

FRIDAY, JULY 30.

Sundry petitions and memorials were read and referred to the heads of departments.

The report on the petition of Catherine Greene, widow of the late general Greene, was read the second time; this report was in favor of the prayer of the petition, so far as to indemnify the heirs of general Greene, from demands arising from engagements and contracts made by him on account of the United States.

A motion was made to refer the papers which accompanied the petition to the Secretary of the Treasury—some conversation ensued on this motion; Mr. Stone said he thought it more proper to refer them to the Auditor-General; Mr. Gerry called for the reading of the paper:—which was done.

The motion for referring to the Secretary of the Treasury was adopted.

A message was received from the Senate informing that they have passed a bill for the relief of John Stuart and John Davidson, and a bill for the temporary establishment of the Post-Office.

In committee of the whole on the report of the Secretary of the Treasury respecting a plan for the disposition of the lands in the Western Territory—some progress was made in the discussion. Adjourned till Monday.

LONDON, May 21.

WE learn from Messina, that on the 31st March at 8 in the morning, the mountain Paci, which covers Scylla, on the east side, fell into the sea with a horrid crash. The commotion it excited caused the waters to overflow the country for 2 leagues and rise to the top of Sicily. Six persons perished at Scylla, but the fishermen at the lighthouse had time to save themselves. It is supposed that the sea had been undermining it ever since the earthquake of 1783, by getting into the excavations then made.

The Brunswick man of war lately launched, has several conveniences new to the navy, particularly one, by which the levers of the chain pumps may be shipped and unshipped with ease, so as to render all clear; as also more simple means of obtaining intelligence of the exact draught of water during an action, without being exposed to the enemy's fire.

The most authentic accounts from Spain do not justify the belief that they have more than thirteen ships of the line ready for sea.

Mr. Bruce, the late traveller asserts: With regard to cotton, the finest vallies in Syria, watered by the cool refreshing springs that fall from Mount Libanus, are planted with this shrub; and in the same grounds, alternately, with the tree which produces its sister in manufactures, silk. Cotton clothes all Ethiopia; cotton is the basis of its commerce with India; and of the commerce between England, France, and the Levant, and cotton should be the favourite manufacture, after wool, of Britain. It will in time, says Mr. Bruce, take place of that ungrateful culture flax; will always employ more hands, and be a more ample field for distinguishing the ingenuity of our manufacturers.

On the 8th instant a very cruel murder was committed in the vicinity of Cork. Richard Newnham, Esq. and his brother Devonshire Newnham, Esq. went on a hunting party near his seat at Maryborough: One of the neighbouring peasantry intreated them not to pass through his potatoe ground, as it would ruin him and his family. Devonshire called the poor wretch a scoundrel for his presumption, and instantly struck him with his whip, while his brother Richard inhumanly struck him on the back part of the head, until they fractured the skull of the unfortunate man, of which wounds he instantly expired. The Coroner's inquest has brought in their verdict *wilful murder!* They are committed to prison to take their trial at the next assizes. Richard Newnham, who has ever been of a tyrannical and sanguinary disposition, is in the receipt of 3000l. per annum; and his brother, of 2000l.—A similar example to that of Fitzgerald, in this country, is much wanting, to reform the turbulent disposition of the country Squires.

NOOTKA SOUND.

The circumstances of the trade and situation of this part of North America being a matter of such general conversation and great public moment, we are particularly happy in being enabled to give some further account of the transactions, that have happened at Nootka Sound, as well as to point out the advantages that were likely to be extended to other places by the means of this trade.

It is necessary to remark that the skin of the sea otter is worn only in the Northern regions of China. Its fur, though beautiful and magnificent, is too heavy for the sultry atmosphere of the Southern Provinces.

Pekin is, therefore, the proper mart for this valuable commodity; and in this immense city, the consumption is so great, that the produce of the voyage meets an immediate sale.

The Mandarins of the court, and even the Emperor himself, are fond of wearing this costly fur. To a citizen of common rank, a sea otter's collar to his vestment is a luxury.

The natives of the north-west coast of America, set so great a value on woollens of all kinds, that all the blankets, cloths, hats, and stockings, that could be procured in China, if English manufacture, were sold to the Indians, with whose chiefs treaties of commerce had been formed.

An act of cruelty committed by an officer of the Spanish Admiral Martiney's ship deserves to be recorded.

The Spaniards discovering that Callicum, a chief, second in authority at Nootka Sound, was in alliance with the English, he was shot through the heart in the month of June, 1789. The wife of Callicum, with an infant child, escaped, but not till wounded.

