

Monday, January 9.

Mr. Dearborn, from the committee to whom it was referred to enquire whether any and what alterations ought to be made by law in the compensation of the officers of the United States, reported it as their opinion, that the salaries of the secretary of war and attorney-general should be augmented 500 dollars, and that the salaries of the secretary of state, secretary of the treasury, secretary of war, attorney general, postmaster-general, treasurer, comptroller of the treasury, commissioner of the revenue, auditor, register, assistant post-master, and keeper of military stores should be increased 25 per cent. They also recommend that the act for regulating the compensations allowed to clerks in public offices, passed last session, should be continued for the year 1797, and no longer; and also that an additional compensation should be allowed to the loan officers of Massachusetts and New-York, of 375 dollars, and 300 dollars to be distributed amongst the clerks in each office; and that the sum of 120 dollars be allowed amongst the clerks in the loan-office of Pennsylvania for the present year. This report was twice read, ordered to be committed to a committee of the whole, and made the order for Thursday.

Mr. Dearborn, from the committee to whom was recommended the bill for establishing a uniform militia system throughout the United States, reported a new bill, which was twice read, committed to a committee of the whole, and made the order for Friday.

Mr. Swanwick, from the committee of commerce and manufactures, reported a bill for licensing pilots in the states of Virginia and Maryland, within the waters of those states. It was read a second time, committed to a committee of the whole, and made the order for Friday.

A message in writing was received from the President of the United States, which the speaker having opened, he declared to be of a confidential nature, and that, therefore, the house and galleries must be cleared of all but the members and the clerk. It was cleared accordingly.

After the doors had been closed little more than half an hour, they were again thrown open, and

Mr. Dwight Foster, from the committee of claim, made a report on the petition of William Alexander, appointed a surveyor of army lands, in pursuance of an order of July 9, 1788, which was in favor of the petitioner. It was referred to a committee of the whole, and made the order for tomorrow.

Mr. Swanwick, from the committee of commerce and manufactures, made a report on the petitions of Richard R. Saltonstall, Jacob Broom, Robert Dawson, William Crawley Jordan, John Nicholson, and the proprietors of the glass manufactory of Boston, and of sundry hat manufacturers in the United States.

Mr. Saltonstall had formerly obtained a patent for securing to him an improved use of Sumac; and complained that he had been disturbed in his right by others who pretended that his discovery had been made in other countries before he obtained his patent: he prayed for security in the enjoyment of his patent, or compensation for his expenses. The committee reported that a court of law was the proper tribunal for an appeal, and resolved that the prayer of the petitioner could not be granted.

Jacob Broom is the proprietor of a cotton mill on Brandywine creek. He prays that the duty on raw cotton may be repealed, and that an additional duty may be laid on cotton goods imported.—The committee reported, that to repeal the duty on raw cotton imported, would be to damp the growth of cotton in our own country, and that imported cotton goods already paying a duty of 12 1/2 per cent. the tax was sufficiently high to allow ample room for competition. The petition was therefore not granted.

Robert Dawson is a manufacturer of bolting cloths at Wilmington. He prays for a repeal of the duty on raw silk, in order to aid his manufactory, the produce of which he says is superior to any imported. The committee reported, that the superior quality of these bolting cloths was sufficient to recommend them—without embarrassing the revenue, by a repeal of the present duty. The petitioner had leave to withdraw his petition.

William Crawley Jordan is a silk manufacturer, who is desirous of establishing a silk manufactory in this country, and prays Congress to fill him with some addition to his capital. The committee reported, that if our finances were in a state to encourage a scheme of this sort, they should very much doubt of its success from the high price of labor. This petition was also disagreed to.

John Nicholson, of this city, and the proprietors of the glass manufactory at Boston, pray their manufactories may be encouraged by an additional duty on glass imported. The committee report it as their opinion that the high price of labor, which time only could cure, was a greater obstacle to their manufactory than the duty, and that therefore the prayer of the petitioners ought not to be granted.

Sundry manufacturers of hats, in the United States, pray for an increase of duty on hats, for the encouragement of their manufactory. The committee's opinion upon this petition was the same as upon the last, and it was of course disagreed to.

The reports were twice read, and the house concurred in them.

