

The House of Representatives of this State, met at eleven o'clock on Saturday, agreeably to adjournment, and after receiving and reading two or three private petitions, proceeded, according to the order of the day, to the appointment of the printers of their journals, when there again appeared to be an equal number of votes for Messrs. Hall and Sellers and F. and R. Bailey, and of course no decision took place. The question was, therefore on motion, postponed till Tuesday. The hour of twelve having arrived, a message was received from the Senate, informing the house, that the Senate were assembled and ready to receive the promised communications of the Governor of the Commonwealth. The House, in consequence, adjourned for half an hour, and proceeded to the Senate Chamber, and a few minutes after they were seated. The Governor entered, accompanied by the Secretary, and delivered the following Address:

Gentlemen of the Senate, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, The alarm which occasioned an abrupt adjournment of the Legislature, has been justified by the melancholy catastrophe that ensued; but I rejoice that so early an opportunity occurs to congratulate you upon the perfect restoration of health to our metropolis. While, therefore, we indulge the feelings of sympathy and sorrow for the unfortunate victims of the calamity, we are called upon devoutly to acknowledge the beneficence of Providence, and to pay a tribute of gratitude to the meritorious citizens, who have been the instruments of that beneficence, in mitigating the severity, and accelerating the termination of the late contagious sickness.

From the various documents that will be presented for your information on this subject, you will collect the particulars of the progress and extent of the mortality. It is represented, in general, that during the months of August, September and October, there died, within the city and its suburbs, 1250 persons; that of those persons, 1000 fell by the prevailing fever; and that the number of persons who escaped, after being affected by the contagion, may reasonably be computed at 4000. Compared with the mortality of the year 1793, when Philadelphia suffered under a similar visitation, this statement is enough to evince the beneficial effects that have been produced by the early evacuation of the city; by the asylum which the tents erected on the Commons, afforded to an indigent class of fugitives; and by the previous institution of a public hospital on the eastern banks of the Schuylkill. Of the activity and fidelity, likewise, with which the business of the board of health was transacted; of the judgment and philanthropy with which the legislative grant was expended; and of the liberality with which individuals contributed, by personal as well as pecuniary aids, to alleviate the public distress; the testimonials are obvious to every eye, and must be grateful to every heart. The incidental expenses of the health-office are estimated at 19,000 dollars, and the gratuitous contributions (including the legislative grant) amount, it is believed, to 33,000 dollars. With these resources alone, therefore, and surrounded by objects of desolation and misery, during a term exceeding two months, the sick of this populous city have been humanely cherished—the deceased have been decently interred—the aged and infirm have been comfortably sustained—and, in the genuine spirit of benevolence, the industrious have been employed and rewarded. To a recapitulation so consolatory let me add, as a just eulogium on the moral state of the community, that amidst all the temptations and opportunities to plunder and riot, which the crisis might naturally be supposed to create, the rights of property were never more respected, nor public order more rigidly maintained.

Thus emerging from a scene of complicated calamity, it becomes our indispensable duty to contemplate the cause, and (as far as human precaution can avail) to counteract and repel its future operations. It is, indeed, to be seriously lamented that a diversity of opinion, in relation to the origin and nature of the disease, should have raised an acrimonious spirit of controversy, disgraceful to science and injurious to society; but it is a sufficient satisfaction to know, that a difference in the modes of cure can have no influence on the question of prevention; and, fortunately, in that respect, whether the disease has been imported from foreign countries, or was generated here, the several remedies proposed are not only perfectly consistent with each other, but will always be most efficacious when employed together. Permit me then, gentlemen, with a solicitude suited to the importance of the occasion, to recommend to your immediate attention, the plans which are detailed by the college of physicians, by other learned members of the faculty, and by the inspectors of the health-office, in the reports that will be submitted to your consideration.

By these reports, it will be found, that in order to guard against the introduction of pestilential and contagious diseases, from foreign countries, the establishment of a board of health, restricted in point of number, so as to ensure responsibility; composed, in part, of medical characters, and excluding, entirely, persons whose interests are liable to be immediately affected by the laws of quarantine—is essentially requisite. The public buildings on State Island should be enlarged, so that separate accommodations may be appropriated for the healthy and the diseased, as well as places for fumigating, and magazines for storing the cargoes of vessels; and a permanent public hospital should

be erected on the neighbouring commons, for the reception of any inhabitants of the city infected, or supposed to be infected, with a contagious sickness. From the beginning of July to the end of October, in every year, all vessels arriving from the Mediterranean, the coast of Africa, the West-Indies, and the continent of America to the southward of Florida, should be compelled to perform a fixed and effectual quarantine. The powers of the officers employed in this department of our police should be equal to all its objects, and to every possible emergency; and the punishment to be inflicted upon those who shall transgress the law, should be of the most exemplary nature.

