what passed in the grand jury room. One good effect, at least, would result from it! that by introducing witnesses to prove what had passed there, it would prevent people from giving information to the grand jury, which they could not support elsewhere.

Mr. Botts called for the key to the cypherred letters of col. Burr.

Gen. Wilkinson handed him a small pocket dictionary, and a paper containing certain hieroglyphics.

Mr. Botts. In the duplicate received by Dr. Bollman, there is an erasure. Will you be so good as to explain the cause of it?

Gen. Wilkinson. That erasure was made by myself, and the words afterwards introduced by me. I have a deposition which will be more satisfactory than my own explanation.

Mr. Botts. Whose deposition? A. Mr. Duncan's.

[Mr. Botts read the deposition of Mr. Duncan, for which see note II.]

Mr. Botts. When was the erasure made? A. During the sitting of the legislature in New Orleans. Q. When were the words inserted? A. I cannot now state with certainty. Q. Was the letter exhibited to the legislature? A. I was introduced to it. I confined myself to oral communications. Q. What was the occasion of the erasure? A. To put it out of the power of a certain faction in the legislature, to whom at that time I intended to intrust the papers—to prevent them from faction who were opposed to my measures, and who, I believed, were aimed at the true interest of their country, and were laboring to excite suspicions that I was connected with Col. Burr, in order to deceive the public confidence in me, and thus to defeat my measures. At the head of this faction I considered Mr. Livingston, esq. the Speaker. Having determined not to submit the letter, I restored it to my pocket. Q. Did you prepare any translation to submit to the legislature? A. No. I only made verbal one. Did you make a translation for any other purpose? A. Only a partial and imperfect one. Q. For what purpose? A. To satisfy myself. Q. Was there any other occasion for which a translation was made? A. No. Q. Did you make any translation for the executive? A. No. Q. Was the erasure made, or not, post-marked 14th of May is received, or erased? A. Yes. Q. Where is the original letter, cotaining the copy of that of Col. Burr, and your deposition to the President of the U. States? A. It is among my papers.

Mr. Hay. Do I understand you correctly, when I suppose you say, that the translation intended for the Legislature of New-Orleans, was sent to the President? A. No.

[*Mr. Hay* immediately observed that, on recollecting dates, he perceived that he had misunderstood gen. Wilkinson; that the letter was sent to the President before the session of the Legislature of New-Orleans.]

Mr. Botts. Do I understand you to say that this was your translation of the letter which was intended for the legislature of New-Orleans? A. No. It was Mr. Duncan's.

Mr. Botts. Have you ever sworn that this was your translation? A. No. Only substantially so.

[*Gen. Wilkinson.* May I be permitted to offer a few words of explanation? When Dr. Bollman was arrested, I will confess to you that I was so little acquainted with judicial proceedings, that I did not know it was necessary to do more than accompany him with a letter of advice. I was about to send him off in this way, when Mr. Duncan suggested to me the propriety of sending sworn depposition to justify his commitment. I put the letter into the hands of Mr. Duncan, and he wrote the deposition out the interpretation. When Mr. Duncan presented the translation to me, I made no objections to its omissions. He urged me to sign the deposition. The time was urgent; the sworn evidence, and I confess that I feared a rescue. This did not give me much time to consult my understanding. If I had, it is probable that I should have resisted the signing of the deposition, with those omissions, lamentable as my confidence in the judgment and integrity of my counsel. I was also, at the time, oppressed with other difficulties; and my mind was hurried and agitated by the painful and interesting scenes which surrounded me.

Mr. Botts Were there variations between this original letter in cypher, and that sent on to the president? A. Yes.

Mr. Botts. Were they noticed by you, or by Mr. Duncan in your presence? A. I suppose so—because I objected generally to the omissions.

Mr. Botts. How was the cypher formed? A. It consisted of an American edition of English dictionary, and of hieroglyphics.

Mr. Botts. Which was formed first? A. The dictionary. *

Mr. Botts. When was that formed? [Here gen. Wilkinson referred to a letter, without a signature, dated 1805—and said he presumed it must have been formed about that time.]

Mr. Botts. Do you know the time of the year? A. I presume it was October.

Mr. Butler. To whom was that letter addressed? A. To myself. Q. by the same. By whom was it written? A. By *Mr Burr*. [Gen. Wilkinson observed that it was a private letter, to which he had referred merely to refresh his memory, the concluding paragraph of which is, "when I receive your cypher and your address, I will send you mine" &c.] Mr. Wickham insisted upon seeing the letter.—Gen. Wilkinson refused—but said it was at the disposal of col. Burr, and handed it to him.]

Mr. Botts. With whom was the cypher formed? A. Col. Burr and myself.

