

ter time, but very dangerous if passable at all, as some tides flow it two feet and more; I passed it last March in this situation; This inconvenience however will be avoided by passing through Exeter—and no part of that route is so bad in the winter time as this caufway; I have heretofore travelled in the winter time through Kennington and Exeter on being advised it was the best road of the two; and though there was much snow on the ground we found no difficulty in getting along—Hence, sir, 'tis evident to me that the mail may easily be carried from Boston, through Exeter to Portsmouth in a day—and that the objection founded on the increase of distance is a mere pretence, originating in an unwillingness, in the minds of some people, that the mail should arrive an hour or two sooner at Exeter than Portsmouth.

The gentleman (Mr. Livermore) has said it is a principle of the bill, that the mail shall be carried in the most direct road from place to place, and that it will be a deviation from this principle to go through Exeter: This, sir, is not strictly true—no such principle has been adhered to but in a qualified sense; and it has been departed from whenever it would accommodate any considerable number of people. I wish here to remind the House of Springfield in Massachusetts—and Middleton, in Connecticut; in the former instance the direct route from Worcester to Hartford is not through Springfield; but a deviation of near ten miles is made to accommodate that town; and in passing from Hartford to New-Haven a deviation of four or five miles (if I am mistaken, gentlemen from that State will correct me) is made for the purpose of accommodating the town of Middletown; many other instances of this nature might be adduced—and why shall not a small deviation be now made in favor of Exeter, especially since no inconvenience will result therefrom to Portsmouth? I can see no reason.

In order to convince this House that the mail, in passing from Boston to Portsmouth, ought not to be carried through Exeter, the gentleman has read a letter from the Post-Master at Portsmouth, stating the number of letters that pass in a year, by a cross post, from Portsmouth to Exeter; by which it appears the number indeed is very small. Hence he would draw an argument that the business between Boston and Exeter is trifling, and not of consequence enough to justify so small a deviation in the mail line of three or four—or, as the gentleman contends, of five miles. But, Mr. Speaker, this is strange logic! and a very different conclusion results in my mind from the contents of the letter. The letter may be evidence how little business is carried on between Portsmouth and Exeter, and that consequently there is no real need of a post between these two places—but it does not contain the shadow of evidence that there is no commercial business between Boston and other places in Massachusetts and Exeter. If a gentleman in those places wished to write to Exeter, he would never think of putting his letter into the Portsmouth mail—he must know that it is liable to lay six days in the post-office at Portsmouth, and perhaps longer—while various opportunities, by a private conveyance, would present within that time.

I have hitherto admitted the additional distance, by going through Exeter, to be five miles—but, sir, since the mail stage passes Merrimack river, about four miles above the old ferry (the gentlemen of the house acquainted with that part of the country know the places I refer to) I cannot agree that this additional distance will be more than three miles, if so much. But, however this may be, I trust I have shewn to the satisfaction of the house, that whether it be five or three, it cannot produce any inconvenience to Portsmouth, but must be highly beneficial to Exeter.

There is another consideration, sir, that ought to have some weight in deciding this question—which I will mention, & say no more—It is this: A letter that goes from Boston to Exeter, thro' Portsmouth, will stand charged twenty-five per cent. more than if the mail was carried directly from Boston to Exeter—while, on the other hand, the postage of a letter from Boston to Portsmouth is the same, whether the mail pass through Hampton or Exeter—because, in both of these routes, the distance from Boston to Portsmouth is more than sixty miles, and short of the next grade of postage. For these reasons, sir, I hope the house will disagree to the amendment.

Mr. Smith (N.H.) observed, that he was sorry to find his colleagues differing in opinion on the subject under consideration. He had no prejudice in favor of one of the towns (Portsmouth & Exeter) above the other.—He only wished the bill might establish that route which would best accommodate the state at large. He conceived, when the situation of New-Hampshire was considered, it would be evident that the bill as passed by the House, was better calculated to answer this purpose, than it would in case the amendment proposed by the Senate should be adopted. He remarked that the trade of the greater part of that state had been, and probably would continue to be with Boston—that if the general line

of the post-road should be established through Exeter, it would be to the people in the interior part of New-Hampshire, a saving of at least 25 miles in the distance between them and Boston—that the trade of Exeter, though within 15 miles of Portsmouth, was principally with Boston—that if the amendment proposed by the Senate should be adopted, they would be deprived of any benefit from the establishment of post-roads—that the route would be so circuitous, that the people in the interior parts of the state would probably in future, as they had in times past, send their letters to Boston, and to the southward, by private conveyance, rather than by post.—It was easy to see that the revenue by this means would be injured—that this circumstance would serve to account for the statement read from the post-master at Portsmouth, of the small number of letters sent from his office to Exeter. It was his opinion that the revenue would be greatly increased, by taking Exeter into the main post-road; and that a contract for carrying the mail from Portsmouth to Boston, might in that case be obtained for as small a sum as by the road now used—He could not see how this would injure Portsmouth, though it might not prove advantageous to the post-master at that place—How far the House might think it their duty to consult the particular interest of that officer, he would not pretend to say. He had reason to believe (though he could not speak altogether from his own knowledge) that the account given of the road by one of his colleagues and the gentleman from Massachusetts, was a just one.—Upon the whole, considering the amendment as not calculated to promote the advantage of the state he had the honor to represent, he should vote against it.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13.

