

THE OBSERVER.—No. II.

The Nation which would be served by Men of honesty and great abilities, must pay well.

IN my excursions thro several parts of New England, I have noticed a class of citizens, who complain of the compensations allowed by Congress to the principal officers of government.

The liberal character of the Americans is an evidence that those complaints arise more from their strong jealousy for liberty, than from parsimony. A jealous concern for public liberty is a noble passion, which will guard the freedom of your posterity, but at the same time it needs the rigid correction of reason. A weak and ignorant administration is one common means of subverting popular rights. Those very principles in the human mind, which make men jealous of their liberty, without restraint, will lead them into licentiousness.

The end of a good government is to divide out liberty in proper portions to every citizen, that all may be free, and none oppressed. In a state of anarchy, every neighbour becomes a tyrant in his own little sphere of afflicting; in absolute governments there are few tyrants, awful in their course—and to approach them is approaching death. If you must be wretched, it matters little whether the minister of a prince or an ill-natured neighbour be the instrument. Civil government is the only possible guard against these evils. If you were a nation of slaves, the sword, bayonet and prison would give efficacy to the measures of weak and unprincipled rulers; but you are free, and if governed at all, men of high talents and approved integrity, your most literary and industrious citizens must be called into employment. Such men never have need to beg business, for the resources of their own minds and their application is a fund of wealth. If the public design to have their services, the reward must be adequate to their abilities, and bear some proportion to the gains they make in private life.

No man will leave a private employment, which promises him a thousand dollars per annum, for an office of half the sum, in which he is responsible to the public opinion, and perhaps endangers the loss of his reputation for wisdom; a sacrifice for which no pecuniary satisfaction can be made. Honor or the public notice may with a few be an inducement; but these few are persons of great vanity, and have not the abilities for a difficult or confidential trust. Men of discernment, and such you want, know how to estimate their own consequence in the State, they know that if for the present you employ mean abilities for the sake of being served at a cheap rate, the public system will soon be deranged, and that you must then purchase their aid at such price as they please. It is a better way to commence your government on such principles as will be permanent. Let public officers be few, and make them responsible both for their capacity and honesty. It is too much the custom of this country to pity a man, who says "I did as well as I knew." Ignorance ought to be no excuse before the sacred tribunal of the public. He who accepts an office doth it at his own risk, and there are as many reasons why he should bear the consequence of incapacity as of knavery. Make this the known rule for decision on public characters, and the ignorant seekers of office will become less troublesome in their solicitations. Give an honorable reward which will command the service of your most distinguished citizens, to whatever department they are called. Such men have a character to lose, and ambition will unite with every other consideration to call forth their greatest exertions.

If this proposal doth not please, it is easy to change the system, for in every country there are rogues and dunces in plenty, who will serve you at any price: BUT REMEMBER THAT THE FIRST WILL CHEAT YOU OUT OF THOUSANDS, AND THE LATTER DISSIPATE MILLIONS BY THEIR IGNORANCE.

The compensations determined by Congress, are as small as can possibly command the service of your best characters—a less sum by throwing the execution of your government into unskilful hands would have endangered the whole. The pay of the Senate and Commons great as it may be found in the ears of some, circumstances being all considered, is not extravagant. It is a prevalent idea through the union that these gentlemen shall hold no other office under the empire or particular States—most of them to serve you have relinquished lucrative employments—after the first year Congress will not probably be together more than fifty days in a year—tho' your representatives be increased, the expence of a legislature will be much less than the sums given by the several States to support the members of the old Congress. Your whole civil list, including every department, would not half defray the household expences of an European Prince. The highest officers in your judiciary, and revenue, have not a better provision than groons of the stable, noble keepers of hawks and hounds, and dependants still more insignificant than those, receive in other nations from the hands of Royalty. Useless officers are the vermin of a State, but some officers are

necessary to its very existence. Let them be few as possible, but men of approved ability—pay them well—make them responsible—and if after this any are unfaithful, demand what atonement you please, it will not be too severe.

NEW-YORK, OCTOBER 31, 1789.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, SEPT. 19, 1789. GENERAL ESTIMATE OF MONEY requisite for the WAR DEPARTMENT, for the year 1789.

PAY OF THE TROOPS.

ARTILLERY.		Dols goths.
1 MAJOR, 12 Months, at 45 Dol. per Month,		540
4 Captains,	35	1,680
8 Lieutenants,	30	2,930
1 Surgeon's Mate,	30	360
16 Sergeants,	6	1,152
16 Corporals,	5	960
8 Musicians,	5	480
8 Artificers,	5	480
232 Matrosses,	4	11,136
		19,668

INFANTRY.

