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SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 1791.

[Whole No. 177.]

LONDON, Oct. 12.

LETTERS from Frankfort say, that the Assembly met there for the election of an Emperor, has ordered,

That all books, pamphlets and writings attacking or reflecting on Sovereigns, or their governments, shall be prohibited under the most rigorous penalties, the authors of them prosecuted criminally, the booksellers and distributors fined 200 ducats for the first offence, and for the second punished with confiscation of goods.

The approaching dissolution of the present National Assembly, and the consequent general election that will take place throughout France, will be the true epocha for the permanent establishment or final destruction of the liberties of that country.

The latest seeds of the revolution in France may be said to have been germinating upwards of five and twenty years; that is to say, from the most alarming convulsion by the sentence of banishment being pronounced by the King against the Members of his parliaments, in consequence of their having refused to register, and remonstrating against the injustice of his arbitrary edicts. On this occasion he told his Parliaments, that he would not suffer an association to be formed in his kingdom, which might grow into a confederacy of resistance; and that his coronation oath was not, as they vainly supposed, an oath made to the nation, but to God alone, to whom only he was accountable.

On Sunday last a gentleman, whose curiosity had induced him to examine the internal parts of St. Paul's Church, misled himself, by the multiplicity of passages into the North front tower [corresponding to that where the clock is placed] and from which he was unable again to find his way. There he remained till Monday in the afternoon, when by tying his waistcoat and handkerchief to a stick, and repeatedly waving them, for at that height his voice could not be heard, he attracted the notice of some workmen in the church yard. Accompanied by a verger, they went to his assistance, but, from the intricacy of the passages, had almost bewildered themselves in their return. At the moment of his release, his wife came into the church yard, almost frantic with the apprehension of his having experienced some fatal accident.

Though in Europe and America the ordinary colour for mourning is black, yet in China, it is white; in Turkey it is blue; in Egypt it is yellow; in Ethiopia brown. Each country has its reasons for each particular colour; black denotes the privation of life, as being the privation of light; white denotes purity; blue expresses the felicity which the deceased is wished to enjoy; yellow, that death is the end of all human hopes in regard to leaves that fall, and flowers that fade; and brown denotes the earth in which the deceased is deposited. The ancient Spartan and Roman ladies used to mourn in white.

FROM THE COLUMBIAN CENTINEL.

BOSTON, December 25.

Those who rejoice in the prosperity of their country, must feel a pleasure in reading the SPEECH of our beloved PRESIDENT, which no language can fully describe. The prospects it holds out to the citizens of the United States, are highly flattering; and it more than realizes the anticipations of the friends of the general government. May AMERICA be wise, and justly estimate the blessings of her highly favored situation. In the splendor of her rising beams, the damps, the fogs of anarchy, sedition and every evil work, die away, and are exhaled into nonentity. The oppressed of the elder world will seek an asylum in this last retreat of liberty and her attendants—and founded on the rock of union, the world shall see our country,

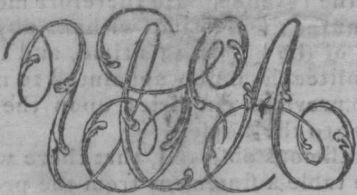
To glory, wealth and fame ascend—
Her commerce rise, her realms extend;
Where now the Panther guards his den—
Her desert forests swarm with men—
Her cities, towers, and columns rise,
And dazzling temples meet the skies;
Her pines descending to the main
In triumph spread the wat'ry plain,
Ride inland lakes with fav'ring gales,
And crowd her ports with whit'ning sails,
'Till to the skirts of western day,
The peopled regions own her sway."

Accounts from the West-Indies mention, that Count Damas had been reduced to such extremities as to solicit assistance from the Governors of the English islands. The same accounts add, that the British Governors had denied his request.

NEW-YORK, January 4.

By a letter from Judge Morris, of New-Jersey, a vessel which appears to have been the Schooner Unity, Captain Barker, from Ocracoke Sound, which place she left on the 18th December last, for New-York, was found on shore at Deal, in the county of Monmouth, bottom upwards, on Monday the 27th December. Part of her cargo had been pillaged through a hole cut in her bottom, the remainder was secured by the sheriff, consisting of 57 casks of

wine, 6 casks, and a barrel or two of flaxseed, and about 5500 hhd and barrel staves. The wine was shipped by Capt. Thomas Cox, lately arrived at Edenton from Bourdeaux, and consigned to Mess. Bond and Co. of New-York, as appears by a letter found in the vessel. Four men, rather better dressed than seamen, the sheriff informed Judge Morris, were driven ashore about a mile to the southward of the wreck.



CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, Jan. 4.

The following RESOLUTIONS, as the basis of a bill for the establishment of a LAND-OFFICE for the sale of the unappropriated lands in the Western Territory, were passed the house.

THAT it is expedient that a general land office be established and opened at the seat of the government of the United States.

That two subordinate land offices be established and opened, one in the government northwest of the Ohio, and the other in the government south of the Ohio.

That all contracts for the sale of land above the quantity of _____ acres, shall be exclusively made at the general land office.

