

It will not excite con-
tempt, but show the world that we un-
derstand our own interest.

One gentleman thinks it a constitu-
tional. It contravenes no principle of
the constitution, for the goods pay du-
ties where they are imported, and when
they are once in the country we may
tax them or not according to our plea-
sure. We transcend no power which
is given us when we use one port in-
stead of another.

Another gentleman thinks there
ought to be no limitation to the act.—
Would he have it perpetual? It is in-
tended merely as an incentive to turn
the course of trade, and when the effect
has been accomplished, all trade will
be put on the same footing. It is a
fact that the eastern merchants are jea-
lous of us. We see it in their roads
and in the projected canal from New-
York. They have had agents at Loui-
svelle, and throughout this country,
who have endeavored to convince the
merchants that the contributions paid
by them in seven years for bringing
goods over the mountains would be
sufficient to pay the expense of the can-
al. They say they could bring goods
through that channel much cheaper
than from Philadelphia or Baltimore,
and deliver them at Louisville for \$4
per hundred. They are using every
means, disguised, however, lest we
should be alarmed, to accomplish this
object. It is our business to act pru-
dently but preserve our interest.

Gentlemen object because the bill
contains a contract—this is necessary
to take away uncertainty and strength-
en the incentive.

If when the goods came over the
mountains; the farmer gets 75 cents
for his wheat, and when they come up
the river, one dollar; the goods cost
him one fourth less, although nominal-
ly they may be of the same price. This
would be the effect of a change of
trade. He would give no more and
perhaps not so much for his produce,
and would get much more for his produce.

Merchants, like other men, pursue
their interest, and though polite and
polished, they are not very learned.—
Their is little danger of losing our
morality. But if there is really a de-
ficiency in New-Orleans let us—in-
stead of following the notions of the
gentleman so handsomely and elegantly
expressed, carry morals and religion
further West. The disappearance
of metals has done some good. It has
compelled our merchants to buy up
our produce in order to make remitt-
ances to the eastward in its proceeds.
He hoped this practice would continue
and increase, for their interest is fast
leaning in that direction.

Mr. Breckenridge said the import-
ance of this subject would call from
him a few observations. The free na-
vigation of the Mississippi has agitated
Kentucky. And well it might. Situa-
ted on the extremities of the republic,
with only one navigable stream to lead
her to the ocean, and that stream in the
possession of an enemy, she must have
felt for her safety exclusive of all so-
licitude for her interest. This naviga-
tion should be secured inviolate.

Commerce will pursue the naviga-
ble streams. It is its natural course,
and nothing but unfortunate circum-
stances could turn it from that channel.
It has been stated that merchants will
pursue that course which is most fa-
vorable to their interests. Though the
principle be generally true, yet have
the merchants of Kentucky pursued a
course injurious to their own interest
and that of the state. The interest of
individual merchants is not, however,
always the interest of the people. Our
merchants trade almost exclusively with
the Atlantic states, bring out
goods and carry in money, and thus
keep up a constant routine. And why
is this? It comes from the poverty of
the country. And whence our poverty?
Our farmers cannot sell their produce,
and therefore we are poor. Wealth
springs from the soil, but we in the
finest country in the world, find our in-
dustry checked and discouraged by a
ruinous course of trade; and in the
midst of plenty are destitute of wealth.
This, sir, is the evil which arises from
this forced and unnatural trade, and the
perversion of those advantages which
we might enjoy. If some small en-
couragement were afforded, the evil
would be cured, and the merchants
would be induced to buy the produc-
tions of our soil. At present the mar-
ket at New-Orleans is limited, for there
are but few purchasers of produce;
but let it accumulate there—let it be
known that the trade of this country
will come through that channel, and
there will be houses, merchants and
capital. We shall then get a real price
for our produce.

Though the merchants may have
been better informed, they have been
of less service to the western country
than any other class of citizens. In
fact we have no merchants—it is ab-
surd to talk about them. They are
mere packers of goods and of cash;
they bring out goods and send back
money or bills at a discount, or buy up
the notes of eastern states at an enor-
mous advance. No man deserves the
name of merchant unless he exports &
imports. But let the course of trade
be changed—let it become his interest
to bring goods up the Mississippi—
and the moment he acquires any capi-
tal, he will become a merchant. Far-

mers will look to that market, and in-
dividuals active and enterprising, will
deposit there enough to induce others
to come and buy.

