

AN African Prince subdued in battle, capitulated for his bow and quiver—a bauble bought his life. A British merchant sent him to South Carolina, where he was used as a slave. A placid countenance, and submissive manners, marked his resignation; and preserved him in all situations, the possession of his arms—the only companions he had left—the sole objects of his affections. His stateliness and strength recommended him to Colonel Mott, a humane master, in whose service he died, in steadfast faith of a certain resurrection in his native state.

The bow and quiver were preserved as relics of a faithful slave, in the Colonel's family, who gratefully remember the services, the fortitude, and the fidelity of the trusty, the gentle IAMBO.

In the campaign of 1781, the widow of Colonel Mott, (who died a patriot) was banished from her house, on the river Congaree, then fortified by a British garrison; the garrison was besieged by a small detachment from the American army, whose approaches were soon within bow-shot. The widow, who lived in a cottage in sight of the fort, was informed that the preservation of her house was the only impediment to its reduction—and she was informed of the expedients proposed.—Here, said she, (presenting the African bow and quiver) are the materials—Iambo never used these arrows and I fear they are poisoned; use them not, therefore, even against your enemies—but take the bow, any arrow will waft a match. Spare not the house, so you expel the foe. The blazing roof produced submission—the Britons dropped their arms—the Americans entered the house, and both joined to extinguish the flames.

The misfortunes of a Prince, and the heroism of a lady, are not uncommon—the novelty is the Bow—a stem of genuine bamboo—which, destined for the defence of Liberty in Africa, served the same cause in America, was preserved by an officer of the patriot army—presented to Mr. PEALE, and is now deposited in his MUSEUM.

LONDON, MAY 28.

BY EXPRESS FROM PARIS.

This express contains an account of the debates of the meeting of the States-General. The result is, that the clergy are sagacious and moderate, that the commons are startled at the view of their own importance, and only want the experience of a people already free, to give them a dextrous command of their rights as subjects. All however, seem to agree in a position, once laid down by a celebrated writer of our own—a position which cannot too often be repeated, or written in letters too large or conspicuous, "THAT THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE FREE."

The nobility evidently proceeded step by step, with an ungracious distrust, in order to preserve those preferences which had been already given in their favour. Mobs have been formed in some places, and the townsmen have been obliged to protect their villages from fire; one of their officers speaks thus: "We arrived with a guard, and were received by 80,000 people in confusion of tears and applause, clapping their hands, and crying, 'God save the king and Monsieur Carman; this was indeed a triumphal entry; never was a people more affectionate and submissive. The General had left the army without, and only entered the city with his two aid-du-camps. We will venture to add to the above, with that precaution which distinguishes our paper, that the dauphin of France is not yet dead, however strongly it may have been reported."

On the 13th instant the Sultan, attended by all the Grandees, went on horseback to the mosque of Elub, where the ceremony of girding on the Imperial Cimitar was performed with the usual pomp, amidst a great concourse of people. In the procession from the seraglio through the city, a sum of money to the amount of fifteen thousand pounds in small silver pieces, loaded on ten mules, was thrown amongst the populace; and what has not always been the case on similar occasions, no one lost his life in the scramble. His highness returned by water down the harbour, and was saluted by all the ships as well Christians as Turks. The first entertainment given by the sultan was a tournament, as more consistent in time of war than music and dancing.

JUNE 7. SELIM the third, the present Grand Seigneur, has had an education very different from that of his predecessors, for which he was indebted to his late uncle; he speaks French and Italian decently, and has read the best works in both languages; but he is more particularly acquainted with European tactics, which he was taught by a French officer of great ability. He has often been heard to declare that it was the duty of the Emperor of the Turks, to be at the head of his army, and from thence it is concluded, that he will not derogate from the Ottoman race.

JUNE 8. An unexpected change in the ministry has taken place; Lord Sydney has retired

from the office of secretary of state for the home department. He attended the council yesterday at Kew palace, where he resigned. His lordship is appointed one of the chief justices, in Eyre, the profits of which are reckoned at 3000 a year.

Mr. Grenville, the speaker of the house of commons, appointed to lord Sydney's place, yesterday acted in that capacity. Mr. Henry Addington, member for the Devizes is chosen speaker.

Mr. Richard Fold, of Birmingham, has very lately presented to the Society of Arts, an essay, in which he points out a method, demonstrated by a variety of successful experiments, that horses may be inoculated for the strangles, with the same certainty of success that the human species are for the small-pox.

We are sorry to inform our readers, that last night the beautiful edifice of the opera house was burnt to the ground. We happened to be present when the fire burst out, and must declare that we never saw any thing comparable to the rapidity with which it spread itself. It broke forth from the three domes of the roof, at one and the same instant, and in less than three minutes the whole building was an entire flame; there were neither water nor firemen to interrupt its progress, and in a quarter of an hour the whole was totally demolished.

The flames spread to the adjoining houses, seven of which were destroyed, and the fire reached to the entrance into Pall-mall, but did not go up the Haymarket.

