

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21.

Mr. Fitzsimons, Mr. Sylvester, and Mr. Leonard took their seats this day.

Mr. Thatcher introduced the petition of Lemuel Miller an officer in the late army—praying an allowance of commutation for reasons assigned.—Read and laid on the table.

The petition of David Sturges, presented the last session, was read and referred to the Secretary at War.

A message from the President of the United States was received by the Secretary of the Department of War, accompanied by a plan prepared by the Secretary for the arrangement of the militia of the United States.

UNITED STATES, JANUARY 21, 1790.

Gentlemen of the Senate,
and House of Representatives,

THE Secretary of the Department of War, has submitted to me certain principles to serve as a plan for the general arrangement of the militia of the United States.

Conceiving the subject to be of the highest importance to the welfare of our country, and liable to be placed in various points of view, I have directed him to lay the plan before Congress for their information, in order that they may make such use thereof as they may judge proper.

G. WASHINGTON.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY AT WAR.

WAR-OFFICE, JANUARY 18, 1790.

SIR,

HAVING submitted to your consideration a plan for the arrangement of the militia of the United States, which I have presented to the late Congress, and you having approved the general principles thereof, with certain exceptions, I now respectfully lay the same before you, modified according to the alterations you were pleased to suggest.

It has been my anxious desire to devise a national system of defence, adequate to the probable exigencies of the United States, whether arising from internal or external causes; and at the same time to erect a standard of republican magnanimity, independent of and superior to the powerful influences of wealth.

The convulsive events, generated by the inordinate pursuit of riches or ambition, require that the government should possess a strong corrective arm.

The idea is therefore submitted, whether an efficient military branch of the government can be invented, with safety to the great principles of liberty, unless the same shall be formed of the people themselves, and supported by their habits and manners. I have the honor to be, Sir, with the most perfect respect, your obedient servant,

H. KNOX, Secretary for the War Department.

The President of the United States.

The Plan was then read.

Mr. Lawrance moved that the petition of the inhabitance of Westchester, read yesterday should be referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Jackson objected to a partial reference of a business of this kind to the Secretary of the Treasury—he should make no objection to referring the whole subject of losses of a similar nature, in the several States to that department, on the principal of doing equal justice to all. The motion for referring it to the Secretary was adopted.

On motion, the report of the Secretary of the Department of War was referred to a committee of the whole House on the state of the Union.

Voted, that 300 copies of this report be printed.

Mr. Sedgwick of the committee appointed to bring in a bill to make provision for persons employed in the intercourse between the United States and foreign nations, introduced a report which was read the first time.

Mr. Wadsworth moved for the order of the day, which was, that the House should resolve itself into a committee of the whole on the report of the committee on the state of the south-western frontiers, and Indian Affairs, which motion being adopted, the galleries were shut, and not opened again during the day.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22.

From the journal of yesterday's proceedings it appeared, that the report of the committee on that part of the President's Speech respecting the south-western frontiers, and Indian Affairs, was discussed in a committee of the whole House, who accepted the same without any amendments. The Chairman reported the determination of the committee to the House, but an adjournment being called for, the business was not completed yesterday.

The Secretary of the Treasury, agreeable to notice given in his report on Thursday of last week, laid before the House this day, a report respecting the post-office, received from the Post-Master-General, which being read, was referred to a select committee consisting of Mr. Fitzsimons, Mr. Gerry, Mr. Sinnickson, Mr. Parker and Mr. Stone.

Mr. Sherman of the committee of conference on the part of the House, brought in a report, which is in substance as follows—That the com-

mittee of the House and Senate have agreed that the unfinished business of the last session, which has passed from one House to the other, shall be considered as if it had not been acted upon. This report was laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Thatcher, the petition of Lemuel Miller was read the second time.

The bill for making provision for persons employed in the intercourse between the United States, and foreign nations, was read the second time—and made the order of the day for Monday next—then to be taken into consideration by the committee of the whole House.

The attention of the House was then called to the report on the Indian Business and south-western frontiers, which occasioned an order for clearing the galleries.

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

TASTE.

Interesting information for the Admirers and Patrons of the Fine Arts in America, respecting

MR. TRUMBULL'S HISTORICAL PAINTINGS.

MR TRUMBULL, who lately returned from Europe, proposes to describe in a series of Paintings, the most remarkable Events of the late American Revolution. He has in contemplation the following subjects, viz.

I. The Death of Warren at the Battle of Bunker's Hill.

II. The Death of Montgomery in the Attack of Quebec.

III. The Congress of 1776 in the Declaration of Independence.

IV. The Surrender of the Hessians at Trenton.

V. The Death of Mercer at the Battle of Princeton.

VI. The Surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga.

VII. The Treaty with France.

VIII. The Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at York Town.

IX. The Signing the Treaty of Peace.

X. The Evacuation of New-York by the British in 1783.

XI. The Resignation of Gen. Washington.

XII. The President received by the Ladies of Trenton at the Triumphal Arch.

XIII. The Inauguration of the PRESIDENT.

THE Portraits of the principal Actors in these great scenes will be preserved; and Prints will be published of the whole. The two first of these Subjects are finished, and the Paintings in the hands of eminent Engravers in Europe. Four others are commenced, some of which are half completed. These, with the remainder of the Work, if prosecuted, will require many years of application, and a very considerable expence.—It is now to be decided, whether Mr. TRUMBULL will meet with such Patronage in America as will justify him in involving himself in such considerable expences of Time and Money; or whether he will be obliged to relinquish a favorite undertaking and return to Europe: Where Subjects of a different nature and more interesting to the feelings of the People of that Continent, will ensure him employment in a more profitable, though less agreeable manner. We understand that the Engravings are to be published in numbers, containing two each: The price will be three Guineas for every Print; and, we are told, a Subscription for this purpose is soon to be opened.

