1807, was read the third time and passed.

The House again resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, Mr. Varnum in the Chair—on the bill prohibiting the importation of slaves into the U. S. after the 31st day of December 1807.

The consideration of the amendment offered by Mr. Bidwell, to strike out that part of the bill which forfeits to the U. S. persons of color imported, was resumed.

A long debate ensued.

Messrs. Findley, Fisk, Stanton, Smilie, Sloan, Chandler, Bidwell and Hastings supported; and Messrs. Quincy, Barker, Macon, Holland, Cook, Southard, and J. Clay opposed the amendment.

When the question was taken, and the amendment disagreed to—Ayes 36—Noes 63.

After which various amendments were made, when the committee rose and reported the bill.

[This debate was little more than an amplification of the arguments previously urged. Should no other objects of superior importance claim attention, we shall give it somewhat in detail.]

Mr. J. Randolph from the Committee of Ways and Means presented a bill supplementary to the act entitled an act making provision for the redemption of the whole of the public debt of the U. S.—which was read twice, and referred to a Committee of the whole House on Friday.

Committees appointed in the House of Representatives.

On petition of President and Directors of the Manhattan Company.

Messrs. Clinton, Crowninshield, Gregg, Eppes, Bedinger, Dana, Wynns, Tenney, and D. R. Williams.

On petition of Highland Turnpike Company.

Messrs. Van Cortlandt, Southard, Varnum, Trigg, and Rhea of Ten.

To enquire into expediency of extending the power of granting injunctions to the judges of the district courts.

Messrs. M. Williams, Jackson, Ellis, Sandford, Masters, Kelly, and Fisk.

TUESDAY, DEC. 30.

Mr. Bidwell, from the committee to whom was recommitted the bill to revive and make permanent an act to prescribe the mode of taking evidence in cases of contested elections for members of the House of Representatives, reported the same with amendments, which was referred to a committee of the whole on Thursday.

Mr. Lewis presented the petition of Daniel Geider, which was referred to the committee of Claims.

Mr. Chandler presented a petition from sundry inhabitants of the district of Maine, praying for a new post road, which was referred to the post office committee.

On motion of *Mr. Basset* the petition of Bushrod Washington, and others, presented the last session, was referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. Dana said that the House would recollect that on a former occasion it had been remarked by the honorable Speaker, that if the American merchants would agree to employ only seamen of our own country, a great controversy subsisting with Great Britain would be at an end. The resolution he held in his hand had for its object the holding out inducements to our merchants for employing American seamen. Various privileges were already granted by law to American merchants navigating American vessels, generally denominated discriminating duties, which extended to vessels built in the U. S. and owned by citizens of the U. S. If it should be also provided that to entitle them to this discrimination, a certain proportion of the seamen navigating such vessels shall be citizens of the U. S. it will become the interest of the merchant to employ American in preference to foreign seamen. Of such a provision it would be a necessary appurtenance that the names of the seamen shall appear on the ship's papers, and thus there would be on board of each vessel a document, establishing the citizenship of the mariners, incapable of transfer. Mr. Dana concluded with moving the following resolution:

Resolved, That for the encouragement and security of the seamen of the U. S. it is expedient to make provision that registered ships or vessels which may be employed in voyages to foreign ports after the   day of   shall not continue to enjoy the provisions appertaining to ships or vessels of the U. S. unless some proportion of the mariners on board the same shall be citizens of the U. S.

Referred to the committee of the whole on Monday week.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole—Mr. GREGG in the chair—on the bill making appropriations for the military establishment of the U. S. during the year 1807—who, having considered the same, and made an amendment thereto, reported the bill.

The House immediately considered and agreed to the report, and ordered the bill to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole—Mr. DAWSON in the chair—on the report of the committee of Claims on the petition of George [illegible]. The report is in favor of allowing the claim of the petitioner.

