

bushel was dutied 6 cents—Lime, pr. hd. 100 cents. Nails, Spikes, Tack and Brads, were the next articles. These Mr. LEE proposed, should be struck out—and was seconded by Mr. Maddison, and Mr. Bland: The latter gentleman observed, that it would operate as an intolerable burthen upon the Southern States, especially as the quantities which are manufactured in some of the States, are not adequate to the demand of those States.

Mr. GOODHUE supposed, that the quantity which now was, or easily might be made in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was equal to the demands of the Union.

Mr. AMES—Sir, I am in favour of the articles being retained in the Resolve; to strike them out would be to strike at one of the best and most accommodating manufactures that could possibly be established. It is now usual in Massachusetts, for house keepers in the country towns, to erect a small forge in their chimney corners, and in winter, and on evenings, when no other work could be done, it is almost incredible, what quantities of Nails are made, even by children. These Nails are produced in such quantities that the exportation of them is become a very considerable branch of Commerce. And shall we discourage so useful, so extensive a manufacture? Every principle of policy forbids it. Manufactures in Europe and America are upon quite different foundations: In Europe, necessity is a competent stimulus; but with us, every encouragement is necessary, to prop and cherish our infant attempts—he was therefore against the motion.

Mr. SHERMAN observed, that as our country abounded in iron, the manufacture under debate, was prosecuted with perhaps greater advantage, than almost any other—that it promoted an intercourse with the neighbouring States—Connecticut for instance, which manufactured this article to a large amount, bartered the nails for nail-ropes, with their neighbours in the State of New-York, he was therefore opposed to the motion. Mr. TUCKER, Mr. PARTRIDGE, Mr. FITZSIMONS, and Mr. CARROL, severally spoke upon the motion—which was finally withdrawn.—Tacks and brads were then struck out, and one cent per pound duty, was imposed upon nails and spikes.

Salt was the next article read, to which Mr. BURKE and Mr. HUGER were severally opposed to assessing any duty, as it would operate very unequally upon the southern Governments, where the price was greatly enhanced by very extensive land carriage.

Mr. LAWRENCE observed that a tax upon salt, would be equal through the States, and as it was an article on which a certain revenue could be realized—he was of opinion that a duty of six cents per bushel would not be burthensome, he therefore proposed that sum.

Mr. TUCKER expatiated upon the unequal operation of this duty—and the extreme injury it would produce to the poorer part of the people in the southern States, whose fate would be extremely severe, deprived of this necessary article—already so high with them that it was scarcely attainable.—He was decidedly opposed to any duty whatever.

Mr. SCOT, the article of salt, Sir, is transported to a distance of 500 miles from the Atlantic Ocean, and cannot be procured nearer—chief of the way on horseback, two baskets to a load. Four dollars a bushel is the price of this article where I live.—Sir, to add to this exorbitant price by a tax, would in my opinion be impolitic at this early period of the national Government, it may be our wisdom to make the the most favorable impressions upon the minds of the back country people—I do not pretend to the gift of prophecy, but the effects of a measure of this kind would certainly be unfavorable upon the minds of those people—nature it should seem had sufficiently taxed this article by the difficulties she threw in the way of obtaining it by a great proportion of mankind.—Mr. Moore said some thing upon the subject, but we could not distinctly hear him.

Mr. SMITH of (South Carolina) was opposed to the duty—and combated it by a variety of observations which had reference principally to the local circumstances of South Carolina—its attachment to the Constitution—the expensive land carriage, &c. &c. but as the time had elapsed and no prospect appearing of bringing the subject to an immediate decision, Mr. Lawrence moved that the committee should rise.—

The further consideration was therefore postponed.— The committee arose and the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17.

Met agreeable to adjournment.

Mr. SHERMAN moved for the order of the day. In committee of the whole—resumed the consideration of the impost proper to be laid on Salt!

Mr. BURKE moved that the article be struck out of the enumeration.

