

On motion of Mr. SHERMAN, the bill, with amendments from the Senate, respecting the manner of taking certain oaths, was read, and the amendments adopted by the House.

THURSDAY, MAY 7.

Mr. SMITH, of South Carolina, from the Committee appointed to wait on the President, to know when it would be convenient for him to receive the Address of the House, reported, That they had accordingly waited on the President, and that he had been pleased to mention Friday as a day, that would be convenient to him, and he submitted it to the pleasure of the House to fix the place.

The House then resolved, that they would present their Address to the President on Friday, in the room adjoining the Representatives' Chamber.

On motion of Mr. BLAND, a Committee was appointed to confer with the Senate, on the proper mode of presenting bills, resolutions, and addresses to the President.

The House then resumed the subject of Tonnage.

A motion was made by Mr. MADISON, to reduce the tonnage on foreign ships not in alliance with the United States, from 50 to 40 cents pr. ton, till the 1st of January, 1790, and then to be raised to 75 cents.

This motion produced some debate; and on the question to strike out the 50, in order to make way for Mr. Madison's motion, it was negatived—25 to 20.

A clause was then added to the report, which is intended to prevent any vessels from trading coastwise, except those which are wholly owned by citizens of the United States.

The report as amended was then agreed to by the House—and a committee was appointed to bring in a bill.

Adjourned.

FRIDAY, MAY 8.

Upon the report of a Committee in favor of appointing a Sergeant at Arms, and nominations being called for, Mr. AMES and Mr. TEACHER made some observations in opposition to the measure—contending, that the officer was super-numerary, and the post a mere sinecure.

Mr. GERRY, from the Committee appointed to prepare a bill prescribing the mode of collecting the Revenue, introduced a temporary law, which was read, and a hundred copies ordered to be printed for the House.

Mr. SMITH, of South Carolina, at this moment came in, and informed the House, that The President was ready to receive their address. The House immediately arose, and following the Speaker, attended The President in the room adjoining, where the following Address was presented by the Speaker, in the name of the House.

The ADDRESS

Of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, to GEORGE WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES.

S I R,

THE representatives of the people of the United States, present their congratulations on the event by which your fellow-citizens have attested the pre-eminence of your merit. You have long held the first place in their esteem—you have often received tokens of their affection—you now possess the only proof that remained of their gratitude for your services, of their reverence for your wisdom, and of their confidence in your virtues. You enjoy the highest, because, the truest honor, of being the first magistrate, by the unanimous choice of the freest people on the face of the earth.

We well know the anxieties with which you must have obeyed a summons, from the repose reserved for your declining years, into public scenes, of which you had taken your leave forever—But the obedience was due to the occasion. It is already applauded by the universal joy, which welcomes you to your station, and we cannot doubt that it will be rewarded with all the satisfaction, with which an ardent love for your fellow-citizens must review successful efforts to promote their happiness.

This anticipation is not justified merely by the past experience of your signal services. It is particularly suggested by the pious impressions under which you commence your administration, and the enlightened maxims by which you mean to conduct it. We feel with you the strongest obligations to adore the invisible hand which has led the American people through so many difficulties, to cherish a conscious responsibility for the destiny of republican liberty, and to seek the only sure means of preserving and recommending the precious deposit in a system of legislation, founded on the principles of an honest policy, and directed by the spirit of a diffusive patriotism.

The question arising out of the fifth article of the constitution, will receive all the attention demanded by its importance, and will, we trust, be decided under the influence of all the considerations to which you allude.

In forming the pecuniary provisions for the executive department, we shall not lose sight of a wish resulting from motives which give it a peculiar claim to our regard.—Your resolution in a moment critical to the liberties of your country, to renounce all personal emolument, was among the many prefaces of your patriotic services, which have been amply fulfilled, and your scrupulous adherence now to the law then imposed on yourself, cannot fail to demonstrate the purity, whilst it increases the lustre of a character, which has so many titles to admiration.

Such are the sentiments which we have thought fit to address to you: They flow from our own hearts, and we verily believe, that among the millions we represent, there is not a virtuous citizen whose heart will disown them.

All that remains is, that we join in your fervent supplication for the blessings of Heaven on our country; and that we add our own for the choicest of those blessings on the most beloved of her citizens.

