# NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER,

AND

# WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

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FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNUM. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1807. PAID IN ADVA

Diſtrict of Columbia, }
County of Waſhington, }
*December Term*, 1806.

WE, the grand inqueſt of the United States for the diſtrict and county, aforeſaid, do, on our oaths, unanimouſly preſent as a grievance, the exorbitant fees allowed to the proſecutor of the diſtrict, the gentlemen of the bar, the marſhal, and the clerk, as practiced in the circuit court of the ſaid county. We further unanimouſly preſent as a grievance, ſo much of the act of Congreſs as exempts the perſons of debtors, for ſums not exceeding twenty dollars, from impriſonment.

This preſentment is founded on a knowledge, that the fees allowed to the officers of the court, as above mentioned, exceed in a moſt extravagant proportion thoſe allowed for ſimilar ſervices in any court of equal grade in this part of the world; and a firm belief that they bear with great weight on citizens of all deſcriptions, and on thoſe of ſmall means in ſuch manner as is well calculated to drive them from the diſtrict——

In a conviction that the operations of that portion of the law, which prohibits impriſonment for debts leſs than twenty dollars, is to favor the idol vagabond, to encourage diſhoneſty, and to ſhake the confidence which ought to exiſt among the citizens

It is reſpectfully ſolicited, that the honorable court will cauſe this preſentment to be publiſhed in the newſpapers of the city of Waſhington and George Town.

DANIEL REINTZEL,
Foreman.

*Reſolved*, That the Foreman be requeſted to publiſh the preſentment made by this jury relative to the fees and the twenty dollar law, after the ſeſſion of the court is finiſhed, in caſe the court ſhall not previouſly have done the ſame.

By order,
DANIEL REINTZEL,
Foreman.

## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

### FORTY FIRST BULLETIN.

*Poſen, 14th December*, 1806.

The general of brigade Belair, of the corps of marshal Ney, set off from Thorn, the 9th of this month, and marched towards Galup. The 6th battalion of light infantry and the chief of squadron Schoeni with 60 men of the 3d Hussars met a party of 400 of the enemy's cavalry. These two advanced posts had a skirmish. The Prussians lost an officer and had five dragoons made prisoners and thirty men killed, whose horses remained in our possession. Marshal Ney bestows great praise on the chief of squadron Schoeni. Our advanced posts on that side reach as far as Strasburgh.

The 11th at six o'clock in the morning, a connonade was heard on the side of the Bug. Marshal Davoust had made the general of brigade Gauthier cross this river at the mouth of the Wike, opposite the village of Okunin. The 25th of the line and the 89th having crossed, had already covered themselves by a tete de pont and had advanced half a league forward, to the village of Pomikuwo: when a Russian division presented itself to carry this village, it made only useless efforts, was repulsed and lost a great many men. We had 20 men killed or wounded.

The bridge of Thorn, which is upon pillars, is repaired; the fortifications of this place are repairing. The bridge from Warsaw to the suburbs of Prague is finished; it is a bridge of boats. A fortified camp is throwing up at the suburbs of Praga; the general of engineers Chasseloup has the chief direction of these works.

On the 10th marshal Augereau crossed the Vistula between Zakroonzyn and Utrata. His detachments are working upon the right bank to cover themselves with retrenchments. The Russians appear to have forces at Pultuski.

Marshal Bessieres is stretching out from Thorn with the second corps of the reserve of cavalry, consisting of the division of light cavalry of general Tilly, of the dragoons of generals Grouchy and Sahuc, and of the cuirassiers of general d'Hautpoult.

Messrs. de Lucchessini and de Zastrow, plenipotentiaries of the king of Prussia, passed on the 10th, through Thorn to repair to Koningsberg to their master.

A whole Prussian battalion of Klock has deserted from the village of Brok. It took its way by different roads to our posts. It partly consists of Prussians and of Poles. They are all indignant at the treatment they receive from the Russians. "Our prince has sold us to the Russians," say they, "we will not go with them."

The enemy have burnt the two suburbs of Breslaw, many women and children perished in the fire. Prince Jerome has succoured those unfortunate inhabitants. Humanity prevailed over the laws of war, which prescribe to drive into a besieged place the useless mouths the enemy should endeavour to remove from it. The bombardment was begun.

General Gouvion is appointed governor of Warsaw.

### FORTY SECOND BULLETIN.

*Posen, 15th December*, 1806.

The bridge upon the Narew, at its mouth in the Bug, is finished. The tete de pont is finished and mounted with cannon.

The bridge upon the Vistula, between Zakronczym and Utrata, near the mouth of the Bug, is in like manner finished. The tete de pont armed with a great number of batteries, is a very formidable work.

