The first resolution having been read as follows:

1. *Resolved*, That provision ought to be made by law to fortify and defend such position on the Mississippi, below the city of New-Orleans, as the President of the U. S. shall designate for the protection of that city; and that further provision ought to be made by law for guarding the approaches to the same from the east.

Mr. Fisk observed that the city of New Orleans was in such a situation as to require some additional fortifications. Those at present erected on the Mississippi were not in the most eligible position to guard the place; and it was also considered necessary that some measures should be taken to guard it against any hostile approaches from the east. Perhaps a small vessel and some gun boats might be requisite, as well as some batteries, the expence of which would not be great.

Mr. G. W. Campbell observed that very little need be said on this resolution. He would barely remark, in addition to what had been said by the gentleman from Vermont, that this subject had been considered as having been recommended by the President as proper to be taken up immediately. There was at present no defence of the mouth of the Mississippi below New Orleans. That place was therefore greatly exposed from that quarter, and measures consequently became necessary to guard it against the invasion of a foreign enemy, and from attacks that might be made from our own country, if there existed any persons that harbored such a design. He understood that some distance above the mouth of the river was contemplated as an eligible situation for fortification, at a point where there had been a fort, but which had gone much to decay. It would either be necessary to repair this fort, or to erect another. He had also been informed that it was practicable for vessels of some burthen to make an attack on New Orleans from the lakes, and thence the necessity of guarding the place against any attack from the east.

The question was then put, and the resolution agreed to without a division.

The second resolution was then read as follows:

2. *Resolved*, That the President of the U. S. be authorised to accept of any company or companies, of volunteers, either of artillery, cavalry, or infantry, who may associate and offer themselves for the service, (not exceeding thousand men), who shall be clothed and furnished with horses at their own expense, and armed, and otherwise equipped at the expense of the U. S. except such of them as may choose to furnish their own arms, and whose commissioned officers shall be appointed by the respective state and territorial authorities; who shall be liable to be called upon to do military duty at any time the President shall judge proper, within years after he shall accept the same,—and when called into actual service and whilst remaining in the same shall be under the same rules and regulations, and be entitled to the same pay, rations, forage, and allowance for clothing with the regular troops of the U. S.

Mr. G. W. Campbell said this resolution had been introduced for the purpose of putting into the hands of the executive a disposable force, which might be called out at a moment's notice, whenever the exigency of affairs might require it. By an act of the last session the President had been authorised to call on the executives of the several states for a detachment of the militia, and he was authorised to accept of volunteers as a part of the detachment. But that act did not authorise the President to accept of volunteers until such detachment should be called forth. This restriction had produced considerable inconvenience. It had left the government without any organised force until the detachment was called out. By the present resolution the President was authorised to receive the offers of volunteer companies, that they might be organised, and be ready to enter into actual service at any moment. There was good reason to believe that there was a number of citizens of the U. S. willing to offer their services sufficient to prevent any attack on the frontier, or any other attempt that might be made to disturb the peace of the nation. Offers, to a considerable extent, had been already made. There could be no objection to vesting the President with authority to accept these offers, as it was not intended to incur any expence until the volunteers were called into actual service.

Mr. C. added that the services of these volunteers might be fully depended on, to defend the country, in case any hostile attempt should be made. Those who offered their services voluntarily, it would be admitted, were as worthy of reliance as men compelled to serve, or those who served entirely from pecuniary considerations. For these reasons he believed that no measures could be adopted, better calculated to repel invasion, or suppress any attempt that might be made against the peace of the nation.

Mr. *Dana* said, he observed that the chairman of the select committee had addressed a letter to the secretary of war requesting information with regard to the number of troops in the army of the U. S. to which an answer had been given by the Secretary, stating their amount, and the different stations at which they were posted.

Mr. D. said he wished to know whether there was any necessity for any additional force, and to decide this point he called for the reading of the law fixing the military estalishment.

This law having been read, Mr. D. remarked that this law was silent as to the amount of the marine corps. He would wish some gentleman, acquainted with the subject, to give him this information.