Mr. Botts. When were the hieroglyphics agreed upon? A. To the best of my recollection, the hieroglyphics were formed before the alphabet formed about the change of the administration, after the induction of the Jefferson, Burr. The hieroglyphics divided into two parts—one part relates to the alphabet and figures, and the other part to arbitrary names or designations.

Mr. Botts. When were the arbitrary names established? A. In the year 1795 or 1796, but not delivered to col. Burr at that time.

Mr. Botts. Who originally devised the cypher? A. That you hold in your hand (the hieroglyphics) was made by myself and partly by capt. Campbell Smith.

Mr. Botts. Are you sure it was in 1795 or 1796? A. I cannot be sure of it. I think I said in 1795 or 1796, but could not ascertain which. Mr. Burr, I believe, made the arbitrary names to me from it. I think it was in 1794.

Mr. Botts. Are there no circumstances to enable you to fix the date of the time? A. I could have proved it with certainty, at the time, to a witness whom I had mentioned but attended. Here is another cypher made by capt. Smith in 1795, and his hieroglyphics representing the President and Vice-President are the same with those used in the cypher with colonel Burr.

Col. Burr. What was the mode adopted for sending your letters to prisoners? By public venues? A. No. My plan was to engage passages on board private vessels, and by a double stock of stores for their accommodation. *Col. Burr.* When did your intercourse with Blennerhassett cease? Can you ascertain the time? A. Not without recurring to my correspondence. *Mr. Hay.* You had been for many years in habits of intimate correspondence with col. Burr? A. Yes.

(To be continued.)

In Chancery, June Term 1807.

Peggy McLaughlin, and others, against

William Rowan, and James S. Morrell.

Bill of Revivor—Decree of Dismissal—Petitioner formerly appointed in this case, having been returned, sworn to and filed the report of the Master appointed to it in thereupon decreed and ordered that the said petition be dismissed and forever and ever shall be absolutely and forever barred and foreclosed, and the said Bill of December next, provided a copy of this order be published for three weeks successively before the time, in the National Intelligencer, and the Baltimore Gazette, in the newspaper taken for the whole of the property therein mentioned, and be posted up for fourteen thousand six hundred days.

By order, WM. BRENT, Cl.

Sale—May 7—w.

TWENTY DOLLARS REWARD.

RAN away from Freestone Point, on near Dumfries, on Sunday the 17th of last month, Negro Jerry May, to ANDREW, the property of SARAH FOUSHEE, in Prince William county, and hired of her until the end of the year 1808. A reward of twenty dollars will be paid for the above negro, if taken at any distance not exceeding three days, being Whitsunday Holidays.

Andrew is about 21 years of age, 5 feet 8 inches high, black complexion, has a scar near the corner of his eye, is a little crooked, and has a forward, impudent countenance.

N. B. Jerry is still apprehend and secure him in gaol, so that the subscriber, living near Dumfries, may get him again, and receive the above reward.

JOHN STONE.

Prince William county, June 27.

N. B. All persons are forbid harbouring him, or conveying him away by land or water.

TAMMANY SOCIETY,

A Special meeting of the Tammany Society, or Columbian Order, will be held on Friday evening the 9th day of the month of Traveling, (Oct. 9th.) at the Council Fire of their great Wigwam, precisely at the going down of the Sun.

By order of the Sachem,

B. SMITH, Sec'y.

Month of Corn, 20th Year of Discovery 315.

WASHINGTON CITY,

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7.

The Secretary of State, and the Secretary of the Treasury, arrived on Monday; the Secretary of War, and the Secretary of the Navy, are expected to-morrow.

The following Report of a Committee of the British House of Commons, is eminently entitled to the attention of the people of the United States.—After giving it to the reader we shall subjoin a few remarks.

REPORT.

The Committee who were appointed to take into consideration the commercial state of the West India colonies, and to report their proceedings from time to time, to the House of Commons; and who were empowered to report the minutes of evidence taken from time to time, and to whom all minutes of evidence which were taken before the committee in the last session, relative to the state of the West India Planters' petitions, together with their proceedings, were referred thereto, pursuant to the order of the House, examined the matters to them referred—and have agreed to the following report to the House.