Mr. W. Smith called for the order of the day on the report of the committee of ways and means, to whom it was referred to take into consideration the subject of further revenues, and the provisions requisite for improving and more effectually securing the internal revenues, which being agreed to, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, and the following resolution was brought under consideration:

Resolved, that it will be expedient to abolish the tax laid on spirits distilled from materials of the growth or produce of the United States, at any other place than a city, town or village, at which there shall be one or more stills, which, singly, if only one, or together, if more than one, shall be of less capacity than four hundred gallons; and to collect this branch of the revenue from a tax on the capacity of the stills.

Mr. Macon said, it appeared to him that this provision would have the effect to destroy all the small stills in the country, and to establish large distilleries. In the country, where fruit was generally distilled, this would be a great inconvenience, as it was necessary to be done immediately. He believed the system was going on pretty well at present, and he thought it unnecessary to make any change in it.

Mr. Henderson hoped the resolution before them would not be agreed to. He believed it would operate against many of the small stills. Perhaps, indeed, this was the meaning of it; for, if he remembered rightly, a gentleman from South-Carolina (Mr. Harper) on a former occasion, had expressed a wish that small stills might be annihilated, and large distilleries erected. With respect to New-Jersey, Mr. H. said, the article of cyder was mostly distilled.—It was difficult to carry this to a distance, and therefore the number of small stills was very considerable; but, should this resolution be carried, it would subject them to great difficulties, and, in many instances, amount to a prohibition from distilling at all. He believed the system at present was pretty generally satisfactory.

Mr. Callan said both the gentleman from North-Carolina and from New-Jersey, seemed to be certain that the plan proposed would have the effect to destroy small stills, and from thence derived their objections to it. He wished they would show how this could be done. He believed the law might be so carried into effect, but he also believed that it might be so arranged as to avoid it.

Gentlemen had said that the present system was very well. He would say it was not so. It was unproductive. The expense of collection upon that part of the Revenue which was drawn from spirits distilled in the country, on domestic materials cost from 20 to 23 per cent. collecting. What the net amount of the duty was, he did not recollect; he believed it was from 150,000 to 200,000 dollars per annum. It was clear, he said, that the moment a direct tax was laid upon the still instead of the spirits, two thirds of the expense of collection would be got rid of; all that was necessary being to measure the still, instead of having an officer to watch the operations of the distiller. Here, he said, frauds could not be easily committed. Nothing was necessary to be known but whether a man distilled or not; if he distilled without a licence, he would be liable to a penalty, and this was all the fraud which could be practised.

Another great objection to the present system, Mr. G. said, was, that it gave great advantages to the unfair trader over him who traded fairly. Some were advantaged through ignorance, and some through design; an oath, he said, would bind some men, but not all. This would be altogether prevented by the plan proposed.—Every man would stand upon the same ground.

It was true, and it was the only objection that could be made to it, that it an equal tax was laid upon the capacities of all stills, there would be an advantage in favor of large stills: because upon large stills, large capitals would be employed, and they would be worked throughout the whole year; but, in order to remove this objection, he thought a certain scale should be formed, in order to proportion the duty according to the size of the still. He was of opinion, that this single provision would remove all objections. If the resolution was agreed to it would of course be referred back, to bring in a bill, and then it would be seen whether this evil could not be remedied in the way mentioned. All the revenue officers, Mr. G. said, were agreed as to the propriety of this measure.

Mr. Davison said at first the report appeared to him in an unfavorable light. He feared it would have the effect nor was the fear an unreasonable one, to injure small stills; but he now saw it possible to prevent their injury, and even to protect them. He thought there was a regulation of greater importance than the one mentioned by the gentleman last up; he thought small stills should have the privilege of taking out licences for a shorter time than a year. Foreseeing that the House would have an entire control over the business, when it came before them in the form of a bill, he did not mean to oppose it in this stage.

The Resolution was agreed to; the Committee rose; the House concurred in it, and it was referred to the committee of ways and means, to bring in a bill.

BOSTON, January 23.

[The following commercial communications are important; we tender our thanks to the gentlemen who were kind enough to send them to our press.]

(Boston Price Current.)

Extract of a letter from a respectable Mercantile House in CADIZ, to their Correspondent here, of September 28, 1796.

