

py of this proceeding before the President of the United States.

The Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Friday, May 16th, 1794.

Mr. Foster reported from the committee on enrolled bills, that they had examined the bill, entitled, "An act for the relief of Reuben Smith, and Nathan Stroug," and that it was duly enrolled.

A message from the House of Representatives by Mr. Beckley their Clerk: "Mr. President—The House of Representatives have appointed a committee to join such committee as the Senate shall appoint, to report what business is necessary to be done before the close of the session, and when it shall be proper to end the present session; and request the appointment of a committee on the part of the Senate.

"They have passed a bill, entitled, "An act making provision for the payment of the interest on the balances due to certain States, upon a final settlement of the accounts between the United States and the individual States," in which they desire the concurrence of the Senate.

"The Speaker of the House of Representatives having signed sundry enrolled bills, I am directed to bring them to the Senate for the signature of the Vice President." And he withdrew.

The bill last brought from the House of Representatives for concurrence was read the first time.

Ordered, That this bill pass to the second reading.

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the resolution last sent from the House of Representatives, for the appointment of a joint committee, and

Resolved, That they do concur therein, and that Mr. King, Mr. Ellsworth, and Mr. Hawkins, be the committee on the part of the Senate.

Ordered, That the Secretary acquaint the House of Representatives therewith.

The Vice-President signed the following enrolled bills, to wit, the bill, entitled, "An act providing for the payment of certain expenses incurred by Fulwar Skipwith, on public account." The bill, entitled, "An act further to authorize the adjournment of Circuit Courts." The bill, entitled, "An act for erecting a light-house on the island of Seguin, in the District of Maine; and for erecting a beacon and placing three buoys at the entrance of St. Mary's river in the State of Georgia." And the bill entitled, "An act for the relief of Reuben Smith and Nathan Stroug," and they were delivered to the committee on enrolled bills to be laid before the President of the United States.

The petition of Moses Brown and others, merchants of the State of Massachusetts, praying that further time may be allowed than the law provides, to enable them to recover the drawback on certain foreign goods intended for exportation, for reasons stated in the petition.

Ordered, That this petition, together with the petition of Oliver and Thompson and others, merchants of the State of Maryland, on a similar subject, be referred to Mr. Cabot, Mr. Ellsworth, and Mr. Hawkins to consider and report thereon to the Senate.

On motion, Ordered, That Mr. Langdon have leave of absence after Monday next.

The Senate adjourned until Monday morning at 11 o'clock.

From the MARYLAND JOURNAL, &c.

CONVERSATIONS.—No. III.

THIS truth, continued Agathon, as we entered the Lyceum, will appear more visible in times of imminent danger. If there should exist a party in the republic, who aim at overturning the government, or an ambitious faction, who aim at the administration, they will be seen, in such conjunctures, to adapt their measures to the current passions of the people, in order to reduce those who are charged with the care of the public welfare, to the disagreeable dilemma of opposing a popular error, or risking the safety of the state, by yielding to it.

We had now reached the first hall, where we found Timon and Zenocrates, engaged in a very animated discussion, and surrounded by a very numerous crowd, who seemed to listen with uncommon attention.

Do you want revenge? exclaimed Timon; trust only to your passions; who ever thought of revenging insults in cold blood? Philip has done you immense wrongs. Why think of sending to him a herald, to demand satisfaction? It will be much better to seize upon one of his principal towns first, and send the herald afterwards to inform him upon what

terms you will restore it. He has violated your rights, why not violate his?

Good Heavens! said Zenocrates, when has it become a rule in politics, to decide upon the interests of a state during those violent movements of the soul which pervert the judgment, and change, in the fight of the most considerate, the true aspect of things? To enable a people to determine wisely, ought we to excite their passions, or render them tranquil? Surely it is one thing to obtain justice, and another thing to revenge an insult. If, Athenians, you are of opinion that war ought to be made upon Philip, on account of the insult, it is very well; but if your object is only to obtain justice for the wrong Philip has done you, would it not be prudent to put yourselves in a condition to keep the town before you resolve upon seizing it? Timon tells you that Philip will never attempt to recover it, should you take it; but how can Timon know what Philip intends? Philip has committed a flagrant violation of your rights, and Timon advises you to become as criminal as Philip. I should like better, O Athenians, to see you conform to the customs of wise nations, the obligations imposed upon you by justice, the duties of humanity, and the interests of the republic. Call upon Philip to repair the wrong he has done you, and as the town cannot be removed, prepare to seize it with a sufficient force, should justice be refused. By this upright proceeding you will be applauded by mankind, and favoured by the Gods, who abhor injustice and violence.