Another advantage will be, that we
shall get our goods in exchange for our
produce. Now our merchants remit
only in cash. How comes this cash
into the country? Enterprising indi-
viduals, the sons of our farmers, take
our pork and our horses to the north,
and the south, and carry our produce
down the river, whence they return
with cash, which is again gathered up
by the merchants and packed off to the
eastward. But if we imported our
goods through New-Orleans, European
merchants would establish houses
there, and buy our produce. Would
they sell their goods for cash? No;
they would prefer taking the produc-
tions of the soil, because they could
make upon them 25 per cent. We can
always undersell the produce of the
east, on account of the vast extent, fer-
tility, and productiveness of our soil.
Therefore, the merchant of New-Or-
leans will prefer produce to cash; for
it will be worth more to him in the
places where he purchases. But now
such is the state of trade, that we get
not half a price. When flour sells in
Philadelphia and Baltimore at 10 or 12
dollars, we get 4 or 5; when tobacco
was selling in Virginia for \$30, we got
10. Far less than that would be the
cost of transportation.

When we have once turned the eyes
of the world to this subject, it is half
done. Let us say to the merchant of
Europe, fix your house at New-Orleans
—there you shall receive our produce;
and it will be done. Induce our own
capitalists, and they would establish
these mercantile houses, instead of
packing ninences to the eastward.

There is another reason. Kentucky
is an inland state. She has no mari-
time frontier, and it is not desirable to
see her altogether commercial. Man-
ufactures are rising up among us to
add to our independence & our wealth.
We should expand our view from the
narrow circle around us, and look to
the rising republics of South America.
Their commerce is immensely valu-
able, and it is our interest to conciliate
it, before they have formed strict com-
mercial relations with other countries.
Many articles manufactured here
might be carried there and exchanged
for the precious metals. Sir, those
people must succeed. Their conquest
is impossible. Those who struggle
for freedom are already free. Though
friendless and without allies, the cause
which nerves their arms, the ardor
which burns within their bosoms will
enable them to plant the standard of
freedom on every rampart which be-
girts a tyrant or a monk.

But it is said, this measure will have
a tendency to weaken the union. God
forbid, I should give my sanction to any
act which could weaken that holy
chain. But, sir, I consider that its pal-
ladium is happiness, peace and virtue.
We cannot look into futurity. It is
ours to do what duty requires, and let
the future take care of itself. Shall
we, through fear of weakening the union,
deny ourselves those advantages
which God and Nature have spread be-
fore us? Shall we, in the richest and
most productive country on the globe,
shut out ourselves from market, lest
peradventure we should weaken the
Union? I wish not to retard the growth
of these western regions, through any
fears of future ills. When we look
back only 20 years, when we call to
our recollection that Kentucky and
Tennessee were lately the only states
in the west, when we see new com-
munities rising around us, forests falling,
states bursting into existence, and com-
merce spreading her sail on a thousand
streams, we are filled with admiration
and wonder. But when we expand
our view, cast a prophetic glance at
futurity, and contemplate the future
population, the wealth, the force and
power of our common country, we are
wrought in amazement and lost in the
grandeur of the mighty prospect. As
a western man, sir, I wish to see the
seat of power travel across the Allega-
nies. While our brethren of the east
hear rule in our councils, and legislate
for our population, they will do it with
liberality and kindness; but the day
will come in which the sceptre of em-
pire will be swayed by western hands.
In half a century, power will have
changed her balance, and the region beyond
the mountains will exceed in strength
and influence the whole population of
the old states. Yet will it be our in-
terest to keep together. But, sir, there
is another view of this subject. New-
Orleans is the key to the western coun-
try. At that place will our enemies
direct their strongest efforts because
the conquest would be important, and
the injury deadly. We have had ex-
perience of this. A change of trade
will throw population into that country,
strengthen its defence, and enable it to
defy the most powerful efforts of our
enemies. As a western man, these are
events which I ardently desire, and
when power shall be in our hands we
will exercise it with magnanimity and
nobleness.

