

CONGRESS.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12.

THE bill for repealing after the last day of — next, the duties heretofore laid upon Wines, imported from foreign ports or places, and laying others in their stead, was read the second time, and referred to a committee of the whole house on Monday next.

The house then proceeded to reconsider such of their amendments proposed to the bill sent from the Senate, entitled, "An act for giving effect to the act therein mentioned, in respect to the State of North-Carolina, and to amend the said act," as were disagreed to by the Senate; and thereupon the house

Resolved, That a conference be desired with the Senate on the subject matter of said amendments; and that Mr. White, Mr. Steele, Mr. Foster, Mr. Livermore, and Mr. Williamson, be appointed managers at the said conference on the part of the house.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the house again resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the report of the committee to whom was referred the petition of the merchants and traders of the town of Portsmouth, in New-Hampshire. The motion for striking out the clause which proposes a tonnage of 100 cents on foreign bottoms, was put and negatived. A motion was then made to insert 75 cents in lieu of 100. This was also negatived. The committee rose and reported progress.

Mr. Benson from the joint committee of both houses appointed to consider and report their opinion on the question "When, according to the Constitution, the terms, for which the President, Vice-President, Senators and Representatives, have been respectively chosen, shall be deemed to have commenced" and also to consider of and report their opinion on, such other matters as they shall conceive to have relation to this question, made a report, which was read, and is as follows.

"That the terms for which the President, Vice-President, Senators and Representatives of the United States were respectively chosen, did, according to the Constitution, commence on the 4th of March, 1789, and so the Senators of the first class, and the Representatives, will not, according to the Constitution, be entitled by virtue of the same election by which they hold seats in the present Congress, to seats in the next Congress, which will be assembled after the 3d of March, 1791. And further, that whenever a vacancy shall happen in the Senate, or House of Representatives, and an election to fill such vacancy, the person elected will not, according to the Constitution be entitled by virtue of such election, to hold a seat beyond the time, for which the Senator or Representative, in whose stead such person shall have been elected, would if the vacancy had not happened, have been entitled to hold a seat.

That it will be advisable for Congress to pass a law, or laws for determining, agreeable to the provision in the 1st sec. of the 2d art. of the Constitution, the time when the electors shall, in the year which will terminate on the 3d of March 1793, and so in every fourth year thereafter, be chosen, and the day on which they shall give their votes, for declaring what officer shall, in case of vacancy, both in the office of President and Vice President, act as President; for assigning a public office where the lists mentioned in the 2d paragraph of the 1st sec. of the 2d art. of the Constitution, shall, in case of vacancy in the office of President of the Senate, or in his absence from the seat of government, be in the mean time deposited; and for directing the mode in which such lists shall be transmitted. Adjourned.

THURSDAY, MAY 13.

Sundry petitions were read and referred. In committee of the whole on the proposition in the report of the select committee for enhancing the duty of tonnage on foreign bottoms.—Mr. Seney in the chair.

Mr. Smith (S. C.) moved an amendment to the clause—postponing the commencement of the duty to the first of January next; this amendment was agreed to.

Mr. Madison after a debate of considerable length, proposed an amendment to the proposition, by adding after the words "foreign bottoms," these words—"Belonging to nations not in commercial treaty with the United States."

This motion was opposed by Mr. Fitzsimons, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Ames, Mr. Sherman and Mr. Wadsworth; and supported by Mr. Page and Mr. Williamson: the question being put it was carried in the affirmative—Ayes 32, Noes 19. The resolution as amended, was then agreed to by the committee and stands thus—

That the tonnage on all foreign built bottoms belonging to nations not in commercial treaty with the United States, be raised to the sum of one dollar per ton, from and after the first day of January next.

The committee rose and reported progress. The report of the committee on the memorial of the officers of the late navy of the United States was read; this report was in favor of granting the prayer of the memorialists, viz. that they should be placed on a similar footing with the officers of the late army of the United States—and be allowed five years pay; laid on the table. Adjourned.