Mr. G. W. Campbell said he would barely observe that the message of the President, who must be considered as best acquainted with the situation of our troops, and such measures as are necessary to secure the frontiers, had stated the necessity of adopting measures to organise the militia that might be called out, or of obtaining volunteers.

[Mr. C. here quoted the message.]

It would seem upon this that he meant to intimate the necessity of adopting such a measure, as was contemplated by the resolution. As to the information received from the secretary of war Mr. C. presumed every gentleman could estimate the number on the frontiers as well as the secretary, as he advised us where the others were stationed, as well as that all the corps were nearly full.

Mr. *Dana* said he would freely acknowledge that one of the objects, which induced him to rise, was to obtain information as to the state of affairs, and the means we possessed of securing the country. He did suppose the House entitled to this information. He did suppose it proper for the Secretary of War to say what troops were in actual service. It required but superficial knowledge to know that the number of troops on paper were very different from the number of active troops. The last was what he wanted. Gentlemen had referred to the statement of the Secretary, and had said it supplied the means of making this estimate. But did they not know that the number which composed a company of artillery was not the same with that which composed a company of infantry? The Secretary did not in his letter discriminate between them. Mr. D. said he was willing to vote for whatever measures were necessary for the defence of the country; but he did believe that the representatives of the people, before they voted for such measures, had a right to more satisfactory information.

Mr. Chandler observed that he believed the Secretary of War had given information from which every member could adduce the information that the gentleman from Connecticut professed to desire. He tells us that the peace establishment is nearly complete; and as to the difference in the number of men that compose a company of infantry and artillery, it was too trifling to make any material difference in the estimate. The Secretary had not confined himself to stating the amount of our forces on paper; but had expressly declared that they are nearly complete. As to the marine corps, Mr. C. said he did not know whether he was correct, but he had always considered it as more appurtenant to the naval than the military establishment; information relative to which could not therefore be expected from the Secretary of War.

Mr. Dana replied that all the information given by the Secretary was that the companies were nearly complete. Who could say what was meant by *nearly complete?* It might mean that they were four-fifths full, as it was known that in common cases this was considered as tolerably full. Mr. D. said he wished for more precise information, and for one he entered his protest against so incomplete a statement. He did not think the representatives of the people should acquiesce in such a course. As to calling forth volunteers he did not know that he had any objection to it; though perhaps, a more efficient force might be proper.

Mr. *Bidwell* said that the gentleman from Connecticut had not satisfied him that he was so ignorant as he professed to be. It appeared to him, on the contrary, that he had before him all the means of information that could be thought necessary. It was objected that the Secretary instead of stating the exact return of each corps, had merely stated that they were nearly complete: It was true the Secretary had not stated the numbers in each company, whether there were two, or three, or half a dozen men wanting in each. This was not, perhaps, practicable; but the information, as to their present state, was given in terms sufficiently definite, when it was said they were nearly complete.

Another point of difficulty is that the Secretary has not specified whether the eighteen companies posted at the different places named are artillery or infantry. It appears from his letters that eighteen companies are stationed at various places, and that the residue, to the number of twenty two, are with the army under the command of the brigadier general. If any further information were required, he could not see the object.

Whether the present state of things was such as to authorise the President to accept of volunteers, every gentleman would judge for himself. It had rightly been observed by a gentleman on the committee, that the volunteers would not be called out, though in a state of readiness, until there was actual occasion for them. An objection raised against a former establishment of this kind would not apply to this; for the officers were under this resolution to be appointed by the states, and not by the President of the United States. Mr. Bidwell concluded by saying it appeared to him, not only safe, but reasonable and necessary to give the President this authority.

Mr. *Quincey* said he would ask gentlemen what effect the resolution was likely to produce; whether there were any such associations of volunteers on the frontier as were contemplated in the resolution, and whether these associations were in such a situation as to enable them to render efficient services? He wished likewise to know the probable amount of those who were likely to offer their services to the President. An answer to these questions would enable him to decide whether this force, added to that of the regulars, would be competent to defend the country.

