

“ Or to have sixty-six dollars and two thirds of a dollar funded immediately, at a yearly interest of 6 per cent; and thirty-three dollars and one third of a dollar in an unfunded certificate, bearing an annual interest of six per cent. payable at the option of the holder, annually, in a funded certificate at a yearly interest of 6 per cent; or as soon as funds can be provided, in specie; and that the faith of Congress be pledged to fund as soon as possible the unfunded certificate.”

By this proposition, if Congress wish for time to make their arrangements, the creditor may either receive annually the interest on the unfunded part of his debt in a funded certificate; or, if he prefers specie, he may wait till Congress can provide it. It perhaps will be said, this will increase the capital; but we have already agreed to increase it by adding fifteen or twenty millions of dollars due for interest, or that will be due before the periods at which we are to fund the debt; and as we have done this because we cannot pay that interest, the same reason exists for adopting a similar measure with respect to the interest which may hereafter accrue, and which we shall not immediately provide to discharge. Within five years Mr. Gerry supposed Congress would be able to fund this unfunded part of the debt; and if no part thereof should be received for lands, but the whole be subscribed on the terms of this proposition, the capital of the debt would at the end of five years be increased but 5,393,124 dollars, and the interest which would be paid during that period on the funded certificates, to be issued for interest, would be but 808,920 dollars: in such an event there would be no irredeemable quality in any part of the debt, the disadvantages of which overbalanced in the minds of the committee the advantages of reducing its capital, as was evident from their vote yesterday to lessen the time of redemption by increasing the capital.

The Secretary has justly reprobated every proposal that shall apply to the necessities, and not to the reason and interest of the creditors. If the two propositions agreed to do not apply to the latter, the necessity of the one now offered to the committee must be evident: if these propositions do apply, and are acceptable to the creditors, they will prefer them to this, which however will manifest our desire to do them all possible justice.

Mr. Gerry then said he was not so attached to the motion he had made as not to give it up, if any gentleman would offer a better, to attain the desirable object he aimed at. This he thought indispensable, because if we offered what we called an equivalent, and not what the creditors should consider as such, the intended loan would be a compulsory one, and, instead of supporting, would tend to destroy the public credit.

Mr. Gerry's motion was seconded by Col. Bland, and laid on the table. After the other propositions were passed, it was taken up and debated, and as several gentlemen were much opposed to a decision on such a proposition at so late an hour as three o'clock, and at the end of the week, in the absence of a number of members it was withdrawn, that the committee might report, and will probably be brought forward in the House.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31.

Memorials from the Manufacturers of Tobacco in the cities of Philadelphia and New-York, respecting an enhanced duty on manufactured Tobacco and Snuff were read.

The bill to regulate trade with the Indian tribes was read the second time, and referred to a committee of the whole house, to be the order of the day on Monday next.

The amendments of the Senate to the bill for promoting the progress of useful arts were read. A message was received from the Senate, informing the House that they have passed an act to prevent the exportation of goods, not duly inspected according to the laws of the several States.

In committee of the whole.—The proposition for the assumption of the State debts under consideration.

The debate was continued; but no decision took place, previous to the rising of the committee.

Mr. Sedgwick of the committee, to whom was re-committed the bill to regulate the intercourse between the United States and foreign nations, brought in a new bill, which was read the first time.

The Committee also reported the following resolution, which was laid on the table.

Resolved, That the Secretary of State, be directed to report to the house, whether, in his opinion, it is expedient that the foreign and domestic branches of business, in his department, should be kept distinct; and whether it is necessary that a chief clerk should be appointed for each.

Adjourned.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1.

The bill to regulate the intercourse between the United States and foreign nations, was read the second time, and referred to a committee of the whole House, to be taken into consideration on Thursday next.

Mr. Gilman of the joint committee of both houses, appointed to examine the enrolled bills, reported, that the committee had examined the bill for accepting the cession of the claims of N. Carolina to a certain district therein described; also the bill to prevent the exportation of goods, not duly inspected according to the laws of the several States—and found them duly enrolled.

