

THE SEASONS. PROCESSION, the Winter's thirring reign, With snowy mountains heaps the plain, And binds the rolling sea;

SCIPIO—No. XI.

It has been fully established by the letters of Mr. Monroe, so late as December 1795, no complaint had been made to him by the ruling powers of France, though the treaty had been known and published in the papers at Paris from the middle of August to that time; a space of almost four months.

Lord Viscount Duncan said, that as he was not much accustomed to speak in public, he should confine himself to a very few words. He felt the deepest gratitude for the honor which the house had conferred upon him, and he begged leave to read a few lines of a letter which he had received from the French republic.

That a humble address be presented to his Majesty, assuring him that we have taken into our most serious consideration the papers which had been laid on the Table relative to the negotiation for peace; that in the steps which had been taken we have recognized the pacific disposition evinced by his Majesty throughout the whole of its progress, and observed the inveterate hostility of the enemy, that while on the one hand his Majesty has given an example of the greatest moderation, the enemy on the other have abandoned every pacific disposition; that they entertained the most determined hatred and animosity to the Constitution, laws and liberties of this country; that the destruction of our constitution and government is the object at which they aim; that we are determined to defend, at every hazard, his Majesty's person and government; that we know that great exertions are necessary; but that, notwithstanding, we are prepared and resolved to stand or fall with the constitution, laws, and liberties, upon which the happiness of every class of the community essentially depends.

The address being read by the Lord Chancellor, was then put and carried nem. diff. Further Extracts from Young's Essays. Our new philosophers likewise tell us, that "it is absurd for one generation to choose a form of government for another, or for any generation to make laws for posterity; and therefore no succeeding generation is bound to adhere to that government which their fathers set up, nor to submit to any rulers whom themselves have not chosen."—But if this doctrine is once admitted, there is an end to all government, of all commerce, and of all society, civil and religious. If men could not choose a government or make laws for posterity; then every nation, behoved to be changed every day. Every day almost a thousand persons die in Britain; an equal number are born; and some hundreds at least come of age. He that comes to age to day may say—"I never consented to the form of government now subsisting; I never had any voice in the choice of the ruling powers, or in the making of any laws. I will therefore be subject to no laws till I myself have a part in the making of them; nor will I submit to any government, till I, in conjunction with my contemporaries, have framed a constitution for ourselves." He that comes of age to-morrow may argue in the same manner, and insist for a general convention, in which he shall have a voice; by himself or his representative, before he will submit to any government or any law whatsoever. Surely then, we shall have conventions and constitutions in great abundance!

Neither scripture nor reason give an exclusive sanction to any particular form of government. Owing to the differences of national character, of situation, and pursuits, one kind of government may be proper among one people, and a different constitution may be better adapted to the circumstances of another. Thus, a mixed government has been found most congenial to the people of Britain; perhaps a republican government is more adapted to the circumstances of our brethren in America; and from recent events, it may be suspected, that had as their situation was, while the king's will was their law, monarchy is the only government suited to the constitution and ferocity of our neighbors in France. There have been instances of nations flourishing and happy under different forms of government. And every government is capable of degenerating into tyranny, oppression, and anarchy in the hands of a corrupt administration. Hence there is a great deal of truth in Mr. Pope's maxim, "That which is best administered is best."

the guides of foreign politics, no longer deserve her confidence; and must defend her injured rights with the spirit of a free, sovereign and independent nation. A state of public affairs is near, or rather is come, when cement is necessary to preserve the union. If a certain party have a distinct object, which I hope they have not, it is a separation of the states; when the southern part is to be put under the care and protection of the French republic. It is hither their regular and unceasing course of political action has tended. From a lot so disastrous, the Lord save those states.

In the House of Lords, Nov. 3, Lord Viscount Duncan, being introduced between Lord Hood and Lord Viscount Newark, The Lord Chancellor rose to communicate to him in his place the unanimous thanks of the house, which he did in a very handsome speech. He said that as a mark of Particular respect for his Lordship, the House had been summoned, a thing as unprecedented as the glorious achievement which had given rise to the proceeding. He had, in compliance with the voice of the House, to communicate to him their thanks for his activity and talents displayed in the course of the three years he had commanded the fleet stationed in the North Seas; for his firmness and spirit upon the trying occasion when he was deserted by a part of his fleet in a state of mutiny; and, in fine, for his gallant conduct in the action of the 11th of Oct. which terminated in a brilliant and decisive victory, unexampled in the naval annals of this country, a victory which essentially contributed to the safety of this empire, by frustrating the presumptuous designs of the enemy.

