

The owners of the Brigantine Mercury, William Ursin, master, (3) stored by a 50-inch privateer and sold at Court in 1870 December, may receive information respecting her, by applying to the Department of State.

The Printers in the sea port towns of the United States will render a service to the concerned, by inserting the above in their newspapers. Jan. 3.

Delaware and Schuylkill Canal Company. January 3d, 1798.

The Stockholders are requested to attend an adjourned meeting to be held at the Company's office at 6 o'clock Friday evening, Jan. 3. d3t

NICKLIN & GRIFFITH, At their Store on Walnut Street, near the Market. HAVE FOR SALE, 58 hds. of Jamaica Rum, Madeira Wine in pipes and hds. Teneriffe do. in pipes. Old Port do. in hds. Imperial Tea in quarters and eighths of chests. Sail Canvas, No. 1, to 3. Dimities, Ginghams, and Muslins, in packages suitable for the West India market. Nails assorted. Black quart bottles. Queens ware in hds. and crates. Yellow ochre dry in casks.

And at New-York, on board the ship DIANA, from Liverpool, exported round as soon as the navigation is open, Fine Liverpool Salt. Coals.

Spanish Brown. Venetian Red. Purple Brown. Patent white. White lead. Red lead. Colocath vitriol. 160 bundles Sheathing paper. Seaming twine.

Ship DIANA, For Sale or Charter. ALSO, Brig AMAZON.

N. B. The late firm of Philip Nicklin & Co. is now changed to NICKLIN & GRIFFITH. ediff. January 1.

Landing this day, From on board the schooner Two Friends, Daniel Crawley, Master, 80 hds. and 32 pipes of Jamaica RUM, FOR SALE BY George Latimer & Son. November 9.

James & Richard Smith, TAKE the liberty of informing their friends and the public, that they have removed their store to No. 54, South Front Street, next door to Edward Fox's Auction Rooms, where they have at this time for sale, a large and general assortment of European & East India Goods, Many of which are just imported in the Clothier, William Penn, & Co. Oct. 27.

NOW LANDING, At South-street Wharf, The Cargo of the Ship Concord, Captain Thompson, from Batavia. About 300 tons first quality Java Coffee (the whole having been selected) 80 tons Java Sugar, in canisters and bags 10 leaguers of old Arrack Nutmegs, Mace and Cloves

FOR SALE BY PETER BLIGHT. Who also offers For Sale, Just landed from Ship Amity, from Jamaica, 200 hds. Jamaica Sugar, and 170 do. do. Rum. November 23. d6w

Imported (via New York) on the ship Hero, from Madras and Calcutta, and for sale by the subscriber, at No. 61, Chestnut Street, between Second and Third Streets, the following articles.

Characanna Dorans. Chintz and Calicoes. Dacca worked muslins. Gillis Romals. Bandannoes. Nillas & Penafioses. Chaffa Romals. Blue cloth. Hair ribbon. Mull Mulhankerchiefs. Palempores. Patna do. Banares Opium. Laffer Cardium Seeds.

Samuel Wilcox, November 27. NOW LANDING, From on board the ship Farmer, lying at Harper's Wharf, Claret in hds. Ditto in casks. Sauterne Wine in do. For Sale, apply to John Whitesides & Co. No. 138, Market-Street. Also, on hand, Bourdeaux Brandy in pipes. Fine old Antigua Rum. A few casks of Claret, of a superior quality. November 29.

Canal Lottery---No. II. WILL commence drawing Monday, the 20th inst. Tickets for Sale in this Lottery, at Seven Dollars, at Wm. BLACKBURN'S Lottery and Brokers Office, No. 61, South Second-Street. Tickets in the Schuylkill Bridge Lottery, at Ten Dollars, where check books are kept for registering and examining in those, the City of Washington, No. II, and Paterson Lotteries, and information where tickets may be had in most of the Lotteries authorized by law in any of the States of the Union.

N. B. The business of a Broker, in buying and selling all kinds of Public Stock and Securities, discounting Bills and Notes of Hand, sale of Lands, Houses, &c. &c. will be duly attended to, by Wm. BLACKBURN. November 25.

STOLEN. Out of the subscriber's office a large blue cloth coat, half worn. The inside of the collar is faced partly with scarlet velvet and partly with scarlet cloth, and it has a silver hook and chain as a fastening. A suitable reward will be paid for restoring it. WILLIAM MEREDITH No. 111 South 3d Street. Dec. 16. d1w

The Gazette.