The Russian armies are coming in the direction of Grodno and in that of Bielsk, along the Narew and the Bug. The head quarters of one of their divisions was on the 10th at Puttusk upon the Narew.

General Dulauloi is appointed governor of Thorn.

The 8th corps of the grand army, commanded by marſhal Mortier, is advancing; it has its right at Stettin, its left at Collock, and its head quarters at Anklam.

The grenadiers of the reſerve of gen. Oudinot are about to arrive at Cullrin.

The diviſion of cuiraſſiers newly formed under the command of gen. Eſpagne, is coming to Berlin.

The Italian diviſion of gen. Lecchi is aſſembling at Magdeburg.

The corps of the grand duke of Baden is at Stettin; in a fortnight it will be able to enter into the line. The hereditary prince has conſtantly followed the head quarters & has been preſent at every engagement.

The Poliſh diviſion at Zayonſchek, which has been organiſed at Haguenau, and ſix thouſand ſtrong, is at Leipſick for the purpoſe of being clothed.

His majeſty has ordered a regiment to be raiſed in the Pruſſian ſtates, beyond the Elbe, it will aſſemble at Munſter. The Prince of Hohenzollern Sigmaringen is appointed colonel of this corps.

A diviſion of the army of reſerve of marſhal Kellerman is ſet off from Mentz. The head of this diviſion is already arrived at Magdeburg.

Peace with the Elector of Saxony & the duke of Sax-Weimar has been ſigned at Poſen.

All the Princes of Saxony have been admitted into the Confederacy of the Rhine.

His majeſty has diſapproved of the levy of contributions laid upon the ſtates of Sax-Gotha and Sax-Meinungen, and has ordered what has been received, to be reſtored. Theſe princes, not having been at war with France, and having furniſhed no contingent to Pruſſia, ought not to ſubject to war contributions.

The army has taken poſſeſſion of the country of Mecklenburg. This is a conſequence of the treaty ſigned at Schwerin the 25th October 1805. By this treaty, the prince of Mecklenburg had granted a paſſage over his territory to the Ruſſian troops commanded by gen. Tolſtoy.

The ſeaſon aſtoniſhes the inhabitants of Poland: It does not freeze. The ſun appears every day, & it is ſtill autumnal weather.

The emperor ſets off to night for Warſaw.

### HAGUE, Dec. 17.

The bill for the creation of a Grand Order of the kingdom, and of an Order of Merit, was sent on the 11th inst. to the assembly of their high mightinesses.

The king's message was couched in the following terms:

Gentlemen, we send you the bill announced to you on the first of this month. Considering, that amongst monarchical states, Holland is the only one which has no order of knighthood; considering that the Dutch nation is celebrated in the annals of the world, both by the genius of its inhabitants, and by their military history, and that it is our duty to leave no means neglected to preserve it in the rank and respectability which it has always enjoyed; wishing in consequence to institute public rewards for those of our subjects who have distinguished themselves and may distinguish themselves throughout every class, and particularly for the officers in the land and sea service; we propose to you to pass the following decree:

Art. I. A grand order of the kingdom shall be created, under the name of Order of the Union, and likewise a Royal Order of Merit, destined for civil and military actions. II.—The grand order of the union shall consist of thirty great crosses at most. The expences of its administration shall be provided for by the persons to whom the king shall have granted this distinction. III. The royal order of merit shall be endowed with an annual revenue of 60,000 florins. This revenue shall form part of the annual budget of the state. IV. The king is declared chief, grand master and founder of the two orders. His successors shall be chiefs and grand masters in perpetuity. V. The king shall appoint the grand crosses, commanders and knights of the two orders, assisted by a chapter formed by three of the eldest commanders, the three eldest knights and a grand chancellor of the order, chosen amongst the commanders, and shall be at the same time the treasurer. VI. The king shall order all the regulations concerning the decorations, administration and discipline of the two orders, as well as the administration and distribution of the funds set apart for the endowment of the royal order of merit.

(Signed) LOUIS.

Their high mightinesses having taken into consideration his majesty's message, the bill was converted into a law in the same sitting.

## CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

*THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5.*

*DEBATE on fortifying ports and harbors, continued.*

The second resolution under consideration, and the question depending to fill the blank with 250,000 dollars for the purpose of building gun boats.

MR. MUMFORD. I hope a majority of this House will agree to strike out the whole resolution respecting gun boats, with a view to appropriate that money to solid and durable fortifications. I was opposed to it in Committee of the Whole. I did then, and do now consider, that there is no necessity for any more gun boats. There are, in my opinion, a sufficient number already for the southern sections of the union, for which places they appear to be only adapted, except in a very few places to the north, where there is shoal water. They may answer a very good purpose in shoal water, but are inadequate for the defence of your ports and harbors to the north of the New-Jersey shore; and I very much doubt, whether, in a gale of wind they would not even sink at their moorings at the entrance of either of the harbors of Portsmouth, Salem, Plymouth, Newport, or New York.