Mr. *G. W. Campbell* replied that it would take a considerable time to answer definitely the questions of the gentleman from Massachusetts; but such data as the select committee possessed he would state. It was not contemplated to confine the offer of volunteers to the frontiers or to the adjacent territories. On the contrary, it was proposed to authorise the President to accept the services of volunteers from any part of the union. Nor was it necessary that those who offered their services should have associated as volunteers before this authority is given to the President. Mr. C. said he had understood that several corps of volunteers had already offered their services; that two or three regiments had offered in the western country; that similar offers had been made in other states; and the papers would shew that a like offer had been made in Philadelphia. This afforded sufficient ground for believing that a competent number of volunteers would offer for any exigency.

The question was then taken on the second resolution, which was agreed to without a division—when the committee rose and reported their agreement to the resolutions.

The House having agreed to consider the report of the committee of the whole,

Mr. *G. W. Campbell* moved to fill the blank in the first resolution with the word "thirty," which the House agreed to without a division.

Mr. *G. W. Campbell* then moved to fill the second blank with the word "two."

Mr. Tallmadge suggested some difficulty which would probably arise from the ambiguous language of the resolution—to which Mr. G. W. Campbell replied that an attentive reading of the resolution was sufficient to remove it.

(To be CONTINUED.)

WASHINGTON CITY.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29.

The great importance of the intelligence from the Westward, has superseded much miscellaneous matter, as well as Congressional proceedings.

The House of Representatives were principally engaged on Friday on the bill for the punishment of certain crimes against the U. S. which was re-committed to a select committee.

They adjourned over to Monday.

The resolutions as agreed to on Wednesday, are as follows:

Resolved, That provision ought to be made by law, to fortify and defend such position on the Mississippi, below the city of New Orleans, as the President of the United States shall designate, for the protection of that city; and that further provision ought to be made by law, for guarding the approaches to the same from the east.

Resolved, That the President of the United States be authorized to accept of any company or companies of volunteers, either of artillery, cavalry, or infantry, who may associate and offer themselves for the service, (not exceeding thirty thousand men,) who shall be clothed and furnished with horses, at their own expense, and armed and otherwise equipped at the expense of the United States, except such of them as may choose to furnish their own arms, and whose commissioned officers shall be appointed by the respective state and territorial authorities; who shall be liable to be called upon to do military duty at any time the President shall judge proper, within two years after he shall accept the same; and when called into actual service, and whilst remaining in the same, shall be under the same rules and regulations, and be entitled to the same pay, rations, forage, and allowance for clothing, with the regular troops of the United States.

The Palladium of Frankfort says that Col. Burr was present in the Circuit Court on the 2nd instant.

A crowd of reflections, arising out of the recent intelligence from the westward, press themselves upon us. Whether we consider this intelligence, as it respects the virtue and patriotism of our western brethren, the energy of the administration of the general government, or as developing the powers of our federal republican system, we have abundant reason for admiration and exultation. Events, as important as numerous, have long since convinced every reflecting man that the ultimate establishment of liberty in the world depends upon the experiment, as it has been termed, which we are now trying. Men, either enslaved by the prejudices of the old world, or incapable of correctly appreciating the effects of new principles, or a new application of them, have invariably told us that our system, however perfect in *theory*, will not stand the test of *practice*. Deploring the frailty of man and all his works, they have predicted that violence, from within or without, will, sooner or later, subvert it. In vain have they been told that the American people are more virtuous and enlightened on the subject of government than any nation that has preceded them; and that to them would belong the rare felicity of understanding, pursuing and guarding their own happiness. Drawing their *irrefutable* analogies from Europe, they have predicted the final overthrow of our liberties by the same means of fraud and violence which have prostrated the fairest fabrics raised in that region of the earth. Numerous have been the victims of this species of reasoning; which, it cannot be denied, has produced a considerable degree of diffidence in the durability of a republican system of government.

The advocates of this system have, however, only asked its opponents to give the experiment a fair trial; to suffer it to develope its tendencies; and not to pronounce its doom, until time should unfold its operation. Contemplating in it, as they thought, the seeds of eternal renovation, and constant improvement, they have honorably to themselves, and no less honorably to human nature, declared their confidence in its stability, and its perfect competency to secure the happiness of communities. They have most truly observed that time alone would furnish a conclusive answer to the calumnies of its open enemies, and the forebodings of its timid friends.

