the vote which I shall give may be called a political error. If a majority of federalists vote against this bill, I shall certainly have fallen into that error from which my friend from North-Carolina (Mr. Stanford) took so much pains to purify himself. I should not under present discouraging circumstances give my reasons for my vote, were it not that some who have gone before me have declared that they knew very little of military affairs, and some that they knew nothing at all; and in the course of their observations they fully convinced me that they were correct. Although many members have spoken, I find that they have not been able to settle one point, which until this session I thought very plain, that is, whether the nation is in a state of peace or war. Some say war, some say peace, and some say quid war. I will not say that I know the meaning of these terms properly; but I remember perfectly that in the revolutionary war, though I did not take an active part, the fighting came so near me that I saw them shooting at one another, and some of the hirelings of Britain were killed; this I thought war. But to come to the point: when the provisional army was about to be raised in '98, the objection to it in the part of the country where I live, and I joined in it, was, that those in power knew that we were perfectly safe. At that time England and France were engaged in war; and it was a common observation, that France has men but not ships, and England ships and no men; so that they could not injure us. I still believe the same; and am not willing to take a number of citizens from their proper labor and make them in fact nuisances to society. It may be from my bad understanding, and if so, I hope my brethren will bear with me, but I do conceive that there is less occasion for an army at this time than there was at that, and that the reasons against it operate at this time more forcibly than then. The British are more completely masters of the ocean, and less in the power of France, whose emperor may be disposed to invade us; on the other hand, it seems impossible for England, who is struggling for her existence, to invade us. I therefore consider it my duty not only to vote against this bill, but also to give my free opinion. I consider that there is no possibility of either belligerent invading us. I fully approve of what I consider the wise and prudent measures of the administration; thro' the blessing of God we have hitherto passed on enjoying the comforts of peace, and I have no doubt we shall continue to do so, if we continue to act to all nations with that justice which has marked the conduct of the administration. But I wish it to be understood that my objection is not to raising troops but to the number. A proposition was before us two years ago to raise troops to meet the Spaniards: I approved of it and meant to give it my sanction. My worthy friend from Connecticut (Mr. Tallmadge) who has spoken, and on whose judgment in such a case as this I would rely as soon as upon that of any member on the floor, brought in support of his observations the recommendation of the President of the U. S. I pay attention to it; but permit me to observe that the recommendation is not specific. I believed it necessary to raise some additional troops, but thought this number too great. I differ with gentlemen only as to the number, and believing that the passing of a law authorising this number will be injurious to the interests of this country, I am under the necessity of giving this bill my decided negative.

(*DEBATE TO BE CONTINUED.*)

NOTICE.

THE President and Directors of the *Washington Bridge Company* will receive sealed proposals at Steile's Hotel on Friday the 13th inst. for the delivery of the whole or any part of the following Bill of SCANTLING:

	Feet long.	Inch.		Inch.
140 Piles	36	11	by	14
140	40	11		14
280	18	11		11
200	40	11		14
60	38	12		12
15 Caps	27	13		13
190	37	13		13
190 Mud Sills	37	10		12
380 Braces	25	7		9
380	20	9		9
200 Stringers	52	8		16
1540	27	8		16

170,000 Superficial feet of four inch Plank, white pine, or the heart of yellow pine, each plank 18 feet long.

The above materials, except the plank, must be of the best heart, hard, yellow pine, or of the best white oak, free of sap. The proposals to estimate by the cubic foot.

Written Proposals will be received at the same time for the Iron work, for Carpenters and Laborers. Proposals may be handed in before the day above mentioned to the President.

DANIEL CARROLL, of Dud. *Pres.*

N. B. All the above timber to be squared and delivered immediately.

WASHINGTON CITY.

FRIDAY, MAY 6.

For the conclusion of Mr. Madison's letter, see the last page.

AMERICAN HEMP.

The Secretary of the Navy will receive until the 1st November next, proposals for furnishing *water* rotted HEMP of the growth of the United States, to be delivered either at Portsmouth, N. H.; Boston; New London; New York; Philadelphia; Newcastle; Baltimore; Norfolk; Wilmington, N. C.; Charleston, S. C.; Savannah, Geor.; or New Orleans.

For well water rotted and well cleaned American Hemp, the Secretary of the Navy is disposed to allow a liberal price beyond the usual price of such Hemp when *dew* rotted.

Any person transmitting proposals for furnishing a supply of water rotted Hemp, will be pleased to state the price per ton, the place where, and the time, when it would be delivered.

Navy Department, 3d *May* 1808.

To THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

NO. I.