In the accomplishment of objects so
great, and so vast, the measure before
us is not without its utility and impor-
tance.

unnecessary. The benefits of it have
been greatly magnified. In proportion
as you tax the goods from one port
more than those which come from ano-
ther, do you not give a preference to
one over the other? Supposing there
was another port near New-Orleans,
and you were to tax goods from one &
exempt the other, would it have no ef-
fect? Another provision of the consti-
tution is, that taxation shall be equal.
If taxation is equal in this case, it would
be so were you to tax a sorrel horse &
exempt a black one. Gentlemen tell
us, there is no money in the country.
The quantity of money depends on
what the country receives and pays
out. If it receives 100,000 and pays
out 80,000, there will be 20,000 left.
How does it happen, that we have more
money in the country than formerly?
The fact is, this plan is contrary to our
interest, and cannot succeed—it comes
from politicians & not from merchants.
In turning our trade it is too trifling to
have any influence. The gentleman
from Fayette says, if there were capi-
tal the merchants of the west would
trade at New-Orleans. What is the
present practice? Our produce is bot-
tled and shipped by men from the north &
east. Give your own merchants more
banking capital, and you will enable
them to do it. Maryland and other
states of less population than Kentucky
have four times her banking capital.—
I am ready to join in any project for
opening the rivers, will go any justifi-
able lengths to change our trade; but
cannot vote for a measure so inefficient
and contrary to principle.

The yeas and nays were as follows:
YEAS—Mr. Speaker, Armstrong,
Barbour, Blackburn, Booker, Bowman,
Breckenridge, Caldwell, Carson, Cook,
Cox, Cummins, Cunningham, Dallam,
Davis, Döllerhide, Duncan, (of Da-
vies) Duncan, (of Lincoln) Eggleston,
Ewing, Fleming, Ford, Gaines, Garri-
son, Given, Grundy, Harrison, Hart,
Helm, Holman, Hunter, J. Jones, P.
Jones, Logan, M'Coun, M'Hatton, M'
Millan, Parker, Reeves, Rice, Rowan,
Rudd, Shepard, Spillman, S. Steven-
son, Stapp, Todd, Turner, Underwood,
P. White, D. White, Wickliffe and
Woods—58.

NAYS—Messrs. Barrett, Birney,
Cotton, Davidson, Gillmore, Goode,
Green, Hickman, Hopson, Jameson,
Irvine, Lackey, Marshall, Metcalfe,
Monroe, Robertson, Slaughter, South,
True, Wall, Ward and Yantis—22.

Thursday, Jan. 2, 1817.
The following bills were reported,
viz. 1. To incorporate the Winchester
Steam Mill Company—2. To alter the
line between Pulaski and Wayne—3.
For the relief of the representatives of
David Johnson, dec.—4. To amend an
act entitled an act to amend an act en-
titled an act, concerning occupying
claimants—the 1st, 2d, and 4th read a
first time, and the 3d committed to a se-
lect committee.

The house took up the bill concern-
ing the general court—when Mr. Mills
offered an amendment in lieu of said
bill, which was concurred in, and passed
to a third reading;

The bill, as amended, detaches the
county of Fayette from its present cir-
cuit, and makes it the duty of the Gen-
eral Court Judge to hold the Circuit
Courts in that county.

H. VING reported one debate on this
subject, we omit the discussion of this
day.

A bill from the senate to establish an
election precinct in Mercer, was com-
mitted to a select committee.

The house received the following
message and letter from the Lieutenant
Governor, which were referred to a
select committee.

Fellow-Citizens of the House of Rep-
resentatives.

I received the inclosed letter too
late to notice in my communication to
the Legislature at the commencement
of their present session. The impor-
tance of the subject noticed in it, and
respect for a sister state, have induced
me to submit to your consideration
whether any, and what aid ought to be
afforded by this commonwealth to ac-
complish the canal communication con-
templated by the state of New-York, as
disclosed in the letter, which I beg
leave to lay before you.

GABRIEL SLAUGHTER.
Jan. 2, 1817.

ALBANY, NOV. 11, 1816.
SIR—The legislature of the state of
New-York, by an act passed at their
last session, organized a board of com-
missioners with instructions to ascer-
tain the practicability of connecting
the navigable waters of the Hudson
river with lake Erie, by means of a canal.

The contiguity of Kentucky to the
great western lakes and their tributary
streams, will render this an interesting
subject to its citizens.

The board of commissioners after a
careful examination, are perfectly sat-
isfied of the practicability of this great
enterprise. I therefore in obedience
to the requisitions of the aforesaid act,
and as the organ of said board, ask
leave, through you, to present this sub-
ject to the legislature of the respecta-
ble state over which you preside, and
respectfully to invite them to afford
such aid to New-York in the accom-
plishment of this desirable object, as
the interests of Kentucky, the increas-
ing wealth, population and enterprize

of her citizens, and the public spirit of
her councils may dictate.

With sentiments of respect, I am, sir,
your Excellency's humble servant;
DEWITT CLINTON,
President of the Board of Canal
Commissioners.

