

picion of our being influenced by improper motives; but till such proof be afforded, I must think it would be better to amend the bill as I proposed, which would leave those coins on their present footing during only the short term to which their circulation is limited by the bill.

From what fell from some gentlemen, he said, it appeared that they thought the examination of the relative value of coins could only be ascertained by an assayer.—He affirmed that any person acquainted with the use of an hydrostatic balance might easily examine them:—That it was with reluctance he said any thing which might look like a scientific parade, but he thought it his duty to bring forward the enquiry he made; and what had fallen from some gentlemen compelled him to explain and support his motion.

To explain what he had said respecting the hydrostatic experiment, he observed, that it had pleased nature, or rather the great author of nature, to annex to most bodies, and particularly to metals, a different weight: Happily each species of substances have different weights, which, with propriety are called their specific gravities: That most happily for our purpose, a cubic foot of water weighs 1000 ozs. avoirdupois; and a body when immersed in water, displaces a mass of water equal to the bulk of the immersed body, in displacing which mass of water, the body, if suspended to a pair of scales, is found to lose a weight exactly equal to the weight of the mass of water so displaced; so, that if any piece of money be weighed first in air, and then in water, its loss of weight in water will be exactly the weight of an equal bulk of water, which must at once give the comparative weight of that piece of money and of water. And as by this method pure gold has been found to be about nineteen times heavier than water, and copper nine times—which has been generally the alloy used in gold coins, if copper be mixed in any proportion (or any other metal whose specific gravity is known) the specific gravity of the compound may be found, and the exact proportion of each ingredient ascertained; and here I will remark, that as in the act establishing a mint, and regulating the coins of the United States, the proportion of silver and copper, which are declared to be the composition of the alloy for our gold coins, is not exactly fixed; there must be a difficulty of finding the real value of that coin without an actual and accurate assay, and also room for varying its value. But as this is happily left to the discretion of the director of the mint, whose abilities, accuracy and integrity are so remarkable, no inconvenience need be apprehended, as there is no doubt that he will observe the trust reposed in him, and that he will point out, from time to time, the exact proportion of these two ingredients of the alloy, which are left by the bill to his discretion. This I looked upon as a defect in the bill, and mentioned when it was before us the last session, as a reason why I wished to have it recommended—but to return to the question.—As I have found that the specific gravity of the gold coins of England, France, Spain and Portugal was, as well as I can now remember, about seventeen and an half, and that of some German coins not fifteen—that is, that the former weighed seventeen and an half times more than an equal mass of water, and the latter not fifteen times as much, or in other words, that a cubic foot of the former, weighed 17,500 oz. whilst a cubic foot of the latter would not weigh 15,000. I say as I have found this to be the case, I wish to know now whether any later experiments on those coins have been made to prove that there is the difference stated in the bill; if there have been such experiments I shall withdraw my motion, if not, I must insist upon it.

MONDAY, December 3.

The petition of Woodrop and J. Sims, was read and taken into consideration; and, on motion of Mr. Key, was referred to a select committee. The committee appointed are, Messrs. Key, Grove and Tucker.

The petition of Anne Welch, widow of Hcz. Welch, an officer, killed at Pensacola, praying the allowance of a pension as the widow of a militia officer was read—and laid on the table.

Mr. W. Smith presented a petition from a number of citizens of Charleston, S. C. praying that Congress would pass a bankrupt law; read and referred to the committee already appointed on that business.

The Speaker laid before the house a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, enclosing a plan for the reduction of the public debt. The same being read, it was ordered that 200 copies be printed for the use of the house.

Mr. Sylvester presented the petition of Ezekiel Scot; which was read and referred to Messrs. Sylvester, Ward and Kitchell.

Mr. Dayton's motion, laid on the table on Friday last, was called up by that gentleman; viz.

That the Secretary of War be directed to lay before this house, a list of the names of the persons returned to his office for pensions, by the Circuit Courts, in pursuance of the act entitled, an act to provide for the settlement of the claims of widows and orphans, barred by the limitation heretofore established, and to regulate the claims to invalid pensions; together with the rates of the said pensions, and the causes assigned for disability, accompanied with a statement of such facts and circumstances as may relate thereto.

