

that the passions should be banished and reason courted, it was the present: it required all the wisdom and gravity of the legislative councils, to combine our national honor with our national safety.

He was not surprized that the unprovoked aggressions of Great Britain on our commerce, should excite the most unbounded resentment, or that in the moment, our passions should invite to a measure like the one proposed. He was willing to admit the full force of the arguments which suggested themselves in its favor: they had at the first glance made an impression on his mind. Comparing the circumstances of this country with those of other commercial nations, added weight to this impression: The commercial nations of Europe, with whom we were likely to quarrel, had large fleets to protect their commerce & to commit depredations on our's. They could therefore seize our vessels, and we were not in that respect upon a footing with them; it seemed therefore plausible at the first blush that, if such nations seized our ships and we could not retaliate on theirs, we should be justified in laying our hands on their property of any description which was within our reach.

This reasoning, he said, he was compelled in candor, to admit, had no inconsiderable weight. At the same time, however, he was compelled to declare, that there was in his mind a sacredness attached to the character of debts which shielded them from a proceeding of this kind, and which superceded every other consideration.

The gentleman last up, had relied on the authority of ancient foreign jurisprudence. Mr. S. admitted, that the more ancient writers on the law of nations had sanctioned this measure; it was also true, that by the ancient law of nations, the putting prisoners to death was warranted. Burlamaqui, a more recent writer, says the confiscation of debts is against the modern usage and practice of nations; indeed the progress of civilization, the improved state of commerce, and respect for credit and public faith, have abolished this practice in modern times.

He did not believe a single instance could be cited of a departure from this principle among nations, which valued commerce and credit. In all the most bloody and ferocious wars which had been carried on for near a century among the different powers of Europe, he did not recollect any precedent of this kind. Contracts between the individuals of the belligerent nations were always considered as out of the reach of the government; and even in cases where all other property has been seized, debts have always been screened from the gripe of confiscation.

During the late war, debts were protected; South Carolina, though roused by injuries to the highest resentment, though the warmest passions were alive, while confiscating all other property, left debts untouched, under the idea that private contracts were sacred.

This was not even done in a state of war—the measure was much more objectionable before war was actually declared—it might have very different consequences from those contemplated. It had been said, that the adoption of the resolution would be a means of obliging Great Britain to do us justice, that it would strike a terror among the subjects of that country, and make them clamorous for a restitution of our property.

It might, he feared, have different effects; it might exasperate the people of that country, and unite them with their government; on the other hand, a forbearance in this respect and a rejection of this measure might detach the people from the administration, it would convince them that we respected their private rights, that we considered the aggressions as the acts of their administrators, that we cherished peace and if war takes place, we are driven to it by the government.

This conduct would give effect to our demands and a refusal on their part would be so unpopular in Great Britain as to hasten a change in their ministry and produce another more friendly to this country. It would put the government of that nation in the wrong not only in the eyes of other nations but in the eyes of their own people; and this was a policy we ought to pursue.

Mr. S. again adverted to his proposition which, if the committee were determined to do any thing on this subject, he recommended as a sufficient provision in the present emergency; it would give time to deliberate on further measures, to take advantage of the change of events in Europe which he believed would have great influence on the policy of Great Britain towards the United States and bring forward a material change either in the measures of their administration or in the administration itself, in which case we might expect, without a war, a full reparation for our wrongs. Under these impressions, if called upon to give his vote, he should be obliged to vote against

the proposition: Deeming credit of the highest importance to this country, considering it as connected with its commercial prosperity—he deprecated the measure as one which would give a fatal shock to it. He looked upon the precedent as a dangerous one from its tendency to involve us in future wars. The intercourse between the United States and foreign nations will from the course of things create debts from the citizens of this country to those of others. Whenever any considerable number of these debtors become embarrassed in their circumstances, they will be stimulated to imbroil us with the creditor nation, in the hopes that a confiscation or sequestration of debts may afford them relief. And altho' they might not expect a total discharge, yet the prospect of being less pressed for payment by the government than the creditor, would be a motive with many.

He had observed that some members who had advocated the measure spoke with horror of touching the public funds: for his part, he did not see much essential difference; if the one is warrantable as a retaliation for property taken, he did not immediately see why the principle did not apply to the other. If the barrier be once broken down which protects debts generally, he did not know to what length the principle by gradual extensions might not be carried. If there is a war with Britain, it is not improbable Holland may be implicated; if British debts are confiscated because Great Britain seizes our vessels, Dutch debts ought to be seized, if the Dutch take our vessels: if private debts are seized, public debts ought to be seized; shall we confiscate what the Dutch lent us during the war or since the peace? they have bought largely in our funds; the same principle will warrant the seizure of that property. It will be difficult to draw the line, if the principle be once admitted. Mr. S. also questioned whether Congress had a right by the Constitution, in time of peace, to meddle with private contracts; he saw no such power vested in them by that instrument and before they exercised it, they ought to be well satisfied that they possessed it.

