

LONDON, Feb. 9.

IT is to be remarked, in justice to the Nuns of Paris, and its environs, so greatly libelled in the speech of Mrs. Jouet, that, though the doors of their convent were thrown open, by the decree of the National Assembly, to every Nun who should please to return to society, only four availed themselves of it—of these Mrs. Jouet was one.

When it was announced in their convents, that the Nuns who should think proper to remain in them might do so, they resolved to celebrate, with a grand festival, their joy, for the glad tidings that they were not to be forced from their favorite cloisters. Accordingly high mass was sung, and after it a *Te Deum*. From the passing of the decree of the Assembly, which put it in the power of the Nuns to return to society, their sequestration may be considered as voluntary—and as it cannot be supposed that promises to women, who, by remaining in their cloisters, can be capable of any but conventual favours, and who can have nothing to fear from threats but a rigid enforcement of the rules of the house, could influence the Nuns to sacrifice their liberty, if they had a wish to recover it, so it is to be presumed that Mrs. Jouet went a great deal too far when she stated that promises and threats had been used to retain Nuns in their cloisters. Such promises and threats, if they ever were used, had no effect upon her and three others—why then was it to be supposed that they operated so powerfully with all the others, as to make them forego the wishes of their heart, and prefer the gloom of a cloister to the life and spirit of society?

The order to which Mrs. Jouet belonged, was extremely useful to society. The Nuns who belonged to it have an hospital, which they support at their own expence, and where they attend the sick in person.

The French Assembly are determined to continue themselves, without going back again to their constituents.—For this purpose, the following motion was made, and after some short debate, agreed to, last week.

“That whereas the constituents could not give their Representatives power to form only a part of the Constitution—that whereas the oath taken on the 20th of June last by the Representatives of the people, and which was approved of afterwards by the nation at large, not to separate until the great work of the Constitution should have been completed—and that whereas the Assembly cannot, at this moment, fix the period when it can say that work has been completed, tho it is far advanced, it hereby declares, that the powers of the Representatives of the nation, shall and do remain in full force, until they shall have been thoroughly formed, notwithstanding any limitation set to them by any body of constituents—and that as soon as the work of the Constitution is completed, the Assembly will fix the period of its own dissolution, and point out the time when the constituents shall proceed to the election of another Assembly.”

Considering the unsettled state of affairs in France, we cannot reasonably object to such a motion, provided the Assembly take care that it be not considered as a precedent—otherwise there is an end to their constitution.

EDINBURGH, Feb. 12.

Yesterday sen'night a point of honor was terminated at Dublin by a melancholy issue, between Dr. Harding and Mr. Beamish, two Irish gentlemen, and lately both Students of Physic at the University of Edinburgh—Mr. Beamish was unfortunately shot through the body, and died about three o'clock. The dispute in which this unfortunate quarrel was grounded, occurred at Edinburgh, on the 4th of June last, when Dr. Harding, the party who received the offence, being then about to take out his degrees, did not, from prudential motives, demand satisfaction—his journey to Ireland is said to have been principally excited with a view to this purpose. The unfortunate Mr. Beamish received a mortal wound in the body; from the first fire of his antagonist, and fell without discharging his pistol. Dr. Harding and his second hurried immediately off the ground, and are supposed to have failed for England. The coach which bore them to the place carried back the expired Mr. Beamish, with his friend.

PHILADELPHIA June 29,

A new burying-ground for the relief of St. James's Parish, London, is just opened near Tottenhamcourt. The undertakers have introduced such a degree of novelty and improvement in the laying out of this ground, as deserves notice: instead of the mournful assemblage of pines, elms, and yews, uniting their influence to impress upon the mind an awful sense of the short lived vanities of life, you are here presented with a brilliant flower garden. Elegant serpentine walks, bordered with flowers and shrubbery, run through the whole extent of the ground.—The walls are divided into niches, as accurately numbered as the boxes at Ranelagh or Vauxhall, and the *tout ensemble* is so curious as to entitle the planner to the character of an Original.



LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.
PUBLISHED

By Authority

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:
AT THE SECOND SESSION.

Begun 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 providing for the enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States,” in respect to 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 passed the present session of Congress, intituled, “An act providing for the enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States,” shall be deemed to have the like force and operation within the State of Rhode-Island and Providence plantations, as elsewhere within the United States; and all the regulations, provisions, directions, authorities, penalties, and other matters whatsoever, contained or expressed in the said act, and which are not locally inapplicable, shall have the like force and effect within the said State, as if the same were repeated and re-enacted in and by this present act.

And be it further enacted, That the Marshal of the district of Rhode-Island shall receive, in full compensation for the performance of all the duties and services confided to, and enjoined upon him by this act, one hundred dollars.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS MUHLENBERG,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
JOHN ADAMS, Vice-President of the United States,
and President of the Senate.

APPROVED, JULY THE FIFTH, 1790.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, President of the United States.
(TRUE COPY)
THOMAS JEFFERSON, Secretary of State.

