

these men have bought the lands at a very small price, and are very much disposed to get your valuable farms in exchange for them. Various insidious arts have been employed to ensnare and betray the unwary.—Let me counsel you my countrymen, to stay at home, content with that support which honest industry will secure to you in any populated part of the United States.

Your emigration to these lands will be as injurious to your country, as emigration to another Planet. In a political view, these lands may perhaps, be made productive of money, if sold abroad, and reserved for foreign emigrants—but in a commercial and agricultural view, they are, at this moment, very injurious—they open a resort for all who would escape from debt and from industry—they weaken the effect of penal laws throughout the Union, by receiving and protecting their just victims. There no law reaches, no curse descends—but in lieu of them a complication of miseries necessarily attendant on settlers in a new territory.—Convinced I am, that if those lands were overflowed by the lakes—or sunk in the ocean—or turned into a desert—we should be a richer people.

On the subject of the immense compliments to our Western Territory, I pledge myself, (if fairly challenged, under this signature,) to prove, that the accounts have been, for the most part, absolutely false and insidious. Stay, then, my countrymen, in your honest callings, and never be caught, standing like Shakespeare's blacksmith, with suspended hammer, and out-stretch'd mouth, swallowing a taylor's news.

A REPUBLICAN.

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MR. FENNO,

THE critical moment is at hand. Whether the new government will stand or fall: Whether the United States will rise into respectability, or sink into contempt, will be decided, when the question, respecting public credit, shall be determined. If justice and true policy shall appear among the leading features of this all important determination, our government will obtain energy, our legislators merit the confidence of their constituents, and the people be happy. But should this not be the case, the laws of Congress will be treated like the creatures of a day, and its members appear only as cyphers. I do not wish a government that is not founded in justice; and I am sure we shall have no other to continue long, except it be in tyranny.

I would be far from impeaching the worthy character of the Secretary of the Treasury: It would be with reluctance, should I disapprove the plan contained in his report, in which he has displayed so much ingenuity. But I wish to make some remarks upon letter-writers and correspondents who seem to applaud his plan.—It is applauded, because it probably cost him much labor; and it is the performance of one in whose abilities and fidelity we have reason to confide. But we have a right to call to mind, that the author of the report is one who is not wholly exempted from the common imperfections of human nature. It is possible that he should err.

By whom a letter-writer is authorized to say, That the public creditors will be content with receiving an interest of 4 per cent. when they loaned their money to the States upon condition of receiving 6 per cent.—or how he can say that they have expected no more, I am not able to conceive. I know that some of the public creditors will not be content with this: I have not heard one say, that he would be content with it. Money is let, and has been, and will be let at an interest of 6 per cent. Is it not rare patriotism that inclines a man to let his money at a less interest to the States than to his neighbors?

I think the present servants of the public, do not serve the States for less wages than they would serve individuals. When we loaned our money to the States, we might have loaned it to private persons at 6 per cent. and continued it so to this time, and as much longer as we please. How then is it rational to conclude that the creditors of the public will be content to receive only an interest of 4 per cent. upon those obligations which solemnly promise 6? I believe that if Congress propose this, and they consent to it, it will be because they think they can do no better with the *ultima lex regum*.

Would Congress know whether the public creditors are willing to continue their money in the loan, or subscribe to the new projected fund, at an interest of 4 per cent. let them make a fair trial. Let them offer full payment of principal and interest already arisen, in real specie, and say, will you accept it, or continue your property in the loan at 4 per cent. Unless the public debt be continued upon an interest of 6 per cent. and provision made for the annual payment of it. I shall not view the foundation of our government as laid in justice: Except the consent of the public creditors to a lower interest is obtained in the manner just mentioned, or some other as fair. That the States have any right to depart from an original contract made with any of their subjects, without the consent of the subject fairly obtained, is, for me, as difficult to understand, as that either party, in a private contract, has a right to make alterations without the consent of the other. If the States can make a saving of interest in a manner that is just and fair, let them do it; but in any other manner it ought to be reprobated.

The letter-writer further observes, that only 4 per cent. interest is within the compass of the ability of the United States. This I deem a mistake in him, and a falsehood in fact. The States are not yet reduced to bankruptcy, They are not under the necessity of compounding with their creditors at one third discount. Let not an idea, so false, and so ruinous to our credit be suggested or cherished. To be sure, if the States are not able to pay any more than two thirds of the interest they owe, the creditors who are but a small part of the States are not able to lose one third. They must bear a part in paying this two thirds, at the same time they must lose one third, and no body to bear a part with them.

