

NOVEMBER 30.

The Duke of Orleans's defence has just made its appearance in an English dress; together with the advice of his Counsel, who recommended him to commence an action against the King's Attorney for a malicious prosecution; and against several of the witnesses for perjury. In an introductory advertisement these circumstances are applied to a celebrated trial now depending.

Alexander Maconochie, Esq. is to succeed the late Dr. Adam Smith as one of the Commissioners of the Customs in Scotland.

On Wednesday last the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Council of Edinburgh, unanimously agreed to address his Majesty on the continuation of peace, in consequence of the convention entered into between the Courts of Great-Britain and Spain.

It was yesterday determined in the Court of King's Bench, that a man marrying a widow is not bound to maintain her children by her first husband.

Ireland, in the ten last years, has paid to Sweden and other countries, the enormous sum of five millions for Iron alone, which their own mines were adequate to produce.

Letters from Vienna confirm the victory obtained by the Generalissimo of her Imperial Majesty over the Turks in the Cuban. This victory is represented to have been very complete, and will, no doubt, have its weight in the negotiations with the Porte.

Immediately after the convention has been taken into consideration, the following important objects will be submitted to Parliament by the minister, viz.

The forming of two distinct governments for Canada and Brunswick, in North-America.

The appointment of an Ambassador to the United States of America. And

A revision of the laws of Guernsey and Jersey.

We hear that Mr. Elliott, father-in-law to Admiral Digby, is to be the Ambassador to America, with a salary of 3000l. a year.

The church lands and houses in France have sold for a larger sum than could be fairly expected.

On the 31st of October, M. Blanchard, being then at Prague, made his 37th aerial excursion in his balloon, accompanied by one of the members of the Royal Society of Prague. The balloon was filled with 9000 cubic feet of gaz; and at 4, P. M. he ascended from the plain Baumgarten, in presence of a multitude of spectators. They were provided with several instruments for making observations, but the machine was scarcely at the height of 1000 feet, before they were all broken, or thrown down from the gallery by a violent motion of a stream of wind, which tossed the machine in all directions—Notwithstanding their apparent danger, they descended in perfect safety.

A private letter from the East-Indies, just received, mentions that a war has begun between our troops and Tippoo Sultan, who now styles himself Shah Allum, or king of the world.

In consequence of a duel which took place, Nov. 12 between M. de Castries, of the aristocratic, and M. Lameth, of the patriotic party, in France; it has been proposed to the Assembly, that the practice of duelling be made capital. M. de Lameth was dangerously wounded, and in revenge, the mob have demolished the house of M. de Castries, who had previously made his escape.

The following extracts are translated from the LEYDEN GAZETTE.

HAGUE, Nov. 23—30.

“We are waiting with the greatest impatience for news from Brabant, where we expect the Austrian army are at this moment arrived. The Belgic Congress, weary of the fanatical obstinacy of Van der Noot, Van Eupen, and others of that cast, have concluded, at last to make an attempt to avoid an absolute submission to the Emperor, and preserve their ancient constitution without having recourse to military exertions. From all appearances, the Belgic Congress have no other resource left them but to accept the re-establishment of their old constitution, with every guarantee for the strict observance thereof that can reasonably be desired—the two superior orders of the nation, see the absolute necessity of accepting those terms immediately, and nothing but the influence of the inferior clergy over the dregs of the people, keeps alive the present disturbances, and prevent the low countries from enjoying the blessings of peace—”

“On the 13th inst. the Belgic Congress met to debate upon the Emperor's manifest. Van Eupen and Van der Noot, concluded their harangues with a solemn oath never to enter into any accommodation whatever with the emperor, or to return under his sovereignty, and advised the other members to follow their example; but this was peremptorily refused; and the delegates from Hainaut, Flanders, Tournay and Tournesis and from Malines, joined the other members in their refusal, adding, “that they were ordered by their constituents to accommodate matters,

if possible, with their ancient sovereign.” And thus the Belgic nation is split into two parties, the more moderate under the controul of the most numerous and violent, hurried on by a blind impetuosity and a few designing leaders.”