Mr. LAWRENCE—I am not convinced, Sir, by all that has been urged upon the subject, of the expediency of a duty upon this article—Upon the general principle, this article, it is true, will come in, but when it is considered that it is our duty to avail ourselves of the most productive sources of revenue. When it is considered that this duty will operate more equally than some others,

by reason of the greater consumption for the purposes of luxury than will be consumed by the poor—considering also, the low price at which salt is imported, it must be confessed a very eligible source of revenue. It has been said that it was oppressive, and would be as odious, as a poll tax. As to its being oppressive, he could not conceive of it, as the quantity consumed by families upon an average, did not exceed, perhaps, three bushels per annum; which, at six cents was little more than one-sixth of a dollar a year; and it was very well known, that a poll-tax was common in some of the States, and had been so, time immemorial, and no greater complaint existed as to that denomination of taxes, than against others.—The truth was, all taxes were odious, and were submitted to from principle and necessity. In the Southern governments, it has been said, that the heavy land carriage of this article, would enhance its value beyond all toleration—To this, it might be replied, that whatever the price of Salt might be, the impost would be uniform, and not in proportion to the price of the article, let Salt be cheap or dear, still six cents only was the proposed duty; and if from local circumstances, some parts of the Union paid an excessive price for a particular article, still it lay with them very much to lessen the price and diminish the amount of the duty by retrenching the consumption of such article. At any rate, it was morally certain, that a balance would be produced upon the whole, when the system should be completed; by the States upon the shores of the Atlantic consuming many articles on which heavy duties would be assessed, and which were not, and would not be made use of, in the inland parts of the country—A tax upon this article had existed for some time in this State, and was collected with the same ease with other duties: There were other objections answered by Mr. Lawrence; his replies were to the point, and he concluded by wishing that the article might not be erased.

Mr. MADDISON was in favor of the duty; he considered the subject upon the principles of justice and policy, and from both determined that the proposed duty was eligible; he was however in favor of a small one, but could by no means think of leaving the article out.

Mr. HUNTINGDON adverted to the facility and punctuality with which a great revenue was raised from this article in European countries—the duty proposed was low, and in a great majority of instances, would be borne by those who were best able to pay.

Mr. WHITE opposed the article's being continued in the resolve, or a duty's being imposed on it—His constituents expected relief from the operation of the New Government. this would be considered as a great burthen, and have a very inauspicious influence. Five per cent he was in favor of; but the proposed sum amounted to almost 33-3 per cent.

Mr. SCOT was in opposition to the continuance of the article in the list, and observed, upon the assertion that had been made respecting the people in the Western country, not consuming many articles which the sea ports paid a heavy duty upon, that every article of luxury, both of Europe, the East and West Indies had found their way 500 miles inland; and that according to their property, the people in those regions, consumed their full proportion of luxuries: He was therefore for expunging the article, as he dreaded the consequences, which, in his opinion, would result from an impost that would be considered in so odious a light.

Mr. FITZSIMONS observed, that justice was the great principle that should influence the decisions of that House; that it would be a poor compliment to the judgment and patriotism of their constituents, to suppose that their attachment to good government and the Constitution, depended upon a circumstance of this nature: He did not think it was in human justice to adopt a tax less injurious to the poor; he conceived that no people upon earth had higher sentiments of justice than the people of these States; and as so great a sum as nearly 100000 dollars might, according to a calculation he had made, be raised with ease upon this article; he was opposed to expunging it, and hoped the duty of six cents would obtain.

The question being taken, it was voted not to expunge the article.

Mr. GOODHUE then moved that a draw back should be allowed on salt used for the Fisheries, and provisions—this passed in the affirmative.

It was then voted that the duty on salt should be six cents per bushel; on manufactured Tobacco, six cents per lb. on Snuff, ten cents per lb.

Mr. CARROL then proposed that window and other Glass, should be added to the general list of articles: This, after some debate, was acceded to, and ten per cent advalorem was voted upon window and all other glass. After considerable further debate, the committee voted that a duty of seven and half per cent advalorem, should be laid upon all writing, printing and wrapping Paper and paste-board, walking sticks and horse-whips, clothes ready made, and gold and silver, and plated ware, jewellery and paste work, and upon all coaches, chariots, and other four wheeled carriages, duty of fifteen per cent advalorem.

Upon motion the committee then rose, and the Speaker resumed the chair. A letter was then read from the Hon. Senate enclosing two orders.

