favor of the ocean. How proud must Antwerp be of her new destiny! other ships will be launched within a few months, replaced by a like number, & whole squadrons will sail from that port which had forgotten that it even belonged to the ocean.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

WASHINGTON CITY.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30.

Erratum in the President's Message.
For "*District*," read "*Circuit*" Court of Virginia.

MESSAGE.

THE communications of the President to Congress at the annual opening of their session, always interesting, are rendered peculiarly so at present by the threatening aspect of affairs. Different opinions have, for some time past, been entertained by the public. As, on the one hand, a strong hope, arising from the predominant wish of every genuine American, was cherished of the full adjustment of our differences with Britain, so on the other an apprehension, equally strong, prevailed, perhaps in an equal degree, that those differences would appear, from the information of the executive, likely to lead inevitably to a state of hostilities. Neither, however, of these results are announced by the President, and the mind is compelled to rest in nearly the same state of uncertainty to which it has been already so long consigned.

There are, however, some points of information embraced by the message that must give peculiar satisfaction to the people, and afford some grounds for hope, that the differences between the two nations may be amicably adjusted. Of these is the intimation of the circumstances under which the returned treaty was signed by our ministers and submitted to the government. From these, it can only be viewed in the light of a project, which left all ulterior determination to the President. Two conclusions may be drawn from this fact; first, the full power of our government to adopt or reject it, without the slightest room for improper imputation; and secondly, the doubt, to say no more, whether Mr. Munroe and Mr. Pinckney themselves actually approved it. On this last point we pretend to no special information, and it is possible that the qualified inference drawn may be unsound. But it is of light import compared with that previously specified. Of even the absolute rejection of the project the British government could have had no reason to complain; for, in being told by our negociators that it was framed against their instructions, they were advised of its probable fate. Instead, however, of an absolute negative, it has been submitted to negociation, and the two nations now occupy the same ground in which they stood previously to its formation.

We shall here offer no remarks on the calumny cast on the President, on the *assumed* fact that the project had been signed by our ministers under the same circumstances in which treaties are ordinarily signed, and on the charge of his having instructed them to conclude a treaty on principles, which after its formation he determined to reject, except to observe that on this, as on many other memorable occasions, falsehoods propagated against the same man have, after having had their day, been invariably dispelled by the light of truth. At such a crisis of affairs, when every arm may be required for defence, we shall not hesitate to avoid, to the utmost of our power, not only crimination, but even recrimination. If our political adversaries will press their discontents at this moment, we warn them that the fault will lie at their door.

With regard to the recent conduct of the Leopard the President well remarks that on such "an outrage no comments are necessary:"—adding that "its character has been pronounced by the indignant voice of our citizens with an emphasis and unanimity never exceeded."

The suggestion of the policy of refusing admittance to all armed foreign vessels into our harbors, is entitled to the attentive consideration of the legislature. If such an inhibition, unsupported by a strong force, should, as it probably would, prove no security against preconcerted aggression, it might at least have the effect of averting many of those collisions that arise from foreign ships of war habitually frequenting our ports.

The public will regret with us the unsettled state of our affairs with Spain. The possession of the Floridas is an event infinitely desirable, and we have every motive to wish that that possession may be the offspring of pacific arrangement.

Passing over the measures adopted for the better fortification of our ports and harbors, we reach what appears to us, on first impressions, an excellent idea. We refer to that part of the Message which suggests the formation of the seamen of the United States into a militia, to be called on for tours of duty in defence of the harbors where they may happen to be. Should a more mature examination of this point, develope no great evils likely to ensue from such an arrangement, the President will merit the thanks of his country for the intimation. To us it appears to be perfectly feasible and consonant to the principles which ought to prevail under every government, and particularly a republican government in the preservation of which every citizen, whether employed on the land or the water, is equally interested, and whose services it consequently has a right to demand, whenever the general interests require them, of which the government only can be the judge.

The nation will applaud the spirit with which the Chief Magistrate has assumed the responsibility of providing military stores, notwithstanding the want of legal provision; they will also thank him for inviting the attention of Congress to the defects which exist in the criminal code, and more especially relative to the crime of treason, which recent occurrences have so glaringly exposed as to supersede the necessity of any comment.