“Letters from Vienna, dated Nov. 13, mention a complete victory gained by the Russians over the Turks in the Cuban, on or about the tenth of October. Notwithstanding the superiority of the Turks in numbers, they were totally vanquished, and their whole camp with their artillery, consisting of more than 300 pieces of cannon, their baggage, provision, and even the Seraskier and all his family, fell into the hands of the conquerors.”

STATE PAPER.

The following Ministerial Paper, signed by the Plenipotentiaries of the three allied Powers, England, Prussia, and Holland, in answer to the Belgic deputies, is too interesting, in the present juncture of affairs, to be omitted:

YOUR constituents seem to doubt our having received positive instructions, and sufficient powers to assure to your nation, the means which ought to precede the cessation of hostilities, and that we have not spoken ministerially in our verbal answers. To set a side all such scruples and uncertainty, we here speak for the third and last time, assuring you that we do it ministerially, in the name of our respective sovereigns. “That it rests only with the Belgic nation to see their legitimate constitution re-established, such as it existed, in the greatest purity, before the commencement of the last reign, with all its privileges, civil and religious, and a perfect oblivion of every thing, that has passed during the late troubles. We are moreover authorized to add, that if your constituents enter again frankly and willingly into obedience to the Emperor's government, his Imperial Majesty is disposed to grant such farther concessions as shall essentially alter the constitutions. But we are obliged to declare openly, that no longer a term than twenty one days, from the date of this letter, is allowed to accept their propositions.

If you permit this time to pass, or if in the interval you give occasion for any new hostile aggression, we protest, that our respective Sovereigns can no longer guarantee your fate.

Done at the Hague, the 31st of Oct. 1790.

(Signed) AUCKLAND,  
KELLER,  
VAN DE SPIEGEL.

NEW-YORK, Jan. 18.

Extract of letter from London, dated Nov. 24.

By these inclosed papers you will see that the so much talked of revolution of the Belgic Provinces has come to nothing. Every effort has been made to oppose the Emperor, but to no purpose. The desertion of the Belgic army is almost universal; and the consternation occasioned by a conviction of the utter impossibility of resisting troops so infinitely superior in discipline and courage to their own, has obliged the people to yield to irresistible necessity. So it would have been with you in your contest with this country had not the wide Atlantic and some other circumstances interposed to save you.—As to ourselves, we are congratulating each other on certain imaginary advantages gained in our negotiation with Spain, such as the right of fishing for whales in the middle of the South Seas, and erecting fortresses in a barren country at the extremities of the Globe, which even by our own accounts is not worth possessing, except on account of an article of commerce which must soon be exhausted.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, Jan. 11.

(Continued from our last.)

In committee of the whole, on the bill repealing after the last day of next the act laying duties on distilled spirits, &c. and imposing others in their stead. Mr. Boudinot in the chair.

MR. WILLIAMSON adverted to the publication of the resolutions of the assembly of North-Carolina, in which business he said, some misinformation had taken place. He then alluded to the assumption, and observed that since the United States had made the State debts the debts of the union, it becomes necessary to provide for them, and he supposed some sort of excise was necessary. He reprobated a land tax—and then observed that excises according to the constitution, ought to be equal; he proposed to equalize them by imposing a tax on beer and cyder. If there will be an excess in the revenue, as appears pretty evident, let the duty on our own produce be struck out. He insisted on the injustice of laying this duty on those States, which had been averse to the assumption.

He suggested other sources of revenue—mentioned newspapers, on which he supposed if a duty was laid, it would be advantageous to the public and to the printers. He concluded by saying he hoped the 13th section would be struck out.

Mr. Ames offered a few remarks, to shew the obligation of the government to provide permanent funds for the payment of the interest of the debt agreeable to the spirit of the law passed the last session—nor did he conceive that a casual surplus was any sufficient reason for not making complete provision; annual grants for the purpose of supporting the public credit had been sufficiently proved inadequate to the object.