Mr. Dayton observed, that he considered it the indispensable duty of the legislature to enquire into this business, in order to avoid imposition. He held a paper in his hand containing an account of a number of persons admitted on the pension list by the Circuit Courts, on account of complaints, which if they were generally admitted, would entrench the pension list in such manner, as ten times the present revenue of the United States would not be adequate to supporting.

Mr. B. Bourn observed, that the government had vested a discretionary power with the Secretary of War to check the grant of pensions in improper cases; that the Secretary was preparing a report on this subject; and that a full statement of the whole business would be laid before the house. He therefore saw no necessity for the resolution.

Mr. Sedgwick said he hoped nothing was intended by this motion to counteract the benevolent views of the legislature, in the only act of legislative generosity ever exhibited by this government, the law of the last session making particular provision for invalids. Mr. Sedgwick said he thought the necessary information on the subject would come before the house in course; but he was anxious that no steps should be taken, on account of some improper grants of pensions, to frustrate the designs of government, or divert the justice and humanity of the country from a class of citizens who have fought the battles of the Union & to whom the United States are so much indebted for their present freedom and happiness.

Mr. Clark, Mr. W. Smith, Mr. Lawrence, and Mr. Hillhouse, supported the motion. It was said that the law was found inadequate to the purpose for which it was made; that while in some cases it was not carried into execution, in others very improper grants of pensions had been made. Information was wanted; this information may be obtained; the law is defective, and ought to be revised. Justice, therefore, to real objects; to guard against impositions, and to make that provision which the finances of the country are competent to—impose a necessity that the motion should be adopted. In reply to the objection, that information would come in of course, from the War Office; it was said, the motion went to several points, on which it was not the duty of the Secretary to report, unless he was required to do it.

Mr. Dayton's motion was agreed to.

Mr. Boudinot, of the committee appointed for the purpose, brought in

A bill to determine the northern boundary of the territory ceded by the state of North Carolina to the United States—read the first time.

In committee of the whole, on the Secretary's report of the estimate of appropriations for the year 1793.

Mr. Sedgwick in the chair.

The committee proceeded in hearing a recital from the chairman of the items in the estimate. The sum specified for the contingencies of the war department was struck out, and a blank left. The reading of the estimate being finished, Mr. Fitzsimons submitted sundry resolutions pursuant thereto, which were read and laid on the table. The committee then rose, reported progress, and had leave to sit again.

In committee of the whole, on the bill to ascertain the fees demandable on admiralty proceedings in the courts of the United States.

Mr. Dayton in the chair.

The committee made some amendments, they then rose, and reported progress.

Adjourned.

TUESDAY, December 4.

The bill for determining the Northern boundary of the territory ceded to the United States by the State of North Carolina, was read the second time, and committed for Thursday next.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Treasury, conveying the accounts of the Commissioners of Loans, &c. pursuant to a resolution of the house. These accounts were referred to the committee of the whole on the estimate of appropriations.

The petition of Gaspar Kuhl, praying for a pension, was read and referred to the committee on similar applications.

The petition of Elijah Bostwick, presented the last session, was referred to a select committee, consisting of Messrs. Sylvester, Key, and Grove.

Order of the Day, on the Estimate of Appropriations. In committee of the whole—Mr. Sedgwick in the chair.

The papers above mentioned, received from the Secretary of the Treasury, on which the estimate of the expence of the Loan-Offices was founded, were read.

The accounts of the Loan-Officers of Massachusetts, New-York, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, were particularly called for, and read in detail. The expences of these offices were very different, owing to the business being much greater, by reason of transfers, in some states than in others. The amount of the expence was generally complained of. It was observed that some other mode of doing the business ought to be adopt-

ed—or, that those for whose advantage these numerous transfers are made, should bear a due proportion of the expence occasioned thereby. Several alterations or corrections were made in the estimate, respecting this article.

The sum of 50,000 dollars for the contingencies and incidental expences of the War Department, having been struck out, Mr. Steele moved that the blank be filled with 5000 dollars.

