

policy then and the best of policy to equalize the burdens of so arduous a struggle as was brought upon us by this late war, and prevent a sister State from sinking after getting through so far?—Is there any reason that after exerting herself to the utmost, and aiding you in the day of distress, that now you are in possession of the resources of the country, and she is deprived of the only means she had of helping herself (I mean by her paper money) that she should still be left to struggle on without relief?—But, sir, if you refuse this measure and do not reassume these debts, it is not contemplated by any one, to embrace the excise, but to leave that to the individual States. What then must be the situation of New-Jersey, if New-York and Pennsylvania should establish a general excise for the payment of their particular citizens? Would not New-Jersey pay her full proportion, as she did formerly under their imposts? It never can be consistent with good policy, thus to leave your citizens to such different measures of public justice.

The last evidence of the policy of this measure arises from the impossibility of otherwise funding the domestic debt with certainty, while the States are necessitated to claim particular sources of revenue. This must produce a clashing of jurisdiction, and a continual jarring of interests.

I should now close my argument sir, was it not for an objection which I confess when I first heard it, struck me with some conviction, but on a closer examination, I found not to bear a scrutiny. It was, that if the measure could be carried by a very small majority, it would be highly impolitic, because if a right measure and now rejected, it could easily be adopted hereafter; but if a wrong measure and now adopted, it could not easily be remedied when the evil was acknowledged.

Sir, if the debt is a just one against the United States, and we are able to pay it, I cannot admit the idea of a longer refusal—the delay of justice is a denial of justice—what would be the consequence of paying this debt and afterwards being convinced of the injustice of it? You would charge it to the individual State, and the only loss would be the interest of the interest you might pay—But, sir, if you refuse it and find you are wrong, you are doing an act of palpable injustice by which you may ruin thousands of your citizens and depopulate your States by driving the most valuable of them to seek an asylum in the wilds of the Ohio and Lake Erie. It will be a very insufficient excuse to our suffering host of creditors, that from local principles and private motives, there could only be obtained a small majority to do them justice, and if we were wrong in the refusal, we could set all right when we were convinced of it. I believe this will scarcely justify us in our own eyes. But will not this delay impede the operation of the general system—and if this once takes place, who can foresee where it will end. An attempt to do justice, can do us no essential injury even if we should be wrong, but a refusal in our present circumstances may raise a spirit, that cannot easily be laid.

Although the question, sir, before you is on the assumption of the State debts, so called for sake of distinction, yet as an objection had been made in the House yesterday, and an endeavor used to separate this part of the domestic debt from that which is founded on certificates given by the immediate officers of Congress, supposing this to be a subject essentially different from the one referred to the committee, I thought it my duty to shew that having been contracted by the United States in Congress assembled, for the general defence of the union, there remained no foundation in reason or justice for the objection, although the settlements of the accounts, and the balances due, were certified by the individual States. And I think that it must as clearly appear that no solid reason can be assigned, why the individual States should not now be delivered from the burthen of them, since you have delivered her from the means of payment.

These arguments address themselves to the understanding and the judgment.—It is under their impression, and from a thorough conviction of their force and propriety under every view of the subject, that I have heretofore and shall still give my vote for the reassumption of these debts, and of course, in favor of the amendment now before the committee.

THE TABLET.—No. CXXVI.

(CONTINUATION.)

“In a general way, it may be presumed a legislator promotes the public good, by attending to the immediate interest of his constituents.”

NO man should be reproached for feeling local attachments, or for suffering his mind to indulge a partiality for his friends and acquaintance. This not only corresponds with the impulses of nature, but may be compatible with the general welfare of the community. It is very certain, if every person takes care of the people of his own district, no portion of inhabitants will be neglected. There will however exist some difficulty in carrying this principle into effect, even where it is just; and there are likewise cases which may be deemed exceptions to it.