A momentous crisis has occurred in your affairs. The injustice of foreign powers has induced you to make a stand against their oppressions. In making this stand, you have chosen the least evil that presented itself, and have adopted a course of measures, defensive of your own interests, and only so far offensive against those of other nations as their own conduct renders them so.

A patricidal spirit has already dared to hold up these measures to ridicule and reprobation. Falsely calculating upon your want of public virtue, and upon your ascendant devotion to the paltry interests of the moment, those who are busy in exciting prejudice and diffusing falsehood, flatter themselves on your want of discernment or fortitude. Yielding implicitly to the old monarchical dogma, that the people *always think and act as they feel*, they flatter themselves that the temporary distresses produced by the Embargo will render you hostile to it and those who gave it existence.

With you, fellow-citizens, it rests to refute or justify these predictions of faction; to decide, once for all, whether to maintain your liberties, and to place your republican institutions on an impregnable foundation, you have the spirit to bear a momentary deprivation of a part of your luxury and wealth; or, whether at the day of danger you are ready to shrink from the contest, and consent to be slaves, provided you are suffered to indulge, even in a moderate degree, your mercenary feelings. Can there be a doubt on this head? Is there a single American in heart who would not rather sacrifice a moiety of his property then sanction principles, an acquiescence in which would inflict present disgrace, and entail future slavery on his country?

This is the real question. It is not a mere concern of the day, a point of ordinary expediency; but a question of vital importance, one which as much involves the independence of the U. S. as the revolutionary scenes which led us through blood triumphantly to emancipation. France declares that you shall not trade to Britain, or in British commodities; and England declares all the trade, not interdicted by France, unlawful. She, moreover, has enacted decrees for licencing that portion of trade she tolerates, and for imposing upon it the most oppressive burthens:—burthens, which, in some instances, far exceed the original value of the articles taxed. What is this but oppression, in its most odious form, and what would acquiescence on our part prove other than the most abject submission and slavery?

Unlimited riches held on such terms would be infinitely worse than the injoyment of liberty and indigence. For, however, in the first case we might want the gratifications of the sensualist, and some of the comforts of rational subsistence, we should retain a conscience free from reproach, and an elasticity of spirit unbroken by a consciousness of crime. Of a nation composed of such independent minds, it might hereafter be said, to use the language of an elegant writer, "although the massy trunk was bent to the ground, no sooner did the hurricane pass away, than it again rose with fresh vigor and more lively vegetation." The father of a numerous offspring might console himself with the reflection that the hardships he was enduring were for the good of his posterity, and that in leaving to them a country undebased by a disgraceful vassalage, he left them an ample equivalent for a scanty patrimony. In fact, in the eye of philosophy and reason, which look entirely to the aggregate of human happiness, what are the fleeting clouds, which for a short period cast a shade over human scenes, compared to that total darkness which so often springs from a radical error in the policy of nations? What are the temporary effects arising from a suspension to reap the fruits which ought invariably to flow from good principles, compared to the permanent abandonment of those principles? The difference is as great as exists between an individual of general good health, who is occasionally exposed to disease, and an individual of an habitually debilitated and broken constitution.

This very analogy, which comes home to the feelings of every man, is strictly applicable to our present situation. We have asserted and are contending for principles, which are just in themselves, which no nation on earth has a right to deprive us of, and which we cannot relinquish without infamy. Shall we then consent to wear these humilating chains, because they are set off with baubles to dazzle our senses, or because a remnant of liberty is left, which is not likely to remain long, after submitting to such daring pretensions? For one, I say no. I would rather dig my own grave, and resign myself to voluntary death, than do an act which would inevitably degrade me in my own eyes, and my country in the eyes of the world.

In subsequent numbers I shall enter more fully into this subject, and others connected with it.

AN AMERICAN WHIG.

SPIRIT OF THE TIMES.

We invite the attention of our readers to the following interesting communication.

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

On Saturday the 30th ult. the ANNUAL SHEEPSHEARING instituted by *Geo. Washington Parke Custis*, Esq. was held at his seat at Arlington. About forty gentlemen of the neighbouring country were present. It was cause of infinite gratification, to see this patriotic and praise-worthy establishment, so numerously and respectably attended, and already exhibiting such strong evidence of the utility contemplated by its worthy founder.

The premiums of the present year were for the finest old ram-lamb, and for the best specimen of ten yards of homespun cotton cloth.

