have full power to appoint and commission the several registers and receivers of public monies of the land offices established by this act, in the recess of congress; and their commissions shall continue in force until the end of the session of congress next ensuing such appointment.

Sec. 17. *And be it further enacted*, That the several superintendants of the public sales directed by this act, shall receive six dollars each, for each day's attendance on the said sales.

Sec. 18. *And be it further enacted*, That a sum, not exceeding twenty thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated, for carrying this act into effect; which sum shall be paid out of any unappropriated monies in the treasury.

NATHL. MACON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
JESSE FRANKLIN,
President of the Senate, pro tempore.
March 26, 1804.

APPROVED
TH: JEFFERSON.

AN ACT

For the relief of the heirs of John Habersham.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the proper accounting officers of the treasury, in settling the accounts of John Habersham, late collector of the port of Savannah, be authorised to allow a charge of one thousand one hundred and eleven dollars and sixteen cents, being the balance of the additional duty of ten per cent, on goods, wares and merchandise imported in foreign ships, but which in the commencement of the execution of the law of one thousand seven hundred and ninety, for the collection of duties on imports and tonnage, was not duly collected by him, owing to the distance which deprived him of early instructions from the treasury department; and also the further sum of one thousand dollars being the amount of a draft of Edward Price, factor of the United States for establishing trade with the Creek Indians for supplies advanced to the said factor, which has not heretofore been credited on his account.

NATHL. MACON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
JESSE FRANKLIN,
President of the Senate pro tempore.
March 26, 1804.

APPROVED,
TH: JEFFERSON.

AN ACT

To repeal a part of the act, intituled "an act supplementary to the act concerning Consuls and Vice-Consuls, and for the further protection of American seamen.

BE it enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the ninth section of the act, intituled "an act supplementary to the act concerning consuls and vice consuls and for the further protection of American seamen," passed the twenty eighth of February, one thousand eight hundred and three, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That all powers of attorney for the transfer of any stock of the United States, or for the receipt of interest thereof, executed in a foreign country, since the thirtieth day of June one thousand eight hundred and three, according to the forms in use at the treasury of the United States prior to the said thirtieth day of June one thousand eight hundred and three, shall be valid to all intents and purposes: any provision in the aforesaid section hereby repealed to the contrary notwithstanding.

NATHL. MACON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
JESSE FRANKLIN,
President of the Senate, pro tempore.
March 27, 1804.

APPROVED,
TH: JEFFERSON.

From the National Intelligencer.

The *self-styled federalists*, after attempting in vain (by *calumny and misrepresentation*) to destroy the popularity of our patriotic chief Magistrate, have of late been endeavouring by art and intrigue to effect a division among the friends of the administration. That attempts were made during the late session of Congress to form a party under the banners of a man (who had long been denounced as an apostate to the principles he once professed) can no longer be doubted: But fortunately for the cause of republicanism those intrigues were discovered and measure taken to counteract them. The unanimity which prevailed among the republican members of Congress, when they assembled in order, to recommend to their fellow-citizens, suitable characters to be supported at the ensuing election for President and Vice-President, and the *glorious triumph* which has recently been obtained by the republicans in N. York, are sufficient evidences of the *firmness* and *patriotism* of a large majority of the American people.

Although the intrigues of the enemies of the government have hitherto proved unsuccessful, still their ardor seems by no means abated, on the contrary they appear to be more indefatigable in their exertions to accomplish an object more dear to them than ever. Every engine has of late been put in motion to excite jealousies and unfounded alarms in the minds of the republicans in the northern states—the cry of what is called *Virginia influence*, is now the *order of the day*, among the *party styling themselves federalists* and their newly acquired allies "the little band." The nomination of the patriotic Clinton for the office of Vice-President, by a large majority of the Representatives of the people, has been wholly attributed to this pretended influence. But the revolutionary services and uniform patriotism of Governor Clinton, and the high estimation in which he is held by the citizens of his native state, over which he has presided for more than twenty years, are well known to the republicans, in every part of the union, who will it is presumed confer their suffrages on so meritorious a character, notwithstanding the suggestions of disappointed ambition. Even the elevation of the illustrious Jefferson to the head of the government of this country, has been attributed to Virginia influence, when it is well known that the eyes of the republicans in every part of the union had long been fixed on this distinguished patriot, to save his country from the thraldom with which it was threatened; nor has his fellow-citizens been disappointed in the high expectations which they formed in his favor. The administration of Mr. Jefferson will unquestionably form one of the most memorable epochs in the annals of the American history.