At a period, so interesting as the present, the flourishing state of the finances will be a topic of high felicitation. The past year appears to have furnished a revenue of sixteen millions, which exceeds, we believe, the revenue of any antecedent year, even when excises and a direct tax were in existence; and which yields a sum of three millions beyond our annual expenditures. But, still higher will be the satisfaction at the official intimation that there are now in the treasury eight millions and a half unappropriated. With such resources, should the injustice of a foreign government drive us into hostilities, the means of defence actually possessed will be abundant; and should the subsisting differences be amicably settled, as we trust they will be, the means of carrying forward internal improvements on a scale, that shall ensure a diffusion of incalculable benefit, will be still more ample, and thus remove every obstacle that can be apprehended to such a measure.

May this be the closing scene of an administration, not less rich at present in the affection of its country, than it will be hereafter distinguished by the gratitude of posterity!

The Expose of the state of the French empire, the publication of which is this day commenced from the Paris Argus, merits the attention of every man, that takes an interest in contemplating the amelioration of the condition of nations. Whatever variance of opinion exists with regard to the military character of Napoleon, no man of liberal mind can refuse him the homage of his respect for the grand scale on which the improvements in the interior of his kingdom are conducted. Let us be wise, and imitate an example so imposing.

Mr. ERSKINE, minister of his Britannic majesty, has arrived in this city.

We should be remiss in the discharge of an *important* duty, were we to omit noticing the arrival of the *great personages*, whom business, curiosity or other motives bring to the seat of government. We therefore *announce* the arrival of Herman Blannerhassett and Comfort Tyler. The latter came under the military escort of capt. Pike; but has, we understand, been released.

The Boston Centinel says that letters have been received at Halifax from London, which represent that Admiral Berkeley had been recalled, but that the order for his recal was countermanded soon after the receipt of the dispatches by the Revenge.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from Thomas Claxton, doorkeeper, stating his inability to attend to his duties, from sickness, and asking the indulgence of the House.

A motion being made for the purpose, the House proceeded to the election of a Sergeant at Arms.

The following persons were nominated as candidates, viz. Jonathan Snowden, Cornelius Cunningham, Joseph Pollock, Joseph Wheaton, Thomas Dunn, Benjamin Stallings, and John Bankson.

Messrs. Trigg, Davenport & Lloyd having been appointed Tellers, the votes were collected and examined, when Joseph Wheaton was reported to have 44 votes, Thomas Dunn 35, Cornelius Cunningham 15, Joseph Pollock 6. The rest were scattered amongst the other candidates.

No person having a majority of votes (there being 114 members present) another balloting was immediately had, which resulted in the election of Thomas Dunn, who had 64 votes out of 121, the number of members present on this ballot.

Whilst the Tellers were examining the votes on the last ballot, the Speaker announced to the House that the hour had arrived which the President had named for making his communication, and he had learnt the Secretary of the President was then waiting in the lobby to deliver it.

A motion was made to postpone the report of the Tellers till to-morrow, in order that the message might be immediately received; but it being observed, that the Tellers were nearly ready to make their report, the motion was negatived.

The report of the Tellers being made, the communication of the President of the United States was received, read and committed, as stated in the last National Intelligencer.

On the motion to print the message three questions were taken as to the number of copies to be ordered, 2000, 1500 and 1000 were named. Forty-six members only voted in favor of the two first—the last was carried without a division.

Mr. Thomas moved the following Resolution, which was agreed to without a division:

"Resolved, that Thomas Claxton be appointed doorkeeper of this House."

The following resolution was next moved:

"Resolved, That Jesse Edwards be appointed assistant doorkeeper."

Mr. Nelson observed, that he believed there were a number of candidates for this office, and every one ought to have a fair chance to be elected. He had expected this officer would have been appointed by ballot; but if this was not to be the course taken, he should move a resolution similar to the one which had been read, in favor of Benjamin Burch.

Mr. Thomas had been informed that it was usual for the doorkeeper himself to appoint his deputy. If this had been the course heretofore pursued, he hoped it would be adopted in the present case.

Mr. Findley thought it would be best for the doorkeeper to nominate his deputy, which nomination might be approved or disapproved by the House. He wished therefore the election of this officer might be postponed till to-morrow, in order to afford time to examine into the character of the person proposed.

