

the neighbourhood of the city of Mexico—this happened in October last; and about the 20th of Nov. upwards of 7000 of the inhabitants appeared under arms, amongst whom were the most respected characters of the country; they marched and attacked the troops who had taken possession of their property; an engagement took place—the greatest part of the king's troops fell a sacrifice, and the people retook their property—they were afterwards joined by a large body of Indians (who make the greater part of the inhabitants) and then proceeded to the city of Mexico, where they took possession of the King's magazines, arsenals, &c. the viceroy, the chief officers, the priests and jesuits, the most obnoxious to the natives, fled towards Carthagen. Two expresses arrived here over land. Government wishes to conceal it from the people, but time will disclose the whole of this interesting affair."

NEW-YORK, Feb. 5.

The district court for the district of New-York was opened on Tuesday last by the Hon. James Duane, Judge of said Court.

The following Gentlemen who had been summoned for the purpose, appeared and were sworn as Grand Jurors, being the first Grand Jury assembled in this State under the authority of the United States, to wit:

Jacob Le Roy, sen. Foreman, Francis Lewis, sen. John Broome, Richard Platt, John Blagge, Eleazer Miller, Samuel B. Webb, Henry Remsen, sen. William Denning, Walter Livingston, William Maxwell, Comfort Sands, Alexander Macomb, William Edgar, Paschal Nelson Smith, James Farquhar, Alexander Stewart, James Nicholson, Frederick Jay, Nicholas Hoffman, Cornelius Ray, Abijah Hammond, Joseph Hallett.

His Honor the Judge then gave the following Charge:

Gentleman of the Grand Jury.

In a charge to the first Grand Inquest convened for this District, I tread an unbeaten path. We are now become emphatically a nation. A new Constitution pervades the United-States, with adequate powers for their government and protection. New laws are promulgated, both with respect to crimes and civil obligations; and new judicatories established for the administration of justice. To examine the nature of those institutions, and their affects on our former system, would be a work of time, and indeed difficult to be accomplished without further experience. But I have no intention to enter upon a discussion so extensive. For us it is sufficient that the constitution and laws of the United-States, are the laws of the land, sanctioned by the highest authority, paramount to all political obligations; and commanding our respect and obedience. Happy are we that thus bound to submission, this constitution, after the strictest scrutiny, is so strongly marked with the approbation of a vigilant and enlightened people! Happy that we may confidently trust it will answer the inestimable purposes expressed in its preamble, that it will "form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

After this introduction his Honor explained the judiciary powers of the United States—the Nature of the Courts instituted by virtue of those powers—and the several laws of the union, violations of which are the subjects of cognizance to the Grand Jury of this district—and concluded with the following interesting, and important observations.—

"You have perceived how much it must depend on you, and those who may from time to time succeed you as grand jurors, to vindicate the authority of the United States, and particularly to prevent abuse of office, and frauds in the revenue—evils of such pernicious tendency.

"You will therefore be careful and diligent in executing your high trust. The solemn oath which has been administered to you, will regulate your conduct. From your respectable characters I am assured that you will act independently and impartially, as much uninfluenced by the fear, as the favor of men.

"You will present things truly as they exist in, or shall come to your knowledge, weighing every circumstance with deliberation, so that the innocent may not be vexed, nor the guilty escape unpunished.

"I am happy that I have no particular accusation to lay before you; and therefore dismiss you to your duty: not doubting but you will discharge it conscientiously, and merit the thanks of your country.

Thursday the District Court of the United States, for the District of New-York, again met, according to adjournment, when the Grand Jury presented the following address to the Court, in answer to the charge delivered to them at the opening of the court.

To the Hon. JAMES DUANE, Esq. Judge of the District of New-York.

SIR,

We, the Grand Jurors for the District of New-York, beg leave to present our sincere thanks for

your excellent charge, in which the nature of our duty, and the judicial system of the United-States are described in the clearest manner, and recommended by the most cogent reasons.

Convinced that a government marked with the approbation of a vigilant and enlightened people, and calculated to extend the great blessings of liberty and union, to the latest posterity, is entitled to our fullest confidence and support. And sensible that we must chiefly depend upon the due execution of the laws imposing duties, and an impost upon trade and navigation, for the support of our government, the payment of our debts, and the re-establishment of public credit. We conceive it our duty to declare, that our *whole conduct* shall be regulated by these sentiments; that both by our influence and example, we will endeavor to promote the collection of the public revenue; and that, not only in our present capacity, but as private citizens, we shall exert ourselves to bring offenders to the bar of public justice.

Such sentiments as these we trust are not peculiar to ourselves, nor confined to any rank or description of Citizens; but pervade and will govern the whole community. They are the natural result of universal attachment to a government formed to secure the rights of man, and in which, by necessary consequence, public prosperity is connected with the happiness and safety of individuals.

The Court in reply, thanked the Grand Jury for their respectful address; and observed, that the sentiments it contained were honorable to themselves, and must produce great public good. The Grand Jury were then discharged, and the Court adjourned to meet again according to law.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 3, 1790.

THE bill providing for the actual enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States was read the third time.

The time for commencing the business, and the period to be allowed the Marshals for completing it, and making the returns, occasioned considerable debate. The first Monday in August next was agreed to, as the day on which the enumeration shall begin by virtue of this law. But the House did not come to any decision respecting the time to be allowed for making the returns. Several motions were made, which met with various objections—and the further consideration of the bill was postponed.