Our late harvest of Wheat, has proved very scanty, much less than last year; and in consequence, I am of opinion, we shall require a good deal of foreign supplies this winter and next spring, when of course the price must rise in proportion to our wants. This event must also enhance the value of Flour ere long. At present, American Wheat would fetch here from 62 to 64 s per fanega, on board, and Flour from that quarter is selling in this Bay, at 18 to 19 current dollars per barrel, and but little on hand.

Rice has become very scarce of late, and has been sold these few days past at the fine price of 9 1/2 to 10 dollars per quintal; but towards the end of the year, and less time, I think it will be worth even more.

Notwithstanding the many cargoes of slaves arrived here within these few months back, the entire have been bought up at 140 to 150 dollars per long thousand on board, and in quality, for the pipes, the hoghead and barrel slaves in proportion, even so high as 70 dollars have been paid for the latter, the exportation of our wine in qr. casks being very considerable, and said prices all likely to be supported the demand being very great throughout the Kingdom.

Your white beans are worth here at present from 8 to 9 dollars per sack of 200lbs. on board, and the black eye'd from 4 to 5 dollars; but as we expect little or no supplies this year from Holland, the price will certainly rise as we approach Lent, when the consumption of these provision articles, and Rice is greatest.

As to Indian Corn, I can't positively say how it may answer here, towards Christmas, when it was formerly much demanded for the fattening of Swine in this place, but these two years past we have had but very little at Market.

Bees wax, of the fine yellow sort, is a choice article here, and meets a quick vent, at 70 to 71 dollars per quintal on shore.

The war will put a total stop to our usual supplies of Cod Fish from Newfoundland, which consequently would favor much the sale of New-England Fish, at this market; it will also contribute to enhance the price of Wheat, Flour, Rice, &c. here; this event may also cause a demand for Salt Beef and Pork, but these in general are most precarious articles here, and seldom turn to advantage.

P. S. Our White Salt might now be had here for 6 dollars per last of two tons, put on board.

Holland proof Brandy, at 114 to 116 dollars per pipe.

Oil-proof, at 148 to 140 dolls. p. pipe.

PRICES CURRENT at CADIZ, Sept. 14, 1796.

AMERICAN PRODUCE.

Table with 3 columns: Item, Dollars, Cents. Items include Beef, Beans, Butter, Cod Fish, Flour, Grain, Hams, Hogs Lard, Pitch, Rice, Rohn, Staves, Tar, and Bees Wax.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Price. Items include Whale Bone, Pork, SPANISH PRODUCE, Almonds, Anchoives, Brandy, Oil, Figs, Lemons, Olives, Raisins, Salt, Saffron, Castile Soap, Sarsaparilla, Vinegar, Vermicelli, Wine, Malaga, Catalana.

Dimensions of lumber fit for this market: Pine boards, from 24 to 36 feet long, and 2, 3, 3 1/2, 4, 5, 6 inches thick, and 10 wide; do. 12 feet long, 12 inches wide, 1, 1 1/2 thick; masts, spars, &c. for building ships; beams of all kinds; Scantling from 4 by 5, to 6 by 8.

COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Table with 2 columns: Location, Exchange Rate. Locations include London, Genoa, Paris, Amsterdam, Hamburg.

The following articles, viz. Indigo, Cochinele, Coffee, Cottoo, Cinnamon, Elephant's Teeth, Nutmegs, Pepper, Pale Bark, Red, do. Sugars are extremely high at present, without buyers or sellers, on account of our political state with England.

By this day's Mail.

BALTIMORE, January 27. Latest Foreign Intelligence.

Translated for the Maryland Journal. From German papers, received yesterday by the ship Anthony Mangin, Capt. Sanford, from Bremen, and which were kindly handed to us by a gentleman of this City.

TURIN, October 20.

The death of the King of Sardinia, occasioned a quite different system in our states; it was hardly known to the nation, when the peasantry in Piedmont, opposed by force of arms, the passage of a French body of troops, and the government has hitherto done nothing in this case.

LONDON, November 11.

Sir Sidney Smith continues a prisoner in the Abbey at Paris. It is said our ambassador has orders to negotiate his release.

A very considerable fleet, it is said, will sail shortly to Gibraltar, with a reinforcement of troops and provision. Lord Howe it is said will have the command.

