

where the law is dubious, and yet must be carried into operation. Some latitude must be given to the executive in similar cases—were it denied the executive authority would be almost useless. The Governor when he summoned the Council, observed that the returns would probably be made the third of March, and upon that presumption did he summon them. The next question is, whether the Governor should not have protracted the determination till all the returns were made? I think not, for the reasons before stated; it is sufficient if he waited a reasonable time, so that the returns might have all been made: Twelve out of thirteen were actually made: Congress were assembling, and a very reasonable time had been allowed: The Governor was then justified in announcing the election.

It may be said that this discretionary power might be abused, because the governor might watch the opportunity when his friends were highest on the list, and then close the election. True, such abuse was possible, and were it proved, would be a good ground of setting it aside; but all power is liable to abuse; the returning officers have it in their power to commit abuses at all elections, yet they must be trusted; it does not appear that the governor acted unfairly—on the contrary, he seems to have confounded the interests of his state, by sending its representatives in proper time to Congress, and at the same time receiving the suffrages of his fellow citizens, as long as was consistent with the public good.

The question on Mr. VINING's motion was carried in the affirmative.

A message was received from the President of the United States informing the House that he had approved and signed the bill for regulating the coasting trade, and the treasury bill.

The House then took up the amendment of the Senate to the bill for establishing the compensation of the members of Congress.

The first amendment was to strike out the first paragraph to the bill, and to insert instead thereof a clause providing that the Senators and Representatives should have six dollars a day till the year 1795; when the compensation of the Senators should be seven dollars a day, and that the allowance for travel should be six dollars for every twenty miles.

Mr. JACKSON opposed very warmly both the principle of the amendment and the manner in which it was introduced.

Mr. SEDGWICK also objected to the form of the amendment, but took this opportunity to press the principle of the discrimination between the pay of both Houses. He was supported by Mr. Ames.

Mr. TUCKER reprobated the form of the amendment as indecent, since it proposed to the house a measure which it would be disgraceful in them to adopt, viz. the subjecting their successors to discrimination and an inferiority which they would not themselves submit to.

Mr. JACKSON considered the amendment as a measure of deception, to take the House in by a specious semblance in the Senators of a disregard to their personal interest.

On the other side, the argument was chiefly confined to the general principle, and the old ground was travelled over. Several alterations, by way of amendment, were attempted to the amendment of the Senate, but the amendment itself seemed to constructed that any partial alteration appeared impossible with consistency.

The general question for concurrence was at length taken, and negatived by a large majority. Adjourned. [Daily Adver.]

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3.

The engrossed bill for suspending the operation of a clause in the collection law till the first of August next, was read a third time and passed.

A letter from the Governor of Georgia was read, which enclosed an accurate statement of the imports, exports, amount duties, &c. of that State, for the year 1788.

The bill to provide for the punishment of certain crimes committed against the United States, was read a second time, and referred to a committee of the whole House—to be the order of the day, next Monday week.

In committee of the whole on the subject of a permanent residence for the general Government.

The resolution submitted by Mr. SCOTT on Thursday last, was read: viz. That a place ought to be fixed on for the permanent residence of the general Government, as near the centre of wealth, population and territory, as is consistent with the convenience of the Atlantic navigation, having also due regard to the western territory.

Mr. GOODHUE rose, and observed that the above resolution is indefinite, as it specifies no particular place—the eastern and northern members, said he, have been averse to taking up this business the present session, considering the weight of public business to be transacted previous to the adjournment; but their judgment being overruled by a late vote, they have since made up their minds upon the subject, and agreed not only with the spirit of the resolution before the committee, but have gone further, and fixed on the place; they are of opinion that on the eastern banks of the river Susquehanna, Congress should fix its permanent residence; and that until the particular spot should be determined on, and the proper buildings erected, the seat of the general government should be at the city of New-York. He then introduced a resolution to that effect.

The discussion of this subject being an expected event, a crowded hall and galleries testified the public solicitude.—The debate was ingenious, pathetic, and animated—the most profound attention was given.

Several amendments were proposed and negatived: But one moved by Mr. LEE for striking out the former part respecting "the Susquehanna," and inserting "the Patowmac," occasioned a prolongation of the debate till near 4 o'clock, when the committee rose, without deciding upon the original motion, or the amendment,—and the House adjourned.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 4.

Mr. HEISTER presented a petition from the invalid soldiers of the State of Pennsylvania, representing that the State has stopped the payment of their pensions, and praying relief—read, and referred to a special committee, consisting of Mr. Heister, Mr. Wadsworth, and Mr. Gilman.

The several petitions from pensioners, which have been presented to the House, on motion of Mr. Partridge, were referred to the above commit-

tee—which was also instructed to take up the subject generally, and to report a bill.