To which THE PRESIDENT made the following REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR very affectionate Address, produces emotions, which I know not how to express: I feel that my past endeavors in the service of my country, are far overpaid by its goodness; and I fear much that my future ones may not fulfil your kind anticipation. All that I can promise is, that they will be invariably directed by an honest, and an ardent zeal. Of this resource my heart assures me. For all beyond, I rely on the wisdom and patriotism of those with whom I am to co-operate, and a continuance of the blessings of Heaven on our beloved country.

G. WASHINGTON.

After this, THE PRESIDENT retiring, the Members of the House returned to their seats.

A motion which was laid on the table the 4th inst. respecting a request to the President, that he would procure an estimate of exports and imports, entries and clearances from the several States in the Union, for twelve months previous to the fourth of March last, was taken up, and after sundry amendments, one of which was, appointing a Committee to attend to the business, the motion was adopted.

After this, the appointment of a Serjeant at Arms was taken into consideration again—and a vote for assigning a time to come to a choice obtained—Tuesday next being appointed.

The Order of the day was then called for, and the House went into a Committee of the whole, when the second reading of the Bill, ascertaining the rates of Impost, was attended to.

Dr. TUCKER proposed, That the duty on distilled spirits, Jamaica proof, should be reduced to 6 cents, pr. gallon—this brought on a debate which lasted till the House adjourned.

NEW-YORK, MAY 9.

OF COMMENCEMENT.

ON Wednesday the 6th inst. was held in St. Paul's Church, the annual COMMENCEMENT of COLUMBIA COLLEGE.

The Proceedings on this pleasing occasion, were introduced by Dr. JOHNSON, (the President) with prayers.

The Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts, then performed the parts respectively assigned them, in the following order: Viz.

- JAMES DUANE, delivered the Salutatory Oration.
MATTHEW MESIER, an Oration on The Passions.
PETER MESIER, on the Rising Glory of America.
JOHN BAMBRIDGE, on Happiness.
WILLIAM LUPTON, on the Art of Printing.
JOHN VAN NESS, on Civilization.
JOHN REMSON, on the Progress of Government.
HENRY IZARD, on Eloquence.
WILLIAM HURST, on History.

The Degree of Bachelor of Arts, was then conferred on the following young gentlemen, viz.

- Messrs JAMES DUANE, JOHN VAN NESS,
MATTHEW MESIER, JOHN REMSEN,
PETER MESIER, HENRY IZARD,
JOHN BAMBRIDGE, WILLIAM HURST, and
WILLIAM LUPTON, JOHN MASON.

The Degree of Master of Arts, on

- PETER STEDFORD, ABRAHAM NUN,
PHILIP LIVINGSTON, SAMUEL W. JOHNSON,
JOHN BASSET, ROGER ALDEN.

The Degree of Doctor of Divinity, on the

- Rev. ABRAHAM BEACH,
Rev. BENJAMIN MOORE, } all of New-York.
Rev. WILLIAM LYNN,
Rev. JOHN D. GROSS,

The Rev. JEREMIAH LEAMING, of Connecticut, and The Rev. JACOB R. HARDENBERGH, of New-Brunswick.

After which the Valedictory Oration was delivered by Mr. JOHN MASON.

The Performances were received with applause, by a numerous and respectable audience.

Doctor JOHNSON, the President, concluded the whole with an affectionate, pertinent, and elegant Address to the Graduates—and a fervent Prayer to the source of all Wisdom and Felicity, for their future prosperity and usefulness in life.

THE PRESIDENT—His Excellency the Vice-President—the Senate, and House of Representatives of the United States—the GOVERNOR and principal Officers of this Republic, honored by their presence, this highly useful and important literary Institution.

The late public commencement in this city, affords a conspicuous specimen of the progress of science, and the fine arts, as well as of moral and political researches. It is an happy preface to the future character and prosperity of this country, that its youth, when in pursuit of literary attainments, do not confine their attention to the dull paths of mere scholastic study, but acquire some general and useful ideas respecting commerce, policy and ethics. Under such regulations, may we not hope to be successively furnished with patriots and legislators, who will come forth into public life, endowed with such knowledge, and guarded with such principles, as will render them both the ornament and safeguard of our rising republic? Men participating of such qualities will be equally remote from wishing a government of bigotry and despotism, as of licentiousness and anarchy.

