

For the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES.

THE sun dispenses only life and light—but the moon is chiefly useful to light drunkards home—and what havoc it makes with our intellects. It is strange, but no less true than strange, that my brain is, every new moon, a perfect whirling. I see fights, I hear oracles—I dream dreams, I forget dreadful things—I am in a paroxysm for two or three days, and my family think it prudent to watch me during all the term of the fit. I will not tell you how much I have suffered on these occasions. The blue devils, I declare on my conscience, are worse than the black—for the latter only tempt the mind with sinful pleasures, or inflict punishments on the human bodies by pinching, thrusting up thorns into the flesh, or by tooth-achs or gouts, or rheumatisms. But the blue devils make themselves at home in the brain, and there they light their infernal fires. I hope I have suffered enough to expiate my sins in this world. However, my family have found some relief for themselves as well as for me, by a very fortunate expedient. They offer me at the beginning of the fit, pen, ink and paper. I retire to a room, and there I sit and scribble alone—and what do you think I write about. Politics, Sir, nothing but politics—and all my madnels runs off into paragraphs against the heads of departments—the excise—the assumption—the bank, &c. I foam at the mouth—howl and cut capers—and then I scribble away about the corruption of our government, the speculations of men in Congress, the abominable dark designs against liberty—and then I cut and slash the old Tories, and Aristocrats and Lordlings. Sometimes my madnels runs into prophecy. I see our government turning into a monarchy. I see the golden throne of a despot. I see the crowd coming to beg the honor of slipping their necks into the nooses of the halsters which hang, as thick as girths and cruppers, in a saddlers shop, round the throne. But this monarchy raving is not frequent: It happens very like the Spring tides, only when the moon has more than ordinary influence. Thus, Sir, after scribbling a whole day, perhaps two, my frenzy gets all upon paper, except so much as to induce my sending my paragraphs to the press, and then I am surprised to see them from time to time coming out in print. During my lucid intervals, I forget all I have written, and therefore I am not able to prevent the publication. But my mind begins to reproach me. I see that I do mischief—a certain Gazette is filled with my ravings, and the passions of the people are kindled against the National Government. What shall I do? Being mad while I write scurrilous and libellous pieces, the moon is more to blame than I am. Whether the printer be in his right mind to insert such incoherent and groundless slander of the government, I know not. Poor man, I fear he is as much a lunatic as I am myself.

I take this method to give the country notice, that as I cannot help my disease, it will be the fault of sober people if they suffer themselves to be deluded by my suggestions.

PETER CRACKBRAIN.

Foreign Affairs.

From Paris papers brought by the Suffrein Packet, arrived at New-York the 28th ult. from l'Orient, after 60 days passage.

PARIS, November 16.

THE commissaries of the prisons have reported, that among the number of prisoners, there are nine forgers of false assignats. Just published—The Geography of France, describing according to the new mode of divisions, departments, &c.

In this judicious work is laid down the limits of every department, the mines, minerals, and other natural curiosities of France, the manners, customs of the people, &c. with a summary of the origin and progress of the present revolution; an account of the decrease of monarchy, and oppression in that empire, and the introduction and progress of the Rights of Man.

Copy of a letter from General Labourdonnaye, read in the National Convention.

"I announce to you, Citizens, that my advanced guard will this day march for Anvers, through Termonde, and that it will arrive there to-morrow, or at farthest the day after. The citadel will surrender the same day to the army of the French Republic, under my command. The inhabitants of Anvers are armed, the cockade is there very numerous, and there remains in the citadel only five or six hundred men, and some sick. The Austrians have sent off in boats the greatest part of their provisions; my advanced guard has intercepted some of them, laden with grain and ammunition, at Tirlemont; but, notwithstanding all our diligence, they are too far advanced for us to have it in our power to capture the whole convoy. I have sent some battalions to occupy Bruges & Ostend, by which means the Northern Army will be in possession of the maritime parts of all Austrian Flanders. "LABOURDONNAYE."

VIENNA, October 27.

Though it be decided that the war against France shall be continued next year, and immediate sums wanted, which cannot return again into the hereditary states, the emperor has resolved not to tax the provinces, nor to demand any subsidy. The Aulic council of war has already made contracts for considerable deliveries of provisions.