Extract of a letter from Constantinople, dated April 20.

"All the propositions for peace, renewed under the present reign by the two courts of Bourbon, have been rejected, the Sultan having declared that he has taken an oath to re-conquer the Crimea, so that without the preliminary restitution of that peninsula all proposals are vain."

PARIS, JUNE 4.

His royal highness the dauphin died between twelve and one o'clock this morning, in the eighth year of his age, to the great grief of their most Christian majesties and the royal family.

The dauphin was in his eighth year; for four of which he has been almost constantly afflicted with diseases which baffled the art of the first physicians, and have now terminated in his dissolution. His royal highness's remains will be interred in the burying place of the Kings of France, in the church of Notre Dame in Paris. All the public places of amusement are shut up, and will remain so till after his burial. The Duc de Normandie, the now only son of his Most Christian Majesty, is a fine child about five years old, and bids fair to become in due time the king of France.

The present heir apparent of the crown of France, and Maria Therese Charlotte, born December 19, 1778, are the only remaining children of their Most Christian Majesties.

NEWYORK.

SKETCH OF PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1789.

Sketch of the Debate on Amendments to the Constitution. In COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.—The first article of the report being read, Mr. GERRY rose and objected to the sentence, "Government being intended for the benefit of the people."

THIS, said he, holds up an idea, that all government is intended for the benefit of the people: This is not true—for if we examine, we shall find that not one government in fifty, is constituted upon this principle. Most of the governments, ancient or modern, owed their existence to either fraud, force or accident, and are designed for the purposes of oppression and personal ambition. I wish to have nothing go out from this body as a maxim, which is not true in fact. He moved to amend the clause by inserting the words "of right." This motion was negatived.

Mr. TUCKER observed, that the preamble is no part of the Constitution: The object is to amend the Constitution; The preamble is no more a part of it, than the letter of the President which is annexed to the Instrument—and I cannot see that the committee has any thing to do with it.

Mr. SUMPTER moved that the consideration of the preamble should be postponed till the whole amendments are gone through, and then we shall know what introduction may be proper.

Mr. SMITH, (S. C.) observed, that the amendments proposed to the preamble, had been recommended by three States, which renders it proper.

Mr. PAGE said, that in his opinion the original preamble will not be altered for the better, by this amendment, and therefore I hope it will remain as it is.

Mr. SHERMAN said he was satisfied with the original clause: If the Constitution was a grant from another power it would be proper; but as the right is a natural and unalienable right, and inherent in the people, it is quite unnecessary to give any reasons for forming the Constitution. It is the act of their own sovereign will. The words "WE THE PEOPLE" contain in themselves the principle fully, and the alteration proposed will injure the preamble.

Mr. MADISON observed, that the proposed amendment is a truth, and I conceive there is a propriety in inserting it; besides several of the States have thought proper to mention the preamble in their ratifications, which renders it proper to be attended to. I can see no difficulty in associating the amendment with the preamble, without injuring the beauty or sense of the paragraph: The principle it is acknowledged on all hands is self evident, and can derive no force from this expression, still for the reason before suggested it may be prudent to insert it.

The question on this amendment was carried in the affirmative. Second amendment: From art. 1, sec. II, par. 3, strike out all between the word "direct" and "until such," and instead thereof, insert "after the first enumeration there shall be one representative for every thirty thousand, until the number shall amount to one hundred; after which, the proportion shall be so regulated by Congress, that the number of representatives shall never be less than one hundred, nor more than one hundred and seventy five; but each state shall always have at least one representative."

ber of representatives shall never be less than one hundred, nor more than one hundred and seventy five; but each state shall always have at least one representative."

Mr. VINING: The duty which I owe to my constituents—my anxiety on the subject of amendments, and the justice, propriety, and policy of the measure, lead me to propose, after the words, "one hundred and seventy-five," to insert these words: "that where the number of inhabitants of any particular State, amounts to 45000, they shall be entitled to two representatives." This was negatived without a division.