PHILADELPHIA, MARCH 29.

Yesterday's New-York papers, received by this day's mail, do not contain any news.

The report, that the speech of the King of Great Britain at the opening of the session of parliament, is in town—is not true.

From a Correspondent.

The sequestration of debts is a questionable measure in the minds of many, at least until there is a positive refusal on the part of the British to make restitution.

Such is the operation of the human mind, that when once we give way to our passions and break over certain bounds, the commission of one violent act frequently produces others of a higher nature than those at first contemplated; hence the legislature ought to weigh with great deliberation those measures which have an aspect to war.

Under our happy Constitution and Government no man ever expected to see an Act violating Contracts between man and man, or one that would tend to injure our National character or future pursuits.

CONGRESS.

House of Representatives.

Thursday, March 27.

Mr. Sedgwick brought in the following report, which was read and committed. The Committee, to whom it was referred, to report the means of rendering the force of the United States more efficient, after mature and deliberate consideration, have unanimously agreed to report to the House, the following resolutions, as proper to be adopted:

RESOLVED, That effectual measures ought to be adopted to complete the present military establishment of the United States, and that provision ought to be made that the same may be kept full.

Resolved, That an additional corps of artillery, not to exceed 800 men, officers included, and also including one chief, and four assistant engineers, ought to be raised for garrisoning the fortifications which are, or may be erected for the defence of the sea coasts.

Resolved, That the President be authorized and empowered to call on the executives of the several states, to take effectual measures, as soon as may be, to organize and hold in readiness to march at a moment's warning, eighty thousand effective militia, (officers included) to be apportioned to the states res-

pectively, in proportion to the whole number of white inhabitants—that is to say:

To the State of Georgia	1333
South-Carolina	3550
North-Carolina	7331
Kentucky	1532
Virginia	11377
Maryland	5418
Delaware	1256
Pennsylvania	10768
New-Jersey	4318
New-York	7971
Vermont	2139
Connecticut	5881
Rhode-Island	1697
Massachusetts	11885
New-Hampshire	3544
	80000

Which detachment of militia shall be officered, out of the present militia officers, or others, at the option and discretion of the constitutional authority of the states, respectively.

Resolved, That any independent corps of cavalry, artillery or infantry may be accepted, as part of the said detachment of militia, provided they shall voluntarily engage; and provided the same shall be deemed eligible by the President.

Resolved, That the President be desired to request the executives of the several states to take effectual care that the men detached as aforesaid, be armed and equipped, according to law.

Resolved, That provision ought to be made by law for organizing and raising a military force, under the authority of the government of the United States, to consist of rank and file, with the proper officers, to serve for the term of years, or during a war which may break out between the United States and any foreign European power; and that the President be authorized to take the measures necessary for raising the same: Provided that no such measures be taken by the executive until war shall be actually commenced between the United States and some foreign European power.

By this Day's Mail.

WILMINGTON, (Del.) March 29.
In consequence of orders issued by the executive of the United States yesterday, to Major Bush, of the District of Delaware, we have the pleasure of informing the public that upwards of fifteen vessels cleared out from the port of Philadelphia have been stopped in the District of Delaware. And we have the additional satisfaction to mention, that no vessel has been detained but what had a British or foreign passport.

BATIMORE, March. 24.
Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Philadelphia, dated March 20.

"I fear we shall be engaged in war.—I judge from the course of events past—but particularly from the secrecy with which the last infamous measure of the British administration was conducted.—Lord Grenville in the last conversation, of which we have heard, with Mr. Pinckney, very politely congratulated him on the recovery of Philadelphia from the fever.

"That it gave immense pleasure to the king, his master, to learn how prosperously the United States went on; and at the great progress of the arts and sciences, he was delighted, &c. Would you, as a moral politician, believe, that this polished secretary and lord had, fourteen days before this conversation, been one of the council who had secretly issued the last order, under which so great a depredation was meditated on our unsuspecting merchants?"

PORT OF PHILADELPHIA.

ARRIVED.