In committee of the whole on the bill to establish a uniform system of naturalization. The terms on which foreigners shall be admitted to the rights of citizens, occasioned a lengthy debate—which turned principally on the questions Whether residence should be a requisite to entitle to all the rights of citizenship? and if necessary, for what time, previous to the enjoyment of those rights? A diversity, and opposition of sentiment appearing to prevail, on motion, the committee rose, without coming to any determination—and the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4.

The enrolled bill for giving effect to the laws of the United States in the State of North-Carolina, was brought in by the committee, who reported that they had examined the same, and found it correct—the speaker then signed the same.

Mr. Trumbull of the committee on the memorial of Roger Alden brought in a report which was read, and laid on the table.

The bill for establishing a uniform system of naturalization was again taken into consideration by the committee of the whole.

The motion made yesterday for striking out the words from the bill "and shall have resided within the United States for one whole year" was refused.

Mr. Stone was in favor of extending the previous time of residence to four or seven years.

Mr. Jackson suggested the propriety of a term of probation, and a recommendation from the grand jury of the district, before foreigners should be admitted to the rights of citizenship. He wished that such guards should be provided as would prevent the privilege from being bestowed on unworthy objects—for he hoped the time was nigh at hand, when it would be deemed as honorable to be a citizen of the United States, as it formerly was to be a citizen of Rome when she was mistress of the world.

Mr. Lawrance observed that as the United States contained vast tracts of uncultivated territory, it is their interest to have it settled with industrious citizens—and as such citizens are to be obtained by emigration, it becomes the duty of government to hold out every encouragement, they therefore ought not to make their terms of admission difficult.

Mr. Huntington said that the terms of the bill are indefinite—that it requires the emigrant to take an oath that he intends to reside in the United States, but how long and for what purpose are not ascertained in the law.—He may determine to reside here till he accomplishes a particu-

lar object—and may go into the most obscure part of the Union to take this oath.—The community will not be benefited by such emigrants, and therefore ought not to admit them to the privileges of citizens.

The mode of naturalization pointed out by this bill is much too easy.—In the state to which I belong no person can be naturalized but by an act of the legislature; the same is the case in several of the other States, and in England—and I never knew a good inhabitant who wished to be admitted to the rights of citizenship that did not find this mode sufficiently easy.

The term that the emigrant should reside, ought to be long enough to give him an opportunity to acquire a knowledge of the principles of the government, and of those who are most proper to administer it, otherwise he cannot exercise his privilege to the advantage of himself or the community.—He wished therefore that the clause might be amended in such a way as to leave the naturalization of foreigners to the State Legislatures.

Mr. Clymer after some introductory observations said, that in his opinion foreigners should be gradually admitted to the rights of citizens,—that a residence for a certain time should entitle them to hold property, &c. but the higher rights of citizens, such as electing and being elected to office, should require a longer period—permitting these rights to be assumed and exercised at a shorter period would not operate as an inducement to persons to emigrate—as the great object in emigration is generally to procure a more comfortable subsistence, or to better the circumstances of the individuals—and the exercise of particular privileges is but a secondary consideration.

Mr. Page and Mr. Lee, were in favor of an easy mode of admitting foreigners—that the period previous to their enjoying and exercising the rights of citizens, should be short—as this would tend greatly to encouraging emigrations into the United States.

Mr. Seney observed, that the United States have a right to impose the qualifications on the electors of officers for the general government—but have no right to interfere in those of the electors of officers in the State governments—and while I am in favor, said he, of holding out proper encouragement to foreigners, and would very early admit them to hold property, yet I think it would be of dangerous tendency, to admit strangers suddenly to all the rights of citizens. He was opposed to adopting any mode that should interfere with the laws of the particular States, and in favor of recommitting the bill to a select committee.

Mr. Jackson, was also in favor of a recommitment. He said there were so many propositions before the committee that he should not know how to vote—he observed that the ideas of some gentlemen with respect to naturalization, will subject the United States to the inconveniences and impositions which take place in some of the individual States; where it has been frequently the case, that in a warmly contested election, the wharves and shipping have been stripped of sailors, and carried in bodies to vote.

Mr. Burke spoke largely on the subject, and reprobated a system that would produce corruption and a violation of the rights of the citizens in elections, and moved for the recommitment.

Mr. Clymer said he was in favor of the motion, but thought it would be best to pass to the next clause first, which involved the case of that particular class of persons denominated refugees.

Mr. Tucker proposed a clause by which foreigners should be admitted to the rights of citizens, so far as to possess property, immediately after their arrival into the country on taking an oath of fidelity to the United States, and giving satisfactory evidence of their intention to reside therein—and that three years residence should be requisite to entitle to the rights of election.

Mr. Livermore said, that if he could get thro the labyrinth of order, he would move that the committee should rise, and that the bill should be recommitment to a select committee—he observed that in the committee of the whole the business is now involved and perplexed, by motion after motion, in such a manner, that it put in him mind of a certain book which says, that in a certain assembly one hath a psalm, a second hath a doctrine, and another hath a prophecy, &c.—till the whole is in confusion.

He pointed out the difficulties that would result from not making residence a qualification of citizenship—upon the plan of some gentlemen who would admit foreigners upon taking an oath, it is not the United States who make citizens of foreigners—they make themselves citizens.

Mr. Sedgwick was also in favor of the committee's rising, and urged it from the consideration of the small progress that the committee had made in two days discussion of the bill—motion has been piled on motion in such a manner said he, that we appear to be involved in an inextricable labyrinth.

The motion for the rising of the committee was opposed by Mr. Smith (S. C.) he said, that several questions had been discussed so fully, that