PHILADELPHIA, THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 4.

For the Gazette of the United States.

The following observations are respectfully submitted to the members of the State Legislature as some of the reasons why the inhabitants of this place think their request for a turnpike road through Germantown ought to be granted.

Because at particular seasons of the year the present road is so extremely bad as to be totally impassable with any kind of Carriages and even on Horseback, attended with such danger as to put the lives of the riders in the greatest jeopardy.

Because all the attempts to repair them have proved totally ineffectual, although heavy taxes have been paid to support them.

Because the distance they ask it for, being only 12 miles; will in their opinion ensure the success of the undertaking, and the constant use made of this road render the toll moderate.

Because one half of the whole distance is thickly inhabited, and forms almost one continued village for above five miles; the relief will of course extend to a greater number of inhabitants than can be accommodated within the same distance on any other road leading from the city.

Because the terms they desire it on are such as induce them to believe it will in the course of a few years after it is completed become a free road besides providing a fund for keeping it in repair forever without the burthen of taxes.

In addition to these reasons many others of considerable importance might be added, which for brevity sake are here omitted, but one of no small consequence to the city and advantage to the country, which I cannot forbear urging.—The cleanliness of the city since the awful visitations of '93 and '97 has been with great propriety urged. The removal of so large a quantity of manure and other vegetable matter as is collected in so great a city at the season of the year when it best suits the Farmer to take and the Citizens to part with it, certainly contributes to this desirable end—for want of a good road the Farmer is frequently prevented from removing it during the winter—the spring ensues and he is compelled to his great loss, to till his ground without it, while it lays fermenting to the great injury of the citizens.

An Inhabitant of Germantown.

From the MARYLAND HERALD.

MR. EDITOR,

A late charge to a grand jury of Philadelphia must have excited the attention of every American citizen. Since the printing presses have become the organs of the political parties, which unhappily divide our country, it is of the utmost importance, that those of both sides should receive the same restrictions.

The manifest partiality, which pervades a part of this charge, is therefore interesting to every citizen of the Union.

I do not mean to assert that any one principle, which the chief justice has therein laid down relative to libels, is not law. Of all that code of laws called the common law, which we have inherited from our English ancestors, the law of libels is the most absurd and impracticable. To publish a writing concerning any man, which exposes him to public hatred, contempt, or ridicule, is said to be a libel. Nay, indeed, so far has this doctrine been carried by a late decision in England, that such a writing of a dead man may be libellous. Were this to be put in force in any great extent, it would soon work its own abolition. The historian and satirist of the times must lay down their pens. To immortalize the corruption of a public magistrate, or lash the vices and follies of any public officer, would be a bold and hazardous attempt. That powerful obligation—the love of fame, or the fear of being handed to posterity as a villain, would lose all its wholesome effects.—It is a false sentiment, that a man may be dishonest and vicious in his private life, and yet be good and virtuous in his public capacity. It is impossible in the nature of things. The propensity of the human mind to vice or virtue will be the same in all situations. Is it possible that a judge can be firm and independent in the seat of justice, who is weak and servile in the direction of his domestic affairs? Is it possible, that an officer, who would not hesitate to cheat his private creditors, would hesitate to cheat the public? The private vices of men in office may, therefore, on many occasions with propriety be held up to public view; and yet to do this by writing, printing and publishing is by law to be guilty of a libel.

The only sensible distinction made by the chief justice on this subject, is—"that men have only to take care in their publications, that they are decent, candid, and true."

Truth and candour are well known terms; but decency conveys rather an indefinite idea. If by indecency is meant obscenity in a libel upon a private individual, it is justly to be checked and punished. But if by indecency is meant impudence in telling bold truths of men in office it ought to be allowed. But this sentence of his honor is rather a false gloss given to the subject, for he must have known what is certainly the law, that truth is no justification in a prosecution for a libel. It is well known that a man may be punished for publishing what is literally true; and this too, for the very reason, which his honor has laid down; because it will infallibly expose the person libelled "to public hatred, contempt, or ridicule;" which carries with it another somewhat better reason, which is, that it tends immediately to a breach of the peace. There is no getting rid of this absurdity, but by making the liberty of the press consist in truth, and the licentiousness of it in

full-blood; or, what is a much shorter method, by adopting the laws of the Turks, and suppressing all printing and publishing whatever. In which latter case, it is very certain, that there could be no libels.

