of this state, which was submitted to their consideration on the first Monday of the present month. If it shall appear, from the returns to be made to this assembly, that the plan of constitution has been approved by the people, a revision of some of our laws, for the purpose of rendering them conformable to the provisions of that instrument may be deemed expedient.

The measures which I have, on former occasions, recommended to the notice of the general assembly, have, in my judgment, lost none of their importance. If you entertain a semilar opinion, and the other business of the session is such as to afford leisure for the purpose, they will doubtless receive your consideration.—I am happy in being able to inform you, that I know of no other subjects of general concern, which appear to require your attention.

In this favored country, the only legitimate objects of legislation, are the security of equal rights and privileges to every portion of our fellow citizens; and these objects can only be attained, by laws enforcing observance of strict and impartial justice.

In proportion to the importance of these subjects which may come under consideration, the obligations of sincerity, candor and mutual forbearance will be increased.

That our mutual consultations may result in promoting the best interests of our constituents, is the fervent wish of my heart.

OLIVER WOLCOTT.

The constitution of the young state of Illinois seems to have caught a hint from the times, and to have made several provisions peculiar to itself, on three subjects which have been so lately and so vehemently canvassed; to wit, the doctrine of legislative *contempts*, the *right of instruction*, and *banks*, as follows:

Contempt.—Each house may punish by imprisonment, during its session, any person not a member, who shall be guilty of disrespect to the house by any disorderly or contemptuons behavior in their presence; provided such imprisonment shall not at any one time exceed 24 hours.

Right of Instruction.—That the people have a right to assemble in a peaceable manner, to consult for their common good, *to instruct their representative*, and to apply to the general assembly for a redress of grievances.

Banks.—That there shall be no other banks or monied institutions in this state but those already provided by law, except a state bank and its branches, which may be established and regulated by the general assembly of the state as they may think proper.

Enquirer.

...f a letter dated Utica, ...r. to a gentleman of ...bility in N. York. ... recently been ... the canal ...forms ... N ...n ...ut ...es.

—Where can any nation in the old world present a spectacle like this! what single empire in the mighty "league" is executing a project so stupendous! Our works of internal improvement are gloriously progressing. Great and successful efforts are now making to bring forward our agricultural resources, and they will succeed.

From late Foreign Papers.

The Guerriere frigate which touched in at Cowes, on her way to St. Petersburgh, with Mr. Campbell, the American minister at that court, seems by the following notice in the London papers, to have excited great curiosity:

"The United States frigate *La Guerriere* which arrived at Cowes on Sunday, is of prodigious size, and has a most imposing appearance. She has a crew of 400 men, and can on an emergency, mount upwards of 50 guns, being of the same class in point of tonnage and dimensions as our English 64's. This is the same frigate which captured an Algerine frigate of 40 guns, in the Mediterranean, about 18 months ago.—The Guerriere, according to Mr. Jame's book, carried in the late war 30 thirty-two's upon her main deck, exclusive of her upper deck carronades, with a complement of 550 men. Her tonnage is upwards of 1500, making her larger by 150 tons than any 64 gun ship of the old rate in the British navy. Yet this fine ship is classed only as a frigate, and is actually rated at 16 guns less than several of ours."

COWES, August 25.

Sailed last evening the United States frigate La Guerriere, with his excellency George Washington Campbell, minister to the court of Russia. The fine appearance of this immense frigate, drew on board of her during her short stay at Cowes, a large assemblage of distinguished visitors, all of whom were very courteously received by capt M'Donough and his officers. On Saturday the Marquis of Buckingham, Earl Spencer, the right hon. Thomas Grenville, admiral Lock, the hon. capt. Charles Paget, and several professional gentlemen, inspected La Guerrriere, and on the following day, the earl of Cavan, capt. Thomas King, (one of the elder brethren of the Trinity Board) and many of the officers of the Queen Charlotte and other guard-ships at Spithead. The complement of men on board La Guerriere, on her arrival in Cowes roadstead, was 460; and although much care was had in selecting proper crews for the launch and barge, in communicating with the shore, eleven men contrived to slip off undiscovered, the views and picturesque scenery of the Isle of Wight and Spithead having been, it is said, very familiar to them.

"In the paragraph respecting the force and tonnage of the American ship Gurriere, a fact was mistated. The Algerine frigate alluded to was taken, not by the Guerriere alone, but by an American squadron, composed of that ship, the Macedonian, Congress, Ontario, and four or five brig sloops. A reference to the American commander's official letter will establish the point."