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From a Dedham (Massachusetts) Paper.

EXPATRIATION. Is it right and proper for a citizen to renounce his citizenship at pleasure? The exercise of this right has been called expatriation. Many persons think it is grounded on the sacred and inalienable principles of natural liberty—they not only condemn those governments which refuse to sanction, by their laws, the doctrine of expatriation, but they hold those who in conversation and argument deny it, in sovereign contempt, if not abhorrence.

The nature of this doctrine, the shameful transactions it has been pretended to authorize, and the singular vehemence of the zeal of its advocates and believers, are so many subjects of our wonder. It was not so much as heard of till within six or eight years—a period that will be, to the end of time, remarkable for the perverseness and extravagance of its political opinions. It seems as if we lived in the latter times, when, if a foretold, some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their conscience seared with a hot iron. Is it not such a doctrine, that in a republican state, a man owes his country nothing, that he has a right to claim protection from the society but in return owes it no duties—that he may equip a privateer, in defiance of the law of the land, and make prize of the vessels of his countrymen and even neighbors and kindred, like Gideon Henfield and Commodore Barney. This is the nature of the principle of expatriation, and such has been the practice upon it. Can any doctrine appear more absurd or any conduct more vile? yet a number of the states that prey upon our defenceless commerce plead this monstrous apology that they are French citizens, sailing under a French commission, and thus they imagine they are good law in the form of law. The doctrine that a man must ever be a citizen of some country, and that he may be in a state of expatriation, for without them it would be sometimes hard, if not absurd. But in its most rigid and without any exception whatever, it is more rational and just than the absurd and licentious principle of expatriation at pleasure.

A duty to one's country is a debt—and surely the country may rightfully claim that duty. When a citizen says he is expatriated, it is denying, not paying, the debt. The prattlers about expatriation are desired to solve this case: When Gen. Arnold would have betrayed West-Point and fled on discovery, did he not renounce his country? that is to say, was he not expatriated? had he been overtaken in his flight, would it not have been just to have hung him?—A jury was picked up in the streets on purpose to acquit Gideon Henfield in the day of Genet's glory. Barney has not been prosecuted. A due consideration of Arnold's case will afflict the mind to decide this impudent problem, which so many privateering rascals have proposed to the public to make it be believed that they rob upon principle.

C O N G R E S S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY—JANUARY 17. (Concluded from yesterday's Gazette.) On motion of Mr. Gregg, the house went into a committee of the whole on the report of the committee of claims on the petition of William Alexander, surveyor of army lands. After reading a number of papers relative to the subject, the report which went to authorize the treasury to settle the accounts of the petitioner, was agreed to. The committee rose, the house concurred, and a bill was directed to be brought in accordingly.

Mr. Pinckney, from the committee appointed to confer with the Senate on the disagreement between the two houses, on the payment of interest to Gen. Kosciuszko, reported, that finding the business could be settled in a manner agreeable to the amendment of the Senate, as by the mode originally proposed, the committee recommended it to the house to recede from their disagreement to the Senate's amendment.

The recommendation was concurred in by the house. The house took up and agreed to the Senate's amendment to the bill prescribing the mode of taking evidence in cases of contested elections.

On motion of Mr. Harper, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole Mr. Dent in the chair, on the report of the committee of ways and means for providing for the expenses of the civil department for the year 1798, and the blanks being filled, except in a few cases, (in which they were left in blank) according to the estimate which had been laid before the house, the committee rose, the house concurred, and a bill was ordered to be reported accordingly.

A message was received from the Senate informing the house that they had passed the bill suspending the act relative to foreign coins; and also that for the payment of certain interest due to Gen. Kosciuszko.

Mr. Sitgreaves wished to call the attention of the house to a subject which he thought worthy of notice. Several of the journals of the old congress held under the confederation, were now out of print, and become so scarce, that gentlemen elected to serve in congress, and who were entitled to them, were not able to obtain them. These volumes, he said, contained many ordinances and resolves which were full of laws of the land, and the copies of which ought to be multiplied. The same observations would apply to many reports of heads of departments and committees made under the present government, the only copies of which were to be found in the clerk's office; or in the libraries of members who had been careful in preserving them. He thought it of importance, therefore, that copies of these should be multiplied and preserved. For both these purposes he proposed a resolution to the following effect, which was agreed to, and a committee of three appointed.