At a little distance stood Menisteus, explaining and recommending to the Athenians a new system of commerce.

Menisteus always discovers ingenuity, said Agathon; but his genius inclines him too much to abstractions, or, as Crito expresses it, the occult qualities and essential forms of politics. His present proposal is not a sleight of hand, and reminds me of the project of Epimachus, who believed that he could change the position of the world by the power of mechanics: In like manner, Menisteus thinks that he can transfer manufactures and wealth from one country to another by a fiscal operation, or resolve of the people of Athens. It is to this turn of mind we ought to ascribe his delight in metaphysical probabilities, above practical demonstrations; and to the tincture he has received from the visions of his master, those beautiful systems so incompatible with experience and irreducible to practice. If from a rhetorician, Menisteus should ever happen to become a senator, do you think that he could persuade the Athenians, that it was good for them to demolish their fortifications, to be without galleys, to abridge their trade, and resist the introduction of those establishments which have increased the riches of other countries, and assisted their governments with loans, in their wars and emergencies? These are among the projects of Menisteus to render the Athenians more happy. The race of refiners, continued Agathon, have of late greatly multiplied; but, owing to the flourishing state of industry, and easy circumstances in which most of the people find themselves, their harangues have as yet attracted few pupils, save among the revolutionists, the discontented, and ambitious.

I perceive Agathon, said Lyfander, that you allow the refiners no merit for their everlasting endeavors to please the people. I should be very far from censuring them, replied Agathon, for attempts of this nature, were they, instead of low and contemptible means, to employ only against those they abuse, superior virtue, knowledge, and genius. Are you sure, Agathon, that the people would always decide in favor of the latter, or that superior virtue, knowledge, and genius, would invariably obtain their suffrages? I am sure, Lyfander, that no counterfeit coin can long continue to circulate, without losing the gilding that concealed its baseness.

The sun had nearly arrived at the golden doors of the west, and the throng and the disputers were fast leaving the Lyceum. Let us seat ourselves for a moment on this vacant bench, said Lyfander, and beg Agathon to indulge us with the conclusion of the remarks, which our entrance here has suspended. You forget, said Agathon, that we are to sup with Anarchus, and that it is time to put ourselves in motion, if we would avoid being the last of his guests. As to what I have to say, it can as well be talked over during our walk thither, and will serve to give a greater relish to the animated sallies we may expect to have from the first wits of Athens we are to meet at supper.

The accounts received yesterday, from a neighboring republic, contain the summary and essence of every thing that can be said on the subject of our investigation. Behold that republic, continued Agathon, so justly celebrated for the consummate distribution of its powers, prostrate and in ruins by the usurpations of the people. Its fundamental ordinances vested in an assembly the right of making laws, and in the people the right to appoint its members; it assigned also to the people freedom

of opinion, and the right to state to the assembly their opinions and grievances; and to the assembly freedom of debate and the uncontrolled exercise of their judgment. Some of the rhetoricians held, that freedom of opinion meant freedom of abuse, and the right of the people to state their opinions a right to dictate and control. In time, the people believed the new doctrine, and put themselves under the banners of the rhetoricians. The fundamental ordinance, vested in a select body, chosen by the people, the sole right to make treaties; the rhetoricians contended that a different body might prescribe the conditions. In time, the people believed this too, and celebrated the discovery by public rejoicings. The fundamental ordinances defined the court in which, and the persons by whom, the chief magistrate might be impeached: The rhetoricians said he might be impeached by clubs. If the republic was threatened with war, the rhetoricians declared against navies, and armies, and taxes, as dangerous to liberty. Did the preservation of peace comport better with the welfare of the republic, they urged the necessity of measures calculated to prevent accommodation. If the fittest man in the republic was appointed ambassador on such an occasion, the rhetoricians inveighed bitterly against sending any, and called upon the clubs for their opinion. The rhetoricians held that a prosperous state of the republic, by rendering the people content, was the sure forerunner of tyranny. To demolish this barrier against their power, it was necessary to render the measures which had been instrumental to this prosperity, and upon which much of it depended, odious and detested. This was attempted by falsehoods incessantly repeated, and ascribing the most mischievous intentions to the most virtuous citizens. The weak, with whom suspicions are always proofs, and the wicked, in whom proofs of innocence produce no change of conduct, conspired alike to propagate the clamour, till, by its violence and progress, it acquired a kind of certitude in the minds of the multitude. Their confidence in the most tried patriots was converted into distrust, obedience to the laws into an intolerable burden; clubs into assemblies; and every citizen into a legislator. The crisis of their fate was nearly arrived. Virtuous men gradually disappeared from the public councils, unable to stem the torrent of disorder, or desparing to save the republic. The rhetoricians composed toasts on the occasion for the clubs, and took their place, amidst the acclamations of the people. These, however, did not long exercise the authority thus acquired. They split into factions. Civil dissensions ensued, and—

At that moment we arrived before the house of Amarchus, who was conversing under the portico with Timoleon the poet. Let us thank God, whispered Agathon, as we approach them, that we find none of these symptoms of disorder and dissolution at Athens.

