

CONGRESS.

PHILADELPHIA.

MONDAY last being the day appointed for the meeting of the national legislature, in this city, now the seat of government of the United States, thirty-one members of the house of representatives assembled in the hall, in Chestnut-Street, which number not being sufficient to constitute a quorum, they adjourned to yesterday, 11 o'clock, A. M.

Fifteen members of the Senate also assembled in the Senate chamber; viz.

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE.

His Excellency The VICE PRESIDENT,	
Hon. Messrs Langdon,	Hon. Messrs Morris,
Wingate,	Maclay,
Dalton,	Izard,
Ellsworth,	Butler,
King,	Hawkins,
Johnson,	Bafler,
Dickinson,	Munroe,
Few,	

Members present of the House of Representatives, were
The Hon. The SPEAKER.

Hon. Messrs Ames,	Hon. Messrs Lawrence,
Benson,	Lee,
Baldwin,	Livermore,
Bloodworth,	Madison,
Boudinot,	P. Muhlenberg,
Brown,	Schureman,
Cadwalader,	Seney,
Clymer,	Sherman,
Fitzsimons,	Smith, (S. C.)
Floyd,	Sturges,
Foster,	Sylvester,
Gilman,	Thacher,
Goodhue,	Williamson,
Griffin,	Wynkoop.
Huger,	
Huntington,	

TUESDAY, Dec. 7.

Hon. Mr. Scott, and Mr. Heister, appeared and took their seats.

Hon. W. B. Giles, Member from Virginia, elected to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of the Hon. T. Bland, appeared, produced his credentials, was qualified, and took his seat.

The House being formed—

On motion of Mr. Boudinot, the Clerk was directed to inform the Senate, that a quorum of the House being now assembled, they are ready to proceed to business.

A message was received from the Senate, by their Secretary Mr. Otis, informing the House that a number sufficient to constitute a quorum of the Senate, being assembled in the Senate Chamber, they are ready to receive communications from the honorable House.

A committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs Boudinot, Lawrence and Smith, (S. C.) to join a committee of the Senate, to wait on the PRESIDENT of the United States, and inform him that a quorum of both Houses are now assembled—a message was sent to the Senate, by the Clerk, to inform them of the above vote.

A message was received from the Senate informing the House that they have appointed a committee consisting of the Hon. Mr. Morris, and the Hon. Mr. Langdon, to join a committee of the Hon. House, to wait on the President of the United States, and inform him that a quorum of both Houses being assembled, they will be ready in the Senate Chamber to receive such communications as he may be pleased to make.

A motion was made by Mr. Livermore, that the House should concur with the Senate; this being objected to, the motion was withdrawn.

The House then non-concurred that part of the Senate's message which assigned the place of receiving the President—and the Clerk was directed to inform the Senate of the same.

After which a message was received from the Senate, informing, that they concur in the vote of the House—and the committee proceeded to wait on the President.

Mr. Lawrence presented the following petitions which were read, and laid on the table, viz. The petition of Jacob Bell, of John Lewis, and of Francis Ackley.

Mr. Fitzsimons presented several petitions and memorials of Alexander Fowler, which were read and laid on the table.

Mr. Boudinot, of the joint committee on the part of the House, reported that they had waited on the PRESIDENT of the United States, and delivered the message of both Houses.

The PRESIDENT informed the committee that he would meet the two Houses in the Senate Chamber to-morrow 12 o'clock. Adjourned.

Philadelphia, Dec. 8.

Yesterday there was a Levee at the house of THE PRESIDENT of the United States—at which were present His Excellency THE VICE-PRESIDENT, and many Members of both Houses of Congress, several of the Heads of Departments, besides a number of respectable private characters.—IGNATIUS PLYART, Esq. Consul General from Her Most Faithful Majesty, the QUEEN OF PORTUGAL, was presented (at the Levee) to THE PRESIDENT of the United States, by the Hon. THOMAS JEFFERSON, Secretary of State.

THERE is a report that the forces under the command of General HARMAR, have received a check from the Indians; but as the accident is said to have happened forty days ago, and no official information has been received by the Supreme Executive, it may be presumed that the account is premature.

This day purchases of Public Securities will be made by the Secretary of the Treasury, at his Office in Chestnut-Street.

Extract of a letter from Pittsburg, dated Nov. 18.

"We have this day had intelligence by a half-blooded Indian, who is come in from the Indian country, that general Harmar has taken the Miami town without resistance.

"The person who brings this account left Detroit the 23d of October. He says the Indians attacked the army two or three times on their march, but were always repulsed with some loss.