I do not suppose the letter-writer means that there is not property or resources enough in the States to pay their debts honestly, but it will be too heavy: If they be really able, it will be more pinching than they can bear. I hope we are not so destitute of virtue yet. The creditors may be able to lose a part of their dues, but will it not be heavy and pinching to them? Were power upon their side, they might say with a like positive air—It is too heavy for us. If they are deprived of one third of their interest, they are deprived of one third of their principal too. Certainly if 300 dollars draws no more interest in the public funds than 200 in a private fund, it is worth no more than 200, it will sell for no more. Is not this too heavy upon the creditors? If any suppose that in years to come interest will be no more than 4 per cent. in common through the States: Yet let us wait till that time: It will then be soon enough to reduce the interest of the public fund: The creditors will then be willing for it. That period is no doubt ages distant from us. In such a new and extensive country as this, there are, and for a long time will be, ways for people to dispose of their money to a greater advantage, than letting it even at 6 per cent. I need only mention the increasing value of lands.

If the people will not bear a burden heavy enough to do justice, let us know it. If their character is known, future generations will not be deceived and cheated as the present has been. Should this sentiment be declared and patronized, that the States are not able to do justice to their creditors, it would give as fatal a blow to public credit as the want of justice. I think my neighbors as unwilling to trust a man whom they suppose unable to pay them again, except in part, as they are one who is able, but unwilling, till compelled to it by law. I fear the States will never be able to obtain another loan, if once they shall by any means reduce their creditors to a necessity of accepting a less rate of interest than was originally agreed upon. For what they do now may be done again. This will stand as a precedent. The character which they get fixed upon themselves now, will probably be imputed to them for a long succession of generations.

If the States think they pay too high interest, or could borrow at less, let them do as a prudent subject would in such a case, pay up their former loan and contract a new one. Should any say, this is not a fair proposal, because it is what they cannot do—the present state of our treasury is not sufficient for such a thing: I answer, let them get the money into the treasury by opening a new loan. Let them, by advertisements through the States, desire the monied subjects to deposit their money in a public fund at 4 per cent. interest, and with the money thus obtained, pay off the obligations which have been given at 6 per cent. If money cannot be thus obtained, it will prove that monied men can do better with their money; and if so, it proves it unjust and impolitic to reduce the public creditors to the necessity of taking less than 6 per cent.

Why this class of citizens should be called to make a sacrifice to the public, or why it should be expected from them I know not. They have suffered as much during the war, in other ways, as any class of people; they have for many years suffered beyond others, by having no interest paid them, or that which in value has been next to none. I believe them not behind others in patriotism: but it seems to me they are the last class of citizens that should be called to make so great a sacrifice: They have been not only the nominal but actual friends of their country in the time of her greatest necessities. There could be much better arguments produced in favor of an advanced interest than of a reduced one; but let justice take place, I ask no more.

A CONNECTICUT MAN.

BY AUTHORITY.

PROCLAMATION of the KING of FRANCE,

For granting Bounties on the importation of Grain.

NOVEMBER 5th, 1789.

THE King being informed that in many of the Ports of his Kingdom, the merchants would be disposed to import foreign grain, if they could expect to receive the like Bounties as were granted until the first of September last; His Majesty being desirous to induce the merchants to pursue measures so conducive to the supplying his people with provisions, has thought proper to grant this Encouragement: His Majesty has therefore ordained, and does ordain as follows.

ARTICLE I.

That there shall be paid to all French and Foreign Merchants, who from the 1st December, 1789, to the 1st July, 1790, shall import Wheat, Rye and Barley, and the Flour thereof, from the different Ports of Europe, or of the United States of America, the following Bounties, viz. *thirty sours* per quintal on Wheat—*forty sours* per quintal on Wheat Flour—*twenty-four sours* per quintal on Rye—*thirty-two sours* per quintal on Rye Flour—*twenty sours* per quintal on Barley, and *twenty-seven sours* per quintal on Barley Flour.

II.

The said Bounties shall be paid by the Receivers of the Farm-Duties in the Ports of the Kingdom, where the said Grain and Flour shall arrive, on the Declarations furnished by the Captains of the Vessels, who shall be bound to annex thereto a legal copy of the Bill of Lading of their cargo.

III.

All the Vessels indiscriminately, which, during the space of time above specified, shall import into the Kingdom Wheat and Flour, coming from the different Ports of Europe, and those of the United States of America, shall be exempt from the Duty of Freight, on account of the said importations. His Majesty enjoins the persons employed in the Farms to conform to, and carry in to execution the present Proclamation, which shall be read, published, &c.