Messrs. Holmes, Dana, J. Clay, and [illegible] supported—and Messrs. Bidwell, D. R. Williams, Macon, and Varnum opposed the report, which was a[greed to]—Ayes 65—Noes 45—in which the House concurred—Yeas 67

[illegible] *[...]on*, from the committee appointed to wait on the President of the U. S. to present to him the resolution of the House of the 22d inst. requesting information with regard to the situation and condition of the frigates, stated that the committee had performed that duty and had received for answer that the information should be given.

The House concurred in the report of a select committee on the petition of sundry inhabitants of Washington and Alexandria counties for the incorporation of a company for a turnpike from Mason's causeway to Alexandria, and appointed a committee to bring in a bill.

Mr. Early, from the committee of Commerce and Manufactures presented a bill for the relief of Stephen Kingston, which was referred to a committee of the whole on Monday.

On motion of *Mr. Stanford* the petition of John Madeiras, presented the last session, was referred to the committee on claims barred by statutes of limitation.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31.

The *Speaker* laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting a statement of the present situation of the direct tax; from which it appears that 1,664,066 dollars have been received, that near 176,000 dollars are outstanding, and that the expenses of collection already ascertained amount to 130,000 dollars.

Mr. *Newton* presented the petition of Elizabeth Williams, which was referred to the Committee of Claims.

Mr. *Bidwell* presented the petition of Reuben Alley, which was referred to the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures.

Mr. *Mumford* presented the petition of sundry manufacturers of glass in Rensselaer county, N. York, which was referred to the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures.

Mr. *Van Rensselaer* presented a like petition from sundry citizens of the state of New York, which received a similar reference.

Mr. *Holmes* presented a memorial from sundry citizens of Nanjemoy, praying that the port of entry may not be removed to St. Mary's, which was referred to the Committee of the Whole, to whom was referred a bill on that subject.

Mr *Holmes*, from the Committee of Claims, made a report unfavorable to the petition of William M'Carty, in which the House concurred.

Mr. *Masters* presented the petition of Daniel Cotton, which was referred to the Committee of Claims.

Mr. *Clinton* presented a memorial from sundry inhabitants of New York, which was referred to the committee on that part of the message of the President that relates to fortifications.

Mr. *Clinton* presented the petition of Mary Tapp, which was referred to the Committee of Claims.

Mr. *Cook* presented the petition of Samuel Tucker, which was referred to the Committee of Claims.

A bill making appropriations for the support of the military establishment for the year 1807, was read the third time and passed.

The House took up the report of the Committee of the Whole on the bill prohibiting the importation of slaves into the U. S.

On the question to agree to the first amendment, proposed by the committee, which was to strike out that part of the first section, which punishes with death the importation of slaves into the U. S. and to insert in its room a provision for inflicting an imprisonment of not less than five nor more than ten years—a debate of considerable interest arose.

Messrs. Elmer, Lloyd, Early, Holland, J. Clay, and Barker supported—and Messrs. Sloan, Ely, Talmadge, Mosely, Smilie, Olin, Pitkin, Varnum and Findley opposed a concurrence with the report of the committee, when the question was taken by yeas and nays, and a concurrence carried—Yeas 63—Nays 53.

After agreeing to some of the other amendments made by the committee the further consideration of the report was postponed till Friday.

Mr. J. Randolph, from the committee of Ways and Means made a report favorable to the petition of Anthony Benezet and others, which was referred to a committee of the whole on Friday.

Mr. Holmes, from the committee of claims, reported a bill for the relief of George Little, which was made the order for Friday.

When the House adjourned to Friday.

Translated from the French Moniteur.

PARIS, OCT. 14.

To day at noon, in execution of the order of his majesty the Emperor & king, his royal highness the prince arch chancellor of the empire, proceeded to the Senate.

The prince was received with the accustomed ceremonies & after taking his seat, he thus spoke—

Gentlemen,

The letter which his majesty the emperor and king wrote to the Senate, and the communications which I am about to make on his part, have for their object a resolution which has become necessary on account of the conduct of the Prusian government. We are asked what are the causes of a rupture so unforeseen, after the good understanding which has so long subsisted between France and Prussia; especially when we consider the common interests by which the two nations are united.

