

PROVIDENCE, April 3.

Last week Mr. Abner Merrifield, of Medway, in the State of Massachusetts, having purchased in this town a chest of tea, and other articles, was proceeding homeward with the goods in a wagon, when his property was seized by a revenue officer, and sent to Boston.—By act of Congress, not only the goods, but wagon and team are forfeited. Blessed effect of our being out of the union!—Mr Merrifield long dealt in this town, and expended much money therein.

LAWS of the UNITED STATES.

PUBLISHED

By Authority.

CONGRESS of the UNITED STATES:

AT THE SECOND SESSION.

Begun and held at the City of New-York, on Monday the fourth of January, one thousand seven hundred and ninety.

An ACT to promote the Progress of useful ARTS.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That upon the petition of any person or persons to the Secretary of State, the Secretary for the Department of War, and the Attorney-General of the United States, setting forth, that he, she, or they, hath or have invented or discovered any useful art, manufacture, engine, machine, or device, or any improvement therein not before known or used, and praying that a patent may be granted therefor, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Secretary of State, the Secretary for the Department of War, and the Attorney-General, or any two of them, if they shall deem the invention or discovery sufficiently useful and important, to cause letters-patent to be made out in the name of the United States, to bear title by the President of the United States, reciting the allegations and suggestions of the said petition, and describing the said invention or discovery, clearly, truly and fully, and thereupon granting to such petitioner or petitioners, his, her or their heirs, administrators or assigns for any term not exceeding fourteen years, the sole and exclusive right and liberty of making, constructing, using and vending to others to be used, the said invention or discovery; which letters-patent shall be delivered to the Attorney-General of the United States to be examined, who shall within fifteen days next after the delivery to him, if he shall find the same conformable to this act, certify it to be so at the foot thereof, and present the letters-patent, so certified to the President, who shall cause the seal of the United States to be thereunto affixed, and the same shall be good and available to the grantee or grantees by force of this act, to all and every intent and purpose herein contained, and shall be recorded in a book to be kept for that purpose in the office of the Secretary of State, and deliver to the patentee or his agent, and the delivery thereof shall be entered on the record and indorsed on the patent by the said Secretary at the time of granting the same.

And be it further enacted, That the grantee or grantees of each patent shall, at the time of granting the same, deliver to the Secretary of State a specification in writing, containing a description, accompanied with drafts or models, and explanations and models (if the nature of the invention or discovery will admit of a model,) of the thing or things, by him or them invented or discovered and described as aforesaid, in the said patents; which specification shall be so particular, and said models so exact, as not only to distinguish the invention or discovery, from other things before known and used, but also to enable a workman or other person, skilled in the art or manufacture, whereof it is a branch, or wherewith it may be nearest connected, to make, construct, or use the same to the end that the public may have the full benefit thereof, after the expiration of the patent-term; which specification shall be filed in the office of the said Secretary, and certified copies thereof, shall be competent evidence in all Courts and before all Jurisdictions, where any matter or thing, touching or concerning such patent, right, or privilege, shall come in question.

And be it further enacted, That upon the application of any person to the Secretary of State, for a copy of any of such specifications, and for permission to have similar model or models made, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to give such copy, and to permit the person so applying for a similar model or models, to take, or make, or cause the same to be taken or made, at the expense of such applicant.

And be it further enacted, That if any person or persons shall devise, make, construct, use, employ, or vend within these United States, any art, manufacture, engine, machine, or device, or any invention or improvement upon, or in any art, manufacture, engine, machine, or device, the sole and exclusive right of which, shall be so as aforesaid granted by patent to any person or persons, by virtue and in pursuance of this act, without the consent of the patentee or patentees, their executors, administrators or assigns, first had and obtained in writing, every person so offending, shall forfeit and pay to the said patentee or patentees, his, her or their executors, administrators or assigns, such damages as shall be assessed by a jury, and moreover shall forfeit to the person aggrieved, the thing or things so devised, made, constructed, used, employed, or vendid, contrary to the true intent of this act, which may be recovered in an action on the case, founded on this act.