Extract of a letter from a member of Congress, now at New-York, to his friend in this city dated December 2.

"Mr. S—, has this moment received letters from England of the 15th of October, and from the hostile movements there, the alliances formed in Europe, and the sudden departure of a number of ships of war and transports for the West Indies, war seems inevitable. I give you this information because it may be relied on."

Some there are, observes a correspondent, who shake their heads with solemn motion, and pretend to wonder what can be the reason of the new settlements on the Mississippi, and adjacent to the Natchez. This is a "wilderness," they say, "surrounded with savages and the scalping knife;" and if a people are bent on making new settlements, let them settle "in the most cultivated parts of the United States; and the curse will not be diminished by encountering nature in her most rugged form." What can such men design!—What do their grave observations amount to, but this, "that man, absolutely regardless of his own happiness and welfare, should resign himself, with serene stupidity, to the tender mercies of every wealthy lord and master, who chooses to command him?" These men imagine they perform all the offices of life, if they endeavour to add to their present wealth, power and credit, without any sort of respect or tenderness for the "mass" of that society, under the protection whereof they live, who if they can make any immediate advantage to themselves, in raising the value of their own property, "in the cultivated parts of the United States," spare no language or efforts to depreciate the most promising settlements of other places.

Let not, however, the dreary description they present us, discourage the flattering prospects of the adventurers on the Mississippi. Let it be remembered that this place itself, this emporium of America, now shining with all the arts and customs of polished life, was once a wilderness, inhospitable like the deserts by the Mississippi. Rather let these friends to mankind feel happy on the occasion in being the means of forming a settlement, where the people may live free as nature, which is before them, where every sensation, favourable to happiness, may be indulged, and where there is nothing to remind them of the tyranny of man!

(Independent Gazetteer.)

To observe a progress in our arts and manufactures must give pleasure to every American. Musical instrument making is now carried to great perfection in this city. An ingenious artist has lately turned out of his hands several forte pianos, in point of workmanship, nothing inferior to the imported. Independent of the encouragement which every American would naturally be inclined to give to home manufactures, these instruments, on another account, claim a decided preference. The wood which enters into the composition of imported instruments, seasoned in London will not stand this Climate. It is well known, that the air of that capital is more moist than ours; then of course the imported instrument will crack and split when once affected by our drier air. Another objection can reasonably be made to imported forte-pianos. They are kept together with nothing but glue. Screws are also absolutely necessary, that they may stand the sudden changes here from drought to humidity, and back again.

Experience, corroborates this theory: Imported forte-pianos require frequent repairs and in a few years are unfit to use.

These objections are removed by the care our artist takes in seasoning his wood, and in strengthening every part of his work with substantial iron screws.

The large emission of paper money voted by the National Assembly of France, and the tumult that accompanied the decree, seemed to forbode confusion. The latest English arrivals however, dispel our fears; the Assembly has been with more calmness deliberating on the subject of taxes; the storm that seemed immediately to threaten the Nation, has blown over, and things seem to have resumed a more quiet appearance. G. Adv.

In taking a view of the present situation of the United States, there is no idea more forcibly impressed on the mind, than the peace and tranquility which prevail under the auspices of the general government: The inferences which naturally result from this consideration are highly complimentary to the public administration of our affairs—With one solitary exception only, not a whisper of disapprobation has been heard—and this is so confessedly local and partial, that it can hardly be supposed to have the smallest influence out of the limits of the State where it originated, and even there, it is to be presumed, that a deep impression of the importance of preserving the harmony of the States, will forcibly operate to prevent the smallest schism in the sacred bond of Union. What then remains, but that our civil fathers should proceed with confidence in perfecting the great work they have so ably begun? The present session commences under the most favorable circumstances; the public approbation of men and measures has been generally exemplified in the recent elections, that we may justly expect, that energy, independence and dispatch, in the public business, which past success and a public confidence inspire.

Civil government is the first gift of Heaven to man—it is the only safeguard of liberty—that form which Heaven has bestowed on the people of the United States, appears the most conducive to this great object, because it provides for an equal and just representation of the various interests of all: Had the representation been comprized in one branch, it may well be doubted whether the public business would have been conducted with that dispatch, or been so cordially accepted by the people as it has been—the decisions of a majority of one body, can never be supposed to speak the sense of the people so fully as that of two—for the opposition in opinion which frequently occurs between the two branches, and that mutual jealousy which is always discernable, plainly prove that an interest always exists among the people, which cannot be recognized and have justice done to it, in a single assembly.