The Speaker affixed his signature to the above bills.

Sundry petitions presented by Mr. Huntington, and Mr. Lawrance were read, and referred to the heads of departments.

The resolution, laid on the table yesterday, respecting the Department of the Secretary of State was taken up.

Some conversation ensued on this resolution—so far as the idea of creating two departments was contemplated by the resolution, it was objected to—the mode of introducing the subject before the House was said to be unparliamentary—that after a great deal of debate respecting the arrangement of this department, a law had passed for its organization—that the Secretary is empowered by the law to employ as many clerks as he shall think proper—and in arranging the business if he finds it necessary, that the salary of a clerk,

to whose particular inspection, particular parts of the business is assigned, should be increased, he will make a representation to the legislature accordingly.

Mr. Sedgwick observed, that nothing was further from his thoughts than creating two distinct departments—the committee had supposed that a reference of this subject to the Secretary of State was a natural and eligible step; but however, as gentlemen appeared to entertain different sentiments on the business, he would withdraw the resolution.

In committee of the whole.—The proposition for the assumption of the State debts was debated this day, till after three o'clock, when the committee rose, without taking any vote on the question.

A message was received from the President of the United States by his Secretary—with the ratification by South-Carolina of the amendments proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States. Adjourned.

FRIDAY, APRIL 2.

The members of the House assembled this day at the usual hour—but on account of its being Good Friday, adjourned till tomorrow, without doing business.

PREMIUMS

Proposed by the Philadelphia Society, for promoting Agriculture, for the year 1790.

[Continued from our last.]

VI.

For the best information, the result of actual experience, for preventing damage to crops by insects; especially the Hessian fly, the wheat-fly, or fly-weevil, the pea-bug, and the corn clinch-bug or fly,—a gold medal; a silver medal for the second best. To be produced by the 20th of December, 1790.

VII.

For an account of a vegetable food that may be easily procured and preserved, and that best increases milk in cows and ewes, in March and April, founded on experiment,—a gold medal; for the second best,—a silver medal. To be produced by the tenth of January, 1791.

VIII.

For the greatest quantity of ground, not less than one acre, well fenced, producing locust trees, growing in 1790, from seed sown after April 5th, 1785: the trees to be of the sort used for posts and trunnels, and not fewer than 1500 per acre,—a gold medal—for the second, a silver medal.—To be claimed in December, 1790.

IX.

The society believing that very important advantages would be derived from the general use of oxen, instead of horses, in husbandry and other services; and being desirous of facilitating their introduction into all these States—persuaded also that the comparative value of oxen and cows must very much depend on the qualities of their fires and dams; and that by a careful attention to the subject, an improved breed may be obtained; they propose a gold medal for the best essay, the result of experience, on the breeding, feeding, and management of cattle, for the purpose of rendering them most profitable for the dairy, and for beef, and most docile and useful for the draught; and for the next best, a silver medal.—To be produced by the 1st of January, 1791.

N. B.—Among other things the essay should notice the different breeds of cattle, and their comparative qualities; as their sizes, strength, facility in fattening, quantity of milk, &c.

NEW-YORK, APRIL 3.

We are informed that there will soon be published, an history of this, and the preceding session of Congress; and that the object of this history will be to point out the most interesting questions that have been debated, and to make such remarks on the proceedings at large as will shew the general complexion of public business. This history will be rendered singularly entertaining, by furnishing a biographical account of the most distinguished characters in Congress; and by investigating the views and principles which appear to have governed the debates.

A CORRESPONDENT.

To doubt the competency of the United States to pay the interest of ALL THEIR DEBTS, is to doubt a fact which exists with better evidence for its support, than any fact that can be cited with respect to any civilized country upon earth.