From the Indiana Gazette

Important Decision.

Delivered by the Hon. Benjamin Parke at Corydon, Nov. 3, 1818.

John L. Chastian, a citizen of Ky. } *vs.* Susan, (alias Sook,) a woman of color and a fugitive slave from the state of Ky.

Susan, a person of color, being brought before me, upon a warrant issued upon the complaint of her master, John L. Chastian, a citizen of the state of Kentucky, who claims her as a fugitive from labor;—it appeared that cognizance of the case had been taken under a law of this state, which provides that a non resident having a claim to the service of any person in this state, shall procure a warrant from a judge, or a justice of the peace, who being satisfied of the validity of the claim, shall certify the case to the next term of the circuit court for the county, where a trial by jury shall be had in the ordinary mode; & upon verdict and judgment being obtained against the servant, the court shall grant a certificate, authorising the claimant to remove the servant out of the state.—That the claim of Chastian having been asserted under this law, the case was certified to the circuit court for the county of Jefferson, and being dismissed by the claimant, a bill in equity was filed and an injunction obtained against him, for the purpose of investigating the claim of the girl to her freedom.—The claim, however, being brought before me, the case pending before the state court, was dismissed, and a motion submitted for the dismissal of the warrant, upon the ground.—

'That the 3d clause of the 2d section of the 4th article of the constitution of the United States confers no authority on congress on the subject of fugitive slaves; & therefore that the act of congress (12 Feb. 1793) is unconstitutional.'—

But admitting the constitutionality of that law, it was contended that the several states have an authority, concurrent with congress, to legislate on this subject; and therefore that any procedure under the law of this state (December 30, 1816) already mentioned, operates to the exclusion of any authority, derived from the act of congress.

Prior to the adoption of the constitution of the United States, the inhabitants of the states, where slavery prevailed, were exposed to many inconveniencies, from the escaping of their slaves into other states, where slavery was not tolerated. From the different views entertained of the subject, it was thought unnecessary or improper to aid in their restoration,—and in the states, where colored persons were free, persons escaping from the service of their masters, became emancipated by their laws. To correct, these abuses—prevent collisi... between the several states,—to ... cure the enjoyment of prop... according to their laws respect... ly—and to enable the owner... slaves, fleeing from their serv... to reclaim them, the constitut... provides, that no person hel... service or labor, in one state, ... der the laws thereof escaping i... another, shall in consequence ... any law or regulation therein, ... discharged from such service ... labor, but shall be delivered ... on the claim of the party, to wh... such service or labor may be ... and in conformity to this pro... sion of the constitution ... gress accordingly enacted, ... any person held to service or lab... in any state according to the l... thereof, escaping into anot... state may be seized by the pers... to whom such service or labo... due and taken before a judge ... the United States, or any mag... trate of a county &c. who up... proof to his satisfaction, that ... person so seized, doth, under ... laws of the state, from which ... or she fled, owes service or lab... to the claimant, shall give a cer... ficate thereof and which shall b... sufficient warrant to remove su... fugitive to the state from whi... he or she escaped.

This case has probably furnis... ed the first occasion on which t... validity of this law has been que... tioned, which is cited by judg... Tucker in his commentary on t... constitution of the United Stat... (1 Tucker's Black. 366.) and ... the supreme court of the sta... of New York, (in I believe Gle... vs. Hodges 9th John. 67.) wit... approbation, and which has bee... recognized in many cases befo... the judges and courts of th... country, no reason has been sug... gested to influence a deviatio... from this current of authority ... and the case as regards this poin... is considered clear of doubt, o... difficulty.

Before the passage of the ac... of congress, owners of slaves es... caping into other states, mus... have resort to the laws of thes... states for the recovery of thei... property—they had no othe... means of redress; but when i... conformity to the constitutiona... provision, congress legislated and... provided a remedy commensu... rate with the object in view, i... superceeded any state regulation... then existing, or that might thereaf... ter be adopted. The idea of an au... thority concurrent in the Federal... and state governments, appears... to have been carried too far in the... argument—& if admitted, would... be pregnant with the greatest mis... chief,—and the source of perpet... ual collisions between the states... and the general government. The... cases of taxation &c. are not op... posite—A concurrent power may... be exercised on the same subject... for different purposes, but not for... the attainment of the same end... If laws of the same tenor and ef... fect are enacted, one must be use... less—but if they differ in the re... medy and in the mode of obtain... ing it, their relative authority... must be determined from a recur... rence to the source from whence... they originated. In the formation of the constitution of the U...

John Lodge