It has been asserted that this was an electioneering scheme, and that as soon as our spring elections were over, no more would be thought of it, until the next election. I wish, sir, to put this question to eternal rest, by stating the plain matter of fact. Why, sir, it has been considered of so serious a nature in its consequences, and of so much importance, that the legislature of the state of New-York, in their last session, did enter into formal resolutions, instructing their delegation in both branches of the legislature of the United States, to use their utmost endeavors for the defence and protection of the port and harbor of New-York—the whole state is alive on this subject—and the memorials now lying on your table from the mayor and corporation of that city, together with the petitions from the citizens of all political parties, tend to one and the same object, protection to their persons and to their property—there is not, there cannot be any dissenting voice with them on this subject.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania on my right says, he would not defend your Atlantic shores if it was to be done with ships of war. I have too good an opinion of that gentleman's patriotism, to indulge even the idea that he can possibly be serious, to suffer his friends and fellow citizens on these shores to be forsaken and abandoned to their fate. I will assure that gentleman, if his part of the country were attacked by any enemy, foreign or domestic, from the western country, or any where else, I will vouch that he shall have every protection and aid New-York can afford.

MR. SMILIE said he was willing to divide the appropriation—to apply 150,000 dollars to the building of gun boats, and 100,000 dollars to the fortification of New-York.

MR. THOMAS observed that, to get at this course, it would be proper in the first instance to disagree to the proposition to fill it with 250,000 dollars

MR. COOK hoped they would disagree to this proposition. He believed that 250,000 thousand dollars was a larger sum than was wanted for the fair trial of the experiment whether gun boats would be efficacious. They were not, he added, held in much repute in the eastern country.

The filling the blank with 250,000 dollars was disagreed to—Ayes 4.

MR. THOMAS moved to fill the blank with 150,000.

MR. J. RANDOLPH hoped this motion would not be agreed to. He was too unwell to go far into the subject, but he would ask the House whether they were acting with their accustomed caution and distrust, where the expenditure of public money was involved? He thought not. If he were convinced that the expenditure of 150,000, or even 1,500,000 dollars would answer the proposed end, he would cheerfully give it. But, as had been observed, the system of gun boats was a matter of experiment, and if they should eventually turn out good for nothing, the House would be of opinion that they had vested as large a capital in a worthless project as would be deemed necessary. He would not undertake to say they were good for nothing—far from it. But there was no information before the House which entitled him to say they were good for much. When you compare, said Mr. R. the lavish appropriation made on this subject in Committee of the Whole, and view the economy this House always practices on every branch of expenditure, relative to the regular army and navy, looking with an eagle eye on every dollar before they part with it—it surprizes me to see them voting hundreds of thousands of dollars for a species of vessels, which in all human probability may be used for river craft in a few years. One thing has been ascertained. Ships of war are defensive and offensive too, but the House will vote no money for an addition to them. I do not censure them for it; but if they will not appropriate for objects, the physical powers of which are ascertained, why vote the public treasure by handfuls for vessels, the powers of which have never been tried? Let the experiment be made, and if it succeeds, let us appropriate liberally; but till then, let us not vote more money than has been already appropriated. I believe there is one situation in which they may be useful—in the Mississippi. I wish however not to be understood as speaking as a man of science on this business. I only wish some evidence of the value of this machine, before I vest so large a capital in it. I hope therefore the blank will not be filled with 150,000 dollars. As it has been stated, I think it will be extremely disproportionate to vote 20,000 dollars for the fortification of all our harbors, and 150,000 for gun boats.

MR. STANTON said that in the last French war a system of this kind had been adopted, and had proved highly beneficial. In a calm two gun boats would sink a frigate, and if they were obliged to retreat, they could run out of danger at any time.

MR. J. RANDOLPH rose for information. He wished some gentleman acquainted with the subject would inform the House what number of seamen would be requisite to mann these gun boats in case they should be built—not merely to sail them along the coast, but to fight them; and what number of seamen would be required for other vessels? Where could be the use of building, if it were not intended to mann them? Was it not evident that in a few years they would rot, and the money expended upon them be lost? He said he might be wrong, and he hoped if they were built, he should be proved to be so.