Macquilla, the chief, first in command, retired at the head of the allies of England, from Nootka Sound, and to avoid the cruelty of the Spaniards, they fled to distant parts. Such of the natives as they could seize, the Spaniards condemned to work as slaves on their fortifications.

At this period, it was in contemplation of the Spaniards to seize the Sandwich Islands, with a view to deprive British ships of refreshments. And we further add, on authority that amounts nearly to demonstration, that on the very lands purchased from the Nootka chief by captain Mears, the Spaniards have already opened valuable mines.

Another object of this enterprise was, to supply the markets of Kamchatka, and other ports belonging to the Russians, with the teas and other produce of China. This promised to be an invaluable channel of commerce, as the Chinese have shut their ports against the Russians, who formerly traded to their markets.

On this voyage of discovery and experiment, one of our ships sailed and disposed of her cargo, but was unfortunately lost on her return to China.

To these curious particulars we add, with a patriot joy, that the consumption of the glorious staple of England, her broad cloths, is astonishingly great in Japan and China: British hardware, &c. is also in great request.

From the Friendship of Tiara to Captain Mears, ships which touch at the Sandwich Islands may depend on the utmost attention and civility. This Prince is six feet four inches and an half high, and of proportionate bulk.

A most degrading circumstance, respecting the insult upon the British flag at St. George's Sound, has not been yet communicated to the public:—A Captain Kendrick, commanding an American ship, had been trading a considerable time on the coast, and the Spaniards treated him with the greatest civility, so that Spain has the temerity to dare the maritime power of Britain, and yet truckles to the American stripes.

MAY 15.

Yesterday his Majesty was pleased to issue his Royal Proclamation for recalling and prohibiting seamen and other natural born subjects of his dominions, from serving foreign Princes and states, and for granting a reward of 20s. for discovering every seaman who shall conceal himself.

In a letter received by yesterday's post from Portsmouth, by a gentleman in the city, particular mention is made, that previous to writing, an incredible number of Jews had arrived there, and engaged for every empty house in that town. Common, and Gosport; and the owners had let them upon terms of enormous advance, provided the war should continue. They have even contracted for building of new houses, as they appear certain of a war, and that it will prove very advantageous from the amazing riches our ships of war and privateers most probably may bring from the South Seas, and other Spanish settlements.

By accounts received at Lloyd's upwards of three hundred fail of merchant ships are expected to arrive in the course of this month, which will furnish Government with a sufficient number of seaman to man the ships fitted out.

The ships of war which have been put into commission, are not only ordered to be manned with as much dispatch as possible, but victualled.

The Russian Squadron which is to put to sea this summer is composed of 31 ships of the line.

THE TABLET.—No. CXXXVI.

“Those persons who lead a sedentary life should contrive that their amusements be of such a nature as to give considerable exercise to the limbs.”

I HAVE frequently observed that men of a studious, contemplative turn of mind lose their relish for such amusements as require bodily exertion. This is a circumstance that deserves to be seriously considered by those whose mode of life leads them to sedentary habits. Man is a being formed more for action than contemplation. He preserves his health, cheerfulness and the natural vigor of his constitution, in much higher perfection, while he follows active pursuits, than when he is devoted to study and retirement.—There is nevertheless a necessity that some persons should employ themselves in the acquisition of literature.

In the essays of Mr. Webster, I find some excellent observations on the subject now under consideration. After speaking of the ill effects of too close an attention to study, without a suitable mixture of active amusements, he makes the following remarks.

“To avoid these ills, much exercise of the arms and body is not only useful but necessary; and when it is not the lot of young persons to labor in agriculture or mechanic arts, some laborious amusement should be

constantly and daily pursued as a substitute—and none is preferable to fencing. A fencing school is perhaps as necessary an institution in a college, as a professorship of mathematics; for young men usually enter college about the age of puberty; and often leave a laborious occupation to commence a sedentary life, at the very time when labor or exercise is the most necessary to give firmness and vigor to their constitutions. In consequence of this change, and an academic life, they often run up into long, slender, effeminate bodies, which a slight cold may throw into a consumption; or by an intense application to books, add to a debilitated frame of body, a weak nervous system, which keeps them always dying, though it may not end life till old age.”

“Four hours of uninterrupted study in a day is generally sufficient to furnish the mind with as many ideas as can be retained, methodized and applied to practice; and it is well if one half of what are run over in this time are not lost. It may sometimes be necessary to study or read more hours in a day; but it will as often be found useful to read less.”