A solution of this question may be found in the reports made to his majesty by his minister of foreign relations; & in several notes exchanged between the ministers of the two powers.

On reading these documents you will be convinced, gentlemen, his majesty has neglected nothing for the preservation of peace; and for a long time he hoped to have succeeded. You will perceive also that the dignity of his crown, and the obligations which were imposed on his majesty, by the protection which he accorded to the confederate states of the Rhine, necessarily determined him to repel force by force.

No sovereign has less to fear than the Emperor in case of war—No one will be at all times more disposed to stop the effusion of blood by the re-establishment of peace. In the war which is about to commence as well as in those which have been so gloriously terminated, his majesty has the approbation of his conscience and the justice of his cause. He depends upon the love of his people and the courage of his soldiers. He places likewise an entire confidence in your often tried zeal, for his service & the good of the State, which are inseparable.

His majesty has sent the following papers.

1. A letter from his majesty the Emperor and king to the President & members of the Senate.

2nd. Two reports addressed to his majesty by the Prince Benevento, minister of foreign relations.

3d. Six diplomatic notes.

Letter from his majesty the Emperor and king.

Senators,

We quitted our capital to place ourselves at the head of our army, the moment we knew with certainty that it was menaced by an enemy. Scarcely had we arrived on the frontiers of our states, when we discovered how necessary our presence was. We congratulated ourselves on the defensive measures we had adopted previous to quitting the centre of our empire. Already were the Prussian armies completely equipped for war, in motion—already had they passed their frontiers—Saxony was invaded; and the wise prince who governed it, was forced to act against his will and the interest of his people. The Prussians had arrived in sight of our troops. Provocations of all kinds evinced the spirit of hatred, which animated our enemies; and the moderation of our soldiers, who were tranquil in sight of their enemies, and reposed in the double confidence which courage and justice impart. Our first act has been to pass the Rhine, to form our camps and sound the trumpet of war. It thrilled the heart of every warrior. Combined and rapid marches carried them, in the twinkling of an eye, to the place we had appointed. All our camps are formed. We march against the Prussian armies, to repel force by force. We have experienced the most heartfelt regret on perceiving the constant preponderance which the genius of evil has obtained throughout Europe. Continually busied in crossing the plans which we had formed for the tranquility of Europe, for the repose and happiness of the present generation, besieging all its cabinets by every species of seduction and bewildering those whom it could not corrupt, blinding them as to their true interests and throwing them into the midst of confusion, without any other guide than the passions which it had inspired, the cabinet of Berlin itself has deliberately chosen the part which it has adopted, but has been led to it by art and malice. The king suddenly finds himself at two leagues from his capital on the frontiers of the confederation of the Rhine, in the midst of his army and in sight of the French troops, who, dispersed through their encampments, relied implicitly on the ties which united the two states, and upon the protestations lavished by the court of Berlin. In so just a war, where we take up arms only to defend ourselves and which we have provoked by no act, by no pretension, and for which it would be impossible to assign an adequate cause, we depend entirely upon the support of the laws and upon that of our people, whom circumstances call to give new proofs of their devotion, love and courage. On our side no danger will for a moment deter; no personal sacrifice will be deemed painful by us. Our only concern is to insure the rights, the honor, and the prosperity of our people.

Given at our imperial quarters, at Bambourg, Oct. 7th.

Signed,

NAPOLEON,

By the Emperor.

The Minister Secretary of State,

Signed,

H. B. MARET.

First report addressed to his majesty the emperor and king, by the minister of foreign relations.

SIRE,

Your majesty, on the first news which was received of the the Prussian armaments, was for a long while incredulous. Forced at last to believe, you attributed them to a misunderstanding. You hoped that this misunderstanding might be promptly adjusted, and that the armaments would immediately cease. The hopes of your majesty arose from your constant love of peace—they have been disappointed. Prussia no longer meditates, but makes war. From what motives? I know not.