If every legislator look to the immediate interest of the district he represents, it may be said, that the general interest will be effectually ascertained and promoted. The majority should and will prevail, and the common welfare will be embraced as perfectly, as though each man were actuated by the most sublime sentiments of benevolence. It amounts to the same thing. The utmost purity of intention, and the warmest glow of generosity could not more than recommend and pursue the major interests of the community; and this will be done by acting upon the principle now under discussion. The difficulty, to which I have before alluded, consists not so much in the partiality a legislator feels for his particular constituents, as in his not being able to determine the best manner of promoting their interest. If he consults their opinion, it may prove a very different thing from their welfare. The circumstances of a people often change sooner than their sentiments; and the reason, upon which old habits were originally formed, may be removed while the habits themselves retain their force. From this I infer that though a legislator may attend to the particular interest of his district, he may sometimes be compelled to act contrary to their notions and wishes. Besides it often happens, that a law is enacted upon some new occasion, about which the public mind has never exercised itself. In all such cases the legislator can have no reference to any opinion previously established among the people.

But there may be cases where a representative may act contrary to the direct interest of his district, knowingly, and wittingly. A certain part of the community may stand in need of legislative aids

or grants, which will be attended with much more advantage to it, than will balance the inconvenience sustained by the other parts of the community. To encourage and protect new settlements, or new arts and manufactures may not apportion the benefits equally among all classes of inhabitants in any country; but a legislator may still suppose himself justifiable in distributing the favors of government, in a partial manner, on important and special occasions.

There is still another point of light in which the subject of public opinion may be viewed.—When a law is passed, if it meets with the general concurrence of the public, it may be deemed an evidence that it is founded in propriety, and will be attended with utility. The public opinion should therefore be exercised upon a measure after it is put into operation, rather than while it is in contemplation. It can try and prove the law better than it can direct its origin or passage.

(To be continued.)



LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.
PUBLISHED

By Authority.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

AT THE SECOND SESSION.

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

An ACT for giving effect to an Act, intituled, “An Act to establish the Judicial Courts of the United States,” within the State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the act, intituled, “An act to establish the Judicial Courts of the United States,” shall have the like force and effect within the State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, as elsewhere within the United States.

And be it further enacted, That the said State shall be one district, to be called Rhode-Island district: And there shall be a district court therein, to consist of one Judge, who shall reside in the district, and be called a district Judge, and shall hold annually four sessions; the first to commence on the first Monday in August next, and the other three sessions progressively, on the like Monday of every third calendar month afterwards. The said district Court shall be held alternately at the towns of Newport and Providence, beginning at the first.

And be it further enacted, That the said district shall be, and the same is hereby annexed to the Eastern circuit: And there shall be held annually in the said district, two circuit courts; the first session of the circuit court shall commence on the fourth day of December next, the second session on the fourth day of June next, and the subsequent sessions on the like days of every December and June afterwards, except when any of the days shall happen on a Sunday, and then the session shall commence on the day following: And the sessions of the said circuit courts shall be held alternately at the said towns of Newport and Providence, beginning at the last.

And be it further enacted, That there shall be allowed to the judge of the said district, the yearly compensation of eight hundred dollars, to commence from his appointment, and to be paid at the Treasury of the United States in quarterly payments.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS MUELLENBERG,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN ADAMS, Vice-President of the United States.

and President of the Senate.

APPROVED, JUNE THE TWENTY THIRD, 1790.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, President of the United States.

(TRUE COPY)

THOMAS JEFFERSON, Secretary of State.

VIENNA, April 7.

HIS Majesty went in state yesterday, attended by the whole body of the Provincial Assembly of Lower Austria, to the Cathedral church, and, at his return to the Palace he received, with great solemnity, the homage of the states, and their oath of allegiance, which was pronounced aloud by the whole assembly. His Majesty, in return, expressed his firm resolution to unite in his future government the principles of impartial justice with the sentiments of paternal affection and to maintain the States in the enjoyment of all their rights and privileges.

L I E G E, April 27.

The whole nation is at present under arms, in defence of its liberty. Part of the Patriotic Army commanded by the Chevalier de Domeel, General in chief, began its march this day, in order to defend the frontier on the side of Stockem and Mefeyck, where some foreign troops are cantoned with hostile intentions. The corps of patriotic guards, the municipal regiment, the first regiment in the pay of the States, the companies of the citizens of the capital, and a number of Bailiwicks, have been voluntarily joined in their route by the inhabitants of the town and open country, who will all arm in their common defence. Yesterday evening the corps of Chasseurs set off, the artillery will follow to-morrow, and the new troops will repair successively to the rendezvous appointed by the commanders. The French Moutois arrived here last night, to the number of 3000, and wish to march immediately. The religious houses also give

proofs of their patriotism by lodging and entertaining these defenders of their property and liberty in the best manner they can.