NEW-YORK, JULY 31.

Further accounts by the papers from Ireland, inform, that the National Assembly has decreed that the ancient municipality of the city of Paris, and all the offices connected with it, should be suppressed and abolished.—*Thus a system of police is destroyed which in a great measure furnished for so many ages, the victims of despotism to the dungeons of despair, in the infernal Bastille.*—That Mons. Fitzjean de St. Colombe had fallen a sacrifice to the populace.—That the assembly has decreed the elections of judges should be by the people—and that but one subject shall be presented to the King for his approbation.—That there was in circulation of the notes issued by the Caisse d'Escompte 169,124,000 livres. The National Assembly has also determined that public officers other than the judges, shall be nominated by the King; and hold their offices during good behavior—none of the members of the present assembly to be eligible till four years after the present session.—Members of subsequent assemblies to be eligible in two years after the session.—Mr. Lambert director of the Mint at Rouen has received contributions in plate to the amount of 409,484 Livres.

A French fleet from the Islands is expected to arrive at Boston by the 20th August, under the command of the Right Hon. The Viscount Pontievres Gien.

At the commencement in the University of Cambridge, Massachusetts, the 21st instant.—The degree of Bachelor of Arts was conferred on forty three young gentlemen, and the degree of Master of Arts on thirty five.—The degree of doctor of laws was conferred on the Hon. John Jay, chief justice of the United States.

Thursday last there was an Entertainment on board the ship America, Capt. Sarly, lately from Canton, which was honored by the company of the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, The Secretary of State, Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary at War, His Excellency the Governor of the State, and a very large and respectable company of other citizens.

To comprehend every charge, it is probable that the late war was an expence to the people of America of at least 60,000,000 of pounds sterl. The paper money was an effectual tax, which has not cost the government much to collect. What was advanced during the war was paid rather by suffering the noble enthusiasm of the people to tax itself, than by the resources of Congress. The sums paid towards the debts since the peace have been at a great discount. Perhaps not a single instance can be given of a dollar paid at par. The entire remaining debt is about eighteen millions sterling, or eighty millions of dollars. It will appear therefore that the burden of this debt, however heavy upon unfortunate individuals, has been light to the government, as more than two thirds of the charges of the war no longer exist as debts against the Union. It seems to follow clearly, that altho justice calls for a good provision for the existing debt, and it may seem useless to urge any other motive, yet this claim of justice is enforced by the above state of facts. Why should we wish to dispute the validity of it, or object to paying what remains, inasmuch as we have extinguished vast sums on such easy terms?

If it is thought necessary to suspend part of the demands of our creditors, on account of our present inability to pay them: Government is under every possible obligation to pledge itself to do them full justice the moment they are in a capacity to do it.

Few persons cultivate the science of ANATOMY with ardor in our country. The rash and odious abuse of it, a few years since in several cities on the continent, by many indiscreet persons, has given to the public a disgust, and to individuals, a fear of meddling any more with human bodies. A wide field is still left for the exertions of diligence and genius in the pursuit of discoveries by comparative Anatomy. This may be followed without giving offence to any person. We are happy to hear of Dr. POST'S beautiful dissection of the Free-Martin a few weeks ago, and to learn that his discoveries nearly agree with Mr. JOHN HUNTER'S on the same subject. This we consider as the best Anatomical performance since MITCHELL'S publication about the absorbent vessels.

The Professor of Natural History in the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. BENJAMIN S. BARTON, meditates a great Botanical Work. This is no less than a FLORA of the United States, to comprehend a full account of all the indigenous plants growing therein. The lovers of natural science feel themselves exceedingly glad on this occasion, not only on account of the curiosity and usefulness of the performance, but also because the author is an American. It is imagined that by the assistance of Mitchell, Cutler, Marshall, Bartram and other American Botanists, Dr. Barton will be able in some years to accomplish his laudable undertaking.

DEATHS.

Died at West-Point, the 11th inst. after a tedious illness, Capt. WILLIAM PRICE, Commissary of Military Stores.
At Fairfield, GOLD SELLECK SILLIMAN, Esq. in the 59th year of his age.

ARRIVALS SINCE OUR LAST.—NEW-YORK.

Ship Jay, Randol, Canton. 5 months 25 days.
Brig Anthony, Puller, ditto. 6 months.
—Betcy, Bright, Faulkand Islands, 63 days,
Stoop Cynthia, Turks Island, 25