

when, every power of party is rising into action; when the opposition to our government is bold enough to avow its object; when the scavengers of malevolence against the government, are scouring every foul gutter of falsehood, for matter to fill a newspaper, and fully the purity of official character; when the engines of falsehood and sedition, finding themselves too weak, individually, to accomplish their designs, are collecting their strength, and incorporating their interests, and incorporating their interests, and spreading their calumny against the administration, through the medium of a press, so governed, "as to be beyond the reach of accident" to controul; is it not proper for the people to enquire, what is the probable object of this organized system of opposition?—If that object is known, whether, it is most wise to entrust an unknown editor, governed by three obscure trustees, with the government of our country; or, whether, it is better for us to permit the government to progress in the constituted departments, in the hands of men, chosen by the people, and consequently responsible to them, for their public conduct?

If our government was made by the people of this country; if the legislative departments of our government are filled by men chosen by the same people; and if the men thus representing the people pass laws authorizing certain things, and prohibiting others; and, if it is a true principle of the government, that, no law can be made, but by a majority of the people's representatives, and when made, can be repealed only, by the same majority, is it not injurious to the constitutional "freedom and happiness of all our countrymen?" is it not highly insulting to the feelings of every American, who wishes to preserve the government under which he lives, to see you, three obscure individuals, at the head of a project, which, whilst it enforces the laws now made, points to itself, as the necessary means, of controuling the proceedings under those laws, by "an establishment beyond the reach of accident" to punish or controul?

JOHN EWING, Junr.
February 6th, 1800.

[We are authorized to publish the following as a more correct statement of the facts, which occurred at Lancaster on the 20th inst. than that which has appeared in the Aurora.]

ON Thursday the 20th inst. the report of the committee on the Election Laws of this Commonwealth was taken up for a second reading, in the forenoon, and an occasioned considerable debate. The house, in favor of the report, alledging that the first section of the present Election Law was not consistent with the Constitution; and the opposition insisted that the section and the Constitution were in perfect unison, the words used in the section being almost literally those of the Constitution. It is worthy of remark, that the committee in the preamble of the report, referring to the first section of the third article of the Constitution, has given only a partial quotation. Five words more, viz.—"In elections by the citizens—would have presented the section complete. On the question to agree to the resolution, it was carried in the affirmative, Yeas 39, Nays 34; and the house adjourned to meet again at three o'clock, P. M.

It is usual, when the house has adjourned to any particular hour, for the Speaker to take the chair, and call the members to order half an hour after the time. Whether the Speaker made the call earlier in the afternoon than usual, or whether it was owing to the roll not being called, and petitions and reports of committee not being presented, the house had proceeded on the report and agreed to the second item, and also to the first part of the third item, viz. (a division having been called and agreed to) to prevent regularly enlisted soldiers from exercising the rights of suffrage; before some of the members of the opposition took their seats, Mr. Kepple then requested, as a matter of form, not of right, that a reconsideration might take place, and two members who had been in the majority, moved for a reconsideration, in favor of which; Mr. Kepple then spoke and expressed his decided opinion, that a citizen, enlisted in the service of his country, neither did or ought to lose his right of suffrage; small indeed would be the more inducement of pay to engage him in the defence of his country if the citizen soldier found himself disfranchised on his return from the field of danger to the place of his nativity. Rather than abridge him of his rights (said Mr. Kepple) let us if possible, add to them, and convince the world that we as part of united America shall ever gratefully acknowledge and reward the services of those who acquired and of those who defend our Independence, and will give no political preference to citizens, who fitting quietly and securely by their fire sides, view without emotion the wreck of empires and the crush of worlds. Mr. Kepple concluded with expressing a hope that the reconsideration would be agreed to.

Messrs. Boileau and Frailey were again the re-consideration. The latter animadverted on the speech of Mr. Kepple, and was interrupted, as he said, fourteen times by Mr. Kepple rising to explain, and declaring at the same time that Mr. Frailey had mistaken his observations. Mr. Frailey's arguments went to show that a reconsideration ought not to take place, and that a Soldier, notwithstanding he was a citizen at the time of enlistment, ought not to be allowed the right of suffrage, because he was more absolutely under the arbitrary direction of his officers, than the most abject slave is under the influence of his master. His observations went further, and he intimated doubts whether those citizens of the State to whom the right of suffrage was restored