And be it further enacted, That upon oath or affirmation made before the Judge of the District Court, where the defendant resides, that any patent which shall be issued in pursuance of this act, was obtained surreptitiously by, or upon false suggestion, and motion made to the said Court, within one year after issuing the said patent, but not afterwards, it shall and may be lawful to and for the Judge of the said District Court, if the matter alleged shall appear to him to be sufficient, to grant a rule that the patentee or patentees, his, her, or their executors, administrators, or assigns, shew cause why process should not issue against him, her, or them, to repeal such patents; and if sufficient cause shall not be shewn to the contrary, the rule shall be made absolute, and thereupon the said Judge shall order process to be issued as aforesaid, against such patentee or patentees, his, her, or their executors, administrators, or assigns. And in case no sufficient cause shall be shewn to the contrary, or if it shall appear that the patentee was not the first and true inventor or discoverer, judgment shall be rendered by such Court for the repeal of such patent or patents; and if the party, at whose complaint the process issued, shall have judgment given against him, he shall pay all such costs as the defendant shall be put to in defending the suit, to be taxed by the Court, and recovered in such manner as costs expended by defendants, shall be recovered in due course of law.

And be it further enacted, That in all actions to be brought by such patentee or patentees, his, her, or their executors, administrators, or assigns, for any penalty incurred by virtue of this act, the said patents or specifications shall be prima facie evidence, that the said patentee or patentees, was or were the first and true inventor or inventors, discoverer or discoverers of the thing so specified, and that the same is truly specified; but that nevertheless, the defendant or defendants may plead the general issue, and give this act, and any special matter whereof notice in writing shall have been given to the plaintiff, or his attorney, thirty days before the trial, in evidence, tending to prove that the specification filed by the plaintiff does not contain the whole of the truth concerning his invention or discovery; or that it contains more than is ne-

cessary to produce the effect described; and if the concealment of part, or the addition of more than is necessary, shall appear to have been intended to mislead, or shall actually mislead the public, so as the effect described cannot be produced by the means specified, then, and in such cases, the verdict and judgment shall be for the defendant.

And be it further enacted, That such patentee as aforesaid, shall, before he receives his patent, pay the following fees to the several officers employed in making out and perfecting the same, to wit: For receiving and filing the petition, fifty cents; for filing specifications, per copy-sheet containing one hundred words, ten cents; for making out patent, two dollars; for affixing great seal, one dollar; for endorsing the day of delivering the same to the patentee, including all intermediate services, twenty cents.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS MÜHLENBERG,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN ADAMS, Vice-President of the United States,

and President of the Senate.

APPROVED, APRIL THE TENTH, 1790.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, President of the United States.

(TRUE COPY)

THOMAS JEFFERSON, Secretary of State.

NEW-YORK, APRIL 14.

Extracts from sundry letters to a gentleman in this city.

MARCH 27. ***** but there are many wise men among them, who are good state pilots; it is however hard labor for them to get the ship along against such an undertow, and the surf running at the same time: We may give them a hint when we conceive they are out of the way, or move too slowly in the right way.

APRIL 1. The slow progress in public business, excites very general concern. The Antics laugh: The friends to the National Government mourn. Why does not—rise up and say "Every man has made up his mind, therefore let us talk less and vote more." It appears to me that Congress are like some physicians, who have long attended a patient, that they have most perfectly assured will soon be well; but the cure not being performed, the sufferer and his friends are much more sensible of the lapse of time and the consequent loss, than the honest doctors are. Whether this simile properly expresses the idea or not, the plain truth is, that by a delay of the capital concern of the nation, PUBLIC CREDIT, the universal expectation has been disappointed, and the public confidence considerably abated—while local state politicians are furnished with pretexts for keeping up the cry of "state sovereignty."

APRIL 4. The members ought to bear in mind that their constituents in general think their pay is high, and was established without much loss of time. I confess myself mortified with the indecision of that assembly, which ought to strike the world with its wisdom, energy and dispatch—Men of sentiment are astonished and extremely disappointed.