If Prussia had any subject of complaint, any reason for arming, would she have been so obstinately silent? Would not your minister at the court of Berlin have been informed of it? Would not M. De Knobelsdorff have been charged to make such communication? But on the contrary, M. De Knoblesdorff was the bearer of an amicable letter to your majesty, and he received assurances equally amicable from the mouth of your majesty. The minister of your majesty at Berlin saw the preparations continued, arrogance increase and provocations accumulate, in proportion to the moderation displayed by your majesty. But if it was asked, what are the complaints of Prussia, none were mentioned—no explanation was given. So that the presence of the minister at Berlin became useless, and he was no longer any thing but a spectator of measures hostile to the dignity of France.

In supposing that the absurd rumors received with such inconceivable credulity, had inspired the Prussian cabinet with vain alarms, your majesty, who took every measure to prevent, likewise made every effort to dissipate them.

From what dangers did Prussia wish to secure itself? France, far from menacing her, had ever given her the most signal proofs of her friendship. What were the sacrifices she wished to avoid? Your majesty demanded nothing. Of what unjust denial had she to complain? Whatever just demands she made, your majesty was disposed to grant. But she has made no demand—because she had none to make. Is it the existence of the confederation of the Rhine—is it the arrangements which have taken place in the midst of Germany, which have prompted Prussia to take up arms? We cannot even imagine this. The court of Berlin has declared that it had nothing to object to these arrangements. It has acknowledged the confederation. It is occupied in uniting in a similar confederation its neighboring states.

Your majesty has declared, it is true, that the Hanse towns ought to remain independent and separate from any confederacy. You have still further declared that the other states of the north of Germany ought to be free to pursue their own policy and conveniency. But those declarations, founded in justice and the general interests of Europe, could not afford Prussia a motive for war, or even an ostensible pretext for it.

The war on the part of Prussia is without any just motive. The Prussian armies, meanwhile, have passed its limits, have invaded Saxony: they menace the territory of the confederation of the Rhine, the inviolability of which is guaranteed by your majesty. Even the troops of your majesty are threatened. Scarcely arrived before our advanced posts, the Prussian troops have treated us as though engaged in war, have refused the French officers a passage into Saxony, and war has commenced, without the court having ever made known her subjects of discontent, without having ever attempted any means of reconciliation, without a single effort to avoid a rupture.

A silence, so obstinate, so unnatural, so incomprehensible, connected with a precipitation no less unaccountable, proves clearly that we need not even seek for an ostensible motive for what is the result of wretched intrigue.

Two parties, one desiring war, the other peace have for a long time past divided Prussia. The first, whose efforts have been constantly disappointed, sensible that it could only succeed by artifice, has had but one idea, one design, one end, which was to excite suspicion, and to urge as necessary such measures as should force France to adopt similar ones. To avoid afterwards all explanation to prevent the two governments from coming to an understanding, and to place them in such a situation that war must be the inevitable consequence. Wretched project! executed with a success which the authors themselves will be one day forced to deprecate.

No—the present war has no other origin. There existed none other than those blind passions which have bewildered so many cabinets, from which Prussia was for a long time preserved; but to which, it seems, that Providence has likewise condemned her to be a victim, by delivering her up to the councils of those who count as nothing the calamities of war, because they do not participate in its dangers, and are ever ready to sacrifice to their ambition, to their fears, to their prejudices and to their weaknesses, the repose and felicity of nations. If these passions are not constantly the main spring of the cabinet of Berlin, and if any motives of personal interest induced it to take up arms, it was simply and indisputably the desire of invading Saxony and the Hanse towns; and of removing or surmounting the obstacles which the declarations of your majesty have made them apprehensive of having to encounter in the execution of such a plan. War, then, notwithstanding the regret your majesty may feel, at not having had power to prevent it, will at least offer a perspective worthy of you, since in defending the rights and interests of your people, you will protect from an unjust domination states whose independence is of consequence, not only to France and her allies, but to all Europe.

Signed,

C. M. TALLEYRAND.

Prince of Benevento.

Mayence, 3d Oct. 1806.