As a proof of Virginia influence it has been asserted that most of the persons holding offices under the general government are natives of that state. The falsity of this assertion must appear evident to every person, who is acquainted with the characters who are at the head of the several departments, and who fill the other offices under government. The fact is, that Mr. Madison is almost the only Virginian who hold an office of importance under the administration: and every candid and unprejudiced person so far from censuring, must applaud the discernment of the President in placing at the head of the Department of State, a gentleman whose whole life has been devoted to the service of his country, and whose virtues, patriotism and talents, are universally acknowledged and admired by the republicans in every part of the union.

The enemies of the government, do not confine their intrigues merely in making attempts to excite divisions among its friends, but actually contemplate a dissolution of the union as their dernier resort. That so criminal, and daring a project, should be entertained by any part of our citizens, would a short time since have been hardly credited: But many of the opposition papers have of late avowed sentiments, which evince beyond a doubt the real views and designs of this party, at least of its leaders. The patriotism and good sense of the people of this country, will, however, render those vile machinations abortive, and infamy and disgrace would be the reward of those persons, who, to gratify their vindictive malice, and to promote their ambitious views, should dare to make an attempt to dismember the American Republic.

FRANKLIN.

The friends of humanity and of an enlarged policy look with uncommon solicitude to the measures of the legislature of South Carolina, respecting the admission of slaves. It has been affirmed, and we hope truly, that the citizens of that state are hostile to the continuance of the unfortunate act, which, after a long period of virtuous abstinence, opened the avenue to this disgraceful traffic.

If this be a fact, let the voice of the people be expressed, in tones so audible as to rescue their character from the liberal reproach cast upon it. The injury already done cannot be retrieved, but it may be checked; and it may be made to appear to the world that the people of our sister state of South Carolina will not suffer the promotion of the narrow interests of a day to outweigh those of ages. It may be, that our feelings run away with our judgment on this subject, when we hold the opinion that at some future day, unless this great evil be repressed or eradicated, we shall pay, in the blood of our best citizens, the cost of the unfortunate experiment now trying. Would to God we could awaken those most interested to the vigorous prosecution of those measures which can alone save our country from the mournful scenes which bid fair in a neighboring country, to convert one of the fairest regions of the earth into a howling wilderness; and where civilised man has become, from the surrounding contagion, almost a savage.

The address made to the virtue of South Carolina, by the National Legislature cannot, we should think, fall in union with other powerful motives, to arrest all further importation of slaves. The constitutional power of imposing a tax of ten dollars on each imported slave was undisputed; and it was only on the ground of policy that it was forborne to lay it. The delegates of the state, notwithstanding their variance of politics, concurred in the assurance that, if congress waved the interposition of their power, the obnoxious law would be repealed. Nor do we believe, had it not been for this assurance, and the confidence it created in the measures of the state legislature, that congress would have forborne to lay the tax, and thus to have inflicted a deep wound on the character of a respectable, and in most respects, an enlightened state. We may go further, and declare our belief, that but for this confidence, an amendment would long since have been proposed to the constitution, and have been by this time probably ratified, prohibiting all further importations. Those who may be disposed to entertain doubts of this, need only recollect that no measure has ever occurred in this country which has excited a larger share of indignation, and that in this sentiment men of all political descriptions concurred, and manifested a zeal, which, while its cause continues, can never subside. Let them recollect that the decided interests of New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Vermont, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware, are hostile to the existence of slavery in any shape whatever; and that Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Ohio, and Kentucky are equally averse to new importations. We forbear speaking of Georgia and Tennessee as we are not particularly acquainted with their sentiments on this point.

Did we fully rely on the virtuous feelings of the people of South Carolina, we might touch a chord of interest that ought, we think, of itself to procure a repeal of the odious law. Will not the interest of every existing slave holder, who does not himself engage in the new importations, be deeply impaired by them? In proportion to the number of slaves, according to an inverse ratio, will be their value; and just in proportion to the addition made to the present stock will be the diminution of value. Let the present holders of this species of property only realise this,—and it is as certain as their existence—and they must perceive that unless they purchase to a considerable extent negroes newly imported, they will in truth be losers.

Nat. Intel.

NEW-YORK, May 23.

From Savannah.—In the Savnnna Museum of the 12th inst. the following presentment of the grand jury of the circuit court for the district of Georgia. It will be read with interest, both as it relates to the recent affair of judge Bowen, and certain alledged practices of armed vessels, said to belong to the French republic.

Georgia, city of Savannah. } *May Term*, 1804.

