

their duty to approach the Congress of the United States with a respectful representation of certain evils,—the unauthorized acts of a few, but injurious to the interest and reputation of all.

America, dignified by being the first in modern times, to assert and defend the equal rights of man, suffers her fame to be tarnished, and her example to be weakened, by a cruel commerce, carried on from some of her ports, for the supply of foreign nations with African slaves.

To enumerate the horrors incident to this inhuman traffic, of which all the worst passions of mankind form the principal materials, would be unnecessary when we offer to prove its existence.

Nor is it requisite to consume much of your valuable time in the endeavour to prove it a national injury.

While it exposes the lives and the morals of our seamen to peculiar danger, it renders all complaints of retaliation unjust; for those who deprive others of their liberty, for the benefit of foreign countries, cannot reasonably murmur, if by other foreign nations, they are deprived of their own.

True it is, that the captivity at Algiers is not without a hope, and that the slavery of the West-Indies terminates only with existence; but, in proportion as that to which we are accessory is more severe, the duty of desisting from it becomes more urgent.

Your memorialists observe, and mention with pleasure, that this venal cruelty is at present confined to a few ports, and a few persons. Hence it becomes more easy to destroy a degrading exception from the general dignity of our commerce, and to restore our citizens to their former fame, of preferring the spirit of freedom to the delusions of interest.

An additional reason for the legislative interference, now requested, arises from the natural consequence of the facts already suggested.

Foreigners, seduced by the example, and believing that they may commit without reproach, what American citizens commit with impunity, avail themselves of our ports to fit out their vessels for the same traffic. Thus we become the accomplices of their offences, and partake of the guilt without the miserable consolation of sharing its profits.

Your memorialists therefore, trusting that a compliance with their request, will not exceed the constitutional powers of Congress, nor injure the interests or disturb the tranquility of any part of the Union, respectfully pray, that a law may be passed, prohibiting the traffic carried on by citizens of the United States for the supply of slaves to foreign nations, and preventing foreigners from fitting out vessels for the slave trade in the ports of the United States.

By order of the Convention,
JOSEPH BLOOMFIELD, *President.*
JOHN M'CREE, *Sec'y.*

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Extracts from French Papers, brought by the French Corvette, the Brutus, from Brest, and the ship Patowmack Planter, Capt. Dorset, from Bourdeaux, arrived at Norfolk.

PARIS, November 1.

The Revolutionary Tribunal finished the grand process, which attracted the attention of France and Europe. Brissot, Vergniaud, Genoune, Duprat, Valaze, Lehardy, Ducois, Boyer, Fournere, Boileau, Gardieu, Mainville, Antiboul, Vigie, and Lecaze, have been convicted of having been in conspiracy against the unity and indivisibility of the Republic, against the liberty and safety of the French people. They were condemned to death. This judgment, which ought to spread terror, and make tyrants and slaves tremble, was executed this day upon La Place de la Revolution. Valaze stabbed himself after hearing his sentence; his body was sent privately in a cart to the place of execution, and buried with the others.

This ceremony took place at 1 o'clock the same day, and the greatest part shewed courage and firmness. The execution lasted three quarters of an hour.

All the news from London agree in their accounts of a general fermentation in England; they can publish nothing but under restrictions; their manufactories are stopped, no person pays, nor is paid; at the same time the body of idle mechanics increases; pressing and enlisting is

exercised with unheard-of violence, and does not appease the hungry multitude. To calm the minds of the people, their government ought to boast of some success; but they have nothing but defeats and losses to tell. Gardner repulsed—the duke of York beaten—lord Hood covered with the odium of unnecessary cruelty—Pitt, accused of all crimes, denounced by Justice and the National Convention to the whole universe—Grenville quite ashamed of having suffered the dismemberment of Poland; of having alienated the Americans, and lost forever the trade with France—Dundas, the English *Levillier*, is tired of signing *Letres de Cachet*. With what countenance shall this group of foxes and tygers, when taken by snare, appear before the English people? And notwithstanding a demand of 12 millions sterling is about to be made for the continuance of this execrable war, if opposition is not descended to a phantom, it must arouse the whole nation to the assistance of its minority; and that minority must increase the moment John Bull shews his teeth. It appears that these reflections have struck the ministers themselves; now many of them, dreading the tempest that is rising, hope to gain a shelter—Richmond is retired—Grenville and Dundas are preparing themselves for an amnesty, by an improper dismissal; but Pitt, in acting the Jesuit, and King George in exclaiming *What! What! What! &c.* are approaching with an irresistible current, to the last judgment of the people, and to the Revolutionary Guillotine.