MR. SMILIE said it was true that he was neither a military nor a naval man, nor did he pretend to say that gun boats were the best means of defence. The proper departments however ought to be the best acquainted on this subject, and they were of opinion that this species of defence was necessary. Whether they were right or wrong he would not pretend to say; but he would observe that the Secretary of the Navy had informed them that the President had deemed it expedient to authorize the building of 60 additional gun boats. Now whether the President or the Secretary of the Navy was competent to a correct decision on this point he did not know. This was however clearly their opinion. He did know however that it was their duty to provide the necessary means; and if they granted but half the sum required by the President, it appeared to him it would be descending as low as was proper under existing circumstances.

MR. ELMER said that under existing circumstances he was opposed to appropriating 150,000 dollars to building additional gun boats. The House had determined that they would not authorize the President to man those already built. It appeared to him very bad economy to suffer the public vessels to lay in dock, and to build other vessels, the utility of which was not ascertained. There might be situations in which gun boats would be useful, but had they not enough of them already? If it should be ascertained that 30 or 40 gun boats should be wanted for any particular purpose, Mr. E. said it might be prudent to authorize their erection. He said he had been in favor of giving authority to the President to man and equip the armed vessels and gun boats. The House had however refused this. If then they would not authorize the President, whatever the emergency, to man the present vessels, why build additional vessels?

MR. HOLLAND was opposed to filling the blank with so large a sum. He was also opposed to giving authority to man the armed vessels. The nation was in a state of profound peace, and he did not see that these vessels would have any thing to do. He was opposed to this appropriation on another ground. He believed whenever the necessity should occur, they would be able in one, two, or three months to build as many gun boats as would be wanted.

MR. GREGG said from the discussions which had taken place and the votes of the House, there might be a propriety in postponing the business for the purpose of obtaining information. For his own part he was willing to acknowledge that he was altogether in the dark. He did not know in what situation gun boats would be useful, or the number of men required to man them; nor did he know whether land fortifications were necessary in connexion with them to defend the port of New-York. Before he could act understandingly on this subject, it was necessary for him to have this information. Some gentlemen say that gun boats will answer valuable purposes, while there are others of opinion that there are so few places on the coast of the U. S. where they will answer, that a small number of them will be sufficient. I believe, said Mr. G. under these circumstances, that it will be best to postpone the further consideration of the subject, and in the mean time call on the Secretary of the Navy to say at what points gun boats will answer, together with the number of them necessary, and on the Secretary at War to say whether he is in possession of any plan for the protection of New-York, together with its expence and the number of men required. It will be next to madness to erect fortifications without putting in them sufficient men to keep them in repair. Many fortifications commenced some years ago, for want of this provision, are now as useless as if they had never been begun. Mr. G. said he was particularly desirous to obtain information from the executive as to the practicability of defending the port of New York. If it could be defended, he would not be backward on the subject.

MR. FISK hoped the motion would prevail. Experience had proved gun boats to be useful. In their late war with Tripoli, they had been obliged to borrow a number of them; which had proved not only an instrument of defence, but likewise of offence. It was true also, that in other cases they would be useful. Indeed they appeared to be peculiarly adapted to the U. S. who had a large extent of sea coast and numbers of shoals, enabling them to act with effect—That they would rot in time was true—it was also equally true that other shipping would rot; and that the loss of fifty or sixty gun boats would not be equal to that of a single frigate. It was also true that gun boats did not require the same expense in manning and equipping as other vessels—they were also so situated as to be capable of being instantly manned, which was not the case in regard to other vessels. The Secretary of the Navy had stated the number of men necessary for each gun boat at twenty seven.—Take 350 men as necessary for a frigate—of course 13 gun boats will not require more men than one frigate. Mr. F. said he thought gun boats in every point of view the preferable defence. The Secretary of the Navy had stated sixty gun boats to be requisite. For the purpose however of accommodation, it is proposed to lessen the number of gun boats to thirty and to apply the remaining sum to fortifications. He hoped this motion would prevail.

MR. EARLY moved to postpone the further consideration of the second resolution to Monday week. In common with other members, he felt the necessity of information, before he agreed to carry further the system of gun boat defence. It appeared from the report of the Secretary of the Navy, that there were built, or on the stocks seventy gun boats. He for one was of the opinion that this was a number amply sufficient, to justify the requiring at least some information on the subject, either as to the ports capable of being defended by them, or of their general capability of yielding defence to the U. S. All the information before the House was embraced in a single paragraph, giving the opinion of the President that it was expedient to build sixty gun boats. The House have already determined the question of manning these gun boats; even if they should be built, they have determined not to make an appropriation for that purpose. Mr. Early said to build, without equipping or manning appeared to him to carry on the face of it a wanton extravagance. Are they to be suffered to lie not only unmanned, but unprotected? He presumed that no gentleman contemplated this; and yet the House had refused any appropriation for manning or equipping them.

On another account Mr. Early considered this measure improper. Where was the occasion or necessity of this expense at this time? He knew they had