

permanent increase of the Navy.

"I do therefore with confidence recommend an annual increase of our navy, of one ship of the rate of 74 guns; of two frigates of the first class, rated at 44 guns; and two sloops of war, which can be built with the surplusage of smaller timber and with a great saving in that material."

### PARIS (Ky.) JANUARY, 3.

**SALT WATER** has lately been found by digging, on the waters of Slate, 3 miles from Mount Sterling the strongest ever known in the Western Country. It is said that Salt put into it will not dissolve, & that between 40 and 50 gallons of the water will make a bushel of Salt. We have obtained this information from respectable authority, and believe it to be correct. If this water should continue as strong as at present, in large abundance, it will be of great importance to this part of the country.

Western Citizen.

### INLAND NAVIGATION.

"A noble effort.—It is with a degree of pleasure, bordering on enthusiasm, (says the Norfolk Beacon, Dec. 16) that we record the fact, that yesterday the subscription books for opening the canal to unite the waters of Roanoke with the Elizabeth River, were opened at 10 o'clock and before 2 o'clock, 70,000 dollars were subscribed; before night it advanced to 100,000. Such a spirit of enterprise alone was wanting to make Norfolk every thing that its warmest friends could wish—may it never flag until the great work is completed."

### Two Whole Families Lost.

If any of the relations or next of kin of Mr. Eagle, and a Mr. Dollar who a few years ago, were much seen in the U. States, and are supposed to be native Americans will give information where they may be found the informer shall be handsomely rewarded on application to the treasury department at Washington, or to the forty new banks in Pennsylvania: and a proportionable reward will be given for Mr. Eagle's son, Half Eagle, and Mr. Dollar's son Half Dollar, any of his grand children Quarter Dollars, or any of his relations. Papers innumerable have issued since their disappearance, but all in vain, as they are believed by many to have left the U. States; but from their known attachment to industry and steady habits, others shrewdly suspect that they lie hid some where in the New England States waiting for more favorable times before they dare make their appearance, as they have reason to suppose they would be instantly taken, and put in close confinement. The sudden disappearance is particularly to be regretted, as they were in great favor with the people of all political parties.

[U. S. Gazette.]

### For the WESTERN SUN.

### Farmers & Patriots Rights.

NO. V.

Mr. Stout,

IT was my intention in this week's paper to have exhibited in glowing colors, the impolicy of the late proclamation, and in the paper of the week ensuing, to have branched into the whole subject and finished my remarks. But as the author of a piece in your last signed 'A Settler,' must from his interference, think I could not have done the subject ample justice, and must from the information he gives, know much more than I profess, it becomes me now, after a few general remarks, to leave the subject in his hands to do with as may be most pleasing to himself. I would not however, have him imagine I am either churlish or displeased, for I reverence superior knowledge—but I owe it to my own sentiments and feelings to express my decided disapprobation of his conjectures, and it would

be a source of unfeigned regret if my writing had in any manner produced them. If I have, acting on the erect and independent spirit of my first declaration, that "in the cause of the people, individual feelings should always be buried," either flattered power, palliated wrong, or forced error, I am truly sorry for it—but if I have not, if I have endeavored not to lose the glory of the race for the apple of gold, I cannot discover how this 'Settler' will reconcile his eulogium upon my opinions, with those which he has expressed. I will not however, be thought so fallacious as to reject the compliment he has bestowed upon me, though I must say 'tis rather lavish; nor will I dispute the good disposition towards me which it manifests—but I will declare, as I do believe, that the persons mentioned and alluded to in that piece, are in my opinion, entirely undeserving the censure which it contains. Mr. Jennings is at the present moment discharging his duties as the peoples representative, and such of his particular friends here as I am intimate with are pure, incapable of such conduct, and should be unsuspected. My fellow citizens will, I hope, blame none but such as deserve it—neither our representative nor his friends with whom I am intimately acquainted, can be brot' in for even a particle—the source from whence the proclamation sprung I have heretofore pointed to, the law does not authorize the president to issue a proclamation so unqualified, and 'tis at his door the blame should rest.