1 Brigadier-General, with the pay of Lieutenant-Colonel-Commandant, for 12 Months, at 50 Dol. per month,		600
2 Majors,	45	1,080
7 Captains,	35	2,940
7 Lieutenants,	30	2,520
8 Ensigns,	20	1,920
1 Pay-Master,	10	120
1 Quarter-Master,	10	120
1 Adjutant,	10	120
1 Surgeon,	45	540
4 Surgeon's Mates,	30	1,440
28 Sergeants,	6	2,016
28 Corporals,	5	1,680
14 Drums and Fifes,	5	840
490 Privates,	4	23,520
		39,456

SUBSISTENCE.

1 Brig. Gen. 12 Months, at 48 Dol. per Month,		576
3 Majors,	20	720
11 Captains,	12	1,584
23 Subalterns,	8	2,208
1 Surgeon,	16	192
4 Mates,	8	384
Rations for 840 Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates, at one Ration per day each, are, for 365 days, 307,440 Rations, at 17 goths of a Dollar, per Ration,		40,990
		46,848
Clothing, 840 } 940 Suits at 26 Dollars		
Contingencies, 100 } each,		24,440
		130,412

QUARTER-MASTER'S DEPARTMENT.

Transportation, including the Transportation of the Recruits raising in Philadelphia, to the Frontiers, the Transportation of Clothing, Medicines, Ordnance and Military Stores for the Troops on the Frontiers, the necessary removal of Ordnance and Military Stores, the hire of Teams, Pack-Horses, Tents, Boats, Axes, Camp-Kettles, Boards, Fire-Wood, Company-Books, Stationary for the Troops, and all other expences in the Quarter-Master's Department,

		10,000
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HOSPITAL.

For Medicines, Instruments, Furniture and Stores for an Hospital for the Frontiers, also for attendance when necessary at West-Point and Springfield,

		1,000
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ORDINANCE DEPARTMENT.

For Salaries to the Store-keepers at their several deposits, viz.

West-Point,	} 3, at 40 Dol. per Month,	1,440
Virginia,		
Springfield,		
Charleston, 1 Store-keeper, at 100 Dol. per ann.		100
2 Assistants at 15 Dol. per month,		360
1 Store-keeper at Philadelphia,		500
1 do. Rhode-Island,		96
1 do. Lancaster,		96
1 do. Fort Mifflin,		120
His Subsistence, 1 dollar per week,		52
		172

Rents of Buildings for Deposits.

Philadelphia,	752 60
Virginia,	350
West-Point,	400
	1,502 60

Laborers at the several deposits, 400

Repairs of Arms, 10,000

Cleaning 30,000 Muskets, at 12 goths, 4,000

18,666 60

Contingencies of the War Department, 3,000

Contingencies of the War Office, 800

Salaries of the officers, 3,950

Carried forward, 167,828 60

Copy of the original File,

ALEXANDER HAMILTON, Secretary of the Treasury.

(Signed) H. KNOX.

Brought forward, 167,828 60

Deduct the amount of the Salaries of the Officers, 3,950

Ditto for Contingencies, which are estimated in the Civil List, 800

4,750

(Or dollars 163,078, and 66 Cents.) 163,078 60

ALEXANDER HAMILTON, Secretary of the Treasury. Treasury Department, September 19, 1789.

ABSTRACT of JOURNAL of the FIRST SESSION of the SENATE of the UNITED STATES. FRIDAY, MAY 1.

The Report of the joint Committee, to whom was recommended, the mode of communication between the Senate and House of Representatives, as made by the Committee on the part of the Senate, was taken up and not accepted.

The same report of the Committee on the part of the House, and the acceptance thereof by the House was considered in the Senate, and it was determined that it should lie until further order.

A motion, "That when a messenger shall come from the House of Representatives to the Senate, and shall be announced by the door keeper, the messenger shall be received at the bar of this House by the Secretary, and the bill or paper that he may bring, shall there

be received from him by the Secretary, who shall deliver it to the President of the Senate," was committed to Mr. Ellsworth, Mr. Lee, and Mr. Read. And the Committee were instructed to report a mode of sending bills and messages from the Senate, to the House of Representatives. Adjourned.

SATURDAY, MAY 2.

Agreed, That until a permanent mode of communication shall be adopted between the Senate and House of Representatives, the Senate will receive messages by the Clerk of the House, if the House shall think proper to send him, and papers sent from the House, shall be delivered to the Secretary at the bar of the Senate, and by him be conveyed to the President.

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Beckley, their Clerk.

MR. PRESIDENT, "I AM commanded by the House of Representatives, to bring to the Senate, the proceedings of the House on a resolution of the Senate, of the 27th of April: Also to communicate to the Senate, the appointment of the Reverend William Lynn, D. D. to be one of the Chaplains to Congress, agreeably to the resolves of the 15th of April."—And he withdrew.