Mr. S. Bourne, from the committee on enrolled bills, informed the Speaker, that the committee, on Friday last, waited on the President of the United States, and presented to him, for his approbation, the bill to establish the post-office and post-roads within the United States.

A committee was appointed, pursuant to Mr. Sterret's motion, to bring in a bill to continue in force an act declaring the assent of Congress to certain acts of the States of Maryland, Georgia, and Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations.

The House resumed the consideration of the bill relative to the election of a President and Vice-President of the United States, and declaring the officer who shall act as President in case of vacancies in the offices both of President and Vice-President.

After some debate, on a motion made to amend the bill, by the addition of a clause to confine the number of electors to the number of Senators and Representatives in Congress at the time such electors shall be chosen—the bill, together with the proposed amendment, was ordered to be recommitted to a committee of the whole House, and made the order of the day for to-morrow.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the representation bill—Mr. W. Smith in the chair.

The ratio of representation was fixed at thirty thousand by the committee—Yeas 30, Nays 21.

A motion made by Mr. Mercer, to substitute the first day of October, 1792, instead of the 4th day of March, 1793, as the period after which the representation is to be increased, gave rise to a short debate; the committee rose without taking the vote on this motion, and reported progress. Adjourned.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14.

The fishery bill was brought in enrolled, and signed by the Speaker.

Mr. Sterret reported a bill, declaring the assent of Congress to a certain act of the State of Maryland, &c. which was read the first and second time, and made the order of the day for Monday next.

In committee of the whole, on the bill relative to the election of a President and Vice-President, &c. Mr. Muhlenberg in the chair.

The motion for inserting a clause to restrict the number of the electors to the number of the present Senate and House of Representatives, was negatived.

Mr. Sturges observed that he supposed the clause had been rejected on account of its being indefinite and complex—he therefore renewed the motion in a more simple form.—This motion, after some debate, was negatived.

Mr. Gerry then moved a clause which provides that the number of electors shall be equal to the number of Senators and Representatives the States shall by law be entitled to at the time the President and Vice-President shall enter on their respective offices. A proviso was added, by which the existing numbers of Congress shall regulate the number of the electors, in case the apportionment of Representatives shall not have been completed agreeable to a preceding enumeration. This amendment, with the proviso, was, after further debate, agreed to.

The committee then rose and reported this amendment to the House—the House took the same; the question being divided, the first part was carried in the affirmative—ayes 29—noes 21.

The proviso was then put and agreed to—and the bill ordered to be read the third time to-morrow.

Mr. Mercer had leave of absence for three weeks.

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Secretary Otis, informing that the Senate have passed a bill regulating processes in the judicial courts of the United States, and providing compensations for jurors and witnesses.

The Fishery Bill was presented to the President of the United States for his approbation, this day. Adjourned.

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

IT seems to be as easy to form a recipe to write a good stinging piece against the government, as to make a pudding. Ministerial puffery, the pomp and parade of government, court sycophants, parasites, worshippers of power, &c. are all prodigiously smart sayings. Like common swearing, they give a life and boldness to writing, which raise it a mile above the sneaking vulgar style. You may be sure the writer of a piece abounding with those excellencies, wears a cocked hat, and imposes silence and respect in every company, which has the happiness to be made wiser by his wisdom. It is really an happy thing to see these fashionable phrases brought over sea to relish our insipid politics: they have long needed spicing. A formal fellow, who is in the old homespun way, after reading a smart piece in the newspaper, told me he did not know what the foolish fellow (there he meant me, for I wrote the piece) could mean by those huffish, outlandish terms of abuse on the government. Why, said he, and was there ever such a fool before, do we not make the government ourselves, and unmake it at our pleasure? The public governs the Congress. The considerate, and very often the unconsiderate opinion of the public, is obeyed.—He was going on in this strain—but I thought he talked so queerly, that I left him abruptly. Z.

Philadelphia, February 15.

By the last accounts from France it appears, that a report had been circulated in Paris, of the King's intending to escape from the kingdom. This report had excited great uneasiness in the Court—to do away the impressions it might have made, a letter was written to the Mayor by the Minister of the home department, at the command of the King.

The King has written to his brothers, urging them by every motive that can influence good citizens, to return to the bosom of their country in peace.

There are great appearances of warlike preparation on the part of the emigrants—the Empress of Russia favors their designs it is said—this, however, is an old story. Some spirited decrees against the emigrants have passed the National Assembly, and have been presented to the King for his approbation; he has suspended his decision, till the result of the measures he had taken were known.