The liberty of the Press, with some persons, means only a right to abuse, and render odious, public characters; others suppose it consists in an exclusive propagation and defence of their particular sentiments.

The abuse of public characters, however, as such, while they enjoy the public confidence, is a gross insult on the majesty of the people: Men in private life justly consider their reputation as an invaluable jewel—and the laws have provided a sacred barrier for its defence: In the eye of the law every man is supposed to be innocent, who is not impeached of a crime—and personal attacks on private fame excites the honest indignation of every good citizen—it is therefore preposterous in the highest degree to call that liberty, which subjects those characters to indiscriminate obloquy, whom the people, for real or supposed qualifications, have selected as the guardians of their rights, and the administrators of their laws—it is converting a blessing into a curse with a vengeance, to attempt to render those ridiculous whom sound policy would lead us to respect and honor: Measures and not men are the proper subjects of cognizance to a free press; but the partisans of discord are generally so incompetent to an investigation of public transactions, that they find it much easier to excite attention by having recourse to slander and detraction, than by analyzing and pointing out the defects of government: That species of freedom which some persons are clamorous to see exercised by the Press, which anathematizes all who presume to think for themselves, in opposition to the demagogues of the hour, is in reality nothing less than impudent intolerance—"that turkish policy that will bear no brother near the throne."—From such definitions of a free press, may the enlightened citizens of this free republic ever turn with abhorrence—"the collision of sentiment is the parent of light and truth"—and while our presses are really free, every decent proposition will have a candid consideration—every friend to the happiness and liberties of the United States will boldly offer his opinions, and the public will give them weight in proportion to their intrinsic merit and importance.

LATEST ARRIVALS AT PHILADELPHIA.

Brig Minerva, West, Russia, 117 days.
Boys, Lisbon, 42
Philadelphia, Strong, —
Charleston, German, Charleston, 17
Sloop New-York Packet, Holden, [N. Y.] 4
Lively, —, St. Auftatia, 30.

Postscript.

BY THE MAIL ARRIVED LAST EVENING.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 8.

Latest INTELLIGENCE from SPAIN.

BOSTON, NOV. 27.

THE following intelligence may be depended on, it comes from one of the most respectable and well-informed houses in Spain, to a gentleman in this town.

CADIZ, September 28, 1799.

Negotiation still continues between this Court and that of Great-Britain, of the success of which people think and talk variously. If we are to judge from the actions of both parties, an immediate WAR seems inevitable: In each they are arming with the utmost vigour and activity; particularly since the National Assembly of France hath ordered, that 45 sail of the line, besides frigates, be immediately got ready to assist Spain, in case of a War.

The Squadron which returned into this port the 8th inst. is getting ready with all expedition, to proceed to sea—And every ship in the Spanish navy is ordered into commission—and we working on them without intermission, even on Sunday.

Hostilities have taken place between us and the Emperor of Morocco. Two cruisers of the latter have been brought into this port, within these few days, and two or three others have been carried into neighbouring ports. The Moors are preparing to attack Ceuto, where there is a garrison of 12,000 men. Indeed it is expected they will assail all the cities belonging to Spain on the African Coast.

HIBERNIAN SOCIETY.

AN adjourned meeting of the Hibernian Society, for the relief of Emigrants from Ireland, will be held at Mr. Patrick Byrne's Tavern, in Front-Street, on Monday next, the 13th inst. at six o'clock in the evening, when a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, two Counsellors, and two Physicians, are to be chosen.

At this meeting, the following proposition is to be debated:—"All sums of money, paid by any person at the time of his becoming a member—all sums paid in lieu of the yearly dues—and all the donations made to the Society, shall, from time to time, be vested in some public stock, in the name of the President for the time being—who shall, as occasion may require, transfer the same to his successor. And the said stock shall at all times be considered as the capital of this society: The principal of which shall never be made use of, or drawn upon for any purpose whatsoever.

Signed by Order,

MATTHEW CAREY, Sec'y.

Such gentlemen as desire to become members of this humane institution, are requested to give in their names at any time previous to the meeting, to any of the members of the Society.

This day is published,

By THOMAS LANG,

No. 21, Church-Alley,

And sold by FRANCIS BAILEY, JOSEPH CRUKSHANK, WILLIAM PRICHARD, and RICE and Co. in Market-Street; and by THOMAS DOBSON, WILLIAM YOUNG, and ROBERT CAMPBELL, in Second-Street, Philadelphia,

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The POEMS of OSSIAN,

THE

SON OF FINGAL.

Translated by JAMES MACPHERSON, Esq.