For obviating all danger to the public health from any domestic source of contagion, an attention to the cleanliness of the city, its avenues, and vacant lots, seems to be the only necessary care. The powers of the respective corporate bodies, which are constituted for the local purposes of the city, the northern liberties, and the district of Southwark, should, therefore, be rendered completely competent to establish and enforce the various regulations, which this object will suggest. But the interposition of the legislature will, also, be indispensable, in order to insure such a supply of water, through the medium of canals, as appears to have become essential to the general convenience, as well as to the health of the community.

In delineating this outline of the measures that are proper to be pursued, I am sensible gentlemen, that I have opened to your view a wide field of labor and expense. But, when you reflect, that probably, for want of such precautions, the business of the city has twice, within a period of four years, been deranged; its population dispersed; and its prosperity endangered; you will perceive, that, independent of every sentiment of compassion, and upon a mere calculation of interest, the whole commonwealth is deeply concerned, that every effort of wisdom and finance should be made, to protect the seat of our government and commerce from the return of so dreadful an evil.

It is with peculiar pleasure, under the consideration which has been just suggested, that I advert to the progress of improvement and opulence in every part of Pennsylvania. The effects of a liberal and judicious policy, actuating and guiding the legislature in the disposition of the public wealth, are discernible in the greater facility, with which the interior intercourse, by roads and rivers, is maintained; in the augmentation of the number of inhabitants; and in the flourishing condition of the various settlements that have been recently formed. The auspicious result, therefore, of our experience, at once, enables the state to defray the expense, and invites its legislature to promote the accomplishment of every object of public utility. Besides those objects to which I have now referred, the institution of public schools, the reformation of the laws for regulating elections, the organization of the militia, the encouragement of inland navigation, and the improvement of roads and highways, merit particular attention; and will afford an ample scope for the display of patriotism and public spirit. The report of the agent of information (which I have directed to be communicated to you) satisfactorily exhibits the progress in executing the several contracts that have been formed for improving our roads and rivers: but it is a justice peculiarly due to the contractors, for opening a canal at the falls of Conewago, in the river Susquehanna, publicly to announce the completion of that important undertaking; and to acknowledge, from actual observation, that the work appears to be an honor to the state, as well as a lasting monument of their enterprise, skill and integrity. The disbursements of the contractors have so far, indeed, exceeded the sum appropriated by law, that on a principle of equity, as well as to excite an advantageous emulation, I am induced to recommend such a modification of their contract, as will allow the exaction of a toll from passengers, equal to the charge of hiring persons to attend the locks, and to keep them in constant repair.

For many other topics interesting to our constituents and claiming a legislative interposition, permit me, gentlemen, to refer, to the communications, which have been made on former occasions to the general assembly. In the judiciary department you will find, that the want of the powers of a court of equity, has been deemed a radical defect in our system of jurisprudence; and the salaries allowed to the associate judges of the court of common pleas of Philadelphia county (where business of great moment and difficulty constantly occurs) is manifestly inconsistent, as well with the official independence contemplated by the constitution, as with the reasonable compensation, to which every citizen is entitled for the services that he renders to the public. The theory of our penal code (justly the pride of Pennsylvania) seems hitherto to be free from any rational objection. The superintendance and discipline of the criminal prisons and penitentiary houses, are, likewise, highly meritorious; and completely efficient. But it is incumbent upon me to declare, that the debtor's apartment presents a contrast of wretchedness and disorder, which is painful to every sense of humanity, and destructive to every principle of virtue. Let me earnestly therefore, gentlemen, entreat, that an immediate remedy may be applied to this encroaching grievance. The expediency of abolishing imprisonment for debt has repeatedly been under the consideration of the legislature; but whatever may be the issue of your deliberations on that point, the regulation of bankruptcy, and a revision of the laws relating to insolvent debtors, are subjects which the present state of commerce and credit will not suffer to escape your attention. It will be necessary, likewise, to include in any arrangement, that shall be made on this branch of our police, some provision for the case of debtors, who, after

being arrested by civil process, may be committed for offences, to the criminal jail; so that those who have the custody of their persons, may be held responsible, with sufficient securities, as well to the creditors, as to the public.