We the Grand Jury of the Circuit Court for the district of Georgia, impressed with the dangers that might have arisen to the whole people of Georgia from the inflammatory doctrines, the violent principles and the intemperate conduct which marked the judge of the superior court in the whole circuit from St Marys to Savannah, had not such conduct been resisted by the mild yet firm, the temperate yet determined Grand Jury of Chatam county; avail ourselves of the opportunity which this meeting affords us to testify the warm approbation which the conduct of that Grand Jury has excited in the minds and feelings of the whole people of the eastern district of Georgia, but there is no form of words which this Grand Jury can command which can sufficiently express the deep abhorrence the bitter indignation which the whole people of the eastern district feel at the conduct of a judge that could be so lost to all sense of the dignity which was due to the law, and so forgetful of all that gratitude which he owed to the people who raised and elevated him to consideration in the state; as to wish to violate those laws which he had sworn to support, to ruin those people whose rights he had been appointed to watch over, and to desolate that country whose guardian he was. We the Grand Jury cannot close this subject, without expressing a fervent hope that the Great Being whose name he did for foul purposes invoke, may touch his heart with true penitence.

We present a most serious grievance the practice of armed vessels, said to be of the French republic, laying in our ports longer than necessary, or by treaty authorised to do; endeavoring to gain information of the sailing of our vessels engaged in lawful trade, with a view to interrupt or capture them, and in one instance laid before us, of their actually having captured within the limits of the United States. We regard such conduct as in the highest degree injurious and insulting to our country, and recommend to the government of the United States, to employ a sufficient naval force, on our coasts, to prevent in future similar aggressions, and we also recommend that the district attorney do ascertain whether there are not now vessels fitting within the ports of this state for the purpose of cruizing against the citizens or subjects of countries in friendship with the United States.

The Grand Jury beg leave to tender their high respect to the hon. judge Johnson, and assure him of the sincere pleasure they feel at meeting in a judicial capacity, a gentleman who, from having been born and bred up in the midst of those people to whom he is to administer the law, is acquainted with their wants, their habits and their opinions.

The Grand Jury return their thanks to the court generally, and request their presentments may be published.

[Signed, &c.]

LAW CASE.

On Thursday and Friday last, a legal question of great curiosity, novelty and importance, was argued in the court of appeals. The name of the case was Stone against Keeling, and the circumstances are as follow:

One Keeling, some thirty or forty years ago, married a woman by whom he had a son. His wife then died, and after the lapse of a few years, he married a lady, who was known by the name of Mrs. Arbuckle.—This lady, at the time of her intermarriage with Mr. Keeling, had another husband who is still living. Mr. Arbuckle and herself, not enjoying domestic happiness, separated, he continuing in the county of Accomack, on the Eastern shore of Virginia, she removing to the county of Princess Anne, where she married Mr. Keeling. Previous to this marriage, Arbuckle had frequently been absent from the state, although his absence had never been so long as to justify the presumption of his death. Two daughters were the fruit of this marriage, and Keeling and his second wife lived happily together until the day of their death. About two years ago Keeling died, leaving a large estate. His son by the first wife is dead, leaving two children, and his daughters by the second wife are married.

Shortly after the death of Keeling, the husbands of his daughters (the appellants in this suit) applied to the county court of Princess Anne for letters of administration on his estate, as being the next of kin to the deceased. This was opposed by the mother and guardian of the children left by Keeling's son, on the ground that the *daughters were illegimate*, they being the issue of an illegal and void marriage, and consequently not entitled to any portion of the estate. The county court sustained the objection, and appointed the guardian of the grand-children the administrator. On an appeal to the district court of Suffolk, that court affirmed the judgment of the county court, from which judgment the husbands of the daughters appealed to the court of appeals.

The case chiefly depended on the exposition of a clause in the law of descents, passed in the year 1785, which took effect on the 1st of January, 1787; the clause declares that "the issue of marriages deemed null in law, shall nevertheless be legitimate." By the common law, the children of all illegal marriages, were illegitimate. The question was, whether the common law on that subject was totally or partially altered.

It was contended for the appellants that the legislature intended to change the law entirely, and that the innocent offspring of all illegal marriages were legitimated.

For the appellee it was contended that the legislature only meant to legitimate the issue of such illegal marriages as required an annulling act to make them void, and not such as were absolutely void from beginning: that a marriage with a person already married, was void from the very moment of its being contracted, and that consequently the issue of such illegal marriages were still illegitimate as at common law. It was also urged that the law of 1785, did not apply to this case, as the daughters were born previous to the 1st of Jan. 1787. The reply made to this argument by the appellants' counsel was, that the law operated from the date of the death of the father, and not from the time of the children's birth.

The court on Saturday last unanimously decided, that the common law on this subject was totally changed; that the issue of all illegal marriages were legitimate under the act of 1785; they reversed the judgment of the district court, and directed the administration of the estate to be conferred on the apellants. [*Rich. Enq.*

LONDON, April 11.