The artillery which served in the siege of Belgrade, is already ranged on the glacis of Vienna, to be transported to the combined army.

The hereditary states of the empire, have engaged to furnish the emperor 40,000 recruits the levies of which are to commence with the month of November.

LONDON, November 14.

Van der Noot is now in London, but for what express purpose is not known.

We shall certainly do credit to the French Generals, as we promised, in praising the bravery of their conduct in the late action before Mons, which was one of the most bloody and well fought battles that modern times can furnish us an example of. Indeed it is the only action of consequence which has happened during the present war.

The French Generals and soldiers have gained themselves immortal military honors in this action; not that the Austrians, perhaps, deserve it less than their opponents, for both parties fought most bravely; but the French were more in numbers, and their artillery, perhaps the finest in Europe was much better ordered.

What may be the event of this battle it is impossible to foretell, but we have too much reason to apprehend that the whole country of Brabant will become a conquest to the French. It will not however be pusillanimously delivered up, for we are given to understand, that the Duke de Saxe Teschen was determined to dispute every inch of ground with the French, and accordingly had taken a strong post at La Halle, two leagues only from Brussels, where he intended to make another stand.

Neither Mons nor Tournay are places of any strength, nor were they capable of making resistance. Both places have been long since dismantled of their fortifications.

Mons, which is situated 26 miles S. E. of Brussels, was dismantled in the year 1748, after being restored by the French at the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle.

Tournay was dismantled of its fortifications in 1745, while it was in possession of the French, who took it after the famous battle of Fontenoy. This city was also restored to the Austrians at the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle.

The only places of strength in the Austrian Netherlands, are Namur and Luxemburg; the latter is deemed impregnable, though the fortifications are small.

The French have not totally banished all ideas of Heaven and Hell, for a letter from General Wimsden concludes thus, "may the Devil run away with me."

A cheese has been made as a present for his Majesty, at North Leach Bean, in Cheshire, it is near fourteen hundred weight, and nine yards in circumference.

It is reported, that the Duke de Angouleme, the Count d'Artois' eldest son, a youth of about 17, has been killed in a duel by a Colonel in the army.

A matrimonial alliance, it is presumed, from some prefaces, is intended between some of the Royal Cousins: i. e. the King's youngest children and the Duke of Gloucester's son and daughter.

Mr. Erskine means to exert his abilities in defence of Thomas Paine; several of his friends, Lord Loughboro' in particular, are said to have endeavoured to dissuade him from it; but his resolution appears fixed.

On the 17th of October was married at Bourdeaux, in France, the Right. Hon. the Earl of Shrewsbury, to Miss Hoy, of Dublin. This lady is daughter of Mr. Hoy, a stationer, of that city. His Lordship touching at Bourdeaux, in his elegant yacht, saw Miss Hoy at the house of a merchant to whom he had letters of credit—Her charms were found powerful enough to secure her the first Countess's Coronet in England.—The present Earl of Shrewsbury is premier Earl of England, and possesses a clear estate of eleven thousand per annum.

The fashion of cropping is become extremely prevalent among the ladies. The lovely Rutland's Dutchess took the lead; the example was irresistible, and now,

"Those tresses which Venus might deem a favor, Fall a victim at once to an outlandish shaver, Who his scissors applies with a little remorse, As a Fox-hunter crops both his dogs and his horse."

DUBLIN, November 15.

TRIAL AT KILMAINHAM.

John Lynam and Francis Potain, for assaulting a sheriff's officer in the execution of his duty, and refusing the said Lynam of Clontarf, the second of October; also, for a riot and assault on Denn's Maden.

This trial disclosed a subject worthy the serious attention of government. It appeared, in the course of it, that a colony of French Jacobins have taken up their quarters at Clontarf, and are laboring, by every art and industry, to inspire the townsmen with disaffection to the laws and constitution of the country.

On this occasion, Potain, a Frenchman, aided by seven or eight other foreigners, raised a mob and refused Lynam out of the hands of the bailiff, (who had arrested him for debt) and carried him off in triumph, exclaiming "Vive la Republique Francoise!"

They were found guilty, and the Court in passing sentence, reprobated their conduct with very becoming severity; observing, that having found an asylum in this well regulated country, from the distraction of their own, it would become them, instead of preaching tumults and sedition, to have exhibited a grateful and willing submission to the laws of the land.