Further, the opinion of his honor, "that every scribbler or gentleman ought to be highly offended at the pamphlets and newspapers of Philadelphia," is very exceptionable, for two reasons;—First, that expressing himself in those terms, which the French nation have long ago rejected, the one as superstitious, the other as feudal, "his (as he says) an evident tendency not only to frustrate a reconciliation, but to create a rupture and provoke a war between the sister republics." And secondly, that this whole paragraph of his charge is a literal and verbal copy of one in a paper of the Spectator; and which, therefore, may tend still further to give just causes of displeasure to our friendly ally. This is here observed, not with any intention of accusing his honor of gross plagiarism, but of shewing, that what Mr. Addison has remarked of the English nation, at the time in which he wrote his Spectators, does not apply to the state of Pennsylvania. When those periodical publications took place, the English nation were the only people upon the surface of the earth, who enjoyed even a rational share of civil liberty. It is not so with Pennsylvania. Other states of the Union, it may be supposed, enjoy the liberty of the press in as ample a manner as that state. And who does not know that where there is one libel published in Philadelphia, there are, at least, one hundred in the city of London? Besides, if libels are not now known, may do not abound under any of the governments of Europe, particularly under that of our "sister republic," it is only a proof, that those governments are not free; for libels are as naturally the growth of free governments, as weeds are of manure. The state of Pennsylvania is not, therefore, in this respect, characteristically different "from all the states around it, or from the whole civilized world."

But, is it not extraordinary that a judge should think it his duty to call a Printer to account for writing and publishing against a nation, who have used every endeavour to sap the foundations of our excellent constitution and form of government, have fomented an insurrection in the very bosom of our country, and have notoriously plundered our citizens of twenty five millions of Dollars, and and that too without descending to listen to us upon the subject?—And yet, that this same judge, when another Printer of the same place was vilifying and abusing without the least shadow of truth, our great and good Washington, could sit with the most torpid indifference; and still continues in that state of torpidity, while this same Printer is still publishing the grossest calumnies against the officers and measures of our own government. How much partiality, not to say corruption of the worst kind, could be relied by the people of America, is yet to appear. It may be justly supposed, that their thoughts on this subject will be, that the time is already come, when the seat of our federal government ought to be removed, especially from under the jurisdiction of such a judge. It tempts me to apply what Lord Mansfield said of an inferior magistrate on a similar occasion—"it makes one bleed to think that the administration of justice should be in such hands."

HORTENSIVS.

WASHINGTON LOTTERY, No. II. LIST OF PRIZES AND BLANKS. 138th day's Drawing—Oct. 28.

No.	Dols.	No.	Dols.	No.	Dols.	No.	Dols.
419	24487	27349	20	39795			
855	x 725	x	412	869			
1065	x 935	x	576	908			
286	100	934	x	664	40110		
948	x 1519	x	23067	x	965	x	
2289	x 587	x	167	41062	x		
527	x 675	x	375	x	150	x	
712	x 874	x	437	x	319	x	
3299	x 975	x	703	x	364	50	
495	x 1637	x	718	x	851		
537	x 100	x	764	x	42287		
831	x 576	x	79598	x	492	x	
5061	x 10009	x	809	x	661	x	
574	x 546	x	30548	x	974		
6697	x 724	x	598	x	43148	x	
810	x 18018	20	682	x	44065		
7675	x 030	x	31393	x	45934		
922	x 775	x	786	x	097		
3649	x 815	x	32737	x	314		
052	x 10637	x	524	x	346	x	
314	x 819	x	788	x	458		
419	x 881	x	23966	x	576	x	
635	x 20355	x	864	x	715		
972	x 589	x	34128	x	857		
10856	x 062	x	457	x	661		
932	x 21463	x	514	x	46205		
11134	x 817	x	698	x	247		
152	x 910	x	824	x	326		
602	x 223-8	x	871	x	25	572	x
824	x 21007	x	25113	x	728	x	
10105	x 429	x	226	x	47665	x	
146	x 456	x	499	x	757	x	
316	25	798	x	567	x	48134	
13334	x 24412	x	36288	x	312	x	
707	x 910	20	476	x	840		
748	x 25497	x	38074	x	4952		
14074	x 882	x	370	x			
391	x 26548	x	39500	x			

FOR SALE, AT Wm. Young's Book Store, No. 13, Second Street, the corner of Chestnut Street, REPORT of the Committee of the House of Representatives of the United States, appointed to prepare and report Articles of Impeachment against WILLIAM BLOUNT, a Senator of the United States, impeached of high crimes and misdemeanors, made in pursuance of a resolution of the House of Representatives, authorizing the said Committee to sit during the recess of Congress, and instructing them "to enquire and, by all lawful means, to discover the whole nature and extent of the offence whereof the said William Blount stands impeached, and who are the parties and accessories therein." Printed by order of the House of Representatives, December 20.

