

"Not for himself he sees, or hears, or eats,
"Artists must chuse his pictures, music, meats."

proportion to his riches. He contends, however; that a direct tax, though it would be obnoxious to the people, if collected by continental authority, would be acceptable, if levied by the authority of the states. When we advert to the funding systems of the several states, we shall find them less beneficial to the people than is imagined. The mode of issuing certificates for interest, and calling them in by a direct tax, is injurious both to the creditors and to the other citizens. The creditor is heavily taxed in order to pay himself; money is taken from him in the first instance to pay him the interest on his debt; the poorer part of the community who are unprovided with these certificates delay purchasing them till they are pressed for their taxes, and then they are supplied at an enhanced rate by an accommodating speculator, or a friendly collector, who had previously bought them up for the purpose; the creditor receives no benefit, the public derive no advantage, the citizens are heavily taxed, and the speculators get all the profit.

The constant fluctuation in their schemes of finance is another distressing circumstance to the citizens. In one session those who have purchased public property for which they are to pay in state paper, and which it becomes their interest to depreciate, gain the ascendancy and carry measures productive of that effect. In the next, the holders of the state paper preponderate, and in their turn procure a system which will appreciate the paper. Thus the people are embarrassed and distressed by these speculations and contentions.

The numerous tax collectors in the different states is another cause of expence and inconvenience to the citizens. A direct tax in every state would require, under state regulations, at least 1300 collectors, all of whom must be paid by the people for their trouble. There is another consequence resulting from direct taxes of a very serious nature—Individuals are too apt to neglect making provision for their taxes in due season; executions are issued against them, their property is levied upon and they have ultimately to pay poundage and constable fees, which sometimes amount to more than the tax itself. All these grievances are removed by resorting to the impost, and that species of revenue will alone be nearly competent to provide for the state debts, if assumed by the union. Even should Congress resort to direct taxation (and some members from the southern states have expressed a predilection for it) there is no doubt that it would be levied in a mode adapted to the particular habits and convenience of every state; for by the constitution it is not required that taxes, like duties and excise should be uniform; and as each state has its particular representation in this house, it is evident that the accommodation of the different parts of the union would be consulted: It would also be levied with more economy under one system than under thirteen.

The cession which the state of North-Carolina has made to the United States is said to contain a provision which is opposed to the assumption: the provision referred to only relates to the final adjustment of the accounts between the individual states; for it requires that in such adjustment the lands ceded, and the inhabitants belonging thereto, shall not be estimated in ascertaining the proportion of North-Carolina with the other states in the common expence occasioned by the war.

An amendment proposed by that state to the constitution has also been expatiated on, as manifesting her aversion to this measure; it is rather extraordinary that this construction should be given to the amendment, when the house have been told that the idea of an assumption was never contemplated in that state; indeed it was improbable the citizens of that country should endeavor to guard against a measure, the bare possibility of which had never occurred to them. An attentive examination of that amendment will prove that it evinces no such intention as has been attributed to it; as it relates expressly to all the states, it could not have had North-Carolina exclusively in view, nor was it designed to guard against any interference with her state paper alone. As it particularly relates to an interference by Congress or the judiciary, it proves an apprehension of some interference by the federal courts, which could not be involved in a question of assumption; it is therefore evident that the true interpretation of that amendment is that the convention of that state were apprehensive of some interposition of the judicial courts of the United States, in enforcing payment of her state securities. That it does not relate to the question of assumption is clear, because were it calculated to prevent an assumption, it would have said so in explicit terms, and declared that Congress should not pay her state debts; and because the gentleman from that state has informed the committee that they never dream of an assumption. North-Carolina, is unwilling that Congress should dictate to her how she should discharge her debt, but it does not appear that she has any objection to Congress assuming and paying it themselves.

Admit however the full force of the remark, and it would tend to restrain Congress from funding even the continental and foreign debt without the assent of two thirds of the members present in both houses; for another amendment from that state requires that no navigation law, or law regulating commerce should pass except in the above mode; and the funding system cannot go into operation without such laws. The gentleman however would have no objection; he says, the assumption, provided security could be given that there would be a settlement of the accounts of the several states, but there is no such proviso in the amendment; if it has in view the assumption, it is opposed to it under any modification whatsoever. How can he then reconcile his state to a vote given in contradiction to their express sentiments, merely because the business would be put in a shape which is palatable to himself, is not this another proof that the amendment did not relate to the assumption?