Ships are now victualled at Plymouth sufficient to carry 1000 troops. Four ships *en flute* are also fitting out to carry four black regiments from the West to the East Indies.

The crimes of the merchants at Leghorn, Genoa, Civita Vecchia, Ancono, and other sea-ports on the Mediterranean or Adriatic sea, who have lately been tried by French military commissions and shot as spies, were, that they had bought up and furnished the English cruizers with provisions.

A new Comet has been discovered by Jean Louis Pons, at the Observatory at Marseilles. It is visible to the naked eye.

April 12.

Dispatches were yesterday received from admiral Sir James Saumarez, at Guernsey. We understand that the enemy on the opposite coast has made no attempt, or any movement indicating an intention to put to sea. The islands of Guernsey and Jersey are in the most complete state of defence, and our forces in that quarter, both military and naval, are in good health and spirits.

April 14.

We last night received Moniteurs of the 14th and 15th instant. The Police continues to exercise the greatest vigilance and activity in arresting all persons suspected of being concerned in the late conspiracy. Several accused of being the agents and partizans of Georges have been apprehended.

The French government is exerting every art to make the people of France believe that England was the sole author of the plot; and in a recent report to the First Consul, Lemercier, considered as one of the accomplices of Georges, has made a confession, admitting he was employed by our Government to assassinate Buonaparte. A similar confession has been made by another wretch, called Peter Jean. There is not a man in Europe, except the slaves of the Corsican Despot, that will not despise the accusation, and abhor the diabolical ingenuity by which these proofs have been brought forward.

Switzerland appears to be in a state of considerable agitation. Some commotions have broken out in the Canton of Zurich, where the people refused to take the usual oaths; accounts from Basle mention, that half the inhabitants of that Canton are in a state of revolt.

A letter from Gottenburgh, dated April 7th, says, "The daring steps the French have taken in arresting emigrants in Germany have caused some sensation in this country, and the execution of the Duke d'Enghien has excited equal surprise and indignation. Accounts received this morning from Stockholm, countenance the expectation that it will not be very long before those powers who have been so very cautious in avoiding the war will take an active part in it.—But certainly the movements of Sweden and Denmark must depend upon those of Russia."

The answers of the ministers of the different powers at Paris to the address of Talleyrand must excite a peculiar interest in this country, which is vilified and calumniated in a manner most undeserved and unexampled. They are all more or less suitable to the character, policy, and independence of their respective court. The minister of Austria states generally that every member of the corps diplomatique must condemn any thing that is done by a diplomatic agent contrary to the laws of nations. The minister of Russia speaks generally to the same effect. The minister of Prussia goes further and writes like a Prefect of one of the United Departments; he says that M. Talleyrand can easily conceive "the whole part which the king his master will take in the entire cessation of so many subjects of alarm for the friends of France." The American minister doubts whether Mr. Drake can have been acting with the approbation of his government. M. Cetto, the Bavarian minister, expresses the utmost indignation that the territories of his master, should have been selected as the rendezvous of intrigue and conspiracy against the tranquility of France. The Elector of Baden's minister speaks in the same tone. M. d'Hurvas the Spanish minister, and most of the corps diplomatique whether connected with France or not join in reprobating such transactions as those imputed to Mr. Drake. If the letters, &c, ascribed to that envoy be forged, and that they are we entertain not the smallest doubt, we think the calumny ought to be rebutted in some other way.

Victor Couchery, the confidant and accomplice of Pichegru, who is advertised in the official list, was apprehended on the 29th ult. by Citizen Paques, at his place of confinement in Babylon street. The brother of this Couchery is employed at London as the hired calumniator of the French nation in the journal entitled Le Courier de Londres,—Having been personally prevented by illness from accompanying Pichegru to France, he persuaded his brother to take a part in the plot. [*Monitur.*

The other persons recently arrested, by the vigilance of the police, are Lemercier, John Lelan alias Brutus, and Peter Jean, all described in the official proclamation, who are denominated "brigands of George's gang;" Raoul Armand Gaillard of Rouen, know by the name of St. Vincent; Armand Gaillard his brother; Tamerian, alias Tata, alias Derville, a brigand who escaped when St. Vincent and Armand Gaillard were arrested; Picot Limdelan, alias Beaumont, who killed himself by a musket shot in the belly; and Charles d'Hosier, who in the disguise of a coachman drove the carriage which was sent to Georges at St. Leuon the first of September last, and which conveyed him to Paris.

The ship Magnificent, an English vessel of 74 guns, struck on the Black Rocks on the 25th ult. A part of the crew perished, a part were saved by the boats, and 70 of them landed on Isle Beniquet, where they were made prisoners. Among them are seven officers.