The news from Porto Ferrajo is not of so favorable a description. This little place continues to make a most obstinate resistance: its inhabitants, or rather multitude of people from different nations who are incorporated with them, keep the place in a most deplorable situation, and refuse every offer of accommodation made to them. So far, indeed, do they carry this, that they would not listen to a Tuscan courier, who was sent with a request to them to surrender and enjoy the blessings of peace.

On the 14th, the French bombarded the place very briskly, and according to report, endeavoured to take it by storm; but they failed in their object, the batteries of the besieged having considerably damaged their redoubts and entrenchments.

Ratisbon, July 25.

In spite of the obscurity in which state affairs are involved, and the speculations with which curiosity supplies itself, we begin to believe that the Grand Duke will not be indemnified in Italy. His possessions in Germany are just on the eve of being allotted to him, and it is said that they will consist of the following states: *Passau L'Inviertel*, Freisengen, and Saltzburg. The archbishop of Saltzburg has written from Vienna that his lot will be decided in a few days. He has farther required that the rest of his moveable effects may be kept in a state of readiness to be sent to him, while he has requested the payment of two hundred thousand florins, which he had advanced to the university of Saltzburg. But the documents we are enabled to collect from this conduct of the archbishop, would afford us very inconsiderable light, unless we had at the same time certain intelligence that the French government, which possesses at once the wish and the power of enforcing the strict execution of the treaty of Luneville, has declared that it has nothing farther to do in the affairs of the late Grand Duke of Tuscany, and that he will receive his indemnities in Germany, agreeable to the stipulations of that treaty.—This declaration which to disinterested men seems perfectly clear, has not appeared in this light to the ministers of the ecclesiastical princes, who are guided by the notions of ancient diplomatic conduct, the principal art of which consisted in never acting in conformity to one's professions. They will never be undeceived till the last moment, when the thunder shall descend on their palaces.

BREST, July 30.

However unfortunate may be the capture of the corvette La Chevrette, which the British with their boats have carried off from Camaret at midnight, the noble resistance of those who were on board her is not the less honorable. Surprised without arms, surrounded and struck at the same moment, they defended themselves with truly French bravery. Three times the British were repulsed, and it is proved by accounts of the wounded, that each time they were severely treated, although there were only a handful of men to fight against them. The weak crew of the ship did wonders. Capt. Chafferian did not fall until after he had killed or wounded several British. The captain of the troops is not less distinguished; he is at the hospital; his wounds are numerous, but not considered dangerous. The officer who commanded the garrison has been killed. The British have sent in here a flag of truce with the wounded French, to the number of forty men. It was a melancholy sight to behold these unfortunate men mutilated and covered with wounds, who proved too evidently that the British did not owe this capture to the cowardice of the French, but to the stratagem which they employed. Taking advantage of the darkest moment of the night, they approached in silence, and when they came close to the corvette they suddenly boarded her. This was not difficult, as three-fourths of the crew were asleep at the time, and even those on deck were without arms.—The oars of the British were covered with sheep-skins to deaden their strokes. The British who were in their shirts, had to distinguish them with a black band round the arm. It is said, that notwithstanding this precaution, they engaged each other. It is certain, that their loss is much more considerable than ours.

For Sale or Rent,

Two three story brick houses in Alexandria completely finished, on King and Columbia street, with sundry valuable property near the same, possession whereof may be had immediately. The situation for the flour and grocery business is equal to any in Alexandria.

For terms apply to Henry Thomas Moore Alexandria, or to the subscriber

NICHOLAS VOSS.

NATCHEZ, August 8.

The following address was delivered by John Steele Esq. secretary, exercising the powers, and performing the duties of the governor of the Mississippi Territory.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and of the House of Representatives.

THE constitution of the United States, to which we owe allegiance, and which we are bound, under the strongest obligations, to support, has not unfrequently been styled, '*the most perfect model of human wisdom*,' and '*the world's best hope*.' In that it is provided, 'that the congress shall have power to make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory and other property belonging to the United States.' Under this provision, it is to be presumed, they in their wisdom have by their supplemental act, passed May 10, 1800, established a system of government in the Mississippi territory, whereby they have extended to the people thereof, as large a portion of the inestimable right of self government as they themselves had petitioned for, and as was deemed compatible with the rules and regulations theretofore established for the government of their territories. By this system they have vested the people with the privilege of electing from amongst themselves, a legislative council and house of representatives, who, having authority to make laws in all cases for the good government of the district, not repugnant to the principles and articles in the ordinance of congress, passed July 13, 1787. They have however retained a participation in, or influence over this law making power, viz. That of 'assenting to the laws before they can have force in the territory; and this power of assenting is to be exercised by the governor, as the agent and representative of the general government; hence it follows, that all acts passed by a majority of the house of representatives, and by a majority of the legislative council, and having received the assent of the governor, will be virtually, the joint acts of the two houses and the general government, and derive their force from these two very respectable authorities. To give effect to this system of government, at an earlier period than that established by law, I issued my proclamation, dated the 26th May, 1801, for convoking and organizing the general assembly on this day, and I consider it matter of high congratulation that this object is now accomplished.

