

the awful moment shall arrive, in which the citizen, most distinguished for his piety, wisdom, valour and patriotism, must quit this sublunary scene, the people of Virginia can be consoled, only by their firm persuasion, that he is summoned to meet that well-earned recompence, which gratitude itself cannot render upon earth.

JOHN PRIDE, Speaker of the Senate. THOS. MATHEWS, Sp. Ho. Del. A COPY, TESTE, CHARLES HAY, C. H. D.

TO WHICH ADDRESS THE PRESIDENT WAS PLEASED TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING ANSWER.

To the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

GENTLEMEN, WITH a due sense of the affectionate terms in which your address is conceived, I offer my best thanks for your congratulations on my election to the Chief Magistracy of a free and enlightened nation.

If I have been enabled to make use of whatever abilities Heaven has been pleased to confer upon me, with any advantage to our common country, I consider it not less owing to the fostering encouragement I received in early life from the citizens of the commonwealth in which I was born, than to the persevering support I have since experienced from my fellow-citizens collectively, in the course of their exertions, which under Divine Providence, saved their liberties and established their independence.

However I may have confirmed my professions by my conduct, I can claim no merit for having been involved in the duties of a military command through necessity, or for having retired to the state of a private citizen through inclination. But I may be permitted to avow, that the construction you are pleased to put upon my motives for returning to public life is peculiarly satisfactory to me; because I receive from the voice of my countrymen, the only reward I wished for the sacrifice—a just interpretation of the principles by which I am conscious, I have been actuated.

Accustomed to have my actions viewed through a favorable medium, by my fellow-citizens in general, and more especially by those of my native state, I can but poorly compensate for such indulgence, by the purest emotions of gratitude demonstrated in an active devotion to that republican government, which is so deservedly the first object of their political attachment.

In looking forward to that awful moment, when I must bid adieu to sublunary scenes, I anticipate the consolation of leaving our country in a prosperous condition: And while the curtain of separation shall be drawing, my last breath will, I trust, expire in a prayer for the temporal and eternal felicity of those, who have not only endeavored to gild the evening of my days with unclouded serenity, but extended their desires to my happiness hereafter in a brighter world.

United States, } G. WASHINGTON. April, 27, 1790. }

THE TABLET. No. CX.

"Little follies, and petty weaknesses, of no moment in common life, may, when they enter into the characters of men in high stations, obstruct the happiness of a great part of mankind."

It is paying a great compliment to a person, to say that in all situations he conducts with propriety. There are other expressions of commendation that may be more flattering, but I know of none that a reflecting man would prefer to the praise of having committed few errors, and given little offence. If it is said that this kind of approbation may be applied to a mere negative character; I will reply that such a one gains no applause at all; he only avoids censure. But he who moves in an active sphere of life, and takes a decided part in the momentous concerns of the community, and at the same time maintains a pure reputation shews that he unites talents with discretion. The applause conferred on such a man will be dictated with sincerity and it will last forever. When men lose their influence in society, they are apt to reproach the world with insincerity or fickleness. Such suspicions generally are without reason. Every man may retain influence unless he deserves to lose it. It is very true, that a man of abilities and integrity may become unpopular; but if this should happen, he must blame himself and not the world. An honest man, may be very indiscreet, and a learned man may be very capricious. They cannot expect their caprice and indiscretion will fail to create disgust, merely because they have some capacity and honesty.

While the actions of men are confined to a narrow compass, they may indulge foibles, without doing much injury or meeting much reproach. The effect of little errors, when circumscribed, does not engage general attention. But should a man carry with him into public life any obliquities of character, however small they may be, they may be attended with peculiar inconvenience. A stubborn man, for instance, may defeat the best plans by his obstinacy, though at the same time, no one suspects he deliberately wishes to oppose the public welfare. He is only indulging a constitutional propensity, which in itself is innocent, but from its influence may become pernicious. Matters of small consequence in themselves, may be made important by the circumstances that attend them. Caprice of temper is not deemed a vicious quality, but it has produced worse effects in society than avarice or fraud. It is not easy to conjecture how great a portion of the evil incidents of life, are occasioned by the little follies and petty weaknesses of men who would be thought great and learned.

FRANCE. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

Feb. 17.