HAMBURGH, March 2.

By an authentic statement from Copenhagen, it appears the Danish army now consists of 52 squadrons of cavalry and 80 battalions of infantry, forming in the whole 85077 effective men, of which 11,658 infantry and 520 horse are for the garrisons, and the others ordered to be kept readiness to march.

PARIS, April 14.

The new Church for the Calvinists, at Strasburg (the first they were permitted to build in that city) was lately consecrated with great solemnity. The new Mayor, the Magistrates, the officers of the garrison, and the clergy of the three different persuasions, Catholics, Lutherans, and Calvinists, preceded and followed by the National Guards, went in procession to assist at the ceremony—after having sung the *Te Deum* at the Catholic Church, they proceeded thence to the Cathedral, where they were received by the Protestant Clergy.—The occasional sermon was preached by one of their body, whose powers of eloquence and reasoning were so oppressive, that, at the same moment, as if actuated by one soul, the clergy and magistrates of the different sects arose and mutually embraced; the rest of the congregation followed their example, and audibly exchanged vows of never ending fraternal amity.—It was a scene which superior beings might view with delight—it was the triumph of true religion, enlightened reason and humanity, over prejudice, ignorance and error. Every eye glistened with the tear of sensibility, and every heart ratified the bond of permanent union.

LONDON, April 2.

THE present situation of the King of Bohemia is truly deplorable. He has lost, forever, the Provinces of Austrian Flanders; and they were understood to contain three millions of inhabitants, loyal, industrious, and possessing more ready money than all the rest of his subjects put together.

He has, indeed, acquired a large increase of territory on the Turkish frontiers; but this cost Joseph an enormous expence, and the lives of at least 15,000 men.

His finances are far exhausted.—Even at the close of the dispute about the Bavarian succession, the credit of Maria Theresa, was at its last gasp.

We must not likewise forget that the King of Prussia is at the head of by far the best land army in the world—that he will be supported by the Elector of Saxony, and that he will not now be (as his great predecessor formerly was) entangled with a French army, or any army of the Empire.

The immortal Frederick affirmed, that he lost the battle of Colin by the blunder of Manstein, a general officer. Had he gained it, the destruction of the house of Austria was regarded as the certain consequence.

But the dismemberment of Flanders—the Turkish war—the ruined state of the Austrian treasury—the disaffection of the elector of Saxony—and the prodigious augmentation of the power of the King of Prussia—form at present a combination of the most inauspicious circumstances; and it will be no matter of surprize, if in a few months the kingdom of Bohemia happens to change its master.

Extract of a letter from Stockholm, March 1.

“Our King has prohibited the insertion of any articles respecting the French revolution in our newspapers; the preamble to this prohibition gives as a reason, that “His Majesty owes this mark of respect to his brother of France, as such accounts are generally exaggerated and ill-founded.” No person here however, has any idea that the King of France ever hinted at a wish to prohibit, what he cannot prohibit in his own kingdom.

The King of Naples entertained some time ago the Margrave of Anspach Bareith, the Duchess of Saxe-Weymar, and the Hereditary Prince of Brunswick, with a wild boat hunt, at Caserta, in which upwards of 120 of those animals were killed.

A public school has been lately instituted at Calcutta by the Rev. Dr. Mackinnon, who lost his military chaplaincy some time ago, in consequence of pecuniary embarrassments; as nothing was more wanted in those parts, the people are likely to derive great public advantage from a private evil.

Mr. JONATHAN HARTOP, an extraordinary instance of longevity, is still living at Aldborough, in Yorkshire. He is now 137 years old, being born in 1653, and perfectly remembers the great fire of London, in 1666.

It appears to be a prevalent idea among the best informed people, that the court of Spain, dreading an insurrection on the principles which have stirred up the rebellion in France, has thought it prudent to divert the attention of her people from that purpose by a war with Great-Britain—the only generous enemy on whom she could rely, when peace was proclaimed, for a just restitution of what might be taken from her.