This day, gentlemen, through your agency, the people begin to exercise the *enestimable right of self government*, under the restrictions and qualifications already mentioned; we may then fairly conclude, that from henceforth, all laws that may be enacted, and in force in the territory will be considered by them, as in a degree their own acts. That a I will take pleasure in yielding obedience to, and respect for the law, as being the general will of the people expressed through the medium of their representatives; and farther, should it eventually happen that any of our measures so far disappoint ourselves in their operation, as to produce public inconvenience or popular discontent, (consequences from which we cannot hope to be entirely exempt) I flatter myself that such will be found to be the disposition and good sense of the people, that in seeking redress, their hopes will be directed to the legislature, and all their conduct influenced by mildness, moderation, and reason, while you gentlemen as watchful guardians of their interests ever ready to minister to their relief will hasten to find and apply the remedy that will be most likely to correct the evil, and obviate, or remove every cause of disquiet from the public mind.

Of the various subjects that will naturally present themselves for your consideration; I will take the liberty of noticing and remarking on a very few.

By a comparative view of the systems of jurisprudence, adopted by many of the United States with that of this Territory, I believe it will be found that the latter is susceptible of considerable amendment and improvement, both as to the obtaining a more speedy administration of justice, and the lessening the expence attending it.

This however, is a subject of such magnitude, of so much importance to the community, that whenever you may think proper to proceed upon it, I am well aware that you will cautiously explore every step before it is taken; for as the system of jurisprudence in the government, is more or less perfect, in the same degree will the life, liberty, and property of the citizen be more or less safe, more or less secure.

The laws and orders for the regulation of the military force of the Territory, have hitherto remained in almost a total state of inexecution, whether from any radical defect in those laws and orders, or from what other cause I do not undertake to determine; but it is most sincerely to be wished that an efficient plan could be adopted for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia. We are accessible in almost all directions, to savages who embarrass us by their frequent visits, and harrass us not a little by remaining much of their time amongst us; and who may, ere we are aware, be disposed to annoy us in a hostile manner—to be armed and in a situation to resist them, would not only have a tendency to render less embarrassing their visits, but to intimidate and induce them to abandon any hostile purpose they might otherwise have in contemplation.

History informs us that the inhabitants of this country have more than once been swept away by the destructive ravages of war, and conquest following in its train has gone far towards annihilating all right to property. This, together with our local Territorial situation, should admonish us to endeavor to be prepared to repel aggression from whatever quarter, or in whatever manner or form it may be made.

You will necessarily be compelled to have recourse to the resources of the public, to enable you to defray the incidental, and unavoidable expences of this government, and I would earnestly recommend it, were I not fully convinced that in the exercise of this necessity, you will pay a due regard to frugality and economy.

One observation more.—There are certain practices prevalent and customary in this Territory, that are considered immoral and injurious to the peace and happiness of society—these will not escape your notice, on the contrary your best endeavors will be used to correct and restrain them.

The powers and duties of the governor having devolved on the secretary, I had doubts whether it was his duty to have made any address to you. I however have made this under an impression, that it would be well received, and the most favorable construction given to my intentions, from a belief too, that it will increase the good understanding and mutual interchange of sentiment between all the branches of the legislature; and moreover, it affords to myself an opportunity of expressing the very great pleasure I shall derive from according with you in the result of your deliberations; deliberations which I assure myself, will be influenced by a degree of wisdom, justice, and liberality, that will give dignity to the legislature, and energy to its measures—that will tend to promote harmony, inspire confidence in the public mind, and have the happy effect of filling up the measure of contentment to the good people of the Territory.

I will furnish you with copies of the laws of the United States, and of the Territory; and I have it in my power to tender for your perusal, the laws of Virginia, revised in 1793. The laws of North Carolina revised by the late judge Iredell, and a copy of a journal of the House of Delegates in the state of Virginia, from all which I presume precedents may be drawn, not unworthy of imitation.

(Signed) JOHN STEELE.

Natchez, July 20, 1801.

ANSWER.

John Steele Esq. Secretary of the Mississippi Territory, exercising the powers of the Governor.

Representative Chamber, July 28, 1801.

SIR,

Your address to both Houses at the opening of the Session was highly gratifying to them, because it seemed to breathe a spirit of conciliation, and evinced a disposition to accord in all measures tending to the interest and welfare of our country, and it is our anxious wish and sanguine hope, that the same disposition may prevail, and assimilate thro' every branch of the Territorial Legislature.