ON Wednesday M. de Cernon, member of the committee of constitution, reported to the Assembly a return from the Provinces, of several de-

crees, for settling the limits of the several districts, which will form the general decree relative to that branch of the constitution. He proposed to give a particular name to each district, different from the old; but on this point nothing was settled.

M. de Cazales proposed that the Assembly should appoint the time of their dissolution, and the election of a new one. This motion, the last hope of expiring aristocracy, was received with general disapprobation, and the previous question eagerly called for.

M. de Mirabeau was surpris'd that any member should dare to propose a motion to that Assembly, which would tend to criminate themselves. Had they not taken a solemn oath not to separate till they had finished the formation of a constitution! and had not that oath been taken by them, when surrounded with the instruments of despotic power!

THURSDAY, FEB. 18.

This day, after reading the minutes, the President announced a letter from Monsieur Le Duc D'Orleans, addressed to the National Assembly, which was as follows:

LONDON, FEB. 13.

"Monsieur Le President, Having obtained leave of absence from the National Assembly of the 4th of October last, I have been employed since that time in the accomplishment of those objects entrusted to me by his Majesty, and have directed all my efforts to promote the advantage of the nation, and the glory of the King; but though at a distance from the scene of your deliberations, my heart and soul are present in your august assembly, of which I esteem it my highest honor to be a member—And, permit me to say, that I have anxiously attended to your laborious duties, and have always had the good fortune to find my own sentiments expressed in your decrees.—I heartily coincide in those sentiments of love and respect repeatedly offered to his Majesty, who, without any attendants but his virtues—without any view but a sincere love of the people, united himself with the representatives of the nation, to strengthen that happy regeneration which will redound to the future glory and honor of France.

"It was natural, that on that memorable day every member of the Assembly shall make a public avowal of the principles of his conduct. The only consolation I have in not participating in such important services, is, that I have here been not wholly useless to my country.

"In these circumstances I entreat you to supplicate the assembly on my part, that they would accept of my formal accession to the oath taken by the members on the 4th instant.—I do therefore swear to be faithful to the Nation, the Laws, and the King; and to maintain to the utmost of my power the constitution decreed by the Assembly, and sanctioned by the King.—By which I enforce, as far as in my power, the decree of the 4th instant.

"And I am happy to be in perfect unison with that body in sentiment and principles.

"I am, with respect, M. Le President, Your very humble and obliged servant, L. P. J. D'ORLEANS." Depute a l'Assemblée Nationale.

LONDON, March 16.

The long expected motion in the French National Assembly, for the abolition of all titles of distinction, such as Duke, Marquis, Count, &c. in all Registers, Commissions, Leaves, &c. is to be brought forward this day.—Such is the pleasure of our Oliverian Levellers! And for the further advancement of the true Catholic Religion, the number of Bishops is to be reduced from 140 to 12!

The Swedish Minister at Copenhagen has formally declared that the terms of peace offered by the Empress of Russia have been rejected in toto, and that the King, his master, was fully determined to pursue the war with the utmost vigour.

From a gentleman who was present at the execution of the unfortunate Marquis de Favras we learn, that immediately before the fatal moment of dissolution, he spoke with uncommon audibility and force, and in the most direct language accused not only Mons. de St. Priest and the other witnesses against him of perjury but his Judges of corruption and partiality.

"If," said he, "those inhuman Judges had permitted me, I would have produced such demonstrative evidence of my perfect innocence, that the populace who sought my life, would have imbibed an interest in my preservation; " but, continued he, "I forgive those false Judges, and I leave them and their crimes to the mercy of that omniscient Judge who hears and knows the truth of my declaration."

Upon delivering his purse for his wife into the hands of his Confessor, his fortitude for the first time failed him—his emotions were strong and convulsive, and nature burst forth in a profusion of tears; from which he did not after entirely recover. This amiable weakness became sympathetic, and even the rabble, his most inveterate foes caught the sorrowful infection.

NEW-YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 1.