This motion was withdrawn, and was succeeded by another to the following purport—That the President of the United States be requested to cause to be laid before the House, a statement of the items constituting the sum in the estimate proposed to be appropriated for contingent, incidental, and conjectural charges in the war department—This motion was objected to as informal in itself, and contrary to the practice of the House—it was urged that the proper mode would be to call on the officer at the head of the war department, to lay before the House the necessary documents—It was accordingly moved, that the words President of the United States be struck out of the motion—and that the Secretary of War should be directed to lay before the House, &c.—The motion for striking out was lost—and then the question on the motion as originally made, was put and carried.

The resolutions moved yesterday by Mr. Fitzsimons, were again read—the three first it appears were agreed to—The fourth, respecting a loan, was withdrawn. The committee rose and reported progress.

The resolution above stated being reported to the House, was agreed to.

Mr. Fitzsimons, of the committee on the report from the Secretary of State, relative to the fund appropriated for the support of the intercourse of the United States with foreign nations, brought in a report, which was read, and laid on the table.

The bill to reimburse certain extra expences of the commissioners for treating of peace with Creek Indians was taken into consideration—the committee had agreed to fill the blank with 1200 dollars, and reported accordingly.—This occasioned some debate on the subject, in which the merits of the application of the commissioners were critically scrutinized—Mr. Sumpter, Mr. Clark, Mr. Kitchell, and Mr. Williamson opposed the report of the committee—Mr. Boudinot, Mr. Milledge, Mr. Ames, and Mr. Page spoke in favor of it.

The question on agreeing to the report of the committee was negatived—the ayes and noes are as follow—

A Y E S.  
Messrs. Ames, Baldwin, Barnwell, Benson, Boudinot, S. Bourne, W. Findley, Fitzsimons, Gilman, Goodhue, Heister, Huger, Learned, Muhlenberg, Murray, Milledge, Page, Sedgwick, W. Smith, J. Sturges, Thatcher, Tucker, Wadsworth, Ward.—24.

N O E S.  
Messrs. Ashe, B. Bourn, Clark, Dayton, Giles, Gordon, Greenup, Grove, Hillhouse, Jacobs, Kitchell, Lee, Livermore, Moore, Niles, Schoonmaker, I. Smith, J. Steele, Sumpter, Sylvester, Venable, White, Williamson, Willis, A. Orr.—25.

A motion to fill the blank with 1100 dollars was lost; a motion for 900 was agreed to—the bill was ordered to be engrossed, and then the House adjourned.

### Philadelphia, Dec. 5.

Yesterday the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, met at the State-house in this city.

The superior court of New-Jersey, held at Trenton last month, conferred the degree of Sergeant at Law on Elisha Boudinot and Joseph Bloomfield, Esqrs.

It is mentioned in the North-Carolina Journal of the 14th inst. that depredations are daily committed by the Indians in the vicinity of Nashville—and that a military force was collected under Gen. Sevier, who was about to march into the Indian country, from whose exertions an important blow was expected.

The Light House on Cape Henry was lighted the seventeenth of November.

Extract from a letter dated Amsterdam, Sept. 27, 1792. received by the Cheslerfield Packet.

"The French affairs grow daily more serious; the Prussian army has advanced beyond Chalons, which was the principal rendezvous of the French, who retreated in great disorder.—The Duke of Brunswick approaches Paris, by slow and cautious marches, and it is imagined he will reach it about the 1st of October; riots and the most abominable measures continue in that devoted city. As the Prussians approach, it is expected the mob will become more outrageous, that the murder of the King and Queen cannot be prevented, and that the city will probably be plundered and destroyed. The new national convention has assembled and declared itself constituent and supreme, they however submit to the mob in every thing, and sanction their vile proceedings. The armies have had several actions, in which the undisciplined French have been generally worsted. As the Friend of Liberty, I weep over the fate of that unhappy people."

Extract of a letter from Massachusetts, dated October 13, 1792.