When I commenced these enquiries and remarks, I was aware that I could neither controul the winds nor impede the torrent—such infatuation was reserved for the inordinate ambition of Persian extravagance; but I did believe, and yet do, that I might satisfy all rational men of the injustice, ingratitude and impolicy of this proclamation. And as our local concerns, particularly at the present juncture merit attention, I did believe, and yet do, that with a condemnation of such acts of our own legislature as are unwholesome, I could demonstrate the total unworthiness of the men who now guide the destinies of the United States. I did think, and yet do, that it is possible to do this without giving any man just cause of offence, or injuring in the slightest degree, any public character amongst us, or indeed any character who can feel a disinterested regard for the happiness of this country. I did think, and yet do, that I could picture virtue so that every good man might see his merit was observed, and expose and condemn folly and injustice, so that their impropriety and iniquity would be by all acknowledged. I did intend to make "the galled jade wince," but I was not aware my sentiments and intentions could be perverted. I never have, nor ever did I intend, to blame or censure without cause, but I had resolved to do, and have done both, where I thought they were justly merited. Were it not for 'A Settler,' I would in this paper show, that "neither bad base and rotten policy, cover her wrongs with such deadly wounds" as this proclamation would inflict if carried into execution. These were my intentions, and I am sorry that a cause so not insupportable, should have obliged me to stop short of my object, but still, if it become necessary, feel myself bound to appear again in support of all I have heretofore said, or for the purpose of my own justification in the course I have pursued, not promising, however, to say more than what I conceive necessary for those purposes. I am now glad, however, to think that all cause of difficulty or reproach, except as to the disposition manifested in this proclamation, will soon vanish. The president, it be read the law of 1807, must have seen that there are savings and provisions which he has not the power to repeal, yet in this proclamation no provision is made for them. He has made it apply to all public lands, whereas the territory of Upper Louisiana (now Missouri) is excepted from the application of that law, and after the decision of congress on the report of the commissioners appointed to adjust the claims in that territory—this decision congress have not yet made, nor has the report of the commissioners been acted on, although finished some years. He must have known that his power could not sustain him in arrogating such authority, and in my opinion to exercise it by proclamation, even any public land held by Indian title, is almost an equal assumption. The president knows as he did not apply to, or could not obtain from congress, a clear and specific law, giving him proclamation power over all public land, that there is only one correct mode to proceed against trespassers, where possession has been held without any previous question, that is, by judgment. These considerations are proof conclusive to my mind, that the proclamation was not intended to operate here, but to scare settlers into a premature purchase of the land now on sale, believing as I suppose he may, that

there will be more purchasers for the land now surveying, than can be supplied. This has the more weight, as his marshals by driving settlers off under this groundless proclamation, must be subjected to numerous suits for the value of the improvements illegally taken, and in my opinion, eventually, to heavy damages. However, whether this be possible or probable, is not to the point—I think the power assumed by the president intolerable and unjustifiable; and as I will never sanction what I know to be wrong, even if good might come from it, I hope and believe that congress will grant a remedy, so far as it immediately effects us.

Farmers & Patriots Rights.

### From the New-York Commercial Advertiser.

### AWFUL OCCURENCE.

The following letter from a gentleman in Danbury Conn to his friend in this city, details one of the most awful scenes our country has ever witnessed. It gives a melancholy exhibition of man either when deprived of reason, or when left without the influence of restraining grace:—  
"Danbury, Jan. 2, 1816.

"Dear Sir—I have just returned from a journey; and in passing through New Fairfield, I was called to witness one of the most shocking and horrid sights that the mind can conceive. Abel H. Platt murdered his wife and two children, and then put an end to his own life. The circumstances of this horrid deed are as follows. Platt had exhibited symptoms of insanity for 3 months past; during which time, he was once absent 3 days, and was found secreted in his barn without food or drink. Of late, he appeared to have recovered his health and reason. Yesterday he made preparation for butchering his hogs. This morning he rose at an early hour; made a fire for heating the water; and at the dawn of day, commenced the awful deed by striking his wife on the head with his axe, as she lay on her bed. Her outcry awoke his mother an elder lady, who slept in an adjoining room, & who immediately sprang to her assistance. The blow his wife had received, not proving fatal, she extricated herself from him, and made an effort to escape from the room but another blow brot' her to the floor. He then seized his daughter, a child of only 3 years old and his only son a lad of 6 years and destroyed them both with the same instrument. His mother in her efforts to wrest from him the axe, and stop his murderous career, received a cut in her arm. She asked her son whether he meant to murder her also; he replied that he would not hurt her. Finding all her efforts to stop him in vain, she ran to a near neighbor for aid; and on her return with her neighbors, she found that he had cut his own throat and lay across his weltering family with the knife

lying by his side. The sight was indeed shocking to behold! Look at his situation but last night—see him in the prime of life, (for he was but 32 years old) in easy circumstances with a spotless character, with a beloved wife, (just ready to be the mother of an other offspring) and 2 children enjoying all the comforts of life—see them all before the light of this morning's sun, weltering in their blood, shed by him who was given to be their protector! The scene is too horrible—I can add no more!

"The jury of inquest have returned a verdict of insanity.

### THE AETNA.

Yesterday this large and elegant Steam Boat, commanded by capt. Roberson DeHart (whose departure had been for some time retarded by an unfavorable stage of water) left her moorings at Shippingport, bound to New Orleans with freight and passengers. She got under way at half past 12 o'clock, in a very handsome manner fired several salutes from 2 mounted swivels on board, cheered by a numerous concourse of spectators who had assembled on the occasion, which was returned by the passengers and crew, and in 15 minutes was out of sight. The arrival and departure of this boat has excited a lively interest here, and has opened prospects of unparalleled trade and prosperity of the town of Louisville and the western country in general.

Just as the Aetna was getting under way, the salute which she fired was returned by a discharge from on board the steam-boat Enterprize, which at that moment made the landing at this place, from Pittsburgh bound to New-Orleans.

Lou Correspondent.

Mr. Maurice Margarot, who was chair'n of the London Corresponding Society United for a reform in parliamentary representation, died on Saturday, the 11th instant at the advanced age of 70 years. He was sent as a delegate from that society to the British convention which met at Edinburgh for the same object in the year 1793 where he was accused of sedition, with the whole of the convention. He was tried before the court of judiciary, and sentenced to 14 years transportation to Botany Bay with four others. He was the only one of the four who survived the terror of this banishment to return home. He has left a faithful but poor widow, who voluntarily went