Mr. Smilie hoped the resolution would lie on the table. It was well known that the regular and proper mode of appointing officers is by ballot. It is true, that in some instances this mode has been departed from. The House had done so just now in the case of the doorkeeper. But there was a good reason for this departure. The person in contemplation was an old officer, against whom he had never heard any man make an objection, & against whom there was no opposition. But the present case is very different. A new officer is to be chosen from amongst a number of candidates, most of whom are unknown to a large majority of the members. He hoped the House would therefore proceed to make a choice in the regular mode by ballot, that every candidate might have a fair chance of being elected.

A motion was made, that the House adjourn, which was negatived, there being only 18 votes in favor of it.

A message was received from the Senate, with a resolution proposing to ballot for chaplains, and a petition from sundry American citizens, who had been impressed into the British service on board the ship Waldon, and praying that measures might be taken for their releasement.

Mr Sloan nominated John Sessford as a candidate for the office of assistant doorkeeper—for he deemed it to be the proper mode first to nominate and then to ballot for the officer in question.

Mr. Alston hoped the gentleman who had proposed the resolution in favor of Jesse Edwards, would withdraw it, and suffer the election to take place by ballot.

The gentleman consenting, Mr. Alston moved that the election of an assistant doorkeeper be postponed till to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

This motion was negatived, there being only 26 votes in favor of it.

Mr. Dawson nominated Joseph Pollock.

The members then proceeded to ballot, and the votes having been collected and examined, the Tellers reported, that there were present 108 members, and that Jesse Edwards having 59 votes was duly elected.

Mr. Dawson suggested the propriety of proceeding to the appointment of the Standing Committees. It had been customary heretofore to make these appointments at an early period of the session. He therefore moved the appointment of a Committee of Elections.

It was again moved that the House adjourn. The motion was negativod, 55 to 45.

Mr. Randolph enquired of the Speaker if there was not a message received from the Senate, which had not yet been read. [The Speaker answered that there was.] He understood that it was accompanied by a petition from a number of American seamen, addressed to the Senate, which that body had thought of importance enough to be communicated to this House. He presumed it was at least of consequence sufficient to be read.

The message alluded to was read; and on motion of Mr. Alston, the petition of the American seamen was referred to the Secretary of State.

That part of the message which related to the appointment of Chaplains was ordered to lie on the table until the Senate had made their election.

Mr. Dawson renewed his motion for the appointment of a Committee of Elections.

Mr. Alston thought it best to move the appointment of all the Standing Committees together, as had been heretofore the practice.

Mr. Dawson had no objection to this course. He therefore moved, that a Committee of Elections, a Committee of Claims, a Committee of Commerce and Manufactures, a Committee of Ways and Means, a Committee of Public Lands, a Committee of Revisal and unfinished Business, and a Committee of Accounts, be appointed.

Mr. Blount having always entertained an opinion that it would be best, and would relieve the Speaker from a very unpleasant duty, to have these committees appointed by ballot, he would move thus to amend the motion of the gentleman from Virginia. He thought this mode of electing the Standing Committees, as well as the Select Committees, to which shall be referred the different subjects contained in the President's communication, would be most satisfactory to the House and to the Speaker also.

Mr. Findley observed, that this was a question of considerable importance; and as the House was then very thinly attended, he hoped this resolution, with the proposed amendment, would be permitted to lie on table till to-morrow, and made a motion to this effect.

Mr. Smilie said, the House had, in several instances, tried to appoint committees by ballot, but had always found it attended with difficulty; and he now very much doubted the propriety of the proposed amendment.

The *Speaker* reminded Mr. S. that the motion before the House was for a postponement of the appointment of these committees till to-morrow.

Mr. S. said he meant to give reasons in favor of the postponement. In the election of these committees, it was proper to select the most fit characters for each—on the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures, for instance, there ought to be placed commercial men; on the Committee of Ways and Means such as were best acquainted with subjects of finance, &c. whereas in committees appointed by ballot, it will depend on accident whether fit persons be appointed or not. Besides, in such elections there is no responsibility; the contrary is the case when the Speaker selects the members of a committee. He is responsible for the choice he makes, and will therefore exercise great precaution in it. From these considerations, he hoped the postponement would be agreed to.

Mr. Blount rose to express his entire approbation of the proposed postponement. He wised the decision to be made in a full House; and when the question of agreeing or disagreeing to the amendment which he had offered shall be under consideration, it will be in order to give reasons for and against the different modes proposed of electing committees.

The motion for postponement was carried 74 votes being in favor of it.