Four gentlemen of the best estates in this part of the country, Major Lawrence Lewis of Wood-lawn, John Tayloe, Esqr. of Mount Airy, Hayward Foote, Esqr. of Hayfield, and William Alexander, Esqr. of Preston, contended as breeders of that invaluable annimal, the sheep, and each by his personal attendance and evident anxiety to gain the palm, at the same time that he furnished the most laudable example, exhibited the strongest imaginable proof, of the advantages of stimuli like the present, to bring into action the exertions of the wealthy, and of the reflecting part of society, to develope the latent resources of the country, for the great benefit of the community at large.

The four lambs shewn by those highly respectable gentlemen farmers, were animals uncommon indeed in Virginia and Maryland, and would do credit to any country, as well for size and form as for the weight and quality of the fleece. The visitors selected from their own number, as judges of the day, Thomas Digges, Esqr. of Warburton, General John Mason of Analostan Island, William Lee, Esqr. of Burgandy farm, and Jonathan Swift, Esqr. of Alexandria, Col. Deneale was appointed judge of the weights. They adjudged to John Tayloe, Esqr. for his lamb as combining most of the desirable qualities, the Prize Cup. Mrs. Dennison, Mrs. Ball, and Miss Peggy Fields, all of Fairfax county Virginia, produced each a piece of cotton cloth, of their own home manufacture, and delightful specimens of the ingenuity, industry, and good house-wifery of our country they were, all having been spun and woven in their respective houses, amidst the ordinary avocations of the family—the gallant judges placed the golden apple in the fair hands of Miss Fields. General Mason exhibited a handsome specimen of domestic flaxen cloth, and some very fine spun cotton—both highly admired and applauded. Dr. Dick, Thomas Peter, Esqr. and several other gentlemen exhibited samples of wool.

Beside the pleasure derived from the competition just described, the visitors were highly gratified by the exhibition of Mr. Custis's own stock, and in witnessing the success of his crossing, and improving the different breeds of sheep, collected with much care and judgement by him—the Mount Vernon Persian stock, the Smith's Island, the Arlington long woolled, the Merino, and several relative crosses were successively shewn, and examined with much approbation.

In the afternoon the company partook of the hospitality of the proprietor, in a most abundant and elegant dinner, served on the lawn under a spacious marque. After dinner, Mr. Custis addressed the company, and congratulated them on the already promising state of the institution—he explained the motives by which he had been induced to set it on foot—he depicted in a concise and very perspicuous manner, the advantages which would certainly arise from fostering manufactures of all kinds, but in this part of the country particularly from encouraging the raising of wool, and the making of home-spun cloth; he took an extensive and extremely interesting view, of the present situation of the United States as related to foreign nations, and pointed out in the most forcible manner, the necessity of rendering ourselves independent of them, by furnishing our own supplies of manufactured articles. He adverted in a reserved and highly decorous manner, to his own efforts on these subjects; declared his conviction of the duty which every member of society owes to the community to contribute by individual exertion, and by example, to the bettering the condition of his fellow men, and to introduce & encourage such improvements as are calculated to produce so desirable an end. He disclaimed every thing like personal emolument, from the establishment; asked the aid of the gentlemen present, & of the neighboring country to carry into execution by degrees, his system—calculated for the good of the community, not of himself. He stated that he should in a short time publish a prospectus of the whole, containing some valuable additions to the present plan, and concluded by soliciting the annual attendance of the gentlemen present, and their friends.

The address was received with great satisfaction and applause. Mr. Digges as soon as it was closed gave "The *Arlington sheep shearing—many prosperous returns of the day.*"

Mr. Custis after a few prefatory and feeling remarks, in which he took occasion, in a very appropriate manner to introduce the tent under which his guests were then seated, and which in former days, had oft proudly covered his illustrious relative in the field of privation, of toil and of danger, amidst a general emotion excited in the breasts of the whole company (most of whom had been the neighbors and personal friends of that great and good man) by the recollection of past times, gave the "*memory of General Washington.*" General Mason moved that on the next and each succeeding meeting at the Arlington sheep shearing, the visitors should appear clad in American manufacture—the motion was warmly applauded, and immediately and unanimously adopted.

APRIL 30TH, 1808.

THE subscribers appointed by the gentlemen visitors present, to adjudge the premiums offered by the proprietor, *George Washington Parke Custis, Esq.*—for the finest year old lamb, and for the best specimen of home-spun cloth, proceeded to examine three pieces of cotton cloth.; one produced by *Mrs. Dennison* of Fairfax County, Virginia, dark mixture full yard wide, very fine and remarkable handsome. One by *Mrs. Ball*, of same county, chequered, of firm and excellent texture, yard wide and of neat pattern. And the third by *Miss Peggy Fields* of the same county, white, of exceding fine thread, pattern Marseilles, of small figure, very soft, even and extremely beautiful, 7-8 yard wide.