The committee, to which was recommitted the report on the letter received from the Post-Master General, brought in a new report, in substance, as follows: Resolved, that until further provision can be made, the Post-Office be conducted agreeable to the ordinances of the late Congress, and that the contracts be made conformably thereto. In committee of the whole, on the order of the day.

Mr. BOUDINOT in the chair.

The resolve introduced by Mr. GOODHUE yesterday in the following words was read: Resolved, as the opinion of this committee, that the permanent seat of the government of the United States, ought to be at some convenient place on the east bank of the Susquehanna in the State of Pennsylvania; and that until the necessary buildings be erected for the purpose, the seat of the government ought to be at New-York.—Mr. LEE proposed to amend this resolution, by striking out the first part to introduce a clause which provided that the permanent seat of government should be on the Patowmac.—The debate was on this amendment, which continued till near four o'clock, when the question being put, it was negatived; as were also several others, and the question on Mr. GOODHUE's motion was finally carried in the affirmative.

Mr. FITZSIMONS then proposed the following, viz.

Resolved, as the opinion of this committee, that The President of the United States be authorised to appoint commissioners, to examine and report to him the most eligible situation on the east bank of the Susquehanna, for the permanent seat of the government of the United States. That the said commissioners be authorised, by and with the advice of the President, to purchase such quantity of land as may be thought necessary—and to erect thereon within years, suitable buildings for the accommodation of the Congress, and of the officers of the United States.—

That the Secretary of the treasury, together with the Commissioners so to be appointed, be authorized to borrow a sum not exceeding dollars, to be repaid in years with interest at the rate of per cent. per ann. payable out of the Duties on Impost and Tonnage; to be applied to the purchase of the land, and the erection of the buildings aforesaid.

And that a bill ought to pass in the present session, in conformity with the foregoing resolutions. Which being read was laid on the table—After which the committee rose, and the chairman reported progress. Adjourned.

Want of room prevents our inserting a sketch of the interesting debate on this subject, this day.

EMIGRATION.

BY dire misfortune driven to despair,
To southern climes our hardy sons repair;
There in a land of fire, disease, and slaves,
Where the FIRST PLANTER is the man of graves,
Where fevers, agues, fogs and dews destroy,
And aid grim Death the Sexton to employ,
The wretched victims find when 'tis too late,
Their native clime affords a milder fate.

ADDRESS TO THE PUBLICK.—FROM AN OLD FRIEND.

I HAVE always been a friend to America: It is my native country—and till very lately I have had no cause of complaining—every body has been pleased with my deportment, and have thought themselves happy in the nearest and most intimate acquaintance with me; but some how or other, there is a real or pretended indifference arisen of late—what it is owing to, I will not say; but so it is, that since a certain vagabond crew of brazen face cheats were beat out of countenance, and were shunned by all honest people, as they ought to be—I say, since that time, I have been a sufferer: Perhaps it is owing to my having been in bad company now and then; but this it is impossible to avoid, as the world goes: However, the fact is, that I have sunk in the general estimation, some say ten, others twenty pr. cent. My family consists of a variety of ages and sizes; and we all have our weight and importance regulated; and claim our respective dues and ranks in society. We have done no injury to the public: We behave as well now as we did twenty years ago—and why we should not be estimated as highly is perfectly unaccountable to our whole family.

Some old servants* among us complain very bitterly of a certain shopkeeper, who under pretence of our inferior value, is locking us up for transportation, by which he will clear more than twenty pr. cent. and indeed we shall all be for packing off bag and baggage, if we cannot be valued according to our intrinsic merit.

It is our invariable custom to fix in those places where we can purchase the most, with the least.

If these hints do not have proper weight given them, you shall hear another chinking before we take our final departure.

SILVER COIN.

* Shillings without a head.

THE LATEST ACCOUNTS FROM EUROPE, STATE—

That every thing was in a state of fermentation in France—and that the military had refused to draw the trigger upon their countrymen when ordered by the Count D'Artois, in Paris:—That the Duke of Orleans omits no opportunity to acquire popularity:—That forty of the principal clergy had joined the Commons—and that the *Tiers Etat* were continually receiving accessions of numbers to their party:

That the Russians and Swedes are cutting throats, the former have taken a 44 gun ship from the latter—but that the Swedes had gained the advantage in an engagement by land.

That the Turks and the Allies are frequently engaged—and the former as usual routed with

horrible slaughter—Two Pachas having lately fallen into the hands of the Imperialists:

That the Emperor of Germany is not dead, but recovers slowly—and was to take the field in May—and that in all probability the campaign will be a bloody one:

That the budget had been opened by the British minister in parliament—and some additional taxes proposed—among others, an EXCISE ON TOBACCO AND SNUFF: That the trial of Warren Hastings is not finished—nor is there a prospect of its being very speedily terminated.

TROUBLES IN BRABANT.

The following are the articles proposed by the Emperor to the Commons of Brabant, and which they having refused to accede to, have been divested of all power.

Article 1. A fixed subsidy to be guarded as in Flanders.