"It is happy for the union that the northern States are tranquil, and firm in support of the government. I cannot but hope the malcontents are a small minority in any of the states. The distractions in the government of France, I wish may be a warning to Americans.—Unhappy Frenchmen, what will be their fate? Unless Providence, by unexpected events, check the natural course of things, the confederate kings with their armies, may impose on the French just what form of government they chuse. Their assembly always appeared very destitute of men of abilities, and for a long time past they seem to have been governed by the mob of Paris.—How

happy for France, and for the cause of humanity, had their Assembly been composed of such men as filled our National Convention—or the Congress since. There does not appear to have been one ADAMS in all their assemblies—nor have they a WASHINGTON to command their armies, and to advise the supreme power as he often did Congress to great public benefit. The state of things in that distracted kingdom, adds another striking evidence in support of our *Solon's* great principle in government. It is a consoling consideration, amidst the folly and vices of the rulers among men, that "He whose throne is in the Heavens, ruleth over all." Certain it is, but few nations are capable of preserving their freedom."

It is very possible for parties to take greater liberties than they have hitherto done with the persons and properties of others—but it is impossible to take greater with truth.—Perhaps, they say, they forbear to touch what belongs to their neighbors—but their consciences are their own, and they use them as if they were not to be held to give any account. Did any contested election in England ever carry a partisan farther than to say, with a late writer—"As a federalist I am compelled to prefer Governor Clinton to Mr. Adams."

The argument in fashion is, That man will be faithful as Vice-President in the support of the Constitution he abhors, who holds the first office in a State in open contempt and violation of a Constitution he pretends to respect. It would be too much that one man should have the marring of two Constitutions.

Several late writers have assumed the signature of federalist—but as that might lead to mistakes, they add something to shew what sort of federalists they are.—Read their pieces and there can be no mistake. A uniform federalist, a republican federalist and an anti-federalist, will pass for the same in the twilight of Truth.

[Intended for our last Gazette.]

From what quarter of the Union (asks a correspondent) springs the opposition to the re-election of Mr. Adams? From those states where republican institutions abound? Where, to use the emphatical and truly republican language of that consistent patriot, the means of knowledge are so universally diffused, that not one human creature is of necessity brought up in ignorance? Does it spring from those patriots who are the best acquainted with the whole tenor of that gentleman's political career, through the arduous conflict of this country, for all that men ought to hold in estimation? Does it originate with men who have distinguished themselves as friends to the equal rights of men, either in public or private life? Does this opposition manifest itself on the part of those who can point out the time, place or occasion, when they ever suggested, seriously proposed, or honestly supported any plan or plans for promoting the interests of the great body of the people, by diffusing light and information among them, through the medium of public seminaries of learning? Does it appear on the part of the old and tried republicans—or can it be traced to the comparatives of Mr. Adams in a single instance?—These queries must be answered in the negative. The inference is plain. Let not the people be deceived by the specious pretences to patriotism of those who seek to destroy their confidence in the long tried and faithful guardians of the public liberty.

It must be acknowledged by every one, that the means of happiness were in the power of the people of the United States, previous to the auspicious event of adopting the constitution, to as great an extent as they now are—but the most stubborn adversary of the measures of the general government which have called those means into exercise and effect, will not assert that no change for the better has taken place.

Savannah, Nov. 17.

#### NOTICE TO MARINERS.

That on Thursday morning last, the 18th inst. the Lantern of the Light-house on Tybee, took fire, and was entirely consumed, in consequence of which unfortunate accident, no light can appear for some time. It is expected that the building will soon be repaired, of which due notice will be given.

Lately died in New-York, Dr. JAMES COGSWELL—a man, whose virtues and abilities make his death a public loss.

#### PACKET NEWS.

Just at the time the Prussians were near starving; The Duke and all his Austrians near Burgoyne'd; Just as the French this state of things observing; Laid down their arms themselves, and chang'd their mind. Just at this moment sails the luckless packet, And now the lies make a confounded racket.

#### PRICE OF STOCKS.

6 per Cents,	21 1/2
3 per Cents,	12 1/2
Deferred,	13
Full shares Bank U. S.	45 per cent. prem.
1/2 shares,	56

#### TO DISTANT SUBSCRIBERS.

A recent regulation at the Post-Office, requiring that newspapers should be left there the Day before they are to be dispatched, will prevent this Gazette from leaving the city by Wednesday's post, as usual—till a new arrangement.