Extract of a Letter from Philadelphia, April 12.

I am at a loss to know why the funding business has lain over. Report says something about a compromise respecting the assumption: Time is passing and I begin to think they will say bye and bye it is too late in the session to go thro' with such important business as funding the debt, &c."

Extract of a Letter from George Town, April 2, 1790.

I can with pleasure inform you that within three weeks past we have had arrivals of at least 30 boats, at the mouth of Watt's Branch, 14 miles from this, load'd with flour, wheat and tobacco—many of them from the head waters of Potowmac. I have seen several of the Boatmen, and they are much pleased with the navigation. The Potowmac company's hands are now at work on the rocks at the great falls. I hope they will get through that work this present year, then the boats may pass to the little falls, four miles from hence; at the lower part of which as many pair of Mill Stones might run, as would manufacture 500 barrels of flour per day, where ships could go up to the spot.

"There is no perfection in this world"—the lovers of discord and confusion, derive all their consequence from the universality of this idea.—In a free State it unfortunately happens that there are always more persons disposed to condemn, than to applaud—but the misfortune to the public is, that censure is generally more grateful, than approbation.—It is apparent from the tenor of certain recent strictures on public affairs, that the object is men, and not measures; in this mode of pursuing their object, the disappointed shew their wisdom—for the universal acquiescence of the people in the measures of administration, precludes them from all hope of success in attempts in that line; but if a stigma can be affixed on characters, and the public confidence shaken and destroyed, the mischievous designs of an antifederal junto may be effected.

The Hon. Mr. LEE, and the Hon. Mr. GUNN, Senators of the United States, arrived in this city on Sunday evening last. Yesterday was married by the REVEREND—BURKE, officiating Rector of the Parish of St. Peter—in this city, the hon. Lewis William Otto, Chargé des Affaires of his most Christian Majesty, to Miss Fanny de Crevecoeur, daughter of the hon. St. John de Crevecoeur, his Most Christian Majesty's Consul for the States of Connecticut, New-York, and New-Jersey.

TO fund—or not to fund, that is the question!

Whether 'tis better to assume the debts
By States contracted for the gen'ral weal,
And by a lib'ral scheme of finance, prove
No little, local motives guide our sages,
In Congress met, to plan a nation's fate,
And fix the credit of the States forever;
Or—by opposing—end both Credit
And the Debts together—
A consummation devoutly wish'd
By those who sicken at our growing greatness;
For in that vote what ills may lurk,
Destructive of our concord—peace, and honor!
When the long patient creditors,
Whose purses sav'd us in the trying hour,
See faith and justice flee the land,
And HOPE, no more support their honest expectation,
Say, shall we not combine a host,
'Gainst Revenue—Congress, and the Union?

ARRIVALS SINCE OUR LAST.—NEW-YORK.

Packet Roebuck, Cowse, Falmouth, 42 days.
Brig Carolina, Mead, Wilmington, 6 days.
—Brig Betsey, Motley, Charleston, 9 days.
Sloop Jenny, Schermehorn, Savanna, 16 days.
—Sloop Leah, Fowler, Digby, Nova Scotia, 14 days.
—Sloop Phoenix, Bartlett, Wilmington, 7 days.
—Sloop Venus, Belknap, St. Martin's, 17 days.

Mr. AMES moved that the bill to regulate the Post-Office of the United States should be taken up: which being agreed to, the house went into a committee of the whole.

Mr. LIVERMORE in the chair.

The first clause of the bill was read.

Mr. WILLIAMSON observed that according to the best calculation he could make, the income of the post-office upon the system in the bill, so far from producing the revenue which had been contemplated, would not yield sufficient to support itself; he therefore moved that the bill should be recommitted to a select committee; that the information received since the bill had been reported, might be improved to render it less defective; Mr. Boudinot and Mr. Fitzsimons were in favor of the committee's rising, in order to recommitting the bill; the motion however being objected to, was withdrawn.