An army of men 50,000 are to march immediately to the sea coast of the counties of Cork and Derry, to protect the fourth coast of Ireland.

The most pressing orders have been sent to Portsmouth and Plymouth to get all the ships in those ports ready as soon as possible.

STRASBURG, November 4.

The general head quarters are still at Schiltigheim. General Desaix is still on the Island of the Rhine; his head-quarters are at Ruprechtshausen. In Kehl nothing has taken place yet. It is uncertain when the hard battle, for which both parties prepare themselves by this fortifications, will take place; the most formidable measures for a fortunate issue have been taken on both sides: the whole village of Kehl is getting demolished by the republicans; and a building at some distance is burnt down to clear the front. The Austrians have on their side, demolished Neumuhl and Kork, or turned them into barracks. Our troops have invested Speierback and the city of Speier.

KARLSRUHE, November 7.

Almost every day Imperial troops, as well cavalry as infantry, march through our city and neighbourhood, with much artillery, partly down the Rhine, and partly to Kehl; the formal investment of which is shortly to commence, while the first parallel is ready; and the trenches will be opened this day. A large transport of heavy artillery set off from hence for that purpose. Last Friday afternoon, we heard here from thence, a very heavy but short cannonade; afterwards we heard, that the French had made a sortie with a superior force, chiefly of cavalry, upon the weakest advanced posts of the Austrians, near Neumuhl, and had drove them back at some distance, whereby some lives were lost on both sides, whereupon the French had returned, and the Austrians again entered in their former position.

MANHEIM, November 8.

Yesterday the French approached with some thousands strong, under favour of a thick mist, the environs of Mutterstadt and Rheingensheim. It came to a cannonade and skirmishes that lasted till midday. At Mutterstadt the enemy had taken post, but in the evening withdrew themselves.

Agreeably to information from Offenbura, where his royal highness the archduke still remains, the bombardment of Kehl waste to have begun this day or to-morrow.

The printers of the Federal Gazette were yesterday favored with a number of Hamburg papers to the 18th November, brought by the Anthony Mangin. The following, from an hasty perusal, appear to be the most prominent articles: That the imperialists were making the most vigorous preparations to bombard Huningen, and to demolish all the fortifications at that place.—That the Austrians had approached so near to Kehl with their batteries as not only to fire into the town, but also into the fortifications of the bridge and on the bridge itself; and that the inhabitants of Kehl had received orders to remove with their effects to Strasburg, as that place would be demolished.—That the head-quarters of the arch-duke Charles were at Offenbura.—That it was reported a cessation of arms was about to take place between the imperialists and French, on the Rhine, that during the armistice a treaty of peace would be set on

foot, and that a number of couriers were going backwards and forwards between Paris and Vienna.

On the 16th instant, off Cape-Henry, the Anthony Mangin, captain Stanford, was brought to by the British frigate Thetis, captain Cochran, who very politely made an offer to captain S. of provisions, water and every other article he might stand in need of. When captain Stanford left Bremen, the refut of lord Malmesbury's embassy was not known, but the general opinion was, that no peace between England and France would take place this year.

Extract of a letter from the captain of a vessel now at Cape Nichols Mole, to his owner in this city, dated December 21.

"I arrived here the 17th instant, and finding no established convoy from hence, either to St. Mark's, L'Archaye or Port-au Prince, I engaged a private convoy, by paying 100 dollars, which I thought it most for your interest to give, and was to have sailed the evening of the 20th, but on the evening of the same day, I had two of my men pressed on board a man of war lying in this port, by which means have lost my convoy. I have been using every means to have my men liberated, but all to no effect. I now wait (like many others of my American brethren) for a convoy, as it seems there is no possibility of getting into the bite without one.

"The above vessel was navigated with five hands."

The brig Maria Willmans is arrived at Annapolis, PROVIDENCE, January 12.

Extract of a letter from Copenhagen, to a gentleman in this town, dated October 5.

"Our government have lately passed a resolution, permitting American vessels to bring India goods to this market, direct from any port in the East-Indies, China excepted, on the same footing in all respects as Danish ships. We expect this measure will give our friends in America a good opportunity of extending their India trade."

The ship Liberty, captain John Arnold, from Copenhagen, is arrived at Newport.