That they were mistaken in thinking, that the mas of this people were not too deeply impressed with the blessings of our free and admirable constitution, to be tainted by such frantic doctrines; and that they should be taught practically within the walls of the prison, that genuine liberty was best consulted by chastising licentiousness.

To be imprisoned for three months, to pay ten marks, and to give security for their good behavior for three years.



CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, January 28.

The Eill to authorize a Loan in the Notes or Certificates of the several States which, on a final Settlement of Accounts shall have a Balance due to them from the United States—having been read the third time—the Question, shall the Bill pass? was put by the Speaker:

Mr. Page having moved the previous question, said, that in consequence of his aversion to waste the time of the House, which he always regarded as precious, he generally waited for the question, without troubling the House with his reasons for his vote; always satisfied, if what occurred to him in support of it was better heard and understood;—but that, when the names of the voters were to be held up to the public view, and when the vote he meant to give had been represented, by some members for whom he had the highest respect, as injurious to public creditors, as retropective, and therefore unconstitutional in its operation, he thought himself bound to endeavour to justify his vote.

If the creditors, Mr. Speaker, who are the object of the bill before you, were, by the amendment, excluded from an application to their debtor; or, were the general government the only body to whom they could look for payment or common justice, I would most scrupulously avoid interfering with their claims; or did the bill extend its influence to all the creditors of the states impartially, I might listen to some objections which have been made to a discrimination, said to be produced by the amendment. But, Sir, granting all that has been objected to have its full force, I only find, that such creditors of creditor states (for no others are to be benefited by this bill) as may not be able to establish their claims founded on a speculation, which was grounded on a supposition that this bill would pass, without the amendment now proposed, will only be left where they are; and where, in my opinion, they ought to be left, that is, to look to their original contract; and I do not contribute to seduce them from their attachment to their state and from their reliance on its plighted faith. I wish not to see them deluded into an acceptance of four per cent. interest from the general government of the United States, instead of six from their respective states, which, I believe, are willing and able to comply with their engagements. But, Sir, if I were even an advocate for the assumption, and for the complicated funding system, I should vote for the amendment, now proposed; because I think with my colleagues, Madison and Giles, and the member from Maryland, Mercer, that it is not only well calculated to prevent an improper scramble amongst speculators for the supposed benefit of the bill, but is proper to rescue the members of Congress from temptation as well as from suspicion of speculating on their own laws. I therefore think, Sir, I can honestly and conscientiously vote for the amendment.

Whilst I am up, said Mr. Page, I will take the liberty of remarking, that those gentlemen who so loudly and warmly replied to the member from Maryland, and supposed they were vindicating the honor of the House, in my opinion were greatly mistaken; their conduct tended to check free debate and bold investigation, and their remarks respecting newspaper information, might be a dangerous check to the freedom of the press.

What avails, said he, the declaration of our constitution, respecting the freedom of the press, if it may be restrained by the conduct of members in either House of Congress? And, surely, it may be restrained by such remarks as have been so warmly made by members here, merely on a member's stating information in his place, and referring to newspapers for further confirmation; bold must be the printer, and on a broad basis of a large subscription must he stand, who can repeat information so severely quoted in this House. The honor of the House can never be vindicated by such expressions; on the contrary, they may lead our constituents to suppose, that at least passions prevail here, and animosities exist, which ought to have no place amongst us; and, indeed, such conduct may tend directly to produce consequences of a serious nature to members concerned in debate.

(Debate to be continued.)

WEDNESDAY, January 30.

In committee of the whole—on the bill to amend the act to promote the progress of useful arts—Mr. Steele in the chair.

The motion offered by Mr. White, the purport of which is,—to amend the first section, by striking out what relates to the Director of the Mint, and inserting a clause which provides for the appointment of an officer to be denominated the Director of Patents,—was further considered.

Mr. Livermore objecting to the form of the amendment as indirectly providing for a new establishment,

Mr. White withdrew his motion, and offered the following, in substance, in lieu of it.