The British nation is highly to be respected for its literature, as well as for the wisdom of its free Constitution. In this age of refinement, when even tyrants are taught moderation, and slaves their rights, I am surpris'd to find that the attempt to repeal the British Test laws has not succeeded. Mr. Pitt's speech is to be supposed to express his own sentiments; and as the majority which voted with him was to the minority as two to one, we are to consider the sense of the house, as expressed by the vote. Among other topics, he insists upon the necessity of a national religious establishment, and treats the claim of an equality of rights as an extravagant delusion of the mind. Is there a village in America where this doctrine of Mr. Pitt's would be approved? How is it then? Are these almost exploded errors cherished in Britain, because truth would be innovation, and they are afraid of its being carried so far as to overturn the Hierarchy? Or has the same participation upon the rights of conscience retarded the progress of the nation towards liberality; while the national character has acquired so much lustre by almost every other species of improvement? Whether it may be their misfortune that they dare not, or their bigotry that they are not disposed to repeal the test laws, of which the dissenters complain, it is a reproach upon the 18th century.

The delays of Congress are too severely censured; other nations have formed their debts and revenues by degrees—but Congress have to perform both operations at once. The debts are older than the government—and they have to provide funds for them without experience of what they will yield, or how they may be most prudently imposed. Where there is so much real difficulty, it is natural to expect great doubts—and the process of enquiry how this difficulty may be surmounted is protracted and embarrassed by the local prepossessions and unfortunate jealousies which prevail. The delay of business is not intentional. Those who think a measure is going to be passed, which is pernicious, will exert themselves to obstruct its passage—they will deem it better to do nothing than to do wrong. But when the great objects of the present session shall be completed, and which seem to involve the being of the government in the decision, the subjects of controversy will be diminished in number and importance—and, what is more, the spirit of controversy will abate; for the national habits which are daily forming and will be first established in Congress, will give an impulse to measures which will accelerate their passage. The fears of the States of danger from one another, and from Congress will be more and more perceived to be groundless; in future the progress of business may be found to be as expeditious as will be proper. Few men of sense will believe that the time is wantonly wasted, in order to get more pay; though incendiaries may wish to create so vile a suspicion. But without some reflection upon the novelty of their situation and the universal obstacles which they have to overcome, the public may become unreasonably impatient.

APPOINTMENTS.—BY AUTHORITY.

George Wray, collector, for the port of Hampton, in Virginia, in the place of Jacob Wray, resigned.

John McCullough, surveyor, of the port of Swansborough, and district of Wilmington, and William Benfon, surveyor, of the port of Windsor, in the district of Edenton, both in the state of North-Carolina.—In Senate nominated and approved, April 29.

We hear, that yesterday it was ordered in the Senate of the United States, that Mr. Strong be added to the committee appointed "to consider what provision will be proper for Congress to make in the present session, respecting the state of Rhode Island," in the stead of Mr. Butler, excused at his own desire; his colleague being on the committee.

The Public Creditors were notified in the Boston Independent Chronicle, the 22d ultimo, to meet at the Coffee-House in that town.

The Office of the Editor will be removed next week to Broad Street near the Exchange.

PRICE CURRENT.—NEW-YORK.

Table with columns for various goods and their prices in dollars and cents. Includes items like Jamaica Spirits, Antigua Rum, St. Croix, Country, Molasses, Brandy, Geneva, Do. in cafes, Muscovado Sugar, Loaf, Lump, Pepper, Pimento, Coffee, Indigo, Do. French, Rice, Superfine Flour, Common do., Rye do., Indian Meal, Rye, Wheat, Corn, Do. (Northern), Beef, Pork, Oats, Flax-seed, Ship bread, Country refined, Do. bloomy, Swedes, Russia, Pig-iron, German steel, Nails American, Do. do. do., Do. do. do., Do. do. do., Do. do. do., Pot ash, Pearl ash, Bees-wax, Mackarel, Herrings, Mahogany, per foot, Dominico, Honduras, Logwood unchipped, Do. chipped.

John Smith & Peter Wendover, SAIL-MAKERS,

BEGS leave to inform their Friends and the Public in general, that they have commenced business in copartnership in their line, under the Firm of SMITH and WENDOVER, in the Sail-Loft on VAN ZANDT'S Wharf (near the Coffee-House) formerly occupied by CARMER and SMITH, and lately by JOHN SMITH. Those Gentlemen who will be pleased to favor them with their custom may depend upon having their work done in the best manner, and on as short notice as can be expected.