Resolved, that a committee be appointed to consider and report upon the expediency of reprinting at the public expense, such volumes of the journals of Congress under the old confederation, and such reports of the heads of departments and committees of both houses of Congress, as are out of print, or are thought to be necessary to the due understanding of the act of government.

Mr. Sitgreaves said, it was of equal importance to guard against this evil in future. This might be done by altering the present mode of keeping the journals of the house. Every member, he said, must now see that the journals were, in a great degree, useless records, which contained no sort of valuable information, except to members, and to them only during the session; but, for substantial information, they were absolutely useless, and not worth the expense of printing. He, therefore, moved the following, which was agreed to: Resolved, that the same committee be intrusted to consider and report upon the expediency of altering the form of keeping the journals of this house.

Mr. Sitgreaves observed, that there was another subject worthy of some consideration, which was in some degree connected with this. It was this. There were two messages from the President of the United States relative to the ratification of the amendments to the constitution, which were now become a part of the constitution, upon which no order had been taken. It was proper that some notification should be made of these amendments having become the law of the land. Which was the best mode of doing this, he did not know; but in order that something should be done in the business, he moved that they be referred to a select committee.—Agreed.

Mr. Sitgreaves said he understood, from what he had seen in the newspapers, and from what he had heard since his return, that considerable impatience had been shown in a part of the house, in his absence, for the report of articles of impeachment against William Blount. He supposed it was not necessary he should now go into a statement of the reasons which had led to the delay—though, if it were necessary, he doubted not, he could explain the subject to the full satisfaction of every member. He only rose, however, to say, that in the course of two or three days, he should make the report.

Adjoined.

THURSDAY, January 18.

The Speaker laid before the house a communication from the Secretary of War, inclosing an estimate of the appropriations necessary for holding a treaty with the Cherokee Indians, which was in substance as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. For the Commissioners, 90 days at eight dollars per day 2,160. Incidental expenses of do. 360. Secretary, at four dollars per day 360. Salaries of 2000 Indians 15,000. Presents to the Indians 5,000. Stores for the Commissioners 2,000. Incidental expenses 1,500. Total 25,880.

This statement was referred to the committee of the whole to whom was referred the former message of the President on this subject.

Mr. Tillinghast called up his resolution respecting a repeal of the Stamp Act, which was referred to the same committee of the whole to whom was referred the report of the committee of ways and means on this subject.

Mr. Sitgreaves, from the committee appointed on the subject of William Blount's conspiracy, made a supplementary report, containing the deposition of Abraham Holden, of New York, which seemed to imply that J. P. Ripley (whose evidence related to what he had heard of the conspiracy) had been supplied with money by the Spanish Minister, which he lived at New York, when he was in needy circumstances. He told the deponent that he had received 200 dollars from him, and was to have more. This report was ordered to be printed.

Mr. D. Foster, from the committee of claims, made a report on the petition of Lucy Clark, widow of Thomas Clark, which was in her favour, and was committed for to-morrow.

Mr. Findley presented the petition of Clement Biddle, of this city, in behalf of sundry Europeans, possessed of certificates of the debt of the United States, which was barred by the secession of the act making provision for the public debt; which he prays may be excepted from its operation, as the persons holding the claims had no knowledge of the law. Referred to the committee of the whole to whom was referred the subject of considering the propriety of executing certain claims from the operation of the act.

Mr. Clopton from the committee of enquiry, reported the bill prescribing the mode of taking evidence in cases of contested elections, and that providing for the payment of interest on a certificate due to General Kosciuszko, as duly enrolled.

The following message with the papers to which it refers, were received from the President of the United States:

Gentlemen of the Senate, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, A representation has been made to me by the Judge of the Pennsylvania District of the United States, of certain inconveniences and disagreeable circumstances which have occurred in the execution of the law passed on the 28th of May 1796, entitled, "An act for the relief of Persons imprisoned for debt," as well of certain doubts which have been raised concerning its construction. This representation, together with a report of the Attorney General on the same subject I now transmit to Congress for their consideration, that if any amendments or explanations of that law should be thought advisable, they may be adopted.

JOHN ADAMS.

United States, January 18th 1798. This message, with the papers accompanying it, were referred to the same committee of the whole, to whom was referred the report on the petition of William Bell.