November 7. The criminals condemned yesterday were five in number, viz. Pierre Gondier, Nicholas Laroque, Jean Lepage, Anne, Pierre Cofard, and Louis Philippe Egalite, ci-devant Duke of Orleans. The crime imputed to the latter was being the author and accomplice of a conspiracy against the unity and indivisibility of the Republic, the liberty and security of the French people. Philip d'Orleans was condemned between two and three o'clock in the afternoon, and was taken from the Conciergerie, with four others, and placed in a cart at half past four, to be transported to the place of execution. The populace as they went along, shouted in plaudits "*perish traitors and tyrants, live the Republic!*" At forty minutes past five, the cart arrived at the Place de la Revolution, and the head of Philippe fell the first.

Edmund Burke is raised to the rank of an Irish Peer, under the title of Lord Connought.

UNITED STATES.

FREDERICKSBURG, Jan. 30.
Copy of a letter from a mercantile house in Liverpool, to their correspondent in this town, dated Nov. 17, 1793.

"We advise you that the new American ship Nabby, James Kennedy, master, owned by Mr. Peter Bryson, of Wiscasset, Massachusetts, sprung a leak on the 25th of October, in lat. 55. long. 16. bound to Rappahannock, for your address, and immediately sunk. The crew (all but one man saved) 20 in number.

"There is no telling what ships to send to your country; they are giving 12 per cent premium on American ships from London to the States.

RICHMOND, Jan. 31.

Friday the 24th inst. arrived at Norfolk, the frigate Le Normande, of 22 twenty-four pounders, belonging to the Republic of France; on her arrival she saluted the Old Fort with a discharge of 15 guns: soon after the artillery company of this town turned out with two brass pieces, and marched to Maxwell's point, where they returned the salute with the addition of three huzzas, which was answered by the frigate: From the point they marched to the house of Mr. Oster, Vice-Consul for the French Republic, and saluted him with a discharge of cannon, from thence they proceeded to the Eagle Tavern, and, in company of a few French Republicans partook of some refreshment and after wishing every joy on the occasion, retired to their respective homes.

By a gentleman arrived in town from Norfolk, we are informed that the Ambuscade was lying in Hampton roads on Sunday last, in good order, and that the men were in high spirits.

NEW-YORK, Feb. 4.

SUABILITY OF STATES.

Every sovereign state is a corporation and a moral person, as capable of right and wrong as any individual of mankind. There

is this difference however between them, that *bonnes politic* have less *consciousness* of guilt for violating the moral law than natural persons. The reason is obvious; a state is composed of numbers, and wherever an injury is done by a multitude, the responsibility is divided. Every man really deserves a share of blame; yet every man can shift off a great portion of it upon others. Hence a *public body* never feels *guilt*, though every individual will separately disapprove of the measure which does the injury. This circumstance strongly enforces the necessity of some provision for compelling justice from such public bodies. An individual has *conscience, honor, reputation* to spur him to fulfil his duties; a state has very little of either; and in proportion as the influence of these principles is less in a *body politic*, than in *natural persons*, it becomes necessary to substitute a compulsory process. The law is not made for the good; were every man at all times influenced by pure motives, law would cease to be necessary. Just so of public bodies. Were motives of *strict justice* always to influence public public bodies, more efficient provision would never be necessary to procure from them perfect right. But admit the possibility that, in a legislature, just claims may be frittered away, or rejected, and the necessity and propriety of compulsory provision for obtaining justice, must also be admitted.

Besides, these same moral persons, or states, all claim and exercise the right of compelling individuals to render justice. Why should not the right be *mutual*? Is that man *legally free*, who can be forced to pay the last penny he owes to a state; while the state may owe him a fortune, and he cannot compel the payment of a shilling? Is it not recognized unequivocally as a general principle of common law, that *right and remedy are reciprocal*—and that wherever there exists a *right*, the law furnishes a *remedy*? But is not the doctrine that *suits cannot be sustained against states*, a direct and flagrant violation of this excellent maxim of common law and commutative justice! And is not a *discretionary power* to do justice or not at pleasure, more particularly *dangerous* in large popular bodies, where responsibility is divided and reduced to nothing! Let calm reason, conscience, and the religion of christians determine these important questions.

* See the doctrine in Salkeld's reports. The writer not having the books before him, cannot refer to the Case.

PHILADELPHIA,

FEBRUARY 7.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in New-England to his friend in this city.

"Some time has elapsed since I had the pleasure of hearing from you; I am much pleased with the memorial of the Friends' Society and the address of the worthy Clergy of your City to the Legislature of your State, on the subject of revising the laws for the suppression of vice and immorality, and for enforcing a due observance of the Lord's Day. It was certainly exhibiting a very seasonable testimony against the prevailing irreligious spirit of the times—"A Land of Levity" lays an excellent writer, "is a Land of Guilt." What, alas then, is a Land abounding in Profaneness and Impiety—and at the very instant when the Supreme Ruler of the World is withdrawing his chastening rod, contending for Theatrical and other amusements, which are evidently calculated to please a corrupt and vitiated mind, and are emphatically characteristic of those who are "Lovers of Pleasure, more than Lovers of God."—I most heartily wish success to the laudable efforts of those who nobly appear to stem the torrent of fashionable vices, more dangerous to morals, because less suspected than flagrant crimes, tho' history and observation concur to evince that the latter are frequently the offspring of the former.