His Excellency the Gov. of Kentucky.

A bill concerning the Telico lands
was passed.

A bill concerning commonwealth's
attornies was read a third time. There
was considerable debate on this subject,
which, for want of room, we omit. The
questions discussed were the constitu-
tionality and policy of the measure.

Mr. Blackburn from the select com-
mittee to whom was referred the bill
to amend the penal laws of this com-
monwealth, (the intention of which
was to restrain gaming) reported the
same with amendments.

Mr. Rowan then moved farther to a-
mend the bill by adding a clause:
"That the fact of drunkenness shall be
ranked with the act of gaming, shall
be prosecuted in the same manner, and
the person convicted thereof shall in-
cur the same penalty and disabili-
ties," &c.

And the yeas and nays being requi-
red on the proposed amendment, were
as follows:

YEAS—Mr. Speaker, Messrs. Arm-
strong, Barbour, Barnett, Birney, Bow-
man, Breckenridge, Caldwell, Coburn,
Cooke, Cotton, Cummins, Dallam, Da-
vis, Eggleston, Fleming, Gaines, Gai-
ther, Gilmore, Given, Green, Hopson,
Hornbeck, Hunter, H. Jones, Irvine,
Love, Marshall, Mercer, Monroe, M.
Hatton, M'Millan, Owings, Rowan, S.
Stephenson, Todd, True, Underwood,
Wall, P. White, D. White, Wier and
Yantis—44.

NAYS—Messrs. Blackburn, Booker,
Carson, Clark, Cox, Cunningham, Da-
vidson, Döllerhide, Duncan (of Davi-
ess) Duncan (of Lincoln) Ewing, Ford,
Garrison, Goode, Grundy, Harrison,
Hart, Hawkins, Helm, Hickman, Hol-
man, Jamison, J. Jones, Lackey, Logan,
Metcalfe, Mills, M'Coun, M'Mahan,
Parker, Rice, Robertson, Rudd, Shep-
ard, Slaughter, South, Spillman, Trigg,
Turner, Ward and Woods—41.

The bill was then ordered to be com-
mitted to a select committee for amend-
ment.

A resolution was reported as having
passed the senate for a final adjourn-
ment on the 25th inst. Laid on the ta-
ble.

JURY BILL.

The house went into committee of
the whole, Mr. Metcalfe in the chair—
the jury bill being under consideration.
Mr. Harrison offered an amendment
which required the county courts in
May next, to make out a list of 200 men
liable to serve on petit juries, whose
names should be put into a box in the
clerk's office whence the number of ju-
rors required should be drawn and
summoned previous to each circuit
court. The box to be replenished ev-
ery November to the original number
of 200.

Messrs. Shepard and Harrison sup-
ported the amendment. They stated
that it was much better to trust the
county courts with the selection of ju-
rors, than the sheriffs—that from the
custom of selling their office, though
sometimes filled with honorable men,
it often falls into the hands of imprudent
young men, whose whole object is to
make money—that when they summon
jurors according to the present mode,
they take the first that come, whether
fit or not, and frequently ransack tav-
erns and tipping shops—that accord-
ing to the proposed mode none but re-
spectable men would be summoned, and
it would promote rotation in that duty
which is now so oppressive to a part of
our citizens.

Messrs. Todd, Booker, Mills and
Helm made a few remarks in opposi-
tion to the amendment which was then
negatived.

Mr. Rowan then offered an amend-
ment which would confine the sheriffs
in their selection of jurors to "respect-
able house-keepers."

Mr. Logan moved that "men" should
be substituted for "house-keepers."
He was supported by Messrs. Robert-
son, Helm and Blackburn. They stated,
that by confining the duty to house-
holders, many bachelors and others as
well qualified for it as any body in the
community, would be exempt—that its
operation would therefore be unequal
and unjust.

Messrs. Rowan and Mills opposed
the change, on the grounds that it was
essential to have the most respectable
men in the community on this impor-
tant service—that he who decides upon
the character and lands of another,
should have a character and lands him-
self—that though a few well qualified
would be exempt yet we should lose
much more chaff than wheat—as to
bachelors, no matter if a stigma was
cast upon them—they ought to get
married—they are, as Mr. Rowan said,
like an island, in the midst of the oc-
ean, or like a barren tree upon a
heath, destitute of those tender sym-
pathies so requisite in some cases, and
particularly unfit to try cases of crim-
con. and seduction, which many of them
even think honorable.