Mr. Bloodworth observed that if prejudices do exist, whether well founded, or not, they produce all the mischiefs of a well founded opposition till they are removed; he said a universal opposition to excises, exists in North-Carolina, and he dreaded the consequences of this measure's being urged; North-Carolina has been well disposed to the government—what is the reason this is not at present the case? It is owing sir, to the measures which have been pursued by the government. The assumption was a measure universally odious to the people of that State, and he believed it was so to many other persons in the Southern States. With respect to the observations of the gentleman from Massachusetts, that North Carolina knew when she adopted the Constitution that the general government had a right to lay excises, he observed, that North Carolina expected that some attention would have been paid to her proposed amendments: On the whole he hoped the clause would be struck out—and if an excise is thought to be necessary, let it be laid only on foreign spirits, and spirits manufactured from foreign materials.

Mr. Lawrance replied to Mr. Bloodworth's observations respecting confining the duty to foreign spirits: He said this would operate to produce a very great deficiency in the revenue—The importation of foreign spirits will be destroyed, and the revenue derived from that source will be lost.

He adverted to certain objections which had been urged against the bill, from the experience of Great Britain—he shewed, that none of these applied on the present occasion: The bill is divested of those qualities, commonly supposed to be connected with Excise Laws. He took notice of the accounts of unreasonableness which are said to exist in some of the States—and counterbalanced them by the tranquility and satisfaction which appear in others: In those which it is presumed bear at least a full proportion of the burdens already imposed by government.

He contended, that the operation of the bill would be to equalize the public burdens—and when this is realized, as it will be, he doubted not a spirit of conciliation and good humor would be the consequence.

Mr. Jackson said that the funding law had appropriated the revenue for the payment of all the debts original and assumed—and the faith of the United States is pledged only to make up such deficiency as may happen. It appears from the calculations before the committee, that no such deficiency will be to be provided for. He wished gentlemen to shew some plausible reason for this additional burthen on the people—The estimates he had offered cannot be invalidated.

Mr. Parker said he had heard nothing to induce him to change his mind respecting this bill. He had been uniformly opposed to excises—and he should not withdraw his opposition at the present time.

He then adverted to the unequal operation of an excise, especially on the southern States, which he said rendered it entirely contrary to the spirit of the Constitution.

He doubted not the revenue would increase, notwithstanding the supposititious defalcations which had been mentioned. He urged the unpopularity of the measure—the cultivation of the southern orchards ought to be encouraged by the northern states, as the southern states had encouraged their navigation and fisheries. But if this partial duty is to be pressed upon us in this manner, I shall not think it my duty, said he, to be equally zealous in their favour in future.

Mr. Livermore observed, that several estimates had been offered to the committee—they cannot be all right because they disagree. He observed that it had not been noticed by any person that the present duty on foreign rum would be taken away by this bill, and the whole sum to be raised from that article is from the bill now under consideration. But suppose a surplussage of revenue of 1 or 200,000 dollars should be in the Treasury, which I wish with all my heart may be the case, are there not ways enough to apply this surplussage to the advantage of the United States? He instanced a variety of ways in which such a surplus might be applied; but he did not seriously contemplate such a surplus. He then adverted to the objection on account of the inequality.—He said the duty on spirits distilled from molasses is agreed to—why should not the spirits distilled from peaches in the southern States be also subject to a duty: This he considered as unequal—and discovered a want of candor in the gentlemen from the southward.

Mr. Parker asked the gentleman if molasses was an article of the produce of this country? the southern states have nothing by which they can procure molasses: If the gentleman would consent to excise fish, he would consent to an excise on peach brandy.

Mr. Fitzsimons observed, that the deficiency occasioned by the alteration in the duty on foreign rum, would occasion a very considerable addition to the deficiency of the revenue. With respect to the inequality mentioned, he said there was no probability that the southern states would ever pay an over proportion of the revenue.