Amount of the duties received on Tonnage from 1st September to 31st December, 1789.

States.	Foreign tonnage.	American tonnage.	Total amount of tonnage.
New-Hampshire,	469 50	339 30	808 80
Massachusetts,	4,829 37 1/2	3,855 60	8,684 97 1/2
Connecticut,	618 8	722 47 1/2	1,340 55 1/2
New-York,	8,739 87 1/2	1,496 66 1/2	10,236 54
New-Jersey,	83 50	224 31	307 81
Pennsylvania,	11,587 64	1,515 6	13,102 70
Delaware,	603	123 96	726 96
Maryland,	4,994 5 1/2	1,728 88 1/2	6,722 94
Virginia,	11,210 93 1/2	1,423 30 1/2	12,634 24
South-Carolina,	4,630 59	433 84	5,064 43
Georgia,	2,600 17	126 65	2,726 82
	50,366 72	11,990 5	62,356 77

FRIDAY, MAY 14.

In committee of the whole house on the report of the select committee respecting an enhanced tonnage on foreign vessels.—Mr. Boudinot in the chair.

Mr. Madison moved an addition to the resolution agreed to yesterday in the following words, viz: That from and after the day of — next the tonnage on all such vessels be raised to — and from and after the day of — next no such vessel be permitted to export from the United States any unmanufactured article being the growth or produce thereof.

This motion occasioned a debate—but was finally carried in the affirmative 28 to 19.

The second resolution proposed by the select committee for an addition of 10 per cent on the duties already imposed by law, on goods imported from places to which American vessels are not admitted, Mr. Lee moved should be expunged from the report, this motion was seconded by Mr. Parker, and carried in the affirmative. The committee then rose and reported progress.

The house took up the resolution, which was further amended, by adding the following proviso, viz.

Provided that this resolution shall not extend to prohibit vessels of any nation which permits the importation of fish, and other salted provisions, grain, and lumber in vessels belonging to the citizens of the United States. The resolution being thus amended was adopted by the House, and a Committee of three appointed to bring in a bill pursuant thereto.

A message was received from the Senate informing the House that they have adopted the report of the joint committee, appointed to consider and report their opinion, when according to the

constitution, the terms for which the President, Vice-President, &c. have been respectively chosen, &c. and request the concurrence of the House. That they have also passed a bill for the encouragement of literature, by securing to authors, &c. the copy right of their works—with amendments.

Mr. Bland of the committee appointed to take into consideration the arrears of pay ordered, to the officers and soldiers of the Virginia and North Carolina lines of the late army, brought in a report.

A petition from the American prisoners in Algiers, was introduced by the Speaker—read and referred to the Secretary of state.

A report on the petition of Thomas Jenkins and Co. was read, which was in favor of granting the prayer of said petition. Adjourned till Monday next.

THE TABLET.—No. CXIV.

"If a person knows what to read, and how to read, all his studies will turn to some valuable account."

THE letter, published in the last number of the Tablet, recommends some rules that it would be well to observe in reading. I wish the writer of that letter had extended his observations a little further, and given some directions with respect to the choice of books. His remarks were confined merely to the mode of study, and were very pertinent to the point he meant to establish.

One of the principal difficulties in selecting authors to read, consists in the multiplicity of books that are to be found on all subjects. Many people suppose that no one deserves to be called learned, unless he is acquainted with all the books his native language can furnish. This is too common an opinion. It induces us not only to read many authors which are not entitled to notice, but creates a confusion of ideas. There seems to be no standard to direct a choice of books, after a person is released from the control of education; but there is nevertheless great precaution to be observed in literary pursuits through every period of life.