by the repeal of the test law would at present legally exercise any such right. Mr. Frailey having concluded, Mr. Fisher rose in favor of the re-consideration—he said that so great a latitude had been allowed in debate, that it might be supposed the house had lost sight of the question of re-consideration, and had entered into the merits of the resolution. The gentlemen opposed to him in sentiment, had wandered into very devious paths—he should not follow them, but would confine himself as much as the nature of the case would admit, to the question before the house. To ascertain, however, the propriety of going into a re-consideration, it would be necessary to shew that the subject was an important one, involving in it a great constitutional point. That debate ought rather to be courted than to be avoided—that deliberation, not precipitancy, was the proper characteristic of legislative assemblies. He did not charge gentlemen with improper views, but could not forbear remarking, that an unusual velocity was discoverable in getting through with this item of the report. He was confirmed in this idea, by the declaration of the two gentlemen who had moved and seconded the motion to re-consider, that they had not precisely comprehended its operation.

Mr. Fisher then took up the constitution of the state, and that of the United States, compared them with the 15th section of the election law—insisted that an attempt to prevent soldiers, otherwise qualified to vote, from a free exercise of the important right of suffrage, was an attempt to infringe the constitution of the state, and of our common country. That it was vain and nugatory to legislate upon such principles—the house had not the power—every individual member was bound by the solemn ties of an oath or affirmation, to support those constitutions. The persons entitled to vote, were described by the election law. It was not there said that a soldier was not a citizen, or should for the cause of enlistment be disfranchised. The constitution recognized no such principle. By what authority then, did gentlemen undertake to make this discrimination? Mr. Fisher lamented that so much jealousy should be excited against the troops of the United States. He had more than once discovered a disposition in those opposed to him, to propagate this jealousy, and to view the government of the United States, as a foreign and hostile government. He, on the other hand, considered this government, as the great bulwark of our political independence—nay, of our political existence. As, in the early days of the social compact, when men emerging from savage ignorance, made a partial sacrifice of their natural, and ferocious, and precarious freedom, for the purpose of acquiring more sure and stable rights, so when the several states found it would contribute to the great national welfare of their country to unite in a new compact, each found it essential to make partial and local sacrifices for the attainment of the great and insaluable end. And shall we deprive men acting by appointment and under the authority of this government of their rights of citizenship? The item of the report went to this; it had been precipitately agreed to and he hoped would be re-considered. Mr. F. observed, that militia when called into actual service, were under the direction of their officers and were soldiers. Would any man on the floor say that the Militia were Slaves, mean, abject beings, unworthy of the common rights of republicans. He called on gentlemen to say this, to avow their belief openly.

What (asked Mr. Fisher) was the language of the Legislature in 1794, when the militia of Pennsylvania were abroad, engaged in suppressing the western insurrection? They said then, soldiers shall not be deprived, though out of their proper countries, of the great right of suffrage. The Legislature passed an act especially in their favour. They did not say they were slaves, because under military command. They said they were freemen, more worthy of our common privileges, because they were combating the inclemency of a campaign to preserve their government.

Mr. Fisher was proceeding in his remarks, when a sudden call to adjourn was heard from several voices. He sat down. The question was taken, and divided in the negative. Mr. F. went on for a few minutes and was again interrupted by a call to adjourn. This call was once more over-ruled, and Mr. F. had scarcely resumed his argument, when a third time, "adjourn" was vociferated. Mr. F. now said, he would submit—he found a disposition in some members to interrupt the argument—and would not oppose the adjournment.

The House adjourned about 6 o'clock. In passing from his seat towards the door, Mr. F. said to some gentleman near him, you dare not listen to argument. He was answered by Mr. Frailey—We are not afraid to meet your arguments at any and all times. At this moment Dr. Logan said, it is not argument we would go from, but from your non-sense (or d—d non-sense) Mr. F. then flopped and turning to Dr. Logan replied "You are a Puppy." Dr. Logan answered, "You are a D—d Rascal." On this Mr. F. gave him a blow in the face. This was returned by Logan, when the members interfered, and so the matter ended.

Soon after the House had met on the following morning, the Speaker said he had received a letter signed George Logan. The letter was read; it complained of the breach of privilege he had suffered, and asked for the interference of the House. The letter was committed to the following members, viz.

Whitehill, Potts, Bull, Inglis, Conyngham, Hopkins, Barclay, with instructions to report a state of facts as soon as possible.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, February 26.

Mr. Speaker laid before the House, a letter from the Secretary of War, enclosing a report on the petition, referred to him, of Samuel Lewis, late a clerk in the War Office, and now imprisoned upon process for a breach of trust.

Ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Brace called up for consideration, the resolution which he laid on the table, relative to the expediency of accepting the cession of a jurisdiction of territory, lying west of Pennsylvania, commonly called the Western Reserve of Connecticut—which was again read and agreed to by the House—and a committee of seven members appointed for that purpose.

On motion of Mr. Spaight, the House came to a resolution, instructing the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures, to enquire what regulations ought to be made in respect to vessels, goods, wares and merchandise, wrecked on the coasts of the United States, and also, in respect to such goods wares and merchandise, brought into the ports of the United States, wrecked as aforesaid.

The question taken yesterday, on referring the petition of Gilbert Dench, was re-considered; and on motion of Mr. Otis, the petition was referred to the Committee of Claims.

A message was received from the Senate, by Mr. Otis, their secretary, informing the house, that the Senate had passed the bill intitled "An act further to suspend the commercial intercourse between the United States and France," with two amendments, to which they requested the concurrence of this house.

The first amendment, to strike out that part of the 4th section, which enabled citizens of the United States resident in France, to repair to this country, with vessels and other property bona fide belonging to them, was concurred in by the house—yeas 50, noes 36.

Previous to taking the question on concurring in this amendment, Mr. Macon made a motion, which superseded it—viz. "that the amendments of the Senate be postponed until the first Monday in December next"—which was negatived, only 30 members voting in favor of it.

The second amendment was to strike out the 10th section of the bill, by which it was enacted, that the Consul or Agent of the United States shall receive an annual salary of 3000 dollars, and be restricted from trade, &c. &c.

Mr. Otis moved that the House concur.

Mr. Champlin hoped not—and proceeded to give his reasons, by stating that great complaints had been made of the conduct of our agent at Hispaniola—that it had been intimated he had entered into trade with the planters of that island, previous to public notice having been given that the trade was opened, and had monopolized a large portion of the produce, previous to the American merchant's having an opportunity of becoming purchasers—Mr. C. also mentioned the circumstance of a vessel having been overhauled by an American cruiser, who shewed a passport from Touffaint and one from Dr. Stevens, by which she was permitted to proceed—and thereby inferred that the vessel might have been employed in an illicit trade.

Mr. Smith also spoke in favor of continuing the section—it had been introduced upon the most mature consideration, to prevent what was considered a great evil, and was much cause of complaint. By the proclamation opening intercourse with St. Domingo, our vessels were restricted, Mr. S. said, from going to but two ports in that island, upon clearing out at our custom house—viz. Port Republican and Cape Francois. Upon their arrival at either of those ports, if the supercargo wishes to seek farther for a market, application must be made to our agent for permission; who may delay granting it, and in the mean time, send to the place for which it is requested, buy up all the produce, and compel the merchant to purchase of him at an exorbitant price—this he had been informed had been done—but in mentioning it, Mr. S. said, he did not wish to be understood as criminating the person who did it. The agent was allowed to trade—he had no compensation from the government—and it was what every merchant in a similar situation might and would do. He thought it a perfectly fair mercantile transaction. Hence arose the necessity of the section now under consideration.

But there was another transaction, Mr. S. said, the papers relating to which he had deposited with the proper executive officer. A passport had been granted by our agent at Hispaniola, permitting the vessel of his partner to trade direct from the United States to the city of St. Domingo—a trade which no other citizen in the United States could be permitted to enjoy, as it was expressly prohibited by the President's proclamation.

Suppose, said Mr. S. an agent was sent from this country to treat with the governor of Guadaloupe—they might very easily determine the day on which that intercourse should commence: buy up all the produce in the island, and compel the American merchant to a sacrifice, which would otherwise be avoided. It was this kind of conduct which had caused so many failures in the United States—and yet he could not blame the person who would be guilty of them—his speculations being all the compensation allowed for his expenses and trouble.

Mr. Gallatin was in favour of concurring with the Senate. If, said Mr. C. our agent has been guilty of the misconduct imputed to him, this section would not prevent him—All that could be done, would be to remove him, and this no doubt would

be done upon a representation from the merchants to the executive.

Mr. Otis said, he conceived most heartily in the opinion of Mr. Gallatin.—He did not know that our agent had been guilty of the facts alleged to him, but if he had, and the section was retained, there was nothing in it which restricted him from sailing passports—the same abuse might still occur—and the only remedy lay with the executive.

The question on concurring with the Senate was put and carried—yeas 60.

Mr. Davis rose, to move that the committee of the whole house, to whom was referred the message of the President, relative to Thomas Nash; and the resolutions on that subject—be discharged from the further consideration thereof.