The house refused to strike out
house-holders and the amendment was
adopted.

gants with the cost of jur. ics. he had no idea of making any chan-
ge in the jury system which should sub-
ject the people to the expense of ju-
ries—to decide the disputes of indivi-
duals—that those who make it neces-
sary to recur to law, ought to pay the
cost of it.

Mr. Mills opposed the amendme-
nt because he thought it unconstitutional
and impolitic. The constitution pro-
vided that justice should be admin-
istered without sale, denial, or delay,
but this would be a sale of justice fa-
vorable to the rich, oppressive to the
poor. We might as well make the
litigants pay our judges.

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. Blackburn offered an amend-
ment making jurors payable out of the
public treasury.

He said he had no idea of compell-
ing men to leave their harvest in June,
July or their business at any time, and
serve in court a week or fortnight
without adequate pay. He knew the
funds provided in the bill would be un-
derly inadequate. In some counties
there would not enough be received in
five years to pay the juries of one term.
This would give room for speculation
by public officers in buying up these
claims. He chose to let all those items
be paid into the treasury, whence the
jury should draw their pay, and thus
prevent these evils.

Mr. Mills thought we ought to bring
on this measure by degrees. Though
he could carry off the whole capitol by
little and little, it was impossible to do
it all at once. He wished to see this sys-
tem carried into operation even if
there were not funds sufficient—for he
was sure the people would be so pleased
with it, that it would never be repealed.
The measure has always split on the
question, whether we should cause the
jurors to be paid by the litigants or
from the treasury. Though he be-
lieved he should support the bill, if the
amendment were adopted, yet if it
were rejected, it was his intention to
offer an amendment which would in-
crease the fund.

Mr. Shepard was almost afraid to
speak on the subject lest he should
possibly injure the bill. He was afraid
this amendment would defeat it. An
objection had been made to taxing lit-
igants for the costs.—The objection
he presumed was to the mode and
might be obviated by letting them be
taxed a certain sum, which should be
collected and paid into the jury fund.

The amendment was rejected.

The expenses of juries were howev-
er made payable from the treasury in
case the funds provided in the counties
should not be sufficient.

The house took up the amendment
adopted yesterday in the committee of
the whole, relative to the Jury Bill,
which were agreed to.

A message was received from the se-
nate announcing the passage through
that house of the Green river Bill.

Mr. Grundy read and laid on the ta-
ble a resolution for the removal of the
seat of Government from Frankfort to

The resolutions relative to the free
navigation of the Mississippi, were
taken up & unanimously concurred in.

The senate have been engaged for
some time on the nomination of Circuit
Judges.—Messrs. Beattie, Tompkins,
Davidge, Metcalf, Shackelford, Kelly,
and Montgomery, are confirmed.—
Messrs. M'Dowell, Broadnax & John-
son are committed for examination, and
Mr. Trimble was rejected, but we un-
derstand his case is to be re-considered.

BANK OF KENTUCKY.
Messrs. J. Brown, D. Weiseger, N.
Hart, Dr. A. J. Mitchell and Gen. M.
D. Hardin are re-elected Directors for
the present year, and John Pope Esq.
in place of Major Vorheis.

WASHINGTON CITY, Dec. 23.
The projected Meeting to consider
the proposition for establishing a
COLONY OFFREE BLACKS, took
place on Saturday last in this city, ac-
cording to Public Notice. It was nu-
merous and respectable, and its pro-
ceedings fraught with interest. As
we propose to publish a report of the
whole proceedings as early as practi-
cable, we will only here state, that the
Hon. Henry Clay having been called
to the chair, and Thomas Dougherty,
Esq. being appointed Secretary, the
business of the Meeting was opened
by an address from the chairman.—
Ellis B. Caldwell, Esq. in a speech of
considerable length, developed the
views of the friends of this project, &
offered several resolutions for appoint-
ing a committee to present a memorial
to Congress, &c.—which, after some
remarks from the Hon. John Randolph
and Hon. Robert Wright, were unani-
mously adopted. It is scarcely ne-
cessary to add, that all connexion of
this proposition with the emancipa-
tion of slaves, present or future, is ex-
plicitly disclaimed. No vested rights
of any party are proposed to be in the
least affected by it, unless beneficially.

How does Federalism appear in the
following outline of a caricature?

"America, presenting a pistol to an
enemy with her right hand, and feeding
him with her left? An army of soldiers
fighting him in one district, and a band
of smugglers driving cattle to his lines
in another!"