Four gentlemen offered lambs and entered into competition for the prize.

Laurence Lewis, Esq. of Wood Lawn, Virginia, exhibited a lamb called Dishley, his size was of the Arlington long woolled race, bred by Mr. Custis. He weighed on the hoof 140 lbs. fleece 6 1-4. lbs.

Hayward Foote, Eqs. of Hayfield, Virginia, shewed a lamb called Badger—of same breed and age, weighed on the hoof unshorn 105 lbs. fleece 9 3-4 lbs.

John Tayloe, Esq. of Mount Airy, Virginia, shewed a lamb called Superb, his dam a ewe of Col. Dorsey's stock, (well known) by a ram of Mr. Taylor's own breed, his weight on the hoof unshorn 180 lbs. fleece 8 1-4 lbs.—height 2 feet 8 3-4 inches—length from tip of the nose to the end of the tail 5 feet 10 3-4 inches.

William Alexander, Esq. of Preston, Virginia, shewed a lamd called Preston of the home breed—weight on the hoof unshorn 149 lbs. fleece 7 3-4 lb.—height 2 feet 5 1-2 inches—length from tip of the nose to the end of the tail 5 feet 10 1-4 inches.

In the opinion of the judges, the wool of Mr. Footes' lamb was of the longest staple—it measured full 12 inches—that of Mr. Tayloe's lamb was of the finest fibre; that of the lambs of Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Alexander was inferior somewhat in fibre to Mr. Tayloe's and in length of staple to Mr. Foote's.

Taking into consideration the great weight and size of Mr. Tayloe's lamb, and the fineness of the wool although the fleece was not so heavy as one of the others—the judges unanimously declare the premium to be his.

And they adjudge to Miss Polly Fields the prize for the best specimen of cloth. They do this with more pleasure, as this beautiful specimen of cloth was spun and woven by Miss Fields herself.

THOS. DIGGES,
J. MASON,
WILLM. LEE,
JONATHAN SWIFT.

The following gentlemen were on Monday elected officers of the Washington Bridge Company for the ensuing year

DIRECTORS.
DANIEL CARROLL of Dud.
GEORGE BLAGDEN,
FREDEICK MAY,
WILLIAM HARPER,
ROBERT YOUNG.
TREASURER.
THOMAS VOWELL, junr.
CLERK.
SAMUEL ELLIOTT, junr.

LETTER

Of Messrs. Monroe and Pinckney to Mr. Madison, accompanying the treaty concluded on the 31st of December, 1806.

LONDON, JAN. 3, 1807.

Sir,

We have the honor to transmit you a treaty, which we concluded with the British commissioners, on the 31st of December. Although we had entertained great confidence from the commencement of the negociation, that such would be its result, it was not until the 27th, that we were able to make any satisfactory arrangement, of several of the most important points, that were involved in it. On the next day we communicated to you that event, by several dispatches, three of which were forwarded by vessels from Liverpool, so that we hope you will receive very early intelligence of it. We commit this, with the treaty, to Mr. Purviance, who we flatter ourselves, will have the good fortune to arrive in time to deliver it to you before the adjournment of Congress.

The necessity we feel ourselves under to forward to you the treaty without delay, will we fear, render it impossible for us to enter so fully into the subject of it, as on many considerations, it might be proper to do. We are aware, that such instruments must be construed, by an impartial view of their contents, uninfluenced by extraneous matter. A knowledge however of the sense, in which the several articles of a treaty were understood, by the parties to it, may in most cases be useful. It is also just to remark, that some circumstances occurred in the course of this negociation, which, although they do not appear, on the face of the instrument itself, yet as they may have no inconsiderable influence on the future relations of the two countries, it is peculiarly important to explain. We shall endeavor to give such explanations, where they may be necessary, in the best manner that may be found compatible with the dispatch, which the occasion so imperiously requires, and we flatter ourselves, without omitting any thing, on any point, that may be deemed of essential importence.

The first article of the present treaty, which stipulates, that peace shall subsist between the parties, is taken from that of 1794, and is found in most of the modern treaties.

The second article confirms those of a permanent nature, in the treaty of 1794. The British commissioners were very desirous to introduce the permanent articles of that treaty, in the form of new stipulations, into the present one. They insisted with great earnestness, that that article, which relates to the trade with the Indian tribes, should be so amended as to admit the traders of Canada, and the Hudson Bay Company, to participate with us in that trade, with the tribes in Louisiana. They seemed to admit, that by a fair construction of the article, they could not support such a claim, but contended, that it was justified by its spirit. Their solicitude on this point, which they had supposed was an unimportant one to the U. States, created some embarrassment and delay in the business.