PETERSBURG, January 7.

The bill, for cutting a navigable canal from the waters of Pasquotank river to the waters of Elizabeth river, which was under consideration at the last session of the general assembly of North-Carolina, is postponed until their next session. They have passed an act for the purpose of ceding to the United States, certain western lands.

BALTIMORE, January 15.

Extract from "Political State of Europe, for October, 1789.

"The unsettled State of France is still, and in all probability will long continue to be, the grand subject of political and moral observation. Liberty that had been forced to take shelter in the extremities of the earth, returns and raises her standard in the very centre of the civilized world, where she will extend her dominion and influence to nations that now lie under darkness and the shadow of death. The throne of Freedom being once established, the government of France will become stronger than it ever was, for any length of time, in the reign of despotism, and the genius of the people still more ardent and enterprising. The chain of authority is strongest when it is voluntary. In forced obedience there is a principle of discontent and resistance, which only waits for an opportunity of innovation. There is another way in which freedom strengthens the authority of government: By encouraging industry it multiplies the public resources; it affords a fund of credit, and the means of taxation."

NEW-YORK, JANUARY 23.

The patriot, whose unwearied mind,
Toils for the good of human kind;
Who on the wings of honor borne,
Looks down on glittering dust with scorn—
When Heav'n intends to save the State,
His Counsels turn the scales of Fate.

The United States have an extensive field of contemplation opened before them in the business of funding the public debts.—Our situation in regard to this important subject is truly interesting. Hitherto we have not availed ourselves of the wisdom and experience of foreign countries; but adopting such local and independent plans as appeared expedient to the legislatures of the several States, all of which are calculated upon the leading views of the influencing majorities in the State Governments; from the want of uniformity, consistency and strict justice, in all, or the most of them—in what a wretched predicament do we behold the debts of the individual governments placed! With respect to the debts of the United States, there is every apology to be made for their situation, which can arise from the want of every principle of power in the late confederation, necessary to establish the public credit, and lessen the burden of the debt, by arrangements calculated to promote these important objects. At different periods, some partial attempts were made to institute a department with a responsible officer at its head, to be vested with necessary powers to carry such measures into effect, as the exigencies of our affairs required; but it was reserved to the wisdom, and enlightened policy of the present competent Legislature of the Union, to complete the establishment of such a department. The public is now favored with the result of the indefatigable labors of the minister of this department.

As our country in many of its great movements, loses sight of those imbecile, inefficient and confused transactions, which mark the early stages of other nations—and nobly ranks in politics, government, and laws, with the oldest and wisest; so in the great business of Finance, the best models, and the best experience of the most informed and prosperous countries, appear to have attracted the consideration of the Secretary of the Treasury, in the report laid before Congress.

The British finances were involved in confusion for several centuries; but from the first moment of their adopting a system of finance, their affairs assumed a different aspect, and have ever since been progressing in a line of improvement—contrasted with their situation a century ago, their present wealth, power and commercial consequence, are enhanced, so as to elude calculation. It is beyond a doubt that no other nation upon the Globe could have supported the expence of the late American war; and with that amazing addition to her debt, to the astonishment of all the world, she now appears to be still rising in the scale of empire and extending her plans of trade, her manufactures and credit. This example, without a parallel in the history of nations, of the power of a well supported credit, may justly arrest the attention of this country; and the minister who should not investigate and unfold to the people the principles which in their operation, have produced such wonderful effects, would be guilty of unpardonable remissness. The Secretary of the Treasury therefore with freedom and independence, has fairly proposed such plans as appear to be the result of such an investigation.

There may be prejudices existing in the minds of some persons against almost every deviation from systems to which we have been accustomed; but as our experience on those systems, is directly opposed to the general interest, and those now proposed have the test of success to recommend them, a fair, candid, and impartial examination should certainly precede a judgment on their merits or defects.

Our public debt is now within manageable bounds—now is the day of salvation—if we are wise, we shall be wise for ourselves, but if we reject the counsels of wisdom, and still procrastinate the funding of all our debts, upon the principles of sound policy, which are those of justice, "future generations will rise up, and call us" cursed.

The idea of a discrimination among the creditors of the United States, involves so many perplexities, and inextricable difficulties, that its advocates address all their observations upon the subject, to the passions of their readers—in this they are wise: An attempt to form a system on any line of justice, to effect the object, will instantly convince any person in his senses, of its total impracticability.—A loaned government 1000 dollars specie in the year 1776, but to prevent its being known that he was a creditor he took out his certificate in the name of B; A long since has paid the debt of nature—B now possesses this certificate, after passing through fifty different hands—B's name stands recorded in the books of the United States—who can say he is not an original creditor, tho he purchased the evidence of debt at three shillings on the pound?

The Assembly of the State of Rhode-Island have voted to call a Convention for the purpose of adopting the Constitution of the United States.