Copy of the first n[ote] ... excellency general Knoblesdorff, ... serene highness prince Ben[evento] dated 11th Sept. 1806.

The undersigned, minister of foreign relations, is charged by the express order of his majesty the emperor and king, to make known to his excellency M. de Knoblesdorff, that by late dispatches received from Berlin, dated the 1st Sept. information is received that the garrison of that city had left it for the frontiers; that all the armaments appeared to progress with redoubled activity, and that they are publicly spoken of even at Berlin, as directed against France. These dispositions of the court of Berlin have the more surprized his majesty, as he was the farthest from suspecting them after the mission of M. de Knoblesdorff, and the letter of his majesty the king of Prussia, of which he was the bearer.

His majesty the emperor and king has ordered new reinforcements to join his army. Prudence required him to take measures against a project of aggression as unexpected as unjust. But it will always be in opposition to his most earnest desire, that he finds himself forced to turn the forces of his empire against a power whom nature herself had destined to be the friend of France, since she had united the two states by a community of interests before they were united by treaties. He pities the inconsideration of the agents who have united in adopting as useful and necessary the measures taken by the court of Berlin: but his sentiments for his majesty the king of Prussia have been neither changed nor impaired, and will not be so long as his majesty shall not be constrained to think that the armaments of Prussia are the result of a system of aggression formed with Russia against France. And when that intrigue, which seems exerted in so many ways and under so many forms, in order to excite the cabinet of Berlin against its best and most faithful ally, shall have ceased; when it shall no longer menace by preparations a nation whom to this hour it has not been easy to intimidate, his majesty will regard that moment as the happiest for himself and the king of Prussia. He will be the first to countermand the movements of his troops, to suspend the armaments so ruinous to his treasury, and the relations between the two states will be re-established in all their intimacy.

It is without doubt satisfactory to the heart of his majesty never to have given either directly or indirectly any cause for the misunderstanding which has taken place between the two states, and at not being responsible for the issue of this singular struggle; since he never ceased making, through his envoy extraordinary, and through the undersigned, all the declarations calculated to frustrate the intrigues which in spite of his care have prevailed at Berlin. But it is at the same time a subject of regret and sorrow to his majesty to think that when the alliance with Prussia had permitted him to diminish the number of his troops, and to direct all his strength against the common enemy, which is also that of the continent, it is against this ally that he has to take precautions. The last news from Berlin, greatly diminishing the hopes which the emperor had founded on the mission of M. de Knoblesdorff, and upon the letter of his majesty the king of Prussia, and seeming to confirm the opinion of those who think that the arming of Prussia, without any previous explanation, is only the consequence, and the commencement of the developement of a system formed with the enemies of France, his majesty finds himself obliged to give to his preparations a general public national character. He has uniformly desired the undersigned to declare that, even after the publicity of the extraordinary measures to which his majesty had to recur, he is not less disposed to think that the arming of the court of Berlin is only the effect of misunderstanding, produced by false reports; and to replace himself, when it shall have ceased, in the same state of good understanding, alliance and friendship which previously united the two states.

Signed,

C. M. TALLEYRAND.

BATTLE OF THE 15TH.

His majesty the emperor, profiting always skilfully by his success, and wishing to reap the fruits of the bloody battle of the 14th inst. went, in pursuit of the enemy.

Marshal Davoust, having advanced with his body of troops on the rear of Naumburg, took post on the 15th in the passes of Kessen, and engaged in battle. He fought the whole day against the centre of the Prussian army where the king was with the generals Molendorf, and Kalkreuth.

The division of marshals Lannes, Soult and Augereau shared the glory of that day. The divisions of dragoon and curassiers commanded by the grand duke of Berg, arrived only at the close of the battle. They immediately attacked the enemy, with the prince at their head, and pierced several square battalions of Prussian infantry that were obliged to surrender.

The number of prisoners taken in the battle of the 15th, is estimated at 28,000 men, that of the killed and wounded ought to be far greater; 200 field pieces, 30 colors and almost the