Art. 2. Fifteen towns in the provinces to send Members to the States, instead of the three chief towns only.

Art. 3. The wishes of two Orders forming the majority to carry the consent of the third.

Art. 4. The council of Brabant to seal and publish the edicts, regulations, &c. in the usual form.

These being all refused the Emperor has revoked all the charters of liberties granted to the people of Brabant.—Their archives and treasure chests have been sealed up by his officers, and a committee is appointed to manage the cash accounts of the province.

It is easy to perceive how arbitrary this law is.—The Noblesse and Clergy dare not refuse their consent to the Emperor's will; and if the above articles were agreed to, the Commons would in fact become nothing more than proclaimers of the laws agreed to by the other two Orders.

NEW-YORK, SEPTEMBER 5.

It has been remarked, that since the outcry was raised about the Copper Coin, the Silver has depreciated in value, and what is entirely unaccountable upon any just principles, quarters, eighths, and sixteenths of dollars of the old stamp, are depreciated by many instances, half piflareens, &c. The dollars and parts of dollars of this description, are really worth a premium upon the value of the new dollars, as is well known.

Money is so very plenty, and the fruits of the earth are so very scarce, that it cannot be wondered at, that the solid coin should be so little esteemed!

Coppers with the Jersey stamp, are now current at two for a penny: It is to be hoped, that the mint masters will be so moderate as not to glut the market.

The period assigned for the present session of Congress is drawing to a close. Perhaps some, and indeed most of the public creditors expected that in the course of this session, the public debt would have been a subject of contemplation. However, had they carefully estimated the objects that were to be previously accomplished, they could hardly have supposed that so few months would have brought our national legislation to a advanced stage of the business, as that of PUBLIC CREDIT. Every reflecting man must be convinced, that a good system of finance presupposes a well-established, operative government. If attempts are too soon made to fix appropriations, it is a thousand chances to one, but that the calculations will be so fallacious, as to throw embarrassment and uncertainty over the face of public affairs. Some data resulting from an experiment must be obtained before the important subject of appropriation can be safely introduced and finally decided.

The debates on the subject of a permanent seat of government reflect the highest honor on the abilities of the several speakers. Great justice was done to the arguments on both sides, and the spectators, who were uncommonly numerous, expressed their approbation of the candor, and their admiration for the talents that were displayed on this interesting occasion. We will not pretend to determine how far it was policy to introduce the question at the present moment; but we can affirm that it has been ably and honorably conducted.

There appears at the present day to be the happiest disposition among all classes to give all due honor to our civil rulers, and to pay a prompt obedience to the laws: This indication is among the most auspicious presages of our country, for without domestic peace, and tranquility, no art or profession can be pursued with any degree of satisfaction—"the hope of reward sweetens labor," but if that hope is embittered by fear and anxiety, left the reflexes of anarchy and discord should blow into a flame the coals of strife and party rage, and thus check the operations of law and government, the hand of the diligent is unnerved, languor and idleness succeed, and society is rendered less eligible than a state of nature.

Nature and art are combining to render the United States a great and happy people under the auspices of the New Government.—Providence is crowning the year with its bounty: The vegetable world pours forth its treasures in luxuriant profusion—a more plentiful season was perhaps never known—"the valleys are covered with corn, and the hills rejoice on every side"—health in general pervades our cities and towns—commerce from a thousand sources pours her rich treasures into our lap—arts and husbandry are daily receiving additional improvements—in these our inventions are unparalleled. What gives the finishing tint to the portrait is, that our Country is free—our earnings our own—protected by a wife, a just and equal constitution of government.

The people of France never appeared in a more exalted point of view than at the present important crisis. As friends to the equal rights of human nature, Americans cannot be indifferent spectators of their glorious exertions in the cause of liberty—and as allies and friends they cannot but wish them a compleat triumph, in establishing a free constitution of government.

A correspondent wishes to enquire what personage is meant by the letter writer from Fredericksburg in your last, under the terms OUR PRESIDENT—whether he means the President of a College in Virginia, or of any particular club of which the letter writer is a member; for as there are or may be more than one person of the same name who may lose a parent, his account is too indefinite to be understood.

ARRIVALS. NEW-YORK.

Wednesday, Sloop Lady Haley, Tillinghaſt, Rhode-Island, Schooner Sincerity, White, Baltimore, 10 days. Sloop Herbert, Colley, Norfolk, 6 do. Sloop Dolphin, Carpenter, Savanna, 8 do. Brig William, Maffin, Madeira, 42 do. Thursday, Brig William, Harrison, Dublin, 75 do. Brig Hull Packet, Lawrence, Hull. Sloop —, Dominick, St. Augustine, —. Sloop St. John, Nixon, St. Thomas, 18 do. Sloop John, Lowndes, St. Croix, 18 do. Schooner Nancy, Clark, Baltimore, 7 do.