Ship Fame, Sims,	New-York.	5
Enterprize, Jones,	Havanna.	13
American, Price,	New-York.	5
Industry, Perry,	Returned.	
Brig Fox, Miller,	Malaga.	42
Industry, Coppinger,	New-York.	5
Chance, Beiks,	Havanna.	13
George, Norris,	Turks Island.	12
Schooner Success, Curry,	Cape-Nichola-Mole.	9
Fakby Packet, Anderson,	do.	20
Rebecca, Shewell,	Charleston.	10
Mary, Sewall,	R. Island.	7
Nancy, M'Kenzie,	N. Bedford	
Good Intent, Miller,	Returned	
Sloop New-York Packet, Bailey,	New-York.	4
Industry, Wheaton,	St. Croix.	14
Brig Fox, Miller,	in 42 days from Malaga, sailed in company with a British fleet of 5 sail of merchantmen, bound to London, under convoy of the Iris frigate of 32 guns.	
The ship Sally, Weeks,	in 9 days from Cape Nichola Mole, and several other vessels are arrived in the Delaware.	

The Spanish ship Victoria, mentioned yesterday, to have been taken by the sloop of war Cerf, has by good fortune outtailed her. The brig Baron de Carondelet, is returning to port as her prize.

Captain Miller saw two Algerine Cruizers, one of 32 and the other of 20 guns, close under the Beach of Gibraltar, but he having English colours flying, and being under the protection of the British frigate, they took no notice of him. He left at Malaga, Ship Capt. Burgoine of Baltimore.

Arrived at Fort Mifflin, the Schooner Peggy, Capt. Skelly, in 12 days from St. Eustatia, Captain Skelley has procured a list of all the American vessels, captured and carried into the following British West-India Islands.

CAPTURED.

Montserrat,	40
Barbadoes,	14
Basseterre St. Kitts,	40
St. Johns Antigua,	23
Dominica,	39

NOT CAPTURED.

St. Johns Antigua,	11
Barbadoes,	22
St. Eustatia,	24

The Admirers of Sacred Music are respectfully informed, that One or more Performances from the most approved

Paris of Handel's Works,

(particularly from the Messiah) will be given in the week preceding Easter Sunday, (commonly called Passion week)

As every ability in the Instrumental and Vocal Line will be called forth on this occasion, there is no doubt, but that a Liberal Public will take the present undertaking under their protection.

N. B. Part of the Profits will be appropriated to the use of a public charity.

A particular description of the Place, Selection, &c. will be given as soon as the necessary arrangements can be settled.

March 29.

NEW THEATRE.

THIS EVENING,

March 29,

Will be performed,

A COMIC OPERA called

Love in a Village.

Sir Wm. Meadows,	Mrs. Warrell
Young Meadows,	Mr. Marshall
Justice Woodcock,	Mr. Bates
Hawthorn,	Mr. Darley
Eustace,	Mr. Cleveland
Hodge,	Mr. Francis
Rosetta,	Mrs. Marshall
Lucinda,	Mrs. Warrell
Deborah Woodcock,	Mrs. Rowson
Madge,	Miss. Willems

In act first, a STATUTE SCENE and DANCE, by the characters, servants at the Statute, by Mr. Blisset, Mrs. Rowson, Mrs. Bates, Miss Rowson, and Mrs. De Marque, &c.

After the Opera, A Scotch Pastoral Dance, called

The Caledonian Frolic.

In which will be introduced a HIGHLAND REEL, by Mr. Francis, Miss Willems, and Mrs. De Marque.

To which will be added, A FARCE, in two acts, called,

The Village Lawyer

Scout,	Mr. Harwood
Snarl,	Mr. Francis
Sheepface,	Mr. Bates
Justice Mittimus,	Mr. Warrell
Charles,	Mr. Darley, jun.
Mrs. Scout,	Mrs. Rowson
Kate,	Mrs. Bates

Places in the Boxes to be taken at the Box-Office of the Theatre, at any hour from nine, in the morning till three o'clock in the afternoon, on the day of performance. Tickets to be had at the office near the Theatre, at the corner of Sixth-street, and at Carr & Co's Musical Repository, No. 122, Market-street. BOXES, one dollar—PIT, three quarters of a dollar—and GALLERY, half a dollar.

* As inconveniences to the public have arisen from the Box book being open on the days of performance only, in future attendance will be given at the office in the Theatre every day from ten till one, and on the days of performance from ten till three o'clock in the afternoon. Applications for Boxes, it is respectfully requested, may be addressed, to Mr. Franklin, at the Box-Office.

Ladies and Gentlemen are requested to send their servants to keep places, at half an hour past 4 o'clock, and to order them to withdraw, as soon as the company are seated, as they cannot on any account be permitted to remain in the boxes, nor any places kept after the first act.

No places can be let in the side boxes for a less number than eight, nor any places retained after the first act.

The Doors will be opened at 6 o'clock and the performances begin at 6 o'clock precisely.