The spectators who hear the debates of our national representatives, are unanimous in their applause of the candor and impartiality which appear in the deliberations. If the measures adopt-

ed should fail of giving complete satisfaction to the virtuous citizens of this nation, it will be no argument that the legislature are not influenced by the strictest integrity, and the purest patriotism. It will only be an evidence, that the task to be accomplished, was surrounded with such various and complicated difficulties, in the adoption of plans, and had to combat such diversity of views and feelings throughout the country where they were to operate, that it would be no less remarkable in the first instance to strike upon expedients absolutely the best, than to gain the entire approbation of all classes of men, over this wide extended country. We persuade ourselves however, that wise measures will be pursued, and a very general acquiescence in them will prevail among our enlightened countrymen. They will no doubt recollect, that future legislatures may amend what is found ineligible, and correct any unequal operation, that the laws may be supposed to produce in different parts of the Union: For it is no less requisite, that a spirit of accommodation and justice should characterize the bulk of the citizens, than that it should govern those who have the management of public affairs.

On Thursday evening, the subscribers of the Dancing Assembly, gave an elegant BALL and ENTERTAINMENT. THE PRESIDENT of the United States, was pleased to honor the company with his presence—His Excellency the Vice President—most of the members of both Houses of Congress—His Excellency the Governor, and a great many other dignified public characters: His Excellency Count de MOUSTIER—His Most Christian Majesty's Ambassador—The Baron Steuben, and other foreigners of distinction, were present: There was a numerous and brilliant collection of ladies, dressed with consummate taste and elegance. The number of persons present, was upwards of three hundred, and satisfaction, vivacity and delight, beamed from every countenance.

Yesterday, THE PRESIDENT received visits of compliment at his house.

We are informed, that THE PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICE PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF THIS STATE, and many other PERSONAGES of the greatest DISTINCTION, will be at the THEATRE, on Monday night next.

A correspondent remarks, that it is doubtless very improper, to give the Title of Excellency to THE PRESIDENT: because it places him, in his official capacity, upon a level with some public officers, especially in the diplomatic line, who are to receive their commissions from him.

ELOGIUM.

DR. FRANKLIN has had the happiness of living to see science extended under his fostering hand, from one end of Pennsylvania to the other. What hath he not done in the cause of literature and freedom? Was he not a principal agent in the foundation of the first public school of any note in the State? Was he not the principal agent in the foundation of the first library in Philadelphia? What seminary hath not partook of his bounty? Hath he not after a constant exercise of his extraordinary abilities, at the very eve of life, exhibited a striking proof of the consequences of good habits, in taking by the hand an infant academy at Washington, the very extremity of the State? Did he not some time ago endow it with fifty pounds? Hath he not within a few days past directed Mr. Redick, one of the trustees of that school, to receive from the State the whole amount of his account for postages during the three years of his presidency, and which amounted to a very considerable sum? Yes, all these things he hath done. But to all these things and as much more as would fill a volume of such things, would be but the dust of the balance to what this great, this good, this ornament to human nature, hath done for man.

Thursday arrived the ship George from Glasgow. Papers brought by this vessel, give the following intelligence, viz.

March 10, The Lords Commissioners addressed both Houses of the British Parliament in a speech, by orders from the King.

At the Cabinet Council, in which this speech was considered, the King presided.

After the Council broke up, the King took an excursion for two hours on horse back.

The standard was hoisted and the guns fired at the tower, and the city illuminated on account of the King's recovery.

His Majesty's first public appearance, will be at St. Paul's Church, to offer his thanks to the power, that has restored him.

Mr. Pitt has been compared to a cocoa-nut, which has a rough out side, but much milk at the heart.

Great convulsions in Ireland, on account of the Lord Lieutenant's not forwarding the address of the Irish Parliament to the Prince of Wales.

Several thousand medals, it is said, have been struck off by the opposition—the Prince on one side, and a Crown on the other—their disappointment on the King's recovery, and consequent chagrin prevents any remarks on the indecency of their conduct.