Another local objection is started from that state: It is said that she has issued paper money with which she has bought up and paid off certificates, and which paper money she must lay taxes to redeem, and if Congress do not assume that paper, as part of her debt, she will be under the necessity of paying taxes to sink it, and at the same time of contributing her proportion of revenue for the debts of other states, and that this would be defrauding her of half a million of dollars, the amount of the paper so emitted. If that state has sunk a part of her debt, Congress will have less to assume on her account in proportion to the sum discharged, there will be consequently a smaller charge against her in the ultimate settlement, and she will become a creditor state in the same proportion; if therefore she has bought in her own certificates under par, or paid them off with paper in a depreciated state, she has been a gainer by the negotiation, and is in a better condition than those states which have not had this advantage: The revenue she will contribute will be applied as well to the payment of her own debts as those of other states, which will also contribute their proportion to the payment of her debts. But no measures, it is said, are in forwardness for the completion of this settlement. Commissioners of accounts have been engaged a considerable time in this business, and are now pursuing it with the assistance of a numerous body of clerks, and are in a train of settlement. Should other measures be thought requisite to expedite and ensure the adjustment, Congress may accompany the assumption with a bill making special and effectual provision for that object. North-Carolina it is said, is apprehensive lest some securities of that state which were fraudulently issued should be funded by the union, and charged to her account; how will they be charged to her account if there is to be no settlement of the accounts, and the member from that state says he is persuaded there is to be none? She will then receive the benefit of those securities, and the citizens of the other states will pay her the interest on them; if they are sold to speculators, at all events she or her citizens have received a consideration for them: But either that state will be able to detect the fraud, or she will not; if she can discover the fraud, so can Congress; they will therefore be rejected, and there is no ground of apprehension; if the fraud is not liable to detection, then at any rate North-Carolina must pay them; inasmuch therefore as it is for her interest that they should be paid by Congress rather than by herself, this circumstance is rather an argument in favor of the assumption.

THE taste of the world is regulated by very few persons. This may seem the more strange, as few people approve of the fashions they are compelled to follow. It is not easy to account for it, that in a land of freedom where men are left, in most respects, to pursue what their inclination dictates, so many persons should lead a life totally the reverse of what they wish. A man seems, as it were, to give up his natural independence of temper, the moment he begins to live in fashion. He never can consult his convenience, and not often the particular cast of his fancy, in the choice of his food or apparel. The privilege of choosing for one's self is surrendered by every one, who would be supposed fashionable. A man of finished taste must seldom eat what he likes, or wear what is convenient for him. As no great harm results from this kind of self denial, in a general way, it is not my intention to complain of it. There is however some regard to be paid to reason and nature, in the regulation of our dress. Though taste cannot be managed by any rules which admit of demonstration, there is nevertheless, in some things, a natural propriety which ought not to be overlooked.

For instance, dress should be accommodated to the season and climate. The laws of fashion can never control the constitution of our bodies in such a manner, that the people of a cold climate can, without real impropriety, borrow their modes of dress, from the inhabitants of a warmer one. French fashions may be, in themselves, superior to those of any other nation, but they illy apply to the situation of the Northern parts of the United States. The furs of Russia are much better adapted to our winters, than the silks of France. It is not a matter of consequence in point of expence, what country we imitate in our dress, because if we are industrious, we can afford to wear what we please. But when we consider how the health is affected, it becomes an affair of serious moment, to whom we look for direction in forming our taste. It would discover more real good sense to form our own—but as this would be troublesome, I do not expect we shall ever be so independent. Foreigners remark that the ladies of America lose their bloom, and impair their vivacity at a very early period of life. I am of the opinion that the irregularity of our climate is the principal cause of this unfortunate fact. Perhaps this is a misfortune against which there is no perfect remedy. The effects of it, however, may be partly counteracted, and our women may preserve their health and vivacity much longer than they do. There is no doubt, that a warmer dress in the winter, than is usually worn by our females, would meliorate their constitution, and contribute to their happiness. These few hints, I hope will be enlarged upon, by some person of leisure and reflection.

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MR. FENNO,

A PARAGRAPH under the New-York head, published in your Gazette of this day, has these words, "In this age of refinement, when even tyrants are taught moderation, and slaves their rights, I am surprised that the attempt to repeal the British (religious) Test Laws, has not succeeded." In the next sentence, it is said, that Mr. Pitt, and by an inference the British Legislature, treats the claim of an equality of rights as an extravagant delusion of the mind." And then the question is asked, "Is there a village in America, where this doctrine of Mr. Pitt's would be approved?"