The clause which empowers the President of the United States, to establish post-offices and post roads, it was moved should be struck out.

The motion was supported by saying that this is a power vested in Congress by an express clause in the Constitution and therefore cannot be delegated to any person whatever; the objects that are connected with this power are of great weight in themselves and are properly cognizable by the Legislature of the Union only. The words after some debate were struck out.

The principle of farming the Cross-Roads was objected to by Mr. Smith, (S. C.) the idea of farming said he is new in this country; it is indicative of weakness in the government. If the government make a sale of the income of an office which falls below the value, there is so much lost to the public; if the sale is above the value—the farmer must indemnify himself by extortion; he moved that the whole clause respecting farming should be struck out.

Mr. BOUDINOT observed that the idea of farming as contained in the bill, has reference only to the cross roads—in general, Post-Offices in those roads cannot be supported by the United States, but at a loss: Still for the accommodation of the inhabitants in particular places, the Post-Master-General should be empowered to establish such Post-Offices as may conduce to their convenience provided the continent was put to no expence—the inhabitants have therefore on being allowed the postage of the letters, established such Post-Offices. But there appears to be a propriety that the Post-Master-General should farm out those cross roads, which may be productive.

Mr. AMES advocated the clause—he observed that Great-Britain in consequence of farming the Post-Office, had made the income prodigiously productive. The general objections to farming he admitted were well founded, but the present object was perhaps the least exceptionable of any that can be mentioned.

The motion for striking out this clause was negatived. Sundry blanks were filled up, and considerable progress made in the discussion of the bill.

The committee then rose, and the house adjourned.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

PARIS January 15.

The Assembly came to the following resolution, as the ground of the qualification of a citizen to vote for representatives, and to enjoy all the advantages of an active citizen.

"The National Assembly considering that they are obliged to establish some conditions by which a citizen is to exercise his rights, have thought it their duty to make these conditions as easy to fulfil as possible; that it is not by the price of work in art, naturally subject to much variation, but on that of the tillage of the earth, that the price ought to be fixed; and, therefore, they declare provisionally, that in fixing the daily price of labour, necessary to become an active citizen, they must not exceed the sum of twenty sols, without pretending on this account to change the superior prices now laid on, which may be paid for such labour in different provinces."

When they finished their labours, M. Rabaud de St. Etienne made a splendid speech.

"All Frenchmen have already perceived," said he, "the utility of the division of the kingdom, and nothing can be a greater eulogy on the nation and the age—nothing can more demonstrably prove the ascendancy of reason in the minds of a people filled with patriotism and intelligence, than the universal adhesion of all parts of the empire to this great and general reform. It is in consequence of that quick discernment, of that profound sagacity which seems to take the place of instinct, and which has lately characterized the French people, that in the space of one month, all the provinces, all the cities, all the citizens, have applauded the regenerative decrees which have substituted the political equality of all parts of the kingdom in the room of a monstrous and contradictory mass of inequalities, of which antiquity, chance, abuse, privilege, favour, and despotism, were the chaotic materials. That which Lewis XIV. would not dare to undertake, that which he would not have been able to achieve, the Nation could conceive, approve, and accomplish in the course of a few months;—it is the interest of all to feel and recognize this great truth—that despotism commands, but it is reason only that persuades."

JANUARY 21.

On Monday last a letter from Constantinople was read at the National Assembly, full of enthusiastic expressions in praise of liberty: it seemed as if eloquence had dictated every line. The Senators were filled with astonishment, and the illusion was really such, that they thought they were hearing a citizen of Sparta, or Athens, speaking from the Dardanelis. And in fact the letter was written from a gentleman who had forsaken the voluptuous life of the French metropolis for the purposes of visiting the ruins of those ancient Republics—it was M. de Choiseuil-Gouffier, the French Ambassador to the Porte, who sent a thousand Louis (500 for himself, and 500 in name of some Turkey Merchants) to the President of the National Assembly, with compliments and congratulations to his free country.

"ARISTIDES" came too late for this paper.