

FABLE.

[THE absurdity of attempting such amendments to the Constitution of the United States as will remove the objections of every individual, was not better ridiculed in the celebrated simile of the BREECHES, than it is by the following, taken from Professor GELLERT'S FABLES.]

A VILLAGE in Germany had the privilege of choosing their own minister. At one of their meetings, after the decease of their old pastor, it was moved and seconded by some honest peasants, to give the place to nobody, but to such a one, who, by the power of his prayers, would be able to make rain or sunshine, according to the wishes and true welfare of his parishioners: as it was found in the Bible, that some prophets of old had been entrusted with such powers; and St. James observed, that the energy of the prayers of Elijah were not unattainable by other men. The whole assembly perceived the advantages of such a resolution, and adopted it. It required some time before they could meet with such a subject, though they spared no means to make their intention known; but at last they succeeded; a candidate professed to be possessed of such powers, and, upon his solemn promise to exercise them whenever required, was initiated. Not long after they met and resolved to try the expediency of the said measure, and the minister was called. Sir, said the foreman, we wish now that you perform your promise, and make us the weather for to-morrow. With all my heart, said the minister, what weather do you wish to see to-morrow? Why, sir, replied Stephen, a little rain would assist the crop amazingly. Not now, said Godfrey, by any means; for some of the village have begun the hay-making business: I should prefer clear weather. A cloudy day, said Hans, and rain in the evening, would be favorable both to the hay and the crop. Sir, said Thomas Hizkopf, I speak with impartiality: we cannot help that some of our people were premature in cutting their hay: plentiful rain the crop requireth; and plentiful rain we will have by my honor. Let me speak one word, said Christian Klug: you all, brethren know my experience in the farming way, as long as I can remember I have found the greatest benefit from thunder showers, only not mixt with hail at this season of the year: let us agree to that, reverend Sir, answered Wilhelm Plauderer, I hope you, as a divine, see the malicious tendency of the proposal: there are bad people in your flock, Sir: they wish to ruin their neighbours—Stop, my dear hearers, said the young parson; don't quarrel here: as soon as you can come to an agreement among yourselves I shall be ready to make you the weather. The man, it is said, enjoyeth still his living in peace, unsuspected of having promised more than he was able to perform.

MR. FENNO,

You are desired to insert the inclosed in your paper: It may either prove to be a remedy against the Hessian Fly, or may lead to the discovery of one.

An Extract from the printed report of the Privy Council of Great-Britain, of their enquiry about the Hessian Fly.

Method of destroying the flying Weevil in Bavaria, in a letter from Mr. WALPOLE, Minister from the Court of Great-Britain, at Munich, to the Marquis of CARMARTHEN, Secretary of State.

"A PERSON put on a heap of corn, thyme and sweet marjoram, and changed each of these plants every 24 hours, in hopes of discovering one which would answer his purpose. Hemp was also tried: He took a handful and put it on a heap of corn, and found the next morning that the hemp was full of Weevils. These little black animals seem to have the smell of a curious nature, since they find the bad scent of hemp agreeable, and it appears they like the soft kind of it. This handful of hemp was picked out of the grainery and winnowed, and put again on the corn. The result was that in five days afterwards there were no Weevils to be seen in the said heap of corn. In the season when there was no green hemp, they made use of mouldy old hemp and with equal success, except that it required a longer time to destroy these insects. When the Weevils appeared again in the month of May the following year, in less quantities, and at that period, there was only the tow or heads of hemp that was already prepared to spin; nevertheless the success was the same, and in eight days time all the weevils were removed. Perhaps linen might be used, steeped in the juice of hemp where the hemp is not cultivated, and the event might turn out equally successful. However, it is necessary to shake the hemp well that is put on the corn, and to stir the corn if it is in great quantities, in order to bring the Weevils to the surface. This experiment was made also in a rainy summer, when it was necessary to collect together the sheafs which were very wet, and carry them into the grainery, which of course produced a fermentation in the barn as well as the grainery, and from that cause, many Weevils. Hemp was made use of very early in the spring, and the corn sired at the same time, and as the excessive heat arose from it the Weevils disappeared."

LITERARY ARTICLE.