The concurrence of the House of Representatives on the resolve of the 17th, is as follows:

"In the House of Representatives of the United States the 29th of April, 1789.

"The House proceeded to consider the following resolution of the Senate, to wit,

"In Senate April 27th, 1789.

"Resolved, That after the oath shall have been administered to the President, he, attended by the Vice President, and the Members of the Senate, and House of Representatives, proceed to St. Paul's Chapel, to hear divine service to be performed by the Chaplain of Congress, already appointed—whereupon,

"Resolved, That this House doth concur in the said resolution, amended and read as followeth, to wit,

"That after the oath shall have been administered to the President, the Vice President, and Members of the Senate, the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives, will accompany him to St. Paul's Chapel, to hear divine service performed by the Chaplain of Congress."

Mr. Strong, by order of the Committee appointed the 28th of April, on a bill passed the House of Representatives, entitled "An act to regulate the time and manner of administering certain oaths," reported sundry amendments; and Monday next was assigned to take the same into consideration. Adjourned.

PRICE CURRENT.—NEW-YORK.

OCTOBER 31.

Jamaica Spirits,		5/3
Antigua Rum,		4/9
St. Croix, do.		4/6
Country, do.		2/10
Molasses,	2/2. a	2/1.
Brandy,	5/9. a	6/1.
Geneva,		5/3
Do. in cases,	28/1. a	29/1.
Muscovado Sugar,	80/1. a	72/1.
Loaf, do.		1/3.
Lump, do.		1/12.
Pepper,		3/1.
Pimento,	2/2. a	2/1.
Coffee,	1/8. a	1/9.
Indigo, (Carolina)	3/1. a	6/1.
Rice,	24/1. a	23/1.
Superfine Flour,		48/1.
Common do.		43/1. a
Rye do.		26/1. a
Indian Meal,		18/1.
Rye,	49/1. pr.	47/1.
Corn, (Southern)		4/1.
Do. (Northern),	4/3. a	4/6.
Beef, first quality,	48/1. a	50/1.
Pork, first quality,		8/1/6.
Oats,		1/7.
Flax-seed,		5/1.
Ship bread per cwt.		21/1.
Country refined bar-iron,	28/1. a	30/1.
Do. bloomy,		25/1.
Swedes do.		45/1.
Russia do.		30/1.
Pig-iron,	8/10/1. a	9/1.
German steel, per lb.		9/1.
Nails American, by cask. per lb. 4d.		12/1.
Do. do. do. 6d.		11/1.
Do. do. do. 8d.		9/1/2.
Do. do. do. 10d.		
Do. do. do. 12d.		
Do. do. do. 20d.		7/1/2 a
Do. do. do. 24d.		8/1/2.
Pot ash, per ton,	39/1. a	40/1.
Pearl ash,	48/1. a	50/1.
Bees-wax per lb.		2/3.
Mackarel per barr.	26/1. a	30/1.
Herrings,		16/1.
Mahogany, Jamaica, per foot,		10/1.
Dominico, do.		9/1.
Honduras, do.		7/1.
Logwood unchipped, per ton.		8/1.
Do. chipped,		14/1.
2 inch white oak plank, per m.	10/1. 10/1.	
1 inch do.		5/1.
2 inch white pine plank,		8/1.
1 1/2 inch do.		6/1. 10/1.
1 inch do.		3/1. 10/1.
2 inch pitch pine do.		10/1.
1 1/2 inch do.		6/1. 10/1.
1 inch do.		4/1.
Pitch pine scantling,		3/1. 8/1.
Cypress 2 feet shingles,		11. 10/1.
Do. 22 inch do.		11. 8/1.
Cedar 2 inch do.		11. 10/1.
Do. 22 inch do.		11. 6/1.
Do. 18. inch do.		18/1.
Butt white oak staves,		35/1.
Pipe do. do.		9/1.
Hoghead do. do.		6/1. 10/1.
Do. do. heading,		8/1.
Irish barrel do. staves,		3/1. 5/1.
Hoghead red oak do.		6/1. 5/1.
Do. French do.		5/1.
Hoghead hoops,		4/1.
White oak square timber per square foot,		10/1.
Red wood, per ton,		28/1.
Fustick,		10/1.
Beaver, per lb.	12/1. a	16/1.
Otter per skin,	9/1. 3/1.	
Grey fox,	4/1.	
Martin,	4/1.	
Racoon,	3/1. 6/1.	
Mulkrat,	10/1. a	14/1.
Beaver hats,		64/1.
Castor do.		48/1.