From the interesting subjects which appear upon your records, none will be thought more deserving of selection, than the state of the territorial controversy in Luzerne, and the neighbouring counties. With respect to the controversy itself, nothing has occurred to change the opinion that was delivered in a former Address; but, considering the extensive sale of public land, the rapid advancement of settlements, and the menacing collision of legal rights and equitable claims, in other quarters of the State, it becomes daily more important to the security of private property, and to the preservation of public tranquility, that your decision, in the present case, should evince the disposition and the power to assert the jurisdiction, and maintain the rights of our government.

There will be presented, Gentlemen, for your information, a copy of the Contract which has been made for importing 10,000 stands of arms; and, as soon as the arrangement can be completed, you will, also, receive a copy of the Contract for manufacturing a like number, agreeably to the directions of the act of Assembly. The report of the Commissioners for erecting the public building on Ninth-street, will shew the present situation of that work, the manner of disbursing the money appropriated for accomplishing it, and the balance that remains unapplied. You will, of course, prefer, during the course of the session, some use for the building; since it cannot now be employed according to the original design.

In examining the account of our Finances, you will find, Gentlemen, that from the 1st of January (when there was a balance in the Treasury of 94,718 Dollars and 85 Cents) to the 30th of November last, the public receipts have amounted to a sum of 187,951 Dollars and 27 Cents; and that the disbursements during the same period, have amounted to the sum of 210,914 Dollars and 60 Cents. The specie, therefore, at this time in the Treasury, amounts to the sum of 71,755 Dollars and 12 Cents: But it is proper to remark, that, in the course of the ensuing month, besides the supplies constantly flowing from the operations of the Land-Office, the fees of Public Offices, and other sources of contribution, there will be a further accumulation of about 80,000 Dollars, from the Dividend on the Shares of the Bank of Pennsylvania, and about 2,900 Dollars from the principal and interest of the Stock of the United States, the property of the State. You will, also, observe, that many of the items of expenditure are of a temporary nature; while many of the instruments of revenue become daily more productive; and our annual income will receive an addition of about 13,600 Dollars, as soon as the period for paying interest on the Deferred Stock shall arrive.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, This view of our Finances must be peculiarly pleasing to you, on whom the duty of providing for the public expenditure, is, in the first instance, devolved by the Constitution. Though the existing appropriations are great; and the extraordinary, as well as current expenses of the present year, will demand a considerable disbursement, the Treasury, you perceive, is abundantly replenished, and will justify a liberal attention to all the objects of public necessity and improvement, which have been submitted to your consideration. To these, let me add, that upon the representations which I have received, justice seems to require some augmentation of the public salaries that were fixed antecedently to the present Government, and which have since become, manifestly, unequal to the most economical support of the respective officers and their families.

Were it necessary to resort to any Tax, in order to effectuate the purposes which are contemplated, it will be recollected, that in a free country, under a Republican system, nothing can be more deplorable, than that the citizens should be called upon for such pecuniary contributions, as will constantly excite their vigilance, in scrutinizing the administration and the expenses of their government. But, independent of this policy, and this resource, the fees on a variety of public instruments, and particularly on Tavern and Marriage Licences, might be conveniently and profitably increased. The fees of Marriage Licences, indeed, demands attention on other principles; for the material alteration in the state of population and society, since the passing of the act to prohibit clandestine Marriages, must suggest the propriety of considering, whether it is longer safe to leave the authority of performing the Marriage ceremony, and the penalty for transgressing the law, upon the footing on which they now stand.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, In a communication to the Legislature of Pennsylvania, whose citizens are eminently interested in the prosperity of the union, and have always been conspicuously attached to the independence and honor of the national character, the welfare of our sister states, and the maintenance of an harmonious intercourse with foreign countries, are topics, which will never be thought indifferent or improper. I cannot, then, conclude this address, without offering you, in both respects, a cordial congratulation. The natural resources of the United States, and the industry of their inhabitants; the perfect enjoyment of civil liberty, and the general diffusion of useful knowledge; have produced a state of social happiness, which it has rarely been the fate of nations to attain, and which it can never be too zealously our endeavour to preserve. Hence, therefore, we must regard, with peculiar pleasure and solicitude, the measures, and the fair prospect that success will attend the measures, which in the administration of the Federal Govern-

ment, have been pursued, to rescue our commerce from deprecation, and to procure redress for the injuries that have been suffered, and to revive that amity with the French republic, which, as it was coeval with our independence, every generous American must wish to find congenial with the spirit and reputation of our political institutions.