Mr. D. said, he did this, with a view to prevent irritation and warmth so often produced on like occasions—the result of the discussion could have no good effect—he believed if there had been an improper interference, that interference had not been from improper motives.

Mr. D. said he was not prepared to vote on this subject—sitting here as a judge, he wished to have every evidence which could lead to a fair conviction, or an impartial and honorable acquittal—and this was not likely to be the case, since gentlemen were obliged to resort to newspaper testimony—he had no doubt some gentlemen were prepared to vote on it—but he hoped, if the house did not agree to discharge the committee and the subject altogether, that it would at least be postponed until further evidence could be procured, on the authenticity of which he might rely, and form a correct judgment.

Messrs. Randolph, H. Lee, Dana, Shepherd, Livingston, Harper, Rutledge, Nicholas, Bayard and Otis, spoke against this motion; and Messrs. Macon, Smith, Craik and Kitchell, in favor of it—when the question was taken by yeas and nays, and negatived—yeas 14—noes 76.

Those who voted in the affirmative, were, Messrs. Bailey, Condit, Craik, Dent, Dickson, Freeman, Goode, Grove, Kitchell, Linn, Macon, Pinckney and Smith—14. Adjourned.

Tribute to the Memory of Gen. GEORGE WASHINGTON, among our Citizens abroad.

On the 14th of January, the intelligence respecting the death of Gen. Washington reached the Havana. The grief occasioned thereby, was most strongly evinced. Mr. Morton, our consul at that city, immediately issued an address to the Americans; suggesting the public evidences to be given of their sorrow on the mournful occasion. The numerous vessels in the harbor, (about 100 sail) were directed to suspend their flags half-mast-high for three successive days; and the citizens to wear crape on their left arms, both of which were instantly and universally complied with.

The U. States sloop of war Norfolk, captain Bainbridge, then in harbor, the private armed ships, Superior, Capt. Cunningham, Good Friends, Capt. Earl, brig Liberty, Capt. Henderson, with several others, discharged minute guns throughout the day.

The consul also communicated the intelligence by letter, to the Spanish governor, (the Marquis de Somervellus) who returned a polite and consoling answer, declaring the sympathetic interest he took therein, with every admirer of these "exalted virtues and patriotism" of which the world was bereaved in the loss of our illustrious citizen.

NEW YORK February 26.

By an account exhibited to the legislature by the inspectors of the State Prison, it appears they have expended up to 31st December last, Dollars, Cts. For iron, leather, and other raw materials, and including the salary of the agent, 25,232 15 And that they have received of the Comptroller, Dollars, Cts. For shoes, nails, &c. 21,389 85 Due the agent, 1,842 30 On hand in raw materials, shoes, nails, tools, &c. 7,217 72 Deduct balance due the agent, 1,842 30 In favor of the prison, 5,575 42

A large quantity of iron, and other materials has been worked up for the prison, and many improvements made out of the materials charged in this account, for which no charge is made, and be estimated worth 4000 dollars.

Number of prisoners remaining in the State Prison, 31st of December, 1799—225—of which 139 are Americans, and 86 are foreigners—206 are men, 19 are women—173 of the former white, 33 black—of the latter, 11 are white, and 8 black—Guilty of arson, 5—burglary, 16—forgery, 25—issuing Counterfeit Money, 6—fornication, 1—manslaughter, 2—horse stealing, 10—grand larceny, 98—sacrilege, 1—breaking the State Prison, 1—petit larceny, 59—assault and battery 2. Fifty-two of the prisoners are under sentence of confinement for life—one for 21 years, five 14 years, four 10 years, one 8 years, fourteen 7 years, three 6 years, ten 5 years, twenty eight 4 years, thirty-six 3 years, ten 5 years, twenty-eight 4 years, thirty six 3 years, one 2 years and 6 months, twenty five 2 years, one 21 months, twenty seven 18 months, 1 fifteen months, 1 thirteen months, nine 12 months, one 2 years and 2 days, 5 one year and 1 day. The sentences of 53 of the prisoners expire in the course of the present year.

MR. PENNO, BE pleased to insert in your paper the two last verses of a Song written by the celebrated Poet Robert Burns, and let them be as an Answer to J. R. for his Ragamuffin Speech.

For Gold, the Merchant ploughs the Main
The Farmer ploughs the Manor;
But glory is the Soldiers prize,
The Soldiers wealth is honour.
The brave poor Soldier ne'er despise
Nor count him as a Stranger;
Remember, he's his country's stay,
In Day, and hour of Danger.