The States of Brabant have agreed to acknowledge the sovereignty of the Emperor's Council; by which means it appears that peace and confidence are fully restored.

The English papers contain very lengthy and minute details of the movements of their army under Lord Cornwallis in the East-Indies. After an action with Tipoo, in which the English lost 500 men, his Lordship was obliged to retreat from before Seriatapatam, and suspend his grand enterprise for the present.

Authentic extract of a letter from a gentleman of the best information at Haure, dated October 15.

“Our harvest has not turned out quite so well as last year. We shall be in want, not here but at Nantes, Bourdeaux, and Bayonne. Those provinces must depend upon strangers for supplies; for the more fertile parts of France have not yet an idea of succouring those of a contrary description, and if they had, the means of transmitting their produce are obstructed. About fifteen days since the English opened their sea-ports to us; notwithstanding which, I have reason to think that the inhabitants of the United States will not be disappointed of a good market in sending their grain to the above mentioned ports.”

Another letter from the same gentleman, dated Oct. 27, mentions as follows:—“Virginia tobacco is selling from 34 to 40 livres per cwt. This is reckoned a good price.”

A motion was lately made in the Assembly of the State of South-Carolina to request their representatives in Congress to use their influence to obtain a repeal of the excise.—The motion was negatived by a majority of two only!!!

N. B. It does not appear that any substitute for the excise was proposed.

What would be the effect of a transfer by sale to the Northward, of all the public Securities now in the Southern States, says a correspondent, time only can disclose.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

The constitution of the state of Massachusetts, has made it expressly the duty of the legislature to patronize and encourage the University at Cambridge. Such a fact will assist future historians in writing the history of this age. It is owing to the annual grants of money by the legislature of that state, that the University of Cambridge has grown up to such celebrity. That state will doubtless pursue the policy which the wise example of their forefathers and their constitution have made so respectable—and by continuing their public assistance in money, extend the fame and usefulness of that ancient seminary of learning. It is to be hoped that every state will turn its attention to this important object. It is much to the honor of the state of North-Carolina, that they have applied five thousand pounds to the establishment of a University. These instances do honor to our country, in our eyes and in those of foreign nations; and they tend, by spreading general knowledge, to give the greatest degree of security to our liberties.

In this country, time and prosperity travel together. Without being a prophet, with pen and ink a man may compute with tolerable certainty, the grade of our advancement at any future period. There is some danger in this very security—We talk of our happiness as a nation, as of a property which we hold by deed—a blessing which misfortune cannot interrupt, nor our foolish jealousies and rivalships spoil after we have got it.—But we run one hazard—breaking the Union—Heaven defend us.—The idea almost stops the pulse of the heart. But as common danger makes friendships, security breaks them. In the American Dictionary disunion stands for every word of evil import.—It becomes every good American to cultivate national sentiments, and to support with all his powers a free federal government, which if it lasts, will make us the happiest, and if it falls the most degraded wretched people in the universe.

In consequence of the funding system, the southern states experienced a general reversion of the credit of their paper securities; but conceiving that the circumstance was merely the temporary inflation of a balloon, as soon as it appeared to rise, those states fearing that it would fall again, cut the strings, and let it ascend.—Hence we may account for two millions of dollars, according to the calculation of a learned gentleman, having found a stationary point in a higher latitude.

For 'tis an old and just opinion,  
Good paper from the South dominion;  
Like eagles when full fledg'd will fly,  
And perch beneath a northern sky.

How often, and how solemnly, is Congress warned against encroaching on the state governments—these warnings and admonitions are heard from the legislators both of the general and state governments.—they are presented on every occasion, “line upon line, and precept upon precept,” in doors and out. Yea, it has been said, “better dissolve the union than encroach on the state governments”—Very well; but let us now advert to the other side of the exhibition—here we find no apprehensions, dangers or terrors, are entertained—although the odds against the general government are as 14 to 1—and the instances of states attempting to legislate for the union, are flagrant and numerous.

What construction must dispassionate, disinterested persons, friends to the union, on the present confederation, put on such conduct!

[The following lines were omitted in the last Gazette for want of room.]

Allowance, or a bounty, which to pay,  
Kept a decision five whole days at bay;  
To guard the constitution, how absurd,  
To quibble five whole days about a word!

New-York papers received by yesterday's mail were dated, some in January—others the first of February.

PRICE CURRENT.—PUBLIC SECURITIES.

FUNDED DEBT.		
6 pr. Cents	247 pr. £.	123 pr. cent.
3 pr. Cents	148	73½ do.
Deferred 6 pr. Cents	155	75 do.
UNFUNDED DEBT.		
Final Sett. and other Certificates	225	110 do.
Indents	134 145	70 do.
half shares Bank Stock	—103 per cent premium.	