

assumed: Having taken this debt upon ourselves said he, the consequence is obvious, nor can we ever get over the dishonor of not making the necessary provision for paying it.

He then adverted to the statements which had been submitted to the house by the officer to whom the Union had entrusted the direction of its finances—From these it fully appeared, that a much greater deficiency in the revenue existed than some gentlemen appeared willing to allow. If this deficiency exists, and if the United States are bound to make provision for the debts they have assumed to pay, the duties contemplated by the bill, appear the most obvious for the government to recur to.

He adverted to the idea of direct taxation, and enquired on what principle will gentlemen consent to this mode of raising the necessary supplies? Will they make the representation of the several States the rule by which it shall be apportioned? He doubted whether direct taxes, on this principle would be agreeable, even to the gentlemen who have mentioned them.

He then remarked on the objections to an excise, on account of the mode of collection. He said a rigorous collection would bear hard only on the dishonest—while it would protect the fair trader from bearing an undue proportion of the public burthens.

He observed on the uneasiness which are said to prevail in some of the States—and to obviate the force of these reflections, he instanced the harmony and peace that prevailed in those States, which bear a much greater proportion of the public burthens, than those which complain, as was abundantly evident from the documents in possession of the house.

Mr. Steele stated his objections at large to an Excise: He adverted to the particular situation of affairs in some of the southern States, especially North Carolina. The Assembly of that State had rejected the proposal of taking an