HARRISBURGH, February 24.

We are credibly informed, that his Excellency Thomas M'Kean, was knocked down with a brick-bat while walking the streets of Lancaster, by one Moses Simons, who is said to be insane. It is said, his Excellency was taken up almost lifeless.

Port of Philadelphia.

ARRIVED,
Ship Nefor, Waite, Liverpool
Brig Abigail, Hughes, Bristol
The schooner Swift, captain Perry of this port, from Cape Francois, sent into New York, by captain Talbot, of the U. S. frigate Constitution, on suspicion of her papers being illegal, has been liberated, by order of the Secretary of the Navy—the being no ground for her detention.

POST OFFICE,

Philadelphia, Feb. 27.
The Mail for the British Packet the Harlequin (which calls at Halifax) closes on Tuesday, the 4th of March, at twelve o'clock noon.
N. B. The inland postage to New-York must be paid.

PRICES OF STOCKS.

PHILADELPHIA, FEBRUARY 26.
Six per Cent. 16/4
Three per Cent. 9/10
Deferred 6 per Cent. 15/3 to 4
8 per Cent Stock—4 per Cent. advance.
BANK United States, 25
Pennsylvania, 18
North America, 45
Insurance comp. N. A. shares 9/40 to 9/50
Pennsylvania, shares, 18
East-India Company of N. A. par.
Land Warrants, 32 dols. per 100 acres.
COURSE OF EXCHANGE
London, 62 at 30 days
60 at 60 to 90 days
Amsterdam, 35 37 to 100 per florin
Hamburg 30 23 to 100 per Mark Banco.

NEW THEATRE.

On Friday Evening, February 28, Will be presented (for the 5th time in America) a new Comedy, called
THE SECRET;
Or, Partnership Dissolved.
To which will be added, (not acted these four years) a Farce, called
A MOGUL TALE;
Or, The Descent of the Balloon.
The doors of the Theatre will open at a quarter past 5, and the curtain rise at a quarter past 6 o'clock precisely.

Sixty Dollars Reward.

DESERTED
FROM the quarters of the Subscriber, in the night of Monday the 24th instant, an enlisted Soldier, named JOHN MARSHALL, born in Salem, New-Jersey, by occupation a Labourer, aged 23 years, five feet 7 inches high, blue eyes, black hair, fallow complexion, and it is said this is his second desertion.
Also, at the same time, ALEXANDER TREL, born in Suffolk county, New Jersey, a Tanner by trade, aged 18 years, 5 feet 5 and an half inches high, remarkable small hazle eyes, short brown hair, which has been lately cropped, fair complexion, his upper teeth large and projecting, speaks much thro' his nose; was enticed from his duty by the art and persuasion of the above named Marshall.
Whoever shall take up said Deserters and lodge them in Jail, or shall deliver them to the subscriber, at his Quarters in Filbert, between Ninth and Tenth Streets, Philadelphia, or to any officer of the army of the United States, shall receive the above reward, and reasonable charges, or for either of them a proportionate compensation.

BENJAMIN GIBBS, Junr.
Capt. 10th regt. U. S.
February 26. d2w.
United States, }
Pennsylvania District. } ff.

BY virtue of a writ of venditioni exponas, to me directed, issued out of the circuit court of the United States, in and for the Pennsylvania District, of the middle circuit, will be sold by public vendue at the city tavern, in Second street, in the city of Philadelphia on Monday the 17th day of March next, at 6 o'clock in the evening, all that certain tract or parcel of land, situate, lying and being on the river or creek called Lackawaxen, in the county of Wayne, containing 8000 acres and upwards; on which are erected a messuage, stables and lawmill, with the appurtenances.—The names of the original warrantees of the said tract or parcel of land were as follows.
Mordecai Roberts, John Till,
Stephel Medera, George Warton,
Zachariah Ferris, Benjamin Hancock,
George Till, Edward Welsted,
Thomas Wiggins, James Thompson,
George Morion, Joseph Whitehead,
George Streeton, Patrick Connelly,
Friend Jackson, Thomas Griffy,
John Oliphant, William Halbert.
Seized and taken in execution as the property of Robert Lettis Hooper, deceased.

JOHN HALL, Marshal.
N. B. A reasonable credit will be given.
Marshal's Office,
Philadelphia, Jan. 4. } eot1M
* These two tracts do not contain the full quantity of the original warrants; part of them having been conveyed away.