

were for the same services, and supplies, and were to have been paid out of a common fund supplied by the respective States, in certain proportions, but which has not been done; and on account of the deficiency and inability of this fund, were, at the recommendations of the late Congress, assumed by the several States to their respective citizens.

By the change of government, the funds appropriated to discharge these demands were now occupied or might be possessed by Congress; and it was proper, when the revenues were taken, the debts should also be taken. An effectual provision could be made for all the debts, with more ease and convenience, and with less expence to the citizens of the union, by systems proceeding from the general government, than if they were made by the former for one class of creditors, and by the State government for another. If the assumption should not be made, probably different provisions would be made by the States for their debts, which would depend either on their abilities or policy, and a diversity of interest be occasioned, which, in its operation, might be prejudicial to the general happiness; and the only effectual and proper mode of obviating this, was to assume the State debts, whereby the different creditors would have their demands provided for and discharged by the same body, and those contending interests, which would otherwise take place, prevented.

He remarked that a question had been asked, whether it was easier to provide for a large debt than a small one? The debt of the union was sufficiently large, and if we added the State debts the difficulty would be increased.

Mr. Lawrance observed that these debts already existed, though in different shapes, yet substantially the same: transferring the demand from the State to the union did not change the entire sum owed by the union and the States, and provision ought to be made for the whole: that supposing it would be made, the union, having the revenues of the particular States unincumbered and unoccupied, could make provision more conveniently and more satisfactorily than can be done if the assumption should not take place, and part of these revenues, probably the most productive part, pre-occupied and retained by several of the important States; the mode of providing for the debts would be more agreeable to many States in the union, as it could be done by imposts and excises, and we should rid many of the States from the oppressive mode of direct taxes; the former would do general justice, as each individual in the union would pay according to his consumption.

Particular instances have been mentioned to shew that injustice would be done to some States, if the proposition was adopted; but these contemplated that no settlement would take place. Provision could be made to obviate difficulties in these cases; and, in determining on a general proposition, it was sufficient that the principle of it was just, because when it was assented to, and to be carried into effect, the details and provisions could be suggested, considered and made as should appear proper.

Mr. Lawrance concluded that the proposition was just and proper, and would be productive of national advantage; and as it had, so it again should receive his assent.

*The following observations were made by Mr. SHERMAN, the 12th inst.*  
When I see the house so equally divided on so important a subject, it gives me great concern on account of the threatening aspect it has on the peace and welfare of the government.

The support of public credit by a provision for doing justice to the creditors of the United States, was one great object that led to the establishment of the present government, and should it fail of doing justice to so great a proportion of them as are involved in this provision, it would lose the confidence of many of its best friends, and disappoint the expectations of the people in general.

I consider the debts incurred by the several States in support of the war, and for the common defence and general welfare, as the debts of the United States, and that those creditors have as just and meritorious a claim on the union for payment as any creditors whatever. A great part of them were assumed by the States in behalf of the United States, in consequence of requisitions of Congress.

I shall not now go into a particular discussion of the proposition before the committee, (every thing having been already said that may reflect light on the subject) but shall only state the reasons on which I shall give my vote in the affirmative.

The measure appears to me both just and politic. Just, with respect to the creditors, whose debts are due for services and supplies rendered in support of the common cause of the union, which therefore ought to be paid out of the same common funds, as the other creditors of the United States, and although some of the States would be able to provide for their creditors as well as the United States, yet that is not the case as to those whose exertions, sufferings and burthens have been much greater, than the others, and it would not give satisfaction to assume the debts of some States, and not of others.

The measure will be just with respect to the several States, because each will bear only its just proportion of the present burthen, and their past exertions and expenditures, will be equitably adjusted in the final settlement of their accounts, for which effectual provision is to be made by the same act that provides for the assumption of the debts.

The policy of the measure consists in its tendency to promote justice and harmony, and confidence in the government, in alleviating the burthens of a number of the States, who from their situation and circumstances during the war, were necessitated to make greater exertions, and were subjected to greater sufferings and expenditures than the other States, and by putting all the funds necessary for paying the debts under one direction, to facilitate the collection and render them more productive and less embarrassing to commerce. The principal resource for pay (the impost) is in possession of the general government.

But if the State debts are not assumed, the States which have heretofore borne the greatest burthens, will be left still to sustain those unequal and grievous burthens, or their creditors will be left without any provision for satisfying their claims either of which would be unreasonable, and occasion great uneasiness, which will tend to embarrass and obstruct the measures of government.