The learned men of the last century could, with some propriety, undertake to peruse all the books that had then been published. It is however unreasonable to expect that a student of the present day should prescribe himself a similar task. It is not only impracticable but unnecessary. There are now a great variety of writers on the same subject. If they agree in sentiment, there can be no occasion to read them all; and if they disagree it will distract the mind to attend to all their contradictions. It would have a good effect if men, who have established a literary character, would give their sanction to the best publications in the various branches of science, and recommend them to general attention. In like manner, it would not be improper to designate the most approved pieces both moral and entertaining. By this means, the young student might direct his researches, and not so often have reason to repent his loss of time in useless reading. Many a man closes a book with this remark; all I have learnt is that the book did not deserve to be read.

FROM THE DAILY ADVERTISER.

ELEGIAC ODE,

ON THE DEATH OF DR. FRANKLIN.

(Tune, "Return captiv'd hours.")

THE fairest flow'rets bring
In all their vernal bloom,
And let the sweets of spring
Adorn great FRANKLIN's tomb.

The patriot's toil is done,
At length his labors cease,
Th' unslaking crown is won,
His Sun, descends in peace.

The sons of Science grieve,
The patriot heaves a sigh
And scarcely will believe
That so much worth can die.

No deathless is that name
Which ages shall admire;
And Franklin's splendid fame
Shall but with time expire.

While rapid lightnings fly,
While awful thunders roll,
While meteors gild the sky,
And dart from pole to pole.

Mankind shall still admire
When Franklin's name they hear,
* Who snatch'd celestial fire,
And broke the oppressor's spear.

Through ev'ry future age
While history holds a pen,
She'll rank our virtuous Sage
Amongst the first of men;

And when the counts her sons
Who've earn'd immortal fame,
Shall next to WASHINGTON's
Record our FRANKLIN's name.

MAY 14. R. D.

* Eripuit Cælo fulmen, sceptrumque Tyrannis.

We are informed that the following is now pending before the Senate of the United States.

An ACT to prevent bringing Goods, Wares and Merchandizes, from the State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, into the United States; and to authorize a demand of Money from the said State.

WHEREAS it is necessary to the security of the revenue, and other essential interests of the United States, to provide against goods wares and merchandizes, being brought into the same through or from the State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, so long as that State shall refuse to assent to the Constitution and Laws of the United States:

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That from and after the first day of July next, no goods, wares or merchandizes, of the growth or manufacture of whatever place or country, shall be brought into the United States, from the State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, by land or water; nor shall any ship or vessel belonging to any inhabitant or inhabitants of the said State; enter any port, harbour, creek or river of the United States, except in case of distress; nor, except in a like case, shall any ship or vessel belonging to any inhabitant or inhabitants of the United States, enter any port, harbour, creek or river of the said State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations; And all goods, wares and merchandizes, which shall be brought into the United States contrary to this Act, shall be forfeited, together with the ships or vessels in which the same shall be brought, if brought in by water; or together with the carriages, horses and oxen employed in conveying the same, if brought in by land. And all ships and vessels which shall enter any port, harbor, creek or river of the United States, contrary to this act, shall be forfeited, together with their lading: And all ships and vessels which, contrary to this Act, shall enter any port, harbor, creek or river of the said State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, shall be forfeited, and shall be liable to seizure in any port of the United States, at any time within one year after such forfeiture shall have accrued. And all persons who shall bring into the United States any goods, wares or merchandizes, contrary to this Act, or who shall be aiding therein; or who, being owners or captains of any ships or vessels, shall contrary to this act, order or navigate the same into any

port, harbor, creek or river of the said State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, shall forfeit — dollars; and be more-over liable to imprisonment, not exceeding — months.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the forfeitures accruing by breach of this act, shall be recovered in the manner provided in the case of forfeitures of a similar nature in the Act to regulate the collection of the duties imposed by law on the tonnage of ships and vessels, and on goods, wares and merchandises imported into the United States; and shall be disposed of in the manner provided in the case of penalties, fines and forfeitures, in the said Act: And every collector, naval officer, and surveyor, or other person, specially appointed by either of them, or aiding and assisting in the execution of this Act, shall have the like power and authority, and be entitled to the indemnification and mode of defence, expressed or given in the said Act to regulate the collection of duties.