Baltimore, May 12, 1794.

CONGRESS.

House of Representatives.

Friday, May 9.

On the report of the committee on Ways and Means—A motion being made by Mr. Nicholas to strike out all the stamp Duties.

Mr. Smith, S. C. chairman of the committee observed that in the present situation of our affairs very considerable additional revenues were necessary for the support of government and to defray the expenses which had been or were likely to be incurred this session. He stated that the actual probable appropriations for the current year, would amount to the sum of 7,694,217 dollars, while the revenues to meet them would not exceed the sum of 5,318,584 dollars, leaving a deficit of 2,375,633 dollars—But as one of the items in the expenditures, viz. the million for foreign intercourse would probably not be wanted, or if wanted, might perhaps be borrowed, the committee had only stated the interest on that sum, namely 60,000 dollars, which therefore left to be provided this session the sum of 1,435,633 dollars. And he was clearly of opinion that Congress ought not to rise until they had provided that sum. He was within bounds when he stated that sum as sufficient; for if the million above alluded to (and which was destined for an object which, the philanthropy of every member would urge the

employment of, if practicable) should be wanted, and there should be any difficulty in borrowing it, an event not impossible, the house would regret the neglect of so interesting an object. The committee, however, calculating on the improbability of the whole of that sum being called for, and on the prospect of a loan and unwilling to impose any further burthens than were absolutely essential, had ventured to depend on the interest alone, though it might have been more expedient to have provided for a part of the principal. Mr. Smith said that in the report, the sum of 650,000 dollars was stated as for contingent expenses which might, or which might not be incurred; since the report had been made, a law had actually passed for augmenting the military establishment, by an addition of a corps of artificers and engineers, for garrisoning the fortifications, the expenses of which he estimated at 170,000 dollars; another law had passed authorizing the President to call into service 80,000 militia; although this was a contingent expense, yet as the President was authorized to incur it, a provision ought to be made for discharging it, this was estimated at 150,000 dollars, the only item then remaining under the head of contingencies, was the provisional force; it was probable this might not be wanted; it would rest with the house to determine whether the present crisis did not require such a measure, and in that event, whether provision ought not now to be made to carry it into execution. He confessed he was among those who thought that a vigorous preparation for war was one of the best means to avert it; at all events, if it was the design of any nation to force us into it, we ought to be prepared for it both as to military strength and pecuniary resources; admitting however that this measure was not contemplated it only produced a reduction of 330,000 dollars from the sum total of appropriations and would still leave a deficit in our ways and means of 1,105,633.—Mr. S. observed that the appropriations of the current year would exceed those of any former year by upwards of two millions and a half of dollars;

The several items which occasioned that excess were as follows:

Building and equipping six frigates,	700,000
Fortifications of ports and harbors,	300,000
Building additional arsenals and purchase of military stores,	350,000
Appropriation for foreign intercourse,	1,000,000
Corps of artificers and engineers,	170,000
Expences of militia,	150,000
Dolls.	2,670,000

Deducting the expenses of the militia, which was a war expense, still there remained the sum of 2,520,000 dolls. as an excess beyond any former expenses for our peace establishment, for there was not an item of expense in the foregoing statement which would not, or might not be incurred, even if peace should continue.

It was a fortunate circumstance, at this moment of public exigency, that the national treasury was in possession of a surplus, arising from the revenue of former years, which surpassed our most sanguine expectations.—This surplus amounted to the important sum of 1,618,584 dollars, and was a most satisfactory evidence of the growing productiveness of our revenues in times of peace and tranquility, and while it helped to enable us to face the increased expenditures of the country, it taught us to cherish that state of things, which was productive of such national blessings. But we could not flatter ourselves that the revenues of this year would be as productive as those of the preceding year; many circumstances would contribute to diminish them considerably, even if peace should not be interrupted; the very prospect of a war would cause a diminution of exports from Great Britain, to the United States, and at the same time a diminution of consumption among ourselves: prudent men, apprehensive of war, would retrench their expenses in order to meet the diminution of their incomes, and to be better able to contribute their quotas to the public treasury. The measures which have been discussed in Congress, relative to a sequestration of British debts, and a suspension of all commercial intercourse, would, by destroying that