It is to doubt of the ability of this people to support its government. It is to doubt in a case, where doubt is destruction. It is to doubt the existence of the body politic. It is to doubt the wisdom of the great body of the people in adopting the constitution. It is to doubt the continuance of peace and domestic tranquility—in short it is to doubt the existence of every principle of honor and honesty, among the citizens of the union.

If such are the consequences of doubting only in this case, what may not be expected should it be positively asserted that the states are not willing to do justice to their creditors, and that their funds are inadequate to paying their debts? It is to despair of the Commonwealth. It is to de-

clare a national bankruptcy. It is to advertise to all the world that we are a nation of rogues. It is to cut up our prospects by the roots. It is to divest ourselves of all hopes of future credit; either at home or abroad. It is to sacrifice the interests of the most meritorious class of our citizens. It operates as a premium for delinquency. It is rewarding those who never put forth a finger in the service and defence of the country. It is entirely crushing those who have taken upon them the burthens of patriotism, and have thereby emancipated their country. It involves a dissolution of the social compact, and is proclaiming to the world, “ that there is rottenness in the State of Denmark.”

A correspondent observes that the zeal and industry with which some persons endeavor to excite a spirit of jealousy and hostility, between the general and state governments, are equally insidious to both—and altho the pretenders to political merit, are many, yet a surplusage of honesty and abilities, was never yet complained of in any country whatever. To deprive the people of an opportunity to avail themselves of the abilities of their best men, whatever appearance the measure may assume, it will be found injurious to their most essential interests.

Possessing as the United States do, the essentials of sovereignty, is it not degrading to the highest degree, that the American Flag should not be unfurled upon terms of perfect equality in all quarters of the globe? Possessing such inexhaustible resources for ship-building, is it not mortifying that our produce, and raw materials should be exported from our shores, principally in foreign bottoms? What stranger would not think himself in a British Port, when counting the British Flags in our Harbors?

A Correspondent observes that facts prove the fallacy of an opinion which has been industriously disseminated by some persons, who are supposed not to be friendly to the New Government; which is, that the residence of Congress in any of our great commercial cities, would concentrate an influence in such place, that would tend to destroy the equilibrium of the union—for it appears by authentic documents published to the world, that Philadelphia supports her superiority to New-York in exports and imports, in the amount of her impost, and the number of her shipping.

EXTRACT.

Few, if any situations in life afford a more extensive field for diffusing good to the community and mankind, than that in which an ingenious and judicious Editor of a Newspaper is placed. Knowledge being the seed of political, domestic, and moral happiness, his labors instruct millions, and descend to future generations—he culls from all authors and ages, from the living and dead wisdom of the world. Newspapers are the book of experience, they contain the most useful and important information for all ranks and conditions of men: And it is generally the case that a total indifference, to this source of entertainment, and instruction is connected with great insensibility, great ignorance, or consummate vanity. I have known some characters who piqued themselves on this indifference—and who at the same time precipitated themselves into the most absurd situations, for want of that knowledge which this medium would have supplied.

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

F A B L E.

ONCE on a time, as authors tell,
The freshets made a river swell;
The River, as the story goes,
All the surrounding banks o'erflows;
The only neighb'ring spot of high-land,
Was soon converted to an island,
Thence, from their holes and burrows routed,
A motly tribe for safety scouted—
There common danger leagu'd in peace,
Dogs, cats and rats, and fox and geese;
Who, while the flood around them rose,
Forgot they ever had been foes:—
But when the ground was clear of rain—
Were cats and rats, and dogs again;
All found their safety in their flight,
“ And bid civilities good night.”

Thus 'tis with States—when dangers nigh
“ Unite, we live—divide, we die”—
The North and South in concert join,
And public good 's the grand design—
But when peace comes on downy wing,
And poets halcyon ages sing!—
Those States coop'd up in legislature,
(The example don't exist in nature)
Opposing interests abound,
And there the local charge goes round.

“ ARISTIDES” came too late for this days paper—and as his subject has been decided on, we think it would be unfeasonable; but should be very happy to enrich the Gazette by future communications.

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