To establish those institutions upon a genuine republican foundation, was the great object of our revolutionary contest: And, I trust, Gentlemen, that we, that our posterity, will never behold the calamitous day, when, by invidious machinations, or by open force, so glorious a foundation shall be undermined, or overthrown.

THOMAS MIFFLIN.

Philadelphia, December 9, 1797.

The address being concluded, and the governor having retired, the members of the house of representatives returned to their own chamber, and after ordering 100 copies of the governor's address to be printed for the use of the members, adjourned till three o'clock on Monday.

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MR. FENNO, The remarks published in your paper of Tuesday were intended to shew the right of the French to demand a role d'equipage unfounded, and that the condemnation of our vessels and property in consequence has been unjust in the extreme.

The mistaken policy of those violent measures must be evident to every man whose mind is not jaundiced by the evil eyes of party spirit and prejudice—it has left room for the enemies of France to boast that "however justly we complained of spoliation on our commerce by another power, far greater excels have been committed by the French!" One proceeded on the avowed, known and defined rules and practices of all nations where treaties had not stipulated to the contrary; the other in violation of a deliberate agreement, guided by the suggestions of the moment, on the changeable system of the seeming political dictates of each day, submitting to the narrow whimsies of short sighted speculative politicians, who forgetful that France by changing her monarchy into a Republic, had effected a revolution in her objects as well as her ministers and agents; but they losing sight of the design of modern embassies to America, buried in intrigue and selfish importance the commercial, manufacturing and trading interests of their country. Overlooking the principles they professed of national honor, disinterestedness and justice, (sentiments conveyed alike by the breath of the most perfect policy and dignified humanity) they pursued the illusive, deceitful and visionary advice of self created societies, angry, prejudiced and designing demagogues!!! Where now are those imagined warm friends to France? in what an unfavorable light have they placed her in the eyes of United America?

Yet it is not impossible but measures unfriendly (in event) to both nations may have been advised by weak or mistaken though well meaning men in this; but the ministers of France here since the revolution had it not in their power to give proper advice, having shut the doors of information and advantage against themselves and their country; attached to a party they anxiously endeavoured to increase the number without estimating the merit or information of the men who lifted under the unpromising influence of a positive or implied opposition to the government and measures of their own; unacquainted of a clear truth that "he is either a bad man or of small talents and industry, who exercises his genius to the injury and prejudice of his country whose bread he eats." The American whose advice or counsel should seem to favor the interest or promote the prosperity of any foreign country, while at the same time his own was benefited thereby and the peace, harmony and security of it probably blended, therewith, might be listened to with safety, and perhaps his ideas adopted with propriety; but the frigid designs of studied deceit or selfish advantage even from the lips of shilly calmly committing the interests of his own nation ought to be heard with apprehension, and followed with fear. It is like bribing a man to betray his trust and then expecting him to be true to you.

The French it is evident have been told "you may imitate the conduct of Great-Britain, your friends are numerous in this country, you may force the United States to break this treaty," forgetful of a most excellent lesson of instruction upon the subject of compulsion, "touch all that he hath and he will curse thee to thy face."

In consequence however of believing this deceptive Counsel, certain steps and measures were taken, but they were varied or changed as often as they were always found erroneous, inapplicable to the ground of the fictitious complaints on which they were founded, or to the ultimate object. At one time "all commercial relations were suspended." This could justly have done nothing more than exposed enemies property on board American vessels; which was afterwards declared to be the design by another Edit; but after many modifications in order to harass our commerce, 'twas at length determined to take our ships and cargoes, and a demand was made of a Role d'Equipage—as well might they say every vessel shall have a list of both houses of Congress.

When those unjust things began to be practiced, France had the good wishes of all America for her success, and the best disposition for her future interests universally prevailed—plans were already suggested for establishing a society for the promotion of trade, manufactures and commercial intercourse between the two Republics, the flowing fairs of freedom seemed already sheeted home and spread from thence to thence. At the same moment the conduct of Great-Britain impressed universal resentment, anger, and absolute antipathy, a more propitious moment could not offer for securing the friendship and favourable disposition of the

American government and people; but instead of embracing it thro' the channels of commerce, the only true political path in this country, recourse was had to intrigue creating a sign in order to discover them, and originating the odious epithets of Aristocrat and Democrat unknown amongst us before, to divide the people and weaken the Government.