That an office shall be established for the purpose of granting patents, vesting in the authors of useful inventions and discoveries the exclusive right to their inventions and discoveries. Said office to be under the direction of an officer to be denominated

Mr. Livermore said, he liked this motion because it brought the object directly before the committee. This object, however, he disliked; it founded like a provision for granting dollars per annum; a found which he was always averse to. He was altogether in favour of devolving the business on some officer already appointed;—the Secretary of State he mentioned as a proper officer to superintend this business.

Mr. Page said he should not agree to the amendment if he thought a salary would be the consequence. He supposed that provision might be made for the officer without recurring to a salary; he alluded to fees from the patentees.—He objected to devolving the business on the officer of the Mint, or of the Secretary of State, as interfering with the essential duties of those officers; and though the gentlemen at present in those offices are abundantly qualified to execute the duty, yet it may happen that persons may hold those appointments at some future time, not qualified for this particular service.

Mr. Murray observed, that the amendment contemplated, the appointment of one officer only, and that to be fixed at the seat of government. He suggested several considerations in favor of investing the Judges of the District Courts with the power of granting patents in the several states, for the greater accommodation of the citizens, and the more extensive encouragement of genius.—He was in favor of giving greater facility to the issuing of patents, than has hitherto been considered as advisable.

Mr. White said he thought the gentleman's idea would not do, as patents might be issued in the different parts or extremes of the Union for the same invention.

Mr. Murray said that he conceived a remedy for this inconvenience might easily be devised.

Mr. Boudinot said, that one great objection to the present mode of obtaining patents was, the great delay and expence incurred by the applicants in being obliged to wait till the officers now empowered to decide on applications, could find leisure, from the special duties of their offices, to attend to them.—With respect to devolving the duty on the Judges, he hoped that would not be done; as it would be found, judging from the engagements of the District Judge of Pennsylvania, that they could not possibly attend to the business.

Mr. Baldwin objected generally to any amendment which should provide for the institution of a new department. His opinion was, that no office should be created till there was an absolute necessity for it.—He entered into a brief consideration of the subject, and attempted to shew that the business might with ease and convenience be attended to by some officer already appointed.

Mr. Williamson, adverting to the principles of the bill, said it was an imitation of the patent system of Great Britain; that the provisions were such as would circumscribe the duties of the deciding officer within very narrow limits; the settlement of disputes arising from contested claims, will devolve on referees altogether.—He was decidedly opposed to erecting a new department—expence to the government would be the inevitable consequence.

The question on Mr. White's motion was negatived.

Mr. Murray then moved to strike out "Director of the Mint," and to insert the name of the District Judge in which the party applying for the patent resides. The reason, he observed, which induced him to make this motion was, the total dissimilarity between the circumstances of this country and those of Great Britain, where it is thought essential to have but one officer to issue patents. That country is one entire kingdom—issuing patents is a prerogative business—London is one great mart of genius, enterprise and profit; which makes it a proper center to attract every man who means to profit by his inventions. In this country, there are fifteen governments, sovereign in themselves for certain purposes; the citizens are generally situated at a great distance from the seat of government; the expence and inconvenience of coming from the remote parts of the Union, to take out patents, operate as a great discouragement to men of genius in low or medium circumstances.—The only objection which had been urged against the proposition, is that arising from conflicting patents being issued.—This difficulty he thought could be obviated; patents are matters of record; this would afford the means of detection, but if some partial inconveniences should arise, they would be more than counterbalanced by the facility afforded to the citizens to obtain what, in this country, they have an undoubted right to—the benefits of their inventions.

Mr. Williamson offered a few objections to this motion, the question on which being taken, it was negatived.

On motion of Mr. Sedgwick, "Director of the Mint" was struck out, and Secretary of State inserted.

Mr. White moved an amendment by way of proviso, the purport of which is, to preclude the inventor of an improvement to a machine from using the original invention, or the author of the original machine from using the improvement. This motion, after some opposition, was agreed to.

Mr. Williamson moved an amendment to the second section, which provides that the requisite oath, or affirmation, may be taken before any Judge of the United States, or of any particular state, or any person authorized to administer an oath in the place where the applicant resides.—Agreed to.

Mr. Williamson proposed another amendment, which should vest a discretionary power in the officer to dispense with the production of a model when he should think proper.—Agreed to.

The committee proceeded in the discussion of the bill, as far as the 7th section—they then rose and reported progress, and the House adjourned.