The events, of which we speak, afford in part this answer. They demonstrate the energy, the irresistible energy of our system under the superintendance of men possessed of the national confidence. They prove that in a great exigency of state their will becomes the law, and that this law will be enforced with a celerity that even despotisms cannot outdo. They prove that the *salus populi*, in such a posture of affairs, subdues every minor feeling, and directs on its irresistible tide, the public indignation to its proper objects. They demonstrate that, beautiful and well adjusted as the republican theory is, its practice is no less perfect.

The conduct of our western brethren is their best eulogium: the highest terms of panegyric cannot embellish it. In the comprehensive language of ancient days when liberty still glowed in the breasts of men, "they have deserved well of their country." They have demonstrated that the state governments are the best organs which could have been devised, for carrying into full and complete effect the will of the general government on objects in which the common welfare is deeply involved: that, in truth, the one is the head, and the other the arm of authority, and that what one wills, the other will execute. Nor can we fail to be forcibly impressed with the efficiency of the militia on this occasion, who have discharged the duties devolved upon them with the precision of regular troops. For ourselves, we have invariably confided in the patriotism of the western country; and this event shews their supreme devotion to liberty and order, and to those whom the nation has constituted its depositaries. Let calumny hereafter cease its traduction; or, rather, let its malignant reproaches continue to be the monument at once of its folly and depravity.

Equally important is the view which this subject presents of the power of an administration possessed of the national confidence. It puts beyond all question its competency to carry its measures into effect with a promptitude and decision, which may be expected hereafter to have the happiest effect, not merely on the treasonable schemes which may have been formed, but likewise on their formation. Ambition, however ardent or profligate, will shrink from such an unequal contest. The hope of impunity will no longer be dreamt of, but a certain and irretrievable fate be expected; and thus afford us all the superior advantages of prevention over cure.

Party or personal hostility has flattered itself with the idea, or attempted to impress it upon others, that the present administration is feeble; that it wants energy to meet a trying exigency. Let this delusion or falsehood be no longer cherished. We venture to predict that no dispassionate or sensible man will, after this recent demonstration of decision and prudence, continue its dupe.

But we confess, that our highest gratification flows from the developement, furnished by these events, of the traits of our federal republican system. They present a splendid triumph of the republican principle. They are the germ of still greater and more important developements. They lead to our cherishing correct and dignified expectations of the future destiny of our country, and of the influence of our example on the whole world. If we mistake not, while they inspire us with confidence in our own power, they will impress others with a sense of its extent. They will be a salutary admonition as well to violence without, as to treason within our limits. To both they will prove that our resources, on our own terra firma, are inexhaustible, and that he who promises himself with a successful invasion of our rights, must be backed by a much greater physical force than is concentrated in six millions of freemen.

Not to rejoice at such events would betray the apathy of a slave, and manifest an insensibility unworthy of an American.

A letter has been received from Gen. Wilkinson, dated Nov. 30th at New Orleans. At that time the larger part of our forces were descending the Red river, under Col. Cushing. The latest information previously received from New-Orleans was only to the 7th of November, and the intermediate intelligence is consequently wanting. But it is to be inferred from the return of our troops to the Mississippi that amicable arrangements have been made with the Spanish commanders, who have probably agreed to their forces remaining at Nacogdoches.

Gen. Wilkinson writes that, in connection with Governor Claiborne, and captain Shaw of the navy, he was taking decisive measures to protect the mouth of the Mississippi, as well as several stations above, effectually to guard against any hostile attempts that might be made from without or within our limits.

Extract of a letter from Governor Tiffin, dated Dec. 14, 1806, to the Secretary of War.

"I have this night received yours of the 26th of November, directing that 150 or 200 volunteer militia may be immediately raised under the authority of the U. S. to take post at Marietta, for the express purpose of preventing the flotilla from moving from the Muskingum river, which is believed to have been built with hostile views, and observing that the troops so raised shall while in service receive the pay and rations allowed by law.