A person well acquainted with the theory and practice of book-keeping, who has been many years engaged in business for himself and others, would be glad to be employed, either as an agent or factor; or in posting books; stating unsettled accounts; or in executing any other kind of writings, in French or English. A note addressed to J. A. and left at this office, will be punctually attended to. November 30. 3awtf

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. WEDNESDAY—JANUARY 3.

Mr. D. Foster, from the committee of claims, made an unfavorable report upon the petition of Peter Landais, who prayed for an additional allowance for his services. The report was concurred in by the house.

Mr. Thatcher presented a petition from John Bradley and other deputy postmasters in the state of Massachusetts, stating that when they received their authority, and gave bonds for the due performance of their office, it was understood that they were not to be accountable for the loss of bank notes, or other valuable papers which passed through their offices, but that a legal decision had lately taken place which had determined that the post officers were liable for all such losses; which determination, it was apprehended, would subject them to be speculated upon by designing persons, who might allege they had sent notes, &c. by the post, which never had been sent. They pray, therefore, that when the post office law shall come under consideration, a clause may be inserted in it, declaratory of the law in this respect.—Referred to the committee on post-offices and post roads.

Mr. Bayard presented another remonstrance from citizens of the state of Delaware, against changing the time for holding the district court.—Referred to the same committee to which the message of the President on this subject was referred.

Mr. Harper, from the committee of ways and means, to whom was referred a resolution on the expediency of admitting licences for distilling spirits to be taken for a week, reported it as the opinion of that committee, that the proposition ought not to be adopted. The report was twice read, and referred to the same committee of the whole to whom was referred the bill relative to the duty on spirits.

Mr. Dawson reported a bill to provide for the payment of the interest of a certificate given by the United States to general Koculko, which was twice read and committed for to-morrow.

Mr. Harper, from the committee appointed to consider the subject of a Bankrupt law, was directed by the committee to present the report which he had laid before the house the day before yesterday. It was in the following words:

"The committee to whom was referred the following resolution—"Resolved, that a committee be appointed to prepare and report a bill for establishing a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States," having taken the matter into consideration, beg leave to submit the following REPORT:

"In so complicated, and as respects this country, so new a subject, as a system of bankruptcy, it must be expected that many difficulties will occur, that many objections will arise, and that many doubts will be entertained, as to the possibility, and even as to the advantages, of such an establishment. Such doubts and difficulties have presented themselves forcibly to the committee, even in this preliminary stage of the business; but, without undertaking to decide how far it may be practicable to surmount them, they conceive that the attempt ought to be made. They are of opinion, that this institution is greatly desired by the mercantile part of the community, on which it is calculated more peculiarly to operate; and they can see no reason to doubt of its beneficial effects, in the support of mercantile credit, the prevention of fraud, the restraint of imprudent and destructive speculation, and the relief of honest industry, reduced to distress by the vicissitudes of trade, provided it can be adopted under such modifications as may obviate the objections, and prevent the abuses, where to it is supposed to be liable.

"Whether this can be accomplished, is in the opinion of the committee, to be ascertained only by the introduction and full discussion of a bill, where every provision may be brought into view, and all those details presented by which the benefits of such an institution are to be resulted, and its inconveniences avoided. When the difficulties attending this measure shall have been fairly encountered, should they be found insurmountable, the public, it is presumed, having the reasons of the decision fully before them, will acquiesce in it with more cheerfulness. The states, too, in that case, knowing that congress have considered the subject, and found it impracticable, on a scale so extensive as the whole union, will no longer be prevented, by expectations from that quarter, from attempting local establishments for themselves.

"The committee are therefore of opinion that it is expedient to adopt the aforesaid resolution."

The report having been read, Mr. Harper moved that it have a second reading for the purpose of being concurred with, which motion being carried 43 to 27; and the house having concurred with the report, a committee of five members was appointed to report a bill accordingly.

Mr. Harper from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill for making certain partial appropriations for the service of the year 1798, and for other purposes; which was twice read, and ordered to be committed to a committee of the whole to day.