A report from the joint committee appointed to determine upon the mode of conducting conferences; also respecting the election of Chaplains.—This report was accepted on the part of the House—And an order of the Senate appointing Mr. Strong, Mr. Izard and Mr. Lee, to join a committee of the House, to consider the most eligible mode of communicating papers, bills and messages. Mr. Lee, Mr. Burke and Mr. Seney were appointed.

Adjourned

(To be continued.)

O D E,

On the Establishment of the CONSTITUTION, And the Election of GEORGE our President.

"GOD of our fathers! need we trace  
The mis'ries of a former race,  
To learn true conduct from recorded woes?  
But now our errors, and our crimes,  
Drew down thy judgments on the times,  
Black o'er our heads a tempest rose,  
Soon all the Heav'ns were in a flame,  
Pointing to blast our peace and fame:  
But, oh! thy mercy turn'd the storm aside,  
Deign'd to be calm the raging seas,  
Deign'd to diffuse the swelling breeze,  
And to the port of peace our vessel guide.—  
Our pilot sav'd thro' such a wat'ry war,  
Sits at the helm, and points to Hope's bright star;  
And, God his guide, he bids us boldly go,  
Whatever focks oppose, whatever tempests blow."

NATIONAL.

Extract of a letter from a neighbouring State.

"I AM really happy to be informed that the GENERAL GOVERNMENT is beginning its operations—Human nature is capricious; would you believe it—there was something like the appearance of an abatement of that ardour in the national cause, which has so strongly marked the conduct of the majority of the people in this quarter—'there is a tide in the affairs of men'—and so there is in their SENTIMENTS too—'taken at the flood it leads' the Empire Government, and Peace—but it neglected—I forbear the rest—May the Legislature of the United States be wise to discern, and spirited to prosecute the best interests—'Where freedom dwells, there is my Country,' said one—and where is her residence to be found but where the security of person and property exists under a just, a righteous, and energetic Government?—such as I trust is in reserve for this rising—independent Empire."

PRIZE OF VIRTUE.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY of PERPIGNAN.

JANUARY 2, 1788.

THE prize of Virtue proposed for the countryman, who should most deserve it, by a long irreproachable conduct, or some remarkable instance of courage and humanity, was this day awarded to the following persons.

NICHOLAS BRUSSE, of the village of Toulouge, who, throughout a life of sixty years, has been in the constant exercise of virtuous actions, notwithstanding the many misfortunes he has experienced.

EBDON CLARET of 40, and VILLENOVAL, of 20, inhabitants of St. Laurent de Cerda, whose employment was to carry ore, on mules, from the mountain of Batere to the forges at St. Laurent. These muleteers, returning from Batere, find the most dangerous torrents in the province extremely swelled. The youngest takes upon himself to found the passage. He gets upon his mule, laden with ore, and enters the water. The mule is soon carried away by the stream, and VILLENOVAL loses his feat. His comrade, seeing him on the point of being drowned, rushes into the river, seizes VILLENOVAL; and drags him to the opposite side. Perceiving the mule of his young friend, and this mule was his all, ready to perish, he again plunges in, comes up to the mule, cuts the girths to disengage the load, but the animal in struggling strikes him on the head, and CLARET is carried away senseless by the torrent. VILLENOVAL cannot bear to see his preserver perish, rushes into the water, and after several efforts has the good fortune to bring CLARET to the shore.

The society gave 200 livres to BRUSSE, and 100 livres to each of the others.

NEWYORK, APRIL 18.

It would be a poor compliment to the good sense of the Citizens of the United States, to suppose, that after their unparalleled exertions to obtain the blessings of freedom and independence, that they should not with ardour adopt a firm and efficient Government, and enter into a spirited administration of such a Government too, as the only method to realize, secure and perpetuate the great objects for which they fought and conquered.

Accordingly we find, that the more that Government is studied, understood and enjoyed, like other blessings of a propitious providence, the more it is prized; and there is no doubt but as the prejudices of mankind subside, and their understandings have fair play, they will consider the restraints of Law and good Government, as the only barriers of freedom and happiness.

OF THE FEDERAL STATE-HOUSE.

This superb edifice is upon the whole, superior to any building in America—and for its competency to the great design for which it is constructed, does honour to the architect.—The citizens of this metropolis, always distinguished for their public spirit—have by their exertions in this instance, added greatly to the lustre of their established FEDERAL CHARACTER.