AN ACT to authorise the purchase of a tract of Land for the use of the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and house of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it shall be lawful for the President of the United States, and he is hereby authorized to cause to be purchased for the use of the United States, the whole, or such part of that tract of land situate in the State of New York, commonly called West-Point, as shall be by him judged requisite for the purpose of such fortifications and garrisons as may be necessary for the defence of the same.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS MUHLENBERG,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
JOHN ADAMS, Vice-President of the United States,
and President of the Senate.

APPROVED, JULY THE FIFTH, 1790.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, President of the United States.
(TRUE COPY)
THOMAS JEFFERSON, Secretary of State.

ODE,

To the memory of Dr. JOSEPH WARREN, the celebrated Orator, who was slain upon the heights of Charlestown, fighting for the liberties of America, on the 17th day of June 1775

O GREAT reverse of TULLY's coward heart,
Immortal WARREN! you suffice to teach,
The Orator may fill the Warrior's part,
And active souls be join'd with fluent speech.
Shall not the Speaker who alone could give,
Immortal reviviscence to the dead,
Chang'd to a Hero now, forever live,
In fame's eternal roll, with those he led!

Let NORTH and SANDWICH take the meener shame,
Of bluff'ring words, unknown to hardy deeds!
And callous G— superior merit claim,
In grinning laughter, while his country bleeds.

Boston's first sons in prostrate numbers lay,
And Freedom totter'd on destruction's brink;
WARREN step forth to solemnize the day,
And dar'd to speak, what some scarce dar'd to think,

Yet glorious honor! More than one man's share,
He in his latest, as his earliest breath,
In camp, or forum, equally could dare,
And seal his bold Phillipic with his death. LUCIUS.

THE TABLET.—No. CXXX.

“As the spirit of man is liable to extraordinary degrees of elevation or depression, it should be expected that some will be the slaves of custom, and others the movers of innovation.”

THE remarks offered in my last number on Enthusiasm, may, with some propriety be followed by an Essay on the subject of Superstition. Though an aberration from a reasonable faith often proceeds from causes extremely opposite to each other, yet the delusion will principally be confined to people little informed or civilized. Superstition is the offspring of a timid, servile spirit, and argues a want of self-confidence; while enthusiasm proceeds from a heated, presumptuous mind, and denotes too high a degree of self-confidence. Persons of good sense, and a knowledge of the world, learn to form opinions for themselves on the ground of rational evidence; from which they will not be diverted by a temper so abject as to feel below the guidance of their own reason; or, from one, so elevated as to deem their own imaginations superior to any fixed rule of conduct. The superstitious man fears to exercise his reason; the enthusiast despises to do it. Opposite as these characters may appear, the same man may alternately discover each. It is not owing altogether to

natural disposition that a person should do either. Presumptuous feelings no less than abject ones, may result from adventitious causes. Yet I am rather inclined to believe the natural propensity of men participates most strongly of superstition. This conclusion easily offers itself from the consideration, that a great part of mankind have, thro the prevalence of superstition, given a most rigid adherence to forms and ceremonies, of which they could neither comprehend or explain any rational cause.

If the comparative benefits or injuries, that have been occasioned by enthusiasm and superstition, were to be examined, perhaps no satisfactory solution to such an enquiry could be obtained. It seems evident, however, that the peace and prosperity of the world require that, in a general way, the votaries of superstition should be the most numerous. There can be no tranquility in society unless the bulk of mankind pay a very sacred regard to established rules and institutions. As enthusiasts are the professed enemies to whatever opposes the suggestions of their own fancy, it is obvious that were they to be numerous, society must be extinguished. So on the other hand, as those who are strictly superstitious, are for an implicit adherence to old establishments, it follows, that if there were no men of a contrary character all kind of reformation or improvement would be at an end. Both of these characters therefore are essential; the one to preserve a tranquil state of affairs, and to prevent continual tumults and insurrections; and, the other to rouse the attention of mankind against the effects of deep-rooted errors, and to awaken a spirit of progressive improvement through the various stages of civilization.

PORTLAND, June 28.

Last Friday was executed in this town Thomas Bird, who at the district court held the first inst. was convicted of the murder of Capt. John Conner, on board the Mary, on the coast of Africa. The number of spectators was judged to be not less than three or four thousand, who generally paid a decent attention to the solemn transaction and religious exercises of the day.

NEW-YORK, July 9.

The ship America, Capt. Sarly, arrived at Sandy Hook yesterday, after a pleasing passage of 4 months and 22 days, from Canton.—We are informed, that on Wednesday night, Dr. Draper, the Surgeon of the Ship, accidentally fell overboard, and was unfortunately drowned.

Capt. Sarly spoke the Anthony, Puller, from Canton.—bound to New York, in the streights of Sundy, all well.

[EDINBURGH, MARCH, 1790]

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(Of which a further account will appear in our next.)

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