Sec. 3. And to the end that the said State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, may contribute to the supplies raised for discharging the engagements of the United States entered into previous to the 4th day of March, 1789; Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the President of the United States be, and he hereby is authorized and requested to demand of the said State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, — dollars, to be paid into the Treasury of the United States, on or before the day of — next; which being paid, shall be credited to the said State in account with the United States.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall continue in force until a Convention of the State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, shall assent to and ratify the Constitution, and give notice thereof to the President of the United States, and no longer.

BOSTON, May 8.

O! blest COLUMBIA! every tribute raise;
Erect the sculptur'd Marble to his praise—
Thy youth at equal praise may boldly aim,
And catch at FRANKLIN's tomb worth's hallow'd flame.

FROM PHILADELPHIA—APRIL 27, 1790.

YOU will have heard of the death of our venerable friend. I send you such particulars, as I have heard of his will, which I think are authentic, but do not vouch for. Some lots, in Philadelphia, he has left to Mr. BACHE*, for himself, in a handsome, affectionate manner. His library chiefly to TEMPLE FRANKLIN†, with his manuscripts, and the copy-right to his Life—the farm in Jersey, value 3000l.—a tract of land, in Georgia, next to Gen. WAYNES, 3000 acres, valuable—and from 500l. to 600l. sterling of monies at Paris. To Mr. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BACHE‡, his Printing-Materials, &c. valued at 2000l. To his son§, 500l. to 600l. of the same monies, and some land in Nova-Scotia, because in the jurisdiction of the country he chose to live under.

To the city of Philadelphia, 1000l. sterling, at interest: The income to promote a Society of Arts and Manufactures, for 15 years, then to be applied to the conveyance of water to the city, which he conceives will then want it, from its increased size.

To the town of Boston, 1000l.
To President WASHINGTON, a Cane, with the Figure of LIBERTY, merely to pay him a very handsome compliment, of leaving Liberty in charge to him.

Mr. and Mrs. BACHE, the residuary Legatees to have the income for life, of the remainder of his fortune, to be divided equally amongst their children at their death.

To Judge HOPKINSON, his Philosophical Apparatus, &c.

His Life to 1757, he has sent to Mr. V.—He has gone no further—though he has left many scattered materials. It being observed to a relation of the Doctor that it was a great loss to the world, he observed not so great, as that of the former period would have been. That contains his thoughts from which mankind may draw advantage—The latter his actions which the world knows and others may record.

He preserved his intellects, clear and intelligent as ever, until a few hours of his death. He a few days before his death, having his maps before him, dictated a Letter to Mr. JEFFERSON, upon the boundaries of the United States, which I understand is as perfect as any thing he ever wrote.

NOTES—

- * The Gentleman who married the Doctor's daughter.
- † His Grandson and Secretary.
- ‡ Another Grandson.
- § The Governor of New-Jersey previous to the late war.

BURLINGTON, May 11.

The friends of Science, and the liberal arts, will be gratified in hearing that we were favored on Sunday last with a visit from the ingenious Mr. Fitch, accompanied by several gentlemen of taste and knowledge in mechanics, in a Steam-Boat, constructed on an improved plan: From these gentlemen we learn, that they came from Philadelphia in three hours and a quarter, with a head wind, the tide in their favor—on their return by accurate observations, they proceeded down the river, at the rate of upwards of seven miles an hour.

Extract of a letter from Coopers Town, on Lake Ontario, to a gentleman in this city, dated April 8.

"We are working away among the sugar here, and have already collected 12 hogheads, the worst of which is equal, and some of it superior in taste, colour, and grain, to any I ever saw from the West-Indies.—The present season for manufacturing this valuable article, is remarkably backward, so that we are now only beginning."

THE MAIL DILIGENCE for Philadelphia leaves the Ferry-Steer at New-York, forty minutes after Seven every Morning, except Sunday. Dines at Brunswick, and reaches Trenton before dark.