We reciprocate, Sir, your congratulations upon this dawn of freedom & safety under laws emanating from the people thro' their immediate representatives, and anticipate the advantages resulting from the exercise of powers so essential to the happiness of a free people, and which have long been withheld from the inhabitants of the Natchez—that this extension of privilege and powers will be used and exercised in a becoming and judicious manner, with a scrupulous regard to the Laws of the superior government, we trust there can be no doubt. The existence of an absolute negative power in the Executive (almost without example in the United States) is matter of serious regret to us; yet we were flattered with a hope that this power as well as all other executive powers, would be exercised in no way, or on no occasion to the disadvantage of the people. We think with you sir, although the present established jurisprudence of this Territory is inefficient in its operation, and may be defective, and the laws framed under the first grade, to us have ever appeared of more than doubtful obligation; it ought to be touched with a cautious hand, and we trust the deliberations of every branch of the Legislature, will be marked with prudence and moderation as well on that as on every other object of Legislative duty.

We observe with you, sir, and lament the unorganized and weak state of the Militia, which there is reason to fear will continue, unless the people are permitted (at least) to recommend their officers for appointment; and this indulgence we conceive can in no degree infringe the power and prerogative of the executive.

We thank you, sir, for the Laws, &c. which you were good enough politely to tender for the perusal and use of the assembly, and be assured that the two Houses will ever be happy to receive any communications you may be pleased to favor them with.

VALUABLE PROPERTY.

FOR SALE,

Seven thousand Acres of Land,

LYING on the north side of James River, in the county of Albemarle, eighty miles above Richmond. In the heart of this estate the town of Warren is situated, in which there is an inspection of Tobacco, and a large merchant mill. The quality of this land is equal to any in this state; and is well adapted to the produce of tobacco, wheat, corn, clover, and timothy.—This tract of land contains a great proportion of rich, well lying, highland, four hundred acres of first rate river low grounds, and a considerable quantity of creek low grounds; it is well watered and timbered, and includes Balenger's creek for about five miles from its mouth. Besides a market on the spot, there is a safe and cheap water transportation to Richmond, usually at the rate of one shilling per hundred.

There are five large plantations on this land, furnished with all necessary houses for farming and planting, there being among other houses, six large barns lately built, that cost at least 1500l. The inclosures are remarkably good, and the cleared land in the best state of preservation of any known to the subscriber. Most of this land was cleared by himself, and has been from its first cultivation under a rotation of crops most favorable to its improvement. Near the centre of this estate is situated a large DWELLING HOUSE, (in which the subscriber now resides) with every necessary accommodation for a large family.—

The Warren Mills,

Adjoining the town of Warren, and near the mouth of Balenger's creek, double geared, with three pair of Burr stones, finished in the completest manner; the whole of the gear and machinery renewed last fall. There are few situations above the falls of the rivers, that unite as many advantages as the Warren mills possess, commanding a fine wheat country, and standing on a plentiful and navigable stream.

A large Distillery,

With five large stills, and every thing necessary for that business. The Mills and Distillery are at present under lease for two years, at 450 pounds a year.

The Tobacco Warehouses in Warren,

At which are usually inspected about one thousand hogsheads of Tobacco annually.

A two story stone Tavern in Warren,

With the ferry across James River, and sixty acres of land adjoining.

2583 Acres of Land,

In the county of Albemarle, within seven miles of Warren, part of that body of land called GREEN MOUNTAIN, which has ever been esteemed among the most valuable in Virginia; it abounds with the heaviest growth of the most valuable timber, contains a great proportion of fine meadow land, and is surpassed by no land in the state, for the production of Tobacco, wheat, &c. The superior quality of this land is so well known that it is unnecessary to give a more particular description of it.

In the county of Buckingham, 2100 Acres of Land,

Within six miles of Warren, this land is well timbered, lies well, and will produce good crops of corn and wheat.

In the county of Kanawha, 2100 Acres of the first rate Land,

On the Ohio river, about 20 miles below the mouth of the Kanawha; this land is one half of the old military survey, known by the name of the GREEN BOTTOM, and cost the subscriber 5000 pounds several years ago.

Either of the above tracts of land, may be divided into parcels of from 300 to 1000 acres, to suit the purchasers. The terms of sale will be made perfectly convenient, and any reasonable credit given for the whole, or any part of the purchase money, provided the regular payment of the interest, and the ultimate payment of the principal, is well secured.

The subscriber confidently believes, that for fertility of soil, convenience to market, and health, there is no part of this state, in which a man can purchase land to a greater advantage than of him.

WILSON CARY NICHOLAS.

Warren, Aug. 4, 1801, ep6t.