MADAME la Baronne DE VASSE is about to publish at Paris, a History of the Revolution, in America, *La Revolution de l'Amerique*, &c. in two vols. octavo—price to subscribers 10 livres (14/2.) It will include a period of 27 years, beginning at 1760; and Madame DE VASSE assures us, that the information it conveys may be relied on—it being compiled from authentic documents, and indisputable authorities alone, by an unprejudiced and impartial writer. We are also told, that it has been approved by Dr. FRANKLIN and other American gentlemen, who have seen it in manuscript; and that an English author of some distinction in the literary world, has so high an opinion of it as to be engaged in translating it.—It is just published.

NATIONAL PARAGRAPHS.

THE revenue system of Great Britain is a system of CHECKS: This is founded on the longest experience that any commercial country can boast: It is the result of an accurate knowledge of human nature; and is placing matters upon the only principle that can ensure the least prospect of a punctual collection of the impost.

How far checks may be provided which shall operate in the different States, so as to affect the general interest of the union, or whether every particular State must not be provided with a system of this kind, which shall extend no farther than the limits of such State, is perhaps worthy of attention; but except this principle is interwoven in the texture of our plans of revenue, we shall find ourselves guilty of a most essential omission—and the system like the old confederation, will prove a rope of sand.

Every honest man will readily recognize the obligations which are imposed upon him by law, for the faithful discharge of the duties annexed to any office to which he may be appointed; and this he will do, not only from a judicious regard to his own reputation, but also to sanction those checks which it is absolutely necessary, that a great proportion of characters should be controuled by, who will always find methods to introduce themselves into public departments: Checks can never injure the feelings of a good man, and every one acknowledges, that they are requisite to deter the unprincipled, by making it their interest to be just and honest.

The proceedings of Congress have hitherto been so open, unreserved, candid and explicit—the spirit of the constitution (so far as all parties have generally agreed in it) has been so strictly adhered to, and the subject of amendments has been taken up at so much earlier a period than the dissatisfied expected, that there is every reason to suppose the seceding States will have every objection done away; and will very soon come into the Union, by ratifying the system.—Not one inauspicious anticipation has been realized—nor is there the shadow of reason to suppose, that the wishes of the free citizens of these States will not be fully gratified, by having the constitution made more perfect than it now is, if possible.

It has been said that society has not yet arrived to its highest degree of perfection—Improvements are to be made, and this last polish appears to be reserved for the inhabitants of these rising States. It is true we are yet too much trammelled with the ideas and systems of European countries; but their influence is daily diminishing, and will undoubtedly finally be done away: The immense ocean that rolls between us and the old world, operates as a most powerful impediment to the increase of exotic habits and manners. America should establish her character for originality upon principles which will admit of boundless improvements. Europe, and particularly Great-Britain, has passed her zenith, and is evidently on the decline; but America is in the morning of her glory—here society shall see its *ne plus ultra*, and the display of the powers of the human mind be extended to limits hitherto undefined.

The domestic trade of the United States is an object of the greatest importance: It arrests the attention of every patriotic mind: Independent of the numerous advantages that will accrue to the several States, and to the revenue, from having a wise system adopted to regulate the intercourse between the different parts of the Union—the political consequences are of a very salutary and extensive nature. It is Commerce that forms the chain of connection between distant countries—and has contributed to civilize and polish the mind of man, and encrease the pleasures of society. A more frequent and intimate intercourse between the inhabitants of these States will be attended with similar effects; besides giving them a more perfect knowledge of the resources of their country, for all the purposes of commerce, manufactures, agriculture, and independent happiness.

"There is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty."—The truth of this is often verified, but its bad policy may be more strongly exemplified in respect to public officers than in any other instances that can be cited: Generous salaries are the most powerful inducements to fidelity in the servants of the public: They command the best abilities, and the fairest characters: They cut off a powerful temptation to dishonesty, and give respect, dignity, and energy to the government. If we would have our public offices well filled, we must pay well: In the Revenue, in particular, it will be found the wisest, cheapest, and most productive plan.

Drawbacks of the duties on goods exported, open a door to frauds: It has been said that more Tobacco has been exported from a particular port in Scotland, and the drawback received on the same, than had been imported in the same time into the whole kingdom: Nevertheless, drawbacks are necessary:—Hence the necessity of trusting nothing to apparent principles; but depending solely on the most energetic vigilance.