NORFOLK, January 21.

On Thursday arrived the schooner Citizen, captain Gilbert, in 17 days from Guadeloupe. This vessel was captured on her passage from Norfolk to Martinique with an assorted cargo, and carried into Point Petre, Guadeloupe, where the cargo was taken (at their own prices) for the use of the French republic, and a bill given on the treasury at Paris, at 6 months sight, for the amount. Capt. Gilbert informs, that the executive directory have ordered the capture of all Americans bound to or from British ports. Capt. G. also informs that Victor Huges had ordered the capture of all Americans bound to a neutral port, found within 3 leagues of an English island. There were ten vessels captured and condemned under the above orders; among whom were the copper bottomed schooner Argus of Baltimore, and the brig —, of Alexandria, formerly of Salem. The reason of the schr. Citizen being cleared was, because she was captured previous to issuing the orders of the directory.

NEW-YORK, January 30.

We learn that Gen. Schuyler is chosen with great unanimity in both houses, a Senator in the place of Col. Burr.

Arrivals at New York, Days.

Table with 2 columns: Ship Name, Days. Includes Ship Joseph, Fame, Abner, Brig Mercury, Schr. Polly, Wilson, Sloop Fortitude, Ballard.

The brig Westmoreland, Troop master, of this port, was captured off the Savannah, by a French privateer, and sent for New-Orleans.

Arrived at Newbury port, brig Betsey, Captain Jenkins, 66 days from Newdieppe, mouth of the Texel. Dgr. 23, lat. 40, 43, long 63, 42. Spoke brig Somerset, Nicholson, from this port for Hamburg, 7 days out, had a feverish case, lost his water, and every thing off deck but his boat. The Three Friends, Leeds Packet, and Minerva, of this port, lay at Newdieppe, when capt. Jenkins sailed.

Captain White of the brig Betsey, on the 13th ult. was spoke by capt. Miller of the sloop Nancy, who said his vessel had sprung a leak, and wished him to take himself and crew on board the Betsey, which capt. White did; and concluding that the sloop would shortly go down, they proceeded on their voyage. Two hours after the sloop's being abandoned, she appeared lively. Capt. White doubted her being past saving; captain Miller said she would soon sink. Notwithstanding, capt. White encouraged three of his men, viz. Wm. Ventin, John Goodwin, and Matthew Logan, to go on board, they did so, accompanied by Capt. Miller. In 15 minutes after boarding her, they freed her, got under sail, and kept company with the brig 5 or 6 days, and arrived safe at Norfolk. The sloop is left in charge of Mr. Dow, late mate of the Betsey.

The above was handed us by a gentleman of this city. We have not been so particular in the detail as our correspondent, the facts only are simply stated.

THE LYCEUM, for free Debate, ON WEDNESDAY, February 1,

Will be debated,

"OUGHT A REPRESENTATIVE IN A REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT TO ACT ON IMPORTANT MEASURES FROM THE RESULT OF HIS OWN JUDGMENT OR FROM THE WILL OF HIS CONSTITUENTS LEGALLY EXPRESSED?"

FOR SALE AT WILLIAM PRIESTMAN'S No. 15 south Fifth street,

Between Market and Chesnut streets. Quantity of Plain Gold Watches; Gold enamel'd & ornamented with pearls; Silver and metal ditto, by the first makers in London and Paris; a Time-Piece by Arnold; plain gold by Mudge & Dutton; several diamond and diamond & pearl lockets, rings, earrings, &c.; about 60 lb. of Scotch thread; double barrel'd guns, in case, by Manton; quantity of plated table, tea, and night plated candlesticks, branches, &c. 46 volumes of Law-Books, in one lot, mostly reports, folios, scarce and valuable books; books of Prints;—amongst which are Martyn on shells, Statue de Rossi, Calmer's Dictionnaire de Bible, Johnson's Poets, 75 vols. Baker-ville's Addition, 4 vols. Biographia Britannica, Opere de Machiavelli, Ruins of Balbec, Blair's Chronology, Plinius Historia Naturalis, Montauson's Antiquities, State Trials; Evelyn's Silva; Postlewayte's Dictionary, Ritrattii duominii illustri Tolcani, Ouevres de Bayle, Caracci.