found by two or three children of Mr. Reed, who were fishing. They brought a few pieces home to their father, as a curiosity, ignorant of its value. On examination, the ore was found not only to be gold, but gold of a very pure quality. Since this discovery, these little boys have picked up daily from 100 to 120 penny weights, (worth upwards of 20l. sterling) but the proprietor has lately found a lump of the ore twenty-eight pounds weight, which, it is supposed, when fluxed will yield twenty-seven pounds of pure gold, and is worth upwards of five thousand six hundred dollars! These facts are attested to by one of the members of our general assembly from Cabarrus, now in this city, who has in his possession two specimens of this precious metal, one as it is found, and the other as purified.

W A S H I N G T O N, December 14.

On Monday the amendment to the constitution respecting the election of a president and vice-president was reported to the house of representatives by the committee of enrolment, when the speaker signed it,