Was the writer to learn that there are not only villages in America where this doctrine of Mr. Pitt's would be approved—but that it is a fundamental principle in the government of Six of the Twelve United States. I allude to those States which have clauses in their Constitutions to the following effect—*That no person shall be eligible to a seat in the Legislature, unless he be of the PROTESTANT Religion.* I do not by this remark intend to support the decision of the British parliament, I lament it, and hope it may be soon reversed—nor do I add that a circumstance like this is a reproach upon the 18th century, as your paragraphist has asserted—I know that we approach perfection but by slow degrees.

From the first settlement of this Continent toleration dawned upon the land—it brightened upon it as the United States withdrew from under the shadow of Britain—and the Constitution recently established marks the meridian splendor of that luminary. I trust its benign influence will chase away the few clouds of prejudice which still rest upon us—May we, by our example, induce the world to respect the equal rights of men and citizens—and not declaim against what we daily practice. VERBO SAT.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
FRIDAY, APRIL 30.

SEVERAL petitions and memorials were read. The engrossed bill for the encouragement of learning by securing the copies of maps, charts, and other writings, to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the time therein mentioned, passed the house.

On motion, a committee, consisting of Mr. Boudinot, Mr. Scott and Mr. Seney, was appointed to bring in a bill to alter one of the places for holding the district court in Pennsylvania.

The bill to authorize the issuing certificates to a certain description of officers, was read a first time.

A message from the President of the United States, informing the house that the bill to regulate the military establishment of the United States has received his assent.

Mr. Gerry, Mr. Burke and Mr. White were appointed a committee to report a catalogue of books for the use of the house.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, for prescribing the mode in which the act, records and judicial proceedings of the several states shall be authenticated, so as to take effect in any other state.—The bill being gone through with, the committee rose, and the house agreed to the same, and ordered it to be engrossed for a third reading.

The bill making compensation to John Ely, was agreed to, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Mr. Gerry, from the committee appointed for the purpose, brought in a bill for the adjusting and finally settling the accounts of the Baron de Steuben, which was read the first time.

A committee of five members was appointed to consider of, and report the period from which the President, Vice-President, Senators and members of the House of Representatives are to date the commencement of the time for which, by the constitution, they are elected to serve, and also to report upon such other matters as may relate to said business.

IN SENATE.—FRIDAY APRIL 30.

The Senate proceeded, agreeably to the order of the day, to consider the motion made yesterday, viz. That the doors of the Senate Chamber shall be open when the Senate is sitting in their legislative capacity—to the end that such of the citizens of the United States as may chuse to hear the debates of this house, may have an opportunity of so doing—and the question being taken it passed in the negative.

MONDAY, MAY 3.

The bill to prescribe the mode, in which the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of each State shall be authenticated, so as to take effect in every other State—and

The bill to allow compensation to Col. John Ely for his attendance as a Physician and Surgeon to the American prisoners on Long-Island, were read the third time and passed the house.

The bill to authorize issuing certificates to a certain description of invalid officers was read the second time, and ordered to be engrossed.

The bill for adjusting and satisfying the claims of the Baron de Steuben, was read the second time and referred to a committee of the whole to-morrow.

Mr. Fitzsimons reported a bill for the regulation and government of the seamen in the Merchants service—which was read a first and second time.

Mr. Lee presented a petition from the inhabitants of Alexandria, respecting certain clauses in the tonnage act—read and referred to the committee on the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, relative to the defects in the revenue laws.

On motion of Mr. Goodhue, the report of the committee on the petition of the inhabitants of Portsmouth, (N. H.) respecting an enhanced duty on foreign tonnage, was read—This report proposes that an additional duty of one dollar per ton be laid on foreign bottoms, and 10 per cent additional impost on goods imported from ports in which American vessels are not permitted to enter. This was referred to a committee of the whole house on Friday next.

On motion of Mr. Smith, (S. C.) it was voted, that the accounts of the Treasurer of the United States should be printed, and annexed to the Journals of the house.

Mr. Gerry suggested the propriety of reading those reports on petitions, from the heads of departments, which negative the prayers of such petitions, as well as those in favor of granting them—as, he observed, the contrary practice is in fact delegating a very extraordinary power to executive officers.—After some debate Mr. Gerry submitted the following proposition in substance—“That the reports on memorials and petitions not determined upon in one session may be called up in a subsequent session.

On motion of Mr. Smith, (S. C.) that part of