On motion, the house immediately resolved itself into a committee of the whole on this bill, Mr. Kittera in the chair; when, the bill having been read,

Mr. Varum wished to be informed as to the captures which had been made from the British, within the waters of the United States. He thought there could not be many of this description. Mr. Harper said, if the gentleman would turn to the letter of the Secretary of the Treasury on this subject, he would find two

awards of this description had already been made, amounting to 24,921 dollars, and that others were expected to be made, or might now be made, which would require the remainder of the sum proposed to be granted. The number of vessels which came under this article he never understood to be great. He never heard of more than four or five.

Mr. Varnum did not feel willing to appropriate a larger sum than was necessary to meet the awards already made. It would be time enough to appropriate for other awards when they were made.

Mr. Harper read an extract from the letter of the Secretary of the Treasury on this subject. The vessels already awarded for were, he said, the Jane and Lovely Lads; the remainder of the sum was by estimate; When the other awards would be made was uncertain; they might be already made, or they might not be made for a few weeks, but whenever they were determined, it was proper there should be money in the Treasury to meet the demand; and if it were not wanted, it would, of course, go to the surplus fund.

The committee rose and reported the bill. The house took it up; when

Mr. Varnum moved to strike out the sum of 52,000 dollars, in order to insert 24,921 the amount of the awards made.

Mr. Lyon seconded the motion. Mr. Coit said, that the mode proposed by the bill, was the orderly course of doing business, which was, to have money in the Treasury to meet demands against the government as they became due. With respect to the 24,921 dollars already due, the ordinary mode had been departed from, as the awards were made in October last, but were not paid for want of money. He presumed gentlemen did not wish to introduce a new system in the money transactions of Government; if not, they would agree to the bill as reported.

Mr. Bayard said, if they meant to preserve the good faith of the nation, it was necessary to make the appropriation proposed by the bill. To shew this, Mr. B. read an extract from the British treaty, in which it was stipulated that, "the amount of the awards should be paid at the time and places specified." But if money were not appropriated for the purpose, this could not be done.

Mr. Varnum replied, that if it should be necessary to appropriate this money during the present session, it was not necessary to appropriate it in this bill. He wished it to appear in the general appropriation bill.

Mr. Kittera said, the same reasoning would apply in respect to the 100,000 dollars proposed to supply the deficiencies in former appropriations, as though that sum was wanted for the service of the year 1798, it was not all wanted immediately, though it might be necessary before the general appropriation could be made.

Mr. Lyon said, if he had the same information with respect to the 100,000 dollars, which he had relative to the other sums, he should be equally opposed to it. He hoped the 24,921 dollars would be agreed to, and that they should not have much more money to pay on this account.

The motion for striking out was put and negatived, there being only 23 votes in favour of it.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

Mr. Harper moved the order of the day on the bill to amend the several acts for laying a duty on spirits distilled within the United States, and on stills; which motion being agreed to, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the subject, Mr. Kittera in the chair. The bill being read,

Mr. Macon said, that the report of the committee of ways and means, on the proposition for allowing distillers to take licences for a week, having been referred to that committee, if it were taken up at all, this was the proper time. He should, therefore, propose an additional section to the bill, to embrace this object. Mr. M. accordingly presented a section to allow of weekly licences.

This motion produced a considerable debate. It was opposed by Messrs. Sewall, Griswold, Gallatin, Gordon and Brooks, on the ground that the duty now paid upon spirits distilled from fruit (which description of distillers this regulation was avowedly intended to accommodate) was not equal to that paid by distillers of grain, as the duty on spirits distilled from fruit was not more than 25 cents per gallon, whilst that on spirits distilled from grain paid seven cents, and if the amendments were agreed to, this inequality would be increased, for persons who took a licence for a week, by preparing their materials before hand, and working night and day, would finish their business within that time, which otherwise would have required a fortnight; by which means the duty would be reduced from six cents per gallon, on the capacity of their stills to four; that it would increase the temptation to fraud, as that temptation was strong or the contrary, in proportion to the length of time for which a licence was taken, as a person taking a licence for a fortnight, by working his still one day past the time specified in his licence would gain half a cent a gallon on the capacity of his still, whilst he who took out a licence for six months would only gain half that sum; if licences for a week were allowed, the temptation would therefore be increased; that such a regulation would greatly augment the duties of excise officers, without rendering any material advantages to individuals, since if the owner of a still of 50 gallons took out a licence for a fortnight, when a week might have served, he would only have paid a dollar more than he would have paid for a week; that when this scale of duties was made, reference was had to the situation of persons who would be obliged to take out a licence for a fortnight, though they might not have fruit to employ a still more than a few days, and a rate proportionally low adopted; that the