"Before you receive this, I expect that an important and united exertion will be made by petitioning Congress to effect an Abolition of that disgrace to our country—the African Slave Trade. If it were not for those *strange extremes* which often meet in the same character, I should suppose that the recent information respecting the Piratical Corsairs of Algiers, would entirely supersede the necessity of any reasoning to demonstrate the worse than abominable iniquity of

enslaving our fellow-men. I hope that the Legislature of the Union will not be backward in explicitly enacting such laws as will effectually check the system of rapine, fraud, robbery, devastation and murder which constitute the trade. Do, my dear sir, acquaint me of appearances and prospects—I am certain no pains will be declined to effect the object: I consider it as a grand appeal in which all the strength of our Societies will be conjointly applied.—O! that the cause of Justice and Humanity may prevail and triumph!"

The Algerine business was again under consideration in the House of Representatives this day—but no decision took place.

The Case which has been depending for several days before the Supreme Court of the United States, in which the State of Georgia was petitioner in Chancery, and others Respondents, was this day, decided by a Special Jury in favor of the Respondents.

FROM THE AMERICAN STAR.

A French paper, published in this city.

P A R I S,

Nov. 5. The female citizen Mirabeau, mother of the two famous brothers of the same name, was arrested the day before yesterday, and committed to prison.

The female citizen Olympia Gouges, has been guillotined, notwithstanding her pleading pregnancy.

The bloody spectacle of the guillotine seems to enrage the people. On the same day when Valaze stabbed himself, a national light-horseman, condemned to die, flung himself over the balustrades of the revolutionary tribunal, and would infallibly have stabbed the judge, had he not been disarmed.

The mulattoe Raymond, chief agent of Brissot in the destruction of the whites of St. Domingo, has been guillotined in Paris, at the Place de la Revolution.

By this Day's Mail.

NEW-YORK, Feb. 6.

Letters by the ship Liberty, from Madeira, inform us of the arrival, at that island, of a very large British fleet, commanded by Sir John Jervis, K. B. consisting of 8 line of battle ships, a number of frigates, transports, and storeships; on board of which were embarked 13,000 land forces, to be employed under Gen. Sir Charles Grey, K. B. against the French islands in the West Indies. The whole fleet sailed from Madeira, on the 22d of Dec. their destination supposed to be Barbadoes, which is the appointed rendezvous.

This Squadron and convoy had avoided falling in with one from Brest, consisting of eight French line of battle-ships, and 6 frigates, sent from that port for the purpose of intercepting the British, and subverting the important object of an armament much superior to any that has acted in the West India seas during the present war.—The abovementioned French fleet had fallen in with the British of 22 sail of the line, under Lord Howe, 90 leagues from the land: a rapid chase immediately commenced—One 40 gun frigate and 3 French vessels of inferior size had been already captured by the British.

Lord Rawdon, with 13,000 British troops had sailed for France, to join the Royalists in the department of La Vendee.

SHIP NEWS.

A R R I V E D.

Ship	From	Days
Ship Fame, Eldridge,	Ferrol,	52 days
Suffex, Atkins,	Havre de Grace	
Morning Star, Campbell,	Ostend,	90
Brig Dolphin, Nickells,	Havanna	30
Maria, Weeks,	Boston	25
Sch' Friendship, Glover,	Martinique	30
Sloop Hannah, Culver,	Havre de Grace	72
Lively, Moore, Madeira		75
Sally, Brown,	Porto Rico	26

A sloop from New York, is arrived at Mercus Hook.

The ship Fame, Capt. Eldridge, sailed from Ferrol, on the 23d Nov. in company with the ship Atlantic of Baltimore, Capt. Wilson, who arrived at Ferrol the 13th October.

The ship Diligence, Capt. O'Neil, from New York, arrived there the 27th, after a passage of 51 days.

The snow Harriet, Capt. Holland, arrived the 4th Nov. in 48 days from Philadelphia.

The brig Industry of Salem, arrived the 9th Oct. from Baltimore, was taken in ballast on the 11th Nov. to sail in a day or two after, for the Western Isles.

Capt. Eldridge, on the 5th of January, in lat. 25 1 2, long. 62, spoke the schooner Betsey, Capt. Ladd, from New-Providence, bound to New-York, out 45 days. This vessel had been driven from the coast three times, and was distressed for provisions, a supply of which they received from Capt. Eldridge.