MR. FENNO,

A WRITER in the *Daily Advertiser* of yesterday, has thought proper in an apologetical essay, to assign some very extraordinary reasons for the slow progress that Congress makes in transacting public business: This writer's information respecting murmurs on this account may be authentic; but it appears to me, very different suggestions would come nearer the truth of fact. From the ardour and expectation in the minds of the citizens at large, complaints were anticipated, should occasion call for them; but what says experience? Scarce a murmur has been lifted—the good sense of the people discerns the innumerable difficulties that obtrude themselves on every hand, and patience and candour triumph over the peevishness of human nature.

But the most surprising idea that could enter into the imagination of a timid politician, and which is assigned as a reason for extra caution and deliberation is, the "precarious establishment of the constitution; the peculiar vigilance with which all parties observe its motions, and the hostilities which lie in ambush to watch the moment of exposure, and to blast its ripening, but tender growth." Thanks to that good Providence, which has hitherto guarded America, these sentiments have no place in the minds of the present Federal Congress.—Ideas like these, would necessarily lead to weak, wavering, and indecisive conduct; and we might wait till the morning of the resurrection, before we should realize that we were blessed with any government at all.—The constitution of the union, is, however, established upon so solid a basis, that an entire revolution of sentiment in the public mind, with respect to an object from which they derive every expectation of political happiness, must precede every possible danger of precariousness in its establishment. That the constitution should be watched with vigilance is the duty of its friends; and it is true, there is an unusual vigilance at the present moment; but it is directed to the operations of Congress, from a desire that they should act up to the spirit and meaning of the system with vigour, energy, and dispatch—on this all our hopes are founded.

As to the "hostilities which lie in ambush" it is not possible to conceive what can be meant.—There never was a formidable party against the constitution; and at the present moment those who have had their doubts, are as anxious as its warmest advocates for its speedy operation.

Suspicion gives birth to party; and of all the evils that attend government, there is none pregnant with more fatal effects than indecision and timidity: There never was a people so thoroughly informed as we are in the principles of government, or more satisfied with the nature and tendency of their own constitution. The firm and immoveable establishment of this whole plan, is suspended upon giving its principles a complete operation: to recede, or to move with a dilatory, doubting step, will create factions, will sanction complaints, and render nugatory all that has been done.

ONE OF THE PEOPLE.

FROM THE CONNECTICUT COURANT.

Messieurs PRINTERS,

I OBSERVE you have republished the account of the new invented shuttle, that runs on wheels, and by means of which cloth quarters wide may be wove. It may not be amiss to inform your readers that there are now in this place three broad and one narrow loom constantly worked with the spring or fly shuttle—the extra expense of fitting a loom in this manner for a shuttle and iron work, is from twelve to fifteen shillings, according to the size of the looms. By means of this invention, a single person can weave cloth three yards wide—a few hours practice is sufficient to learn a common weaver to throw the shuttle—Any carpenter who is used to make the common looms, can from inspecting these, erect the broad looms, and add what is necessary to carry the fly shuttles. There is neither mystery or difficulty attending the working them when once observed. All looms designed to weave cloths a yard wide and upwards, should be worked in this manner. It is much to be wished that the country weavers would get reeds and harness to make their cloths 1 1/2 yard wide in the loom, so that they may be 3/4 wide when fulled and dressed. The flannels of this width would always command cash in this city—which will soon be the staple of woolen cloth as well as of wool for this State. If the principal weavers in each town would erect, say two or three broad looms to a town, where the yarn, made out of the wool that is too coarse for the fabric of fine cloths, might be wove into blankets and coatings, they would net much more to the farmers than making it into yard wide flannels, as is now practised. Such flannels would always sell at the factory in this town—and in this way immense quantities of coarse cloths might soon be made, even for exportation. The whole expense of a broad loom and the necessary apparatus, may be four pounds. Hartford, July 3, 1789.

FOREIGN ARTICLES.

LONDON, APRIL 27.

Extract of a letter from Paris, April 12.

"The elections are still going on very peaceably, in general. Bretagne is the only province in which we hear of any disturbance on this account. The nobles are there still as much at variance with the Third Estate as they were at the beginning; inasmuch that we do not find that any deputies are yet elected. This delay will, however, make no difference in the assembly of the States-General at Versailles, which is still determined for the 27th of this month. All the furnished lodgings at Versailles are already taken by government, for the accommodation of the deputies, some of whom are already arrived. The meeting is to be held in the room in which the notables assembled; considerable additions are, however, making, not only for the number of deputies, but for the accommodation of the public; a large gallery is erected, sufficient to contain three thousand persons, who will be admitted by tickets, and a large space is left for the people in general.