"The same mail that brought yours brought me also a communication from Judge Meigs of Marietta, informing me that in obedience to my instructions sent to him by virtue of a law of our state passed about a week ago (an account of which I enclosed to the President) a detachment of our militia on the night of the 10th inst. seized ten of the batteaux as they were descending the Muskingum river, and that four more remain on the stocks unfinished, which will be also arrested. These batteaux were 40 feet long, very wide, covered and constructed to carry one company of men each. 100 barrels of provisions were on board those seized, and 100 more not got on board. It appears notice had been sent on of my orders being issued by some spy or other, and they were hurrying off; but they are happily secured. Comfort Tyler (styled by his men col. Tyler) was lying with a number of fast rowing boats at Blennerhazett's Island, and my informant adds with a number of men (50 were counted) armed indiscriminately with muskets, pistols, cutlasses, &c. waiting for the Muskingum flotilla to join them, in order to descend the river—that they were alarmed upon hearing of the militia being in motion, and had centinels placed, and lanthorns burning at different parts of the island—that Blanhazett and Tyler have pushed down the river, and left the boats to follow them, upon hearing of those on the Muskingum being seized.

"In this state of things I have thought it best, which I hope will meet with your approbation, to send off an express this night to Marietta, and another to Cincinnati. At Marietta I have appointed, by virtue of your letter, one major, one captain, one lieutenant, one ensign, and directed to be raised a company of sixty non-commissioned officers, privates, and musicians, to guard the flotilla arrested, and guard the river Ohio; and arrest any boats or armaments which may come down. At Cincinnati I have directed to be raised two companies, each consisting of one major, one captain, one lieutenant, one ensign, and sixty non-commissioned officers, privates and musicians. These troops will be under arms in one day after my expresses arrive. I have at Cincinnati ordered two pieces of artillery to be planted on the bank of the river, to keep spies every ten miles up the river to give notice of the approach of the boats—to throw a bridge of boats across the river, and not to suffer a boat to pass unexamined, or sink every one which shall attempt forcibly to pass.

"I believe the Muskingum flotilla and Comfort Tyler's flotilla, were the whole of the boats prepared for this secret expedition, and that they were to take troops on board below our state, and depended on these boats and provisions, &c. to enable them to prosecute the enterprize. We have therefore completely frustrated their intentions. The Muskingum flotilla is secured, and I have no doubt but that I shall soon give you a good account of Tyler's.

Extract of a letter from Return J. Meigs, Esq. dated Marietta, Dec. 17.

"The governor of Ohio having commissioned me to carry into effect a law of the state, passed the 6th inst. entitled "An act to prevent certain acts hostile to the peace and tranquillity of the U. S. within the jurisdiction of this state," I have on the 9th, by a detachment of the militia, seized fifteen batteaux and about two hundred barrels of provisions prepared on the Muskingum river (by Harmer Blennerhasset, a colleague of col. Burr) for a military expedition against the dominions of Spain, and for other purposes. I issued a warrant for the apprehension of Blennerhasset, who resided thirteen miles below this, and without the jurisdiction of this state. He fled immediately upon hearing of the seizure of the boats, in the night, with Comfort Tyler and about fifty men, in fast rowing boats. He is pursued by land in order to head him, at some point on the Ohio. Tyler's flotilla passed this in the night. Had not the mail failed us from Washington for a whole trip, we should have received the President's proclamation in time to have seized Blennerhasset, Tyler and his whole party.

"The batteaux preparing and prepared on the Ohio, at different places, for a length of 600 miles, are all of the same model, and will carry from 40 to 60 men, and are calculated to ascend shallow rivers.

"Capt. Stoddert, with the U. S. troops, have just left this place; the ice retards his progress.

A letter of the date of 17th Dec. from Marietta says, "I have no doubt but that col. Burr will push his projects, and that a considerable number of men will collect near the mouth of the Ohio, ready to execute them. Unless disappointed by checks I expect they may seize arms at the arsenal at Newport, Kentucky, if not opposed by the militia at Cincinnati, which would doubtless be the case."