It has been said, let those States wait until their accounts with the United States shall be settled, and then receive security for the balances that may be due to them; But why should those States be subjected to greater burthens at present, than the other States? As it is not known which are Debtor or Creditor States, why not bear the burthen equally until that can be ascertained? If there is to be no settlement, I think it is a conclusive argument that the whole public debt should be assumed by the United States. It ought to be presumed that the States have made exertions according to their abilities, and in due proportion until the contrary appears, and that can no otherwise appear, but by a settlement of the accounts; and until that is done I can see no good reason why any State should bear more than its just proportion of the existing debts, whether contracted by the United States, or by the individual States, if incurred for the common defence, or general welfare of the Union. It is said there is no rule established to ascertain the quotas of the several States; but I think the rule is fixed by the resolutions of the late Congress, of the 22d of November 1777, and the third of June 1784, and the provision in the new Constitution for apportioning direct taxes.

PROGRESS OF MANUFACTURES.  
PHILADELPHIA.

THE useful arts are constantly increasing amongst us. A single Manufacturer in the Northern Liberties makes annually 400 dozen pair worsted, cotton and thread stockings; the last superior in appearance and goodness to those

that are imported from England at a much higher price. From the laboratory of Messrs Marshall, we are informed, this summer 60000 lb. of crude salt armoniack will be exported to England and Holland, the very countries from which we have hitherto imported this article. Glauber salts of an excellent quality is made cheaper than it can be imported.

ON DIVINE PROVIDENCE.

AS some fond mother, views her infant race  
With tenderness o'er flowing while she sees;  
She kisses one, one clasps in her embrace;  
Her feet supporting one, and one her knees;  
Then, as the winning gesture-speaking face,  
Or plaintive cry explain their different pleas,  
A look, a word, she deals with various grace,  
And smiles, or frowns, as love alone decrees.  
O'er frail mankind, so Providence divine  
Still watches; ears, sustains, and succours all,  
With equal eye, beholding each that lives.  
If Heaven denies, oh! let not men repine!  
Heav'n but denies to quicken duty's call,  
Or feigning to deny, more largely gives.

LONDON, February 1.

M. LALLY, in his second letter to his constituents, quotes the following remarks of a modern French author.

“A nation, after having groaned under the chains of despotism for many centuries, whenever it is bold enough to attempt to break them, notwithstanding all the absurd institutions that still must surround it, resembles a sick man, whose strength is extremely weakened by long sufferings, and whose vital spirits have been consumed by incessant fevers; if he makes use of too violent or too many remedies at once, or desperately takes it into his head to force nature, he dies the victim of his imprudence.”

An extraordinary miniature has been made of the King by Bowyer: instead of a crystal, there is a flat diamond over it, half an inch square!

Adam Smith's philosophical pen has been a long time silent, though not unemployed. This learned and sagacious politician is at length coming forward again with a work which he has been some years preparing for the press. It is chiefly a review of the political doctrines of the celebrated Montesquieu, which the profound Caledonian has examined with such perspicuity, and refuted with such strength of argument, that it is said the renowned fabric of *L'Esprit des Loix* is likely to be shattered into ruins, or to moulder in oblivion, after so formidable an assault.

M. La Rive, the actor, who has performed the character of Bayard for many years with distinguished success, was presented by a descendant of Bayard with a golden chain, which that famous general used to wear about his neck. M. La Rive thought that a chain which belonged to man who acquired the title of Chevalier *sans peur et sans reproche*, would be a proper present for M. de la Fayette, delivered it to him with the following address.

D'un ordre cheri des guerriers,  
Cette antique et simple parure  
Dans les combats ornoit l'armure  
Du plus brave des Chevaliers.  
Qui mieux que vous, auroit des droits sur elle?  
Comme Bayard, "sans reproche et sans peur,"  
Sage, vaillant, a vos devoirs fidele  
Chaque jour vous obtient une gloire nouvelle  
Et maigre les complots de l'envie en fureur  
Vous fortiez des dangers toujours calme et vainqueur.

Letters just received from Lisbon mention, that a large Algerine corsair of 38 guns, and full of men, was seen hovering off the Rock, the latter end of last month; upon notice of which, a stout frigate and sloop of war were dispatched in quest of the rover, and the next day came up with her; when, after a most obstinate and bloody contest of 4 hours and 40 minutes, they were obliged to sheer off. The frigate received a number of shot between wind and water, and was much damaged in her upper works; the sloop was also in a shattered condition, having her rudder shot away, and most of her sails torn to pieces: it is said the pirate had three parts of her crew killed or wounded: among the latter was their, fierce and daring leader—likewise her sails and rigging were so terribly mauled, and the ship so much crippled, that it is thought impossible she ever could reach Algiers. The robbers fought all the time under the bloody flag, and swore incessantly, in different languages, they never would strike, while man or boy was left alive. The Portuguese had near 100 killed, and a great number wounded; most of them mortally, as the balls which the pirates fired from their small arms were all chewed; notwithstanding, the Portuguese fought with uncommon bravery throughout the whole action, and shewed great resolution and spirit.