We were told and hear still about a treaty Mr. Genet was authorized to make, certainly we were to judge with what nation we could make the best bargain. How would it be now if treaties only were to procure us benefits? France is yet in too infant a state as to manufactures, suddenly to open an extensive trade with us so as to rival Great-Britain; it must be the work of time: commerce may be courted, influenced, shared, but not forced or compelled. "Trade is tender, it is like the sensitive plant, touch it and it shrinks, press it and it dies."

A great portion of our European trade originates in the importation of manufactured goods, which creates a reciprocal commerce. Vessels employed to bring those articles, must at certain periodical seasons be at the ports where they are to load. Thus they return to those ports tho' with cargoes to be consumed elsewhere, or in other countries, and where vessels are sent direct to those other countries, it is by way of remittance to England, where German goods as well as their own are obtained upon extensive credit. From hence results that those who can give the longest credits only can enter the list of advantageous competition, and with that equality, those who manufacture the best and cheapest goods maintain it. When France shall have established tranquillity at home the cheapness of living there will nurture manufactures, and the employment and application of honest industry, now become honorable, will be lucratively exerted; the smiles of peace will cherish the efforts of ingenuity, and the firm shine of freedom and plenty reward it; experiments will be repeated till rival labor there, successfully contends for rival preference—then and not till then, can intercourse extend with us.

In the mean time repetitions of violence and tedious temporizing may require some remedy free from the horrors of war, which their sufferings though originating in a just contest for their liberties, should teach us to shun. Whatever measures are adopted to effect this desirable end should be so-like-expressed to all the belligerent powers that if circumstances produce unlike effects the United States be free from blame.

Recourse was had before to an embargo, and if Mr. Smith (S. C.) and those gentlemen who generally voted with him had been supported in the motion for its continuance the aggressor and all the powers of Europe interested therein would quickly have confessed the United States hold most important power in time of war—that of starving or greatly distressing the possessions of any of them in the West-Indies. As such a resolution as general as the former might now reduce the value of grains, flour, rice, provisions &c. It is conceived the desired object may be answered by an embargo excepting all national vessels of war of whatever country they may be. By such a qualified restriction the most powerful at sea would get supplied, our produce would still find a sale, and our property be secure from plunder. It could not afford just cause of complaint, and we should continue to preserve the invaluable blessings of peace.

A FRIEND TO LAWS & FREEDOM.

FOR SALE, By JOHN MILLER, JUN. & Co. No. 8, Chestnut-street. One hundred and eighty bales BENGAL GOODS, amongst which are, Guirahs, Satins, Balais, Tansia Coiffes, Guze nahs, Energing, Guzzies, Calicoes, Blue Cloths, Romall Handkerchiefs, Palampours, &c. &c. Amongst them a great proportion of the manufactures of Patna. December 1. \$

JUST RECEIVED, (via New York) AND NOW OPENING, BY GEORGE DOBSON, No. 25, South Third Street, An extensive and general assortment of HABERDASHERY, viz. Best London mixt Pins, Galloons and Ferrets, Common do. do. Worsted Bindings, assorted colours, Makensie's super patent white chapel No. 6, Imperial, Disper, and Nuns Thread no. 6 to 40, regularly assorted, Thread Tapes, Lile do. no. 120 to 500, Black and coloured Chenise Ribbands, regularly assorted, Satin and figured do., Coloured do. and Twist, Black Velvet, 1-4 to 12d, Silk and cotton Wires, Velva & pelon Satins, French Cambric, Do do. Ribbands, Scotch do., Shirt Moulds and Wires, Plain gilt and plated Black brush Feathers, Buttons, &c. &c. And a complete assortment of Goods, suitable to the present and approaching season, at reduced prices. Dec. 6. dtf

B A L L. MR. BYRNE's first Ball will be to-morrow evening next, 12th December, at O'Shiers Hotel, when several new Country Dances for the ensuing season will be introduced, composed, and figures adapted, by Mr. Byrne, for the amusement of the company in general. The Doors to be opened at six, and the Ball commence at seven. Gentlemen's Tickets one dollar each, to be had at O'Shiers—Ladies' Tickets, gratis, for the season, of Mr. and Mrs. Byrne, No. 174, north Sixth Street. Dec. 8.

The City Dancing Assembly, Is unavoidably postponed till the 14th inst. Dec. 9.

Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike Company. THE Stockholders are hereby notified, that the annual Election for Officers for the ensuing year will be held at the Company's Office in Philadelphia, on the second Monday in January next, at 10 o'clock, a. m. Wm. GOVETT, Sec'y. Decemr 7. 2ts m&wtj