Mr. AMES moved, that the word "thirty" should be struck out, and forty inserted—so that the ratio of representation should be one for forty thousand. I am induced, said he, to make this motion, because I think the present number sufficiently large for the purpose of legislation—that number which is found adequate to the objects to be preferred: The people it is presumed are universally satisfied with the present number, which falls short of what would, on this proposition, actually constitute the house, upon an exact apportionment upon the present supposed number of inhabitants: Experience has taught, that all the information necessary, both of a general and local nature, may be found in a body not more numerous than the present legislature: The expense of a numerous representation would soon become dissatisfactory to the people, and be considered as an intolerable burden: The ratio of one to every 30000 will swell the representation to an enormous mass, whose support will be insufferable, and whose deliberations will be impracticable: The present population will on the first census produce upwards of 100—the augmentation will be very rapid: It therefore appears proper to fix the proportion immediately, to prevent these evils. By enlarging the representation, we lessen the chance of selecting the most competent characters, and of concentrating the wisdom and abilities of the United States, which alone can support the importance and dignity of that branch in which the people are more peculiarly interested: The responsibility of any assembly, is in proportion to the number: In large representations the weight, the consequence, and responsibility of individuals is diminished. Numerous representations engender parties, are subject to peculiar fermentations, delay the public business, and by increasing the expense, lead the people to consider government rather a curse than a blessing. The pasties may promote the public good, they often give rise to very alarming evils. Whether it is possible to constitute a popular assembly as to banish or restrain to any considerable degree, a spirit of faction, is an important enquiry. This however is certain, that in proportion as the assembly is increased, the opportunity for intrigue and cabal, to influence weak and unsuspecting characters, and to attach them to the views of ambitious men, is increased. It may also be observed, that responsibility is in some proportion to the numbers represented. A representative of a large body of people will feel in a higher degree the weight of the charge he undertakes, and will thereby be more interested to support a virtuous fame, and redouble his exertions for the public good.

The people are not anxious to have a representation for every 30000: This was not the object originally in view by those who proposed this amendment; their intention was to fix a limitation, so that the representation should not be diminished by Congress in any future time, below the point of security—their object was certainly not augmentation, for in proportion as the people multiply, the representation will increase, and their influence will be diminished; this will lessen the controul of the people over them; increasing the number therefore beyond certain limits will expose the government to factions, will lessen the agency of the understanding, and augment that of the passions. Improper characters will more easily get elected. The number of suitable persons is not great in any country, of those, many will be indisposed to serve. The United States has as great a proportion of competent abilities perhaps as any country whatever. If however the representative body is unduly enlarged, the probability of inferior candidates being elected will rise. It has been asserted, that so large a territory as the United States contain cannot remain united under one government, even if the administration was entrusted to men of consummate abilities, and incorruptible virtue; but this idea will receive additional force, if the chance of different characters being called to the administration is increased.

Mr. AMES added many other observations, and concluded by saying, that from the foregoing reflections upon the subject, he was led to make the motion, conceiving it to be consonant to the ideas of the people, and that it would conduce to the dignity and security of the government, and the preservation of the rights, and privileges of the people.

Mr. MADISON said, he thought differently from the gentleman last speaking: The design of the amendments is to conciliate the minds of the people to the government—prudence requires that the opinion of those States who have proposed this important amendment should be attended to. It is a fact that some States have proposed an increase of the number—several have mentioned 200—this renders it probable that they would not be satisfied with a less number. I do not think it necessary at this time to go into an accurate investigation of the advantages or disadvantages of a numerous representation; beyond a certain rule, the number might be inconvenient; that point is a matter of uncertainty. It is true that numerous bodies are liable to some abuses, but large assemblies are not so subject to corruption as smaller ones: If we fix the ratio at one for forty thousand, it will not prevent the abuses the gentleman apprehends, for before the second census shall be taken, it is probable that the population will be so increased, as to make the representative body very large; there is therefore, with respect to futurity, but little choice between one ratio, or the other. I think it will be best to retain the 30000, as attended with the least difficulty—it is the proportion contemplated by the States, and I hope therefore that this part of the report will be adopted.

Mr. SEDGWICK stated some particulars respecting instructions from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and said he hoped the article in the report of the committee would be adopted.

Mr. GERRY also replied to Mr. Ames: He controverted his calculations, and enforced the necessity of an ample and adequate representation. He observed, that the gentleman had said, "increasing the number lessens the importance of the members;" but Sir, said Mr. Gerry, are we, in order to preserve our own dignity and importance, to sacrifice the liberties of the people? He asserted that small assemblies are more liable to fermentation than large; large representative assemblies will commonly be composed of a considerable proportion of the yeomanry of the country, who are found to be more dispassionate than persons elected from elevated walks of life.

Mr. LIVERMORE was opposed to the motion for 40000.

Mr. AMES rose to justify the motives which induced him to make the motion: He made a copious reply, and among other observations said, that he had no idea of attempting any alterations of the Constitution which would injure or weaken the system: The amendments it is to be expected will improve and make it better; this he conceived would be the case by the alteration he proposed.

Mr. JACKSON said, that what he had expected, had taken place. It is now proposed, by way of amendment to the Constitution, to restrict the number of the representative body to one for every 40000 inhabitants. In support of the argument, the gentleman says, that in a small assembly the abilities of the best men may be brought as it were to a focus: If this argument has any weight in it, why not trust one person? One representative to 30000 has been complained of—one to 40000 would certainly be less competent to doing justice to his constituents. The motion for striking out 30000, in order to insert 40000, was negatived.

Mr. SEDGWICK moved, that the words "one hundred and seventy-five" should be struck out, and two hundred inserted.

Mr. SHERMAN objected to this motion: He said that was the constitution now to be formed, he should be for one representative to every 40000 inhabitants, instead of 30000,—and upon that principle I was going to move, said he, that 175 be struck out, in order to insert a less number.