Your committee have thought it their duty, in the first place, to inquire into the present state of the West India Planters at the present moment, and for several years preceding; and have examined many intelligent and competent witnesses, proprietors of estates, who have resided many years in the West Indies, and who have had the principal cities of several absentees under their management; and also many merchants intimately acquainted with the expences and profits of a great variety of estates, and generally conversing with the West India interest. From their testimony, it appears, that since the year 1792, there has taken place, the greatest change which in the situation of the planters resulting from a progressive diminution of the price of sugar, and from the increase of time the duty, and all the expences attending the cultivation, have been increasing, till at length the expences on of the market has become such, that it is now obtained the last year's crop will not pay the expences of cultivation, except upon estates of a high quality, and possessing a degree of very superior quality, or enjoying under extraordinary advantages. Calculations have been laid before your committee, from the accounts of the estates both in Jamaica and the other Islands, by which it appears that the British supplies and island expences amount to 20s. 10d. in the former, and to 19s. 4d. in the latter, sale per cwt. of sugar, after accounting and giving credit for the amount received for the sale of rum. These calculations are formed upon an average of years, and upon estates of the ordinary scale, and in no respect exaggerated or overstated, it appears to your committee, that these sums per cwt. of sugar may be fairly the average expense of cultivation, independent of interest upon the capital; and your committee are of opinion that the calculations upon similar calculation in the report made by the Sugar Distillery Committee, in the last Parliament, in which the sum added an expence of 15s. 6d. to 16s. per cwt. necessarily incurred for freight, commissions, and other incidental charges, between the shipping the goods in the colonies and their being sold in the market, and the profits arising forming together an amount of 35s. to 36s. which appears upon this evidence to be the adequate price to the planter per cwt. of sugar, before any return of capital can attach. Upon a calculation of the expences of cultivation, published in the Gazette, for the last eight months, which vary from 38s. to 52s. per cwt. of sugar, and for a series of years evident, that the planters must have cultivated their estates at a loss.

The interest which has been stated to your committee as what should be the fair profit upon the capital of such estates, is 6 per cent. upon the capital, stating not merely of land and negroes, but of buildings of great extent and considerable expence for erecting of such a manufacture, and subject to various and peculiar risks and vicissitudes, to which other lands are not subject.

In the period of prosperity, previous to 1809, it is stated, that in general the profits of the planters, till at the present moment, there is no return of interest whatever.

It may perhaps be right to notice one exception, namely, of an estate most favorably circumstanced in every respects, where the profits are stated to have amounted, during the four years 1793, 1796, 1797, and 1798, to 12 per cent.; but they appear also to have declined ever since; in 1801, 1802, 1803, and 1804, to have been reduced to about 6 per cent. and in 1805, to about 5 per cent. and subsequently to have suffered a still further reduction.

In the course of their investigation of the situation of the planters, your committee thought it right to ascertain whether it might not be in their own power, in many instances, to remedy the evils of their situation, by converting their sugar estates to other more profitable cultivation, but the evidence on that point shews that such a conversion must be attended with so great a sacrifice of capital, as to be out of the question as a measure of relief.

With a view to the prospect for the future, they have obtained a return of the quantity of sugar at present in the West India docks; from which, and from other evidence, it appears that the quantity now on hand is unusually great for the time of the year. The crop of last year is also on the point of coming into the market.

It should not be omitted further to state, that for many years past the islands have almost entirely escaped the calamities of hurricanes, and fires, by which have occasionally proved destructive to the property in those countries.

In investigating the causes of that depression of the market, from whence the whole of the planters' distress appears to originate, the first object which strikes your committee is, the unprecedented quantity of sugar, at present in the market, which prevents him alone (in exception to every other similar case) indemnifying himself for the last increase of duty, and of other expences attending his cultivation, by an equivalent increase of price upon the consumer. For it appears, that since the year 1792, the duty on sugar has been increased from 27s. per cwt. to 63s. per cwt. the expences of the estates are calculated to have risen from upwards 20s. per cwt. to upwards of 100 per cent.—and the price has fallen from 68s. to 62s. 6d. per cwt. the sugar, which is the principal staple, it appears obvious, from the above statement, that the duty is heavier than the price at a fair average of years, it is suggested that it might be expedient, for the relief of the home market, to extend the principle which has been adopted on the contingent increase of duty 27s. to 63s. to 20s. so that from the maximum of 63s. then fixed, the gross price of 83s. affording 20s. duty, or 60s. net. Upon this, it is stated, should be thrown back on a similar scale, in proportion to the depression of the market, till the price arrives at 65s. gross, leaving 20s. (the original duty) to government, and 45s. to the planter; or, in other words, a reduction of 1s. of duty on a reduction of 2s. gross price, from the average then fixed for the imposition of the new duty as far as 20s.

An increase of the bounty on the exports has been also recommended, and your committee are of opinion, that it would afford great relief if given in such proportions as to counteract the restriction upon neutrals, so as to render the expences on British and foreign produce equal in the foreign market.