The usual resolution was next entered into for supplying the members with news-papers at their lodgings.

After which the House adjourned.

Four additional members attended on this day, were qualified and took their seats.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 28.

Four additional members attended, were qualified and took their seats.

The unfinished business of yesterday respecting the appointment of standing committees was taken up; & the amendment of Mr. Blount, directing their election to be by ballot, being under consideration,

Mr. Blount said he did not think it necessary to use any arguments in support of his motion, but, as he considered it as embracing an important principle, he would take the liberty of calling for the yeas and nays upon it.

The yeas and nays were agreed to be taken.

Mr. Sloan observed as the yeas and nays were to be taken on this question, he thought it necesary to state the reasons which would govern his vote. The old members of the House would recollect that at a former session he had brought forward a resolution similar to the present, which was lost. But he considered the present case to be somewhat different. There are many new members in the House at the present time, not qualified to vote by ballot, because unacquainted with the members. An additional reason for his voting differently at present, was, that the number of the committees was considerably extended, and he did not think it necessary to take up the time of the House in balloting for so many. His opinion was, that the three most important committees ought to be appointed by ballot, to wit; The committee of claims, the committee of commerce and manufactures, and the committee of ways and means. He should therefore vote in the negative.

The question being called for, the Speaker stated to the House, that the Clerk had not yet prepared an alphabetical list of the members, so that he could not proceed to call the names of members in the manner prescribed by the rules of the House.

Mr. Blount supposed it would make no difference if the names of the members should be called by states. He only wished to see how gentlemen who had so strenuously advocated the balloting for these committes heretofore would now vote. He hoped the House would unanimously agree to dispense with the rule of the House on this occasion.

The question was put, but there being a few negatives the rule could not be dispensed with.

Mr. Blount declined withdrawing the motion for taking the yeas and nays, and an alphabetical list was directed to be prepared.

Mr. Thomas was informed that it would take half an hour to make out the proposed list, and as there was other business on the table, he moved that the present motion should lie on the table for one hour.

Mr. Van Cortlandt thought this a novel procedure. He believed it would not be in order to postpone the business, except to a day certain.

The *Speaker* said, that a motion might be made at any time for a resolution to lie on the table without specifying any time.

The motion for lying on the table was carried, there being 75 votes in favor of it.

On motion, the House took up for consideration the resolution yesterday received from the Senate, for the appointment of two Chaplains, to interchange betwixt the two Houses weekly, which was concurred with, there being 85 votes in favor of it.

The *Speaker* laid before the House a communication from Mr. Latrobe, the architect of the Capitol, giving an account of the design of the building, and the use for which the several parts of it are intended; which was ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. D. R. Williams said that the order passed yesterday respecting news-papers, was an exact copy of the resolution on that subject which had been entered into for several years past, and upon which a different construction had been put by the two Houses. One part of the members took papers for their own information, and another took them for the information of their constituents. Those of us said Mr. W. who are solicitous to send information to our information to our friends abroad, agreeably to our construction of the resolution, have received only half the advantage from it, which had been received by others. [Mr. W. here read the resolution which provides that each member shall be served with three daily papers, or as many of such other news papers as they may direct.] Under this resolution the members of this House supposed they could only take three papers, whether daily or not: whereas the members of the Senate understood that they might take to the value of three daily papers in as many others as they thought proper. That a fair construction of this order might be had, he moved that it be reconsidered.

After a few unimportant remarks on this subject,

Mr. Randolph said, that the House was about to establish a dangerous precedent in a very unimportant case. It was in cases of this description that dangerous precedents crept in. It is proposed to reconsider a deliberate act of this House. Passed just now? No; passed yesterday. To what may this lead? This House may at some future time, do a deliberate act, and the succeeding day, in a thin House, that act may be rescinded; nay, on another day, be again reconsidered, and again reinstated. And if a precedent of this kind be established, it will be impossible to come to a definitive conclusion on any question. He had himself expected, and very probably the Speaker may so think on more mature reflection, that a motion to reconsider what was done yesterday, is not in order; but if it should be otherwise determined, he trusted this House would not countenance such procedure. He would rather never read another newspaper as long as he lived, than attempt a reversal of this decision.

Mr. Quincy agreed with the gentleman from Virginia as to the impropriety of reversing the order of yesterday; but thought the decision of the