Done at Paris, the fifth of November, 1789.

[SIGNED] DE SAINT PRIEST.

LONDON, December, 31.

Extract of a letter from Rome, Nov. 21.

“Yesterday morning a courier arrived from Bologna, with news of the death of the Duchess of Albany, natural daughter of the late Pretender, who sent for her from France some time before his death, and had her legitimated. Her complaint was an abscess in the side, and is attributed to a fall from her horse some time before she left France. She was the last direct descendant (if a natural child can be so called) of the Stuarts, except the Cardinal of York; who since his brother's death has assumed the title of Henry IX.”

The patriotic furor of freedom which so highly dignifies the present period, has at length ex-

tended to the British islands of Jersey and Guernsey; in both of which the standard of liberty is erected. The points resolved upon are grand juries, trials by juries, and an abolition of appeal and jurisdiction. The friends of government have strenuously endeavored to oppose those resolutions, but the patriots carried them by a prodigious majority.

The loss sustained by the Grand Vizier in the action with Prince Potemkin, is about 20,000 men, most of whom were drowned; the Reis Effendi and many principal officers were among them.

At Rome, the middle of November last, the weather suddenly became so cold, that the inhabitants were obliged to button themselves in their great coats. A circumstance so unusual in those climates, may lead to a conjecture, that the rivers which are described by the Roman Poets to have been frozen over in the day of Augustus, may shortly exhibit the same phenomenon.

A detachment from the Russian grand fleet in the North passed the Streights of Gibraltar on the 23d ult.

A patent has just passed the Great Seal to a Mr. Hancock for a most valuable invention: It is a portable, compact machine, for winnowing and cleaning all sorts of corn. It will do eight quarters in an hour ready for the market, prevents all waste, and gives the Corn a lighter colour than the usual mode.

THE TABLET.

No. XCIII.

“It is a difficult task to get above a desire of being applauded for things that should be wholly indifferent.”

THERE is no circumstance in the conduct of a person that requires more discretion, than to regulate that part of conversation which relates to himself. The love of commendation is so strong in the minds of most men, that it often tempts them to praise their own qualities or actions. Though applause which one bestows on himself may denote vanity, it is no mark of a perverse disposition, unless the things which he applauds, are such as deserve censure, rather than praise. I am apt to believe, that when a person is left to the necessity, either of speaking in his own commendation, or of having nothing commendable said of him, that he will be vain of qualifications that are vicious or useless.

What are we to think of a person who takes a pride in boasting that he can drink a greater quantity of wine than any of his acquaintance without intoxication? It is natural to infer, that he wishes applause, and that as he is not conscious of any real merit, he had rather be remarkable for vice or folly, than not to be distinguished at all. A person likewise who is vain of any peculiarity of dress or manners, shews a desire to be applauded for things, about which he should be indifferent. Few men are capable of regulating their love of applause in such a manner, as not sometimes to doat upon trifling qualifications; and to seek commendation in points, which prudence would direct them to conceal. But we should be on our guard against the fascinating influence of admiration, or it may lead us into actions that may lessen our character in the view of those, whose esteem and approbation are most to be valued.

NEW-YORK, MARCH 3.

FROM CORRESPONDENTS.

When it is considered how highly the public expectations were raised at the adoption of the New Constitution—and how greatly those expectations have been realized in the administration of the government thus far, a doubt cannot be entertained respecting the adoption of such measures in future, as will ensure the most essential object, the establishment of the PUBLIC CREDIT. As a leading step to this great event, every national and patriotic motive, concurs to enforce the assumption of the State Debts. This will prove a most important link in the chain of our Federal Union—and which, if not done, will be a dereliction of the interest of a very respectable class of the most distinguished Patriots of our Country.

Local politics were universally decried but a short time since, as the disgrace and curse of our country—all the members of our present enlightened *National Legislature*, in all their deliberations on the great questions that come before them, especially those relating to FINANCE, discover minds superior to all selfish, State attachments. So that the interests of *all*, appear to be equally dear to *all*. When this is the case, how glorious is the prospect of our country!

“A chain of self interest is no better than a rope of sand. There is no cement, nor cohesion between the parts—there is rather a mutual antipathy and repulsion—hence we see this chain is always ready to fall in pieces, and on any sudden concussion to break into an infinity of factions.”

“When this comes to be the case with a community, we find that no public measure, however salutary, can be carried into effect, if it clash with any foreseen particular interest.” *Freon's Estimate.*