A considerable depreciation in the price of rum has been stated, and it has been suggested, that the encouragement of the consumption of that article, would be considerable advantage to the planter. Your committee are aware that such encouragement has been given to a certain extent, but if it were found practicable to carry that assistance further, by an increased consumption in the army and navy, such a measure would, in their opinion, have very beneficial effects; or a reduction of the duty, which might afford essential relief to the planter, without loss to the revenue, and would be indemnified by the increased consumption of that spirit.

Great, however, as are the evils of the decrease of price, and increase of charges, it does not appear to your committee, that they are the original causes of the distress of the planters, by applying to which alone, any practicable remedy, he could be more than temporarily relieved; but that the main evil, and that to which these are ultimately to be referred, is the very unprecedented state of the market, in which formerly the British merchant enjoyed nearly a monopoly, but from the consequences of peace and competition with the planters, not only of the neutral, but of the hostile colonies, the result of all their operations on this most important part of the subject, has brought before their eyes proof and evidence, that the evils which all the others are easily to be deduced; namely, the facility of intercourse between the hostile colonies and Europe, under the American neutral flag, by means of which not only the whole of their produce is carried to a market, but at charges little exceeding those of peace; while a British planter is burthened with all the inconvenience, risk and expence, resulting from a state of war.

The advantages which the hostile Colonies derive from the relaxation of that principle, which prohibited any trade from being carried, with the enemy's colonies by neutrals during war, which the enemy himself did not permit in those neutrals during peace, may be in part estimated by reference to a statement of the imports into Britain, from the United States of America, in the year 1806, amounting to 30,283 ships, tons, and 45,097 bags, of sugar, conveyed in 211 vessels, hereunto annexed; and to a statement also annexed of the amount of West-India produce, exported from the United States of America, between the 1st October, 1805, and 30th September, 1806. In point of comparative expence, the advantages of the hostile colonies will be further illustrated by the evidence of Mr. Marryatt, supported by satisfactory documents, which show the charges of freight and insurance on sugar from the hostile colonies, through the United States of America, to the ports of Holland and Flanders and to those of the Mediterranean, to be 15s. 6d. in the former, and by 12s. 6d. to the latter, than those charges on British sugars to the same ports.

Your committee cannot omit to state another important advantage enjoyed by the French colonies, from the sale of nearly the whole French mercantile marine to neutrals, under the protection of the United States, returned into French ports, in order to be navigated as French ships, within the three months after their arrival with the enjoyment during war, of the same privileges in the ports of France, as if they were actually French; for instance, import sugar at a duty of 4s. per cwt. less than the duty imposed on sugar imported in neutral vessels.

In order to counteractions, in some degree, the advantage thus enjoyed by hostile colonies, to the detriment of the British planter, it has been suggested, that if British ships, in the ports of the enemy's settlement should be resorted to; such a measure, if it could be strictly enforced, would undoubtedly afford relief to our export trade.

The measure of more permanent and certain advantage would be the encouragement of those restrictions on the trade between neutrals and enemy's colonies, which were formerly enforced by British Courts of Justice, for the relaxation of which the enemy's colonies obtain indirectly, during war, all the advantages, which they derive from colonies, in the intercourse with whom that system of monopoly, which has been held essential to British commercial and military navy of this country is rigorously enforced, are denied to the colonies under neutrals, in former wars they carried their produce to the foreign markets, and which in time of war, by means of our decided naval superiority, would have amounted to the exclusive supply of the enemy's colonies; and without those extraordinary measures are taken into consideration which have been adopted for the British colonial produce from the European market, it appears to your committee to be a matter of the greatest and most necessity, to resort to such a system, as by impeding and restricting, and, as far as possible, preventing the export of the produce of the enemy's colonies from the places of its growth, shall operate to secure the British colonies to the only source of supply which, in that event, would be open to it.

It may be proper to observe, that from the adoption of such measures, difficulties might arise in that intercourse which hitherto has brought it into the market, and to the consumption of some of their supplies, your committee would be brought to offer to make enquiry into the resources in that respect to which recourse might be had in such an event, and how, and only period which affords an example of the suspension of that intercourse in the American war, is to the Dutch a supply having been obtained (though not without temporary and occasional inconvenience) from a variety of sources which may necessarily be relied upon, in case of such necessity, as the most convenient, in point of amount than the former period. From the examination of persons who in consequence of the prohibition of the British North American settlements, or extensive commercial connexions with them, possess the best information as to their present and future resources, there is ground to believe that some supply of the principal articles of lumber might be obtained from thence immediately, and to expect, that, with due encouragement, the quantity of that supply might be increased to any extent.

The supply of flour which they could at present afford to the West India market would be small and of inferior quality. They appear to be capable of affording a large supply of fish; and what deficiency might ex-