On motion of Mr. Harper, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill providing the means of intercourse between the United States and Foreign nations, Mr. Dent in the chair; when the bill having been read, and Mr. Harper having declared with what sums it was proposed to fill the blanks, Mr. Nicholas, after a speech of considerable length, in which he dwelt upon the evils which had been, and which were likely to be produced by an extension of our foreign diplomatic intercourse

proposed several amendments to the bill, the effect of which he professed to be to restore the business of foreign intercourse to the same footing on which it stood in the year 1796, before the extension took place.

A long debate ensued, which is deferred till to-morrow. The speakers in favour of the motion were Messrs. Nicholas, Gallatin, and Baldwin; against it, Messrs. Harper, Allen, and Sitgreaves. The committee rose without taking a question, and obtained leave to sit again. Adjourned.

LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

January 17.

Dr. Leib presented a memorial from a number of the late officers of the late navy of this state, praying to be placed upon the footing with other officers respecting their half pay, or to be allowed to enter into an amicable suit against the commonwealth for what they conceive their due, which was read and referred to Messrs. Gurney, Leib, Whitehall, Muhlenberg, and Harris.

Dr. Leib on the part of the committee reported a bill to authorize the governor to incorporate a company to erect an artificial road from the city of Philadelphia to Reading, which was read and made the order of the day for Thursday week. Mr. Eyerly reported against the bill for the relief of Henry Brink and Wilhelmus Van Gordon.

Dr. Leib reported a bill to provide for the recording the several roads heretofore laid out or which hereafter maybe laid out in the county of Philadelphia, which was read and made the order of the day for Tuesday next.

The report of the committee in favor of a grant to the trustees of Newtown Academy, was read a second time and adopted, and the committee who made the report were appointed to bring in a bill.

The report of the committee on unpatented lands was read a second time and referred to the committee of ways and means.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill to empower Walter Clark, William Gray and William Wilson to sell and convey a certain lot of ground in the town of Lewishurgh in Northumberland county and for other purposes, which was agreed to.

Mr. Kelly moved that four members be added to the committee appointed to revise the judiciary system which motion was agreed to.

The house again resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill to authorize the governor to incorporate a company to erect a permanent bridge over the river Schuylkill, which was agreed to with amendments.

The bill for the erection of a house for the employment and support of the poor in Chester county was read a second time and agreed to.

Adjourned.

By yesterday's Mail.

NEW-YORK, January 17. Capt. Hinx of the Dutch ship Proteus, of 56 guns, died on his arrival in the Texel, of the wounds he received in the action.

It is stated in the English prints, that the Emperor of Russia has granted a pension of 200,000 roubles, to Louis XVIII. On the 5th instant, the brig Sally, Joseph H. Atkins, master, arrived in Rebellion Road (Charleston, S. C.) in 53 days from Bourdeaux.

Capt. Atkins left Bourdeaux on the 9th of November. Four days before he failed, capt. Woodman, of the brig Aurora, of Charleston, then in Bourdeaux, received the following letter, from General Pinckney.

Paris October 9, 1797. Sir—As it is possible our negotiations with this republic may not have a favourable issue, and that may colleagues and myself may be ordered to leave France, and as I understand you are bound to Charleston, I wish to go with my wife, daughter, secretary, and perhaps two other gentlemen; I should be glad to know if you take passengers, and have accommodations for them, and what are your terms, and the latest time you sail. Be so good as to write me. This is not to be considered as an engagement to go in the Aurora, but merely as a letter requesting information. I remain, very respectfully, your most obedient servant. (Signed) CHARLES C. PINCKNEY.

Capt. Woodman. N. B. I think the Aurora, is a ship; should the not be accommodated for passengers, can you inform of any vessel at Bourdeaux, that is, and about to sail on the 20th November, for Charleston, or near it?

Ascap, Atkins's reply affirms, that the letter from General Pinckney was received but four days before he failed, it is probable that there is a mistake in the date of the copy of the General's letter, and that it ought to be the 29th of October instead of the 9th, which would be five days, the time the couriers take to go from Paris to Bourdeaux.—The postscript to the letter, we think, confirms this opinion; for if the General expected to be ordered away early in October, he would hardly put off his voyage to the 20th of November.

In consequence of the information, the American merchants in Bourdeaux were much alarmed, and they had been advised to get their property out of France as soon as possible, as there was a general opinion prevailing, that there would be a rupture between France and this country.

The Members

OF the Society of the Sons of St. George, established at Philadelphia, for the advice and assistance of Englishmen in distress, are requested to attend a Quarterly Meeting of the said Society at the City Tavern, on Tuesday the 13th inst. at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. GEORGE D. VIG, Secretary. January 17.