That no land shall be sold, except such in respect to which the titles of the Indian tribes shall have been previously extinguished.

That the seven ranges already surveyed be sold in lots as laid out.

That any quantities may be sold by special contract, comprehended either within natural boundaries or lines, or both. But no survey shall in any case be made on a river or watercourse, but in the proportion of _____ chains back from such river or watercourse, for every chain along the bank or course thereof.

That the price shall be thirty cents per acre.

That warrants for military service be put on the same footing with warrants issuing from the land office, and that the exclusive right of locating the same in districts set apart for the army, cease after the _____ day of _____

That no credit shall be given for any quantity less than a township of ten miles square, nor more than two years credit for any quantity.

That in every instance of credit, at least one quarter part of the consideration shall be paid down, and security, other than the land itself, shall be required for the residue. And that no title shall be given for any tract or part of a purchase beyond the quantity for which the consideration shall be actually paid.

That the _____ of each subordinate office shall have the management of all sales, and the issuing of warrants for all locations in the tracts to be set apart for the accommodation of individual settlers, subject to the superintendency of the commissioners of the general land-office, who may also commit to them the management of any other sales or locations which it may be found expedient to place under their direction.

That preference be given, for a limited time, to those actual settlers, whose titles are not secured by the former governments of that country, and the existing ordinances and acts of Congress.

That there shall be a surveyor general, who shall have power to appoint a deputy surveyor-general in each of the western governments, and a competent number of deputy surveyors to execute in person all warrants to them directed by the surveyor-general or deputy surveyor-generals within certain districts to be assigned to them respectively. That the surveyor-general shall also have in charge all the duties committed to the geographer-general by the several resolutions and ordinances of Congress.

That all warrants issued at the general land-office, shall be signed by _____ and shall be directed to the surveyor-general. That all warrants issued at a subordinate office, shall be signed by _____ and shall be directed to the deputy surveyor-general within the government. The priority of locations upon warrants shall be determined by the times of the applications to the deputy surveyors: and in case of two applications for the same land at one time, the priority may be determined by lot.

That the Treasurer of the United States shall be the receiver of payments for sales made at the general land-office, and may also receive deposits of money for purchases intended to be made at the subordinate offices, his receipts or certificates for which shall be received in payment at those offices.

That the secretary of each of the western governments, shall be the receiver of all payments arising from sales at the office of such government.

That controversies concerning rights to patents or grants of land, shall be determined by the _____ of that office, under whose immediate direction or jurisdiction the locations in respect to which they may arise, shall have been made.

That the _____ of the general land-office, surveyor-general, deputy-surveyors-general, and the _____ of the land-office in each of the western governments, shall not purchase nor shall others purchase for them in trust, any public lands.

That the secretaries of the western governments shall give security for the faithful execution of their duty, as receivers of the land office.

That all patents shall be signed by the President of the United States and shall be recorded in the office of the Secretary of State.

That all officers acting under the laws establishing the land-office, shall make oath or affirmation faithfully to discharge their respective duties, previously to their entering upon the execution thereof.

That all surveys of land shall be at the expence of the purchasers or grantees.

That the fees shall not exceed certain rates to be specified in the law, affording equitable compensations for the services of the surveyors, and establishing reasonable and customary charges for patents and other office papers, for the benefit of the United States.

That the _____ of the general land-office, shall as soon as may be, from time to time, cause all the rules and regulations which they may establish to be published in one gazette, at least, in each state, and in each of the western governments where there is a gazette, for the information of the citizens of the United States.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 5.

[It should have been noticed in our last that the bill for the relief of Shubael Swaine was read the third time, on Tuesday and passed.]

The bill more effectually to provide for the national defence by establishing a uniform militia throughout the United States, was read the second time, and referred to the committee of the whole house on Wednesday next—100 copies were ordered to be printed.

A message was received from the Senate, informing the house, that they have passed the bill to provide for the unloading of goods, wares and merchandise, in cases of obstruction by ice.

The house agreeable to the order of the day resolved itself into a committee of the whole, and took into consideration the bill, repealing after a certain time, the act laying duties on distilled spirits, &c. and imposing others in their stead.

Mr. Boudinot in the chair.

Mr. Parker moved that the whole bill should be again read. This was objected to, as a needless expence of the time of the committee, especially as the substance of the bill had been printed. Mr. Parker insisting on his motion, and the rules of conducting business in the committee of the whole, being called for and read, the opposition to reading the bill was withdrawn.

The bill being read through, and the first paragraph being repeated by the Chairman,

Mr. Jackson moved to strike out the essential part of the first clause. He stated his objections at large against the principles of the bill—and reproached the funding system, and an excise in particular, as an auxiliary to it.

The tenor of his observations were to shew that this mode of taxation was odious, unequal, unpopular and oppressive—more particularly in the Southern States—In which he observed, its unequal operation would be most sensibly felt, as the citizens of those States have no alternative to adopt; by which they can diminish the weight of the tax—no breweries, or orchards, to furnish a substitute for spiritous liquors—hence they become a necessary article. He contended that they were not only necessary, but salutary in the southern regions: This he said had been ac-