FEBRUARY 12.

The balance of trade in favour of England is estimated at about 3,000,000 sterling. Far more considerable is the inland trade, which is valued at upwards of 42,000,000 sterling. As the quantity of circulating specie may in some measure indicate the extent of commerce, we may judge of the increase of the latter by comparing the sums which the three monarchs found necessary to

coin. By George I, 8,725,921 l. sterl. were coined. In the long reign of George II, 11,966,576 l. and in the first 24 years of his present majesty's reign, the sums coined amounted to 33,082,274 l. sterling.

From Madrid we learn, that a Mr. Fitzgerald, a member of the Parliament of Paris, being at dinner at the Duke de Crillon's house there, the subject of France became the topic of conversation. Mr. Fitzgerald expressed himself very warmly in favour of the revolution, and imprudently suffered some words to escape him, reflecting on the conduct of Count d'Artois.

The Duke de Crillon could not permit such reflections to pass unnoticed, accordingly desired Mr. Fitzgerald to withdraw. Fearing that this misunderstanding might create much noise without doors, the Duke went immediately to the Prime-Minister's house, where he obtained an order for the apprehension of Mr. Fitzgerald, who was shortly after seized at the house of the Count Cabarras, and conducted to prison. It is intended that he shall be escorted out of the kingdom immediately.

MARCH 3.

On the thirteenth instant, the Emperor, attended by all the Nobility of the Court, publicly received the Sacrament; and in consequence of his Majesty's weak state, public prayers have been ordered to be made in all the churches; and the Opera and Playhouses are shut.

On the 20th of February, at six in the morning, His Imperial Majesty Joseph 2d, Emperor of Germany departed this life. He died with the greatest firmness and composure, perfectly retaining his senses to the last moment. All good men will ever reverence the memory of this Prince, whose various good qualities and ardent desire for the happiness of his subjects, entitle him to the esteem of mankind. Previous to his death he made the necessary arrangements with regard to his successor, whose arrival at Vienna was hourly expected at the time of the Emperor's death. Excepting this intelligence, the present instant is rather barren of great events. The cabinets however are very busy, the hour is pregnant with futurity, and the usual events of ages are ready to burst upon us in a moment.

Particulars of the Death of JOSEPH 2d.

No sooner had his chief physician informed him that his dissolution was near, than he generously rewarded him for his attention, and frankness in telling him his real opinion.—On the seventeenth he was informed that the arch dutchess Elizabeth, whom he tenderly loved, was brought to bed. He seemed pleased at the news, but the information of her death upon the day following affected his spirits in a dangerous manner, altho' conveyed to him with the greatest caution. Astonished at the intelligence, he leaned his head upon his hands, and cried out—*My God! and do I yet live—thy will be done!*—He then remained for about ten minutes in a profound meditation.—Being, soon after told that his death was very near, he asked for Prince Kaunitz and the two generals Laudohn and Lascy. Stretching out his hand, with a tender smile upon his countenance, he said to them—*My friends, it is all over with me. We must now separate forever. To your care I recommend my subjects, my armies and my brother Leopold.* He then ordered his will to be brought, in which he made a few alterations and additions, and then putting it, with other papers, into the hands of Prince Kaunitz, he observed to him, *that he could die with less regret if he had been only fortunate enough to have had more confidence in his (the Prince's) judgment.*—It was thought he hereby alluded to something that had passed between them in the beginning of the Brabant troubles, when the Emperor excused himself to the Prince for not having made him acquainted with all his orders and plans, relative to a certain undertaking in that part of his dominions; apologizing for his neglect by observing that he feared the Prince was too old to be troubled with so many minute particulars. “I am, indeed, old, answered the Prince but I would have your Majesty to know, that I am young enough to see you without a crown, if you in future pursue such measures as you have hitherto done.—The Emperor having taken his last farewell of all about him, very calmly gave directions relative to his funeral, and particularized the rewards to be given to his servants. A little while before he expired, he caused himself to be dressed in his uniform, his boots and spurs put on, and other military array. His last struggles continued about a quarter of an hour, and then he expired.

The sentence against the unfortunate Favras, having been confirmed, he was executed by torchlight, on the 19th instant, at two o'clock in the morning.—After making the *amende honorable* at the gate of the Cathedral of the Notre Dame, he was conducted by the executioner to the Place de Greve, clothed in a linen frock, covered with brimstone—a label on his breast, inscribed, “*Conspirateur contre l'Etat;*” a lighted flambeau in his hand, and his head and feet naked.—Agreeable to his sentence, he there confessed his crimes, on his knees; and, after begging pardon of God and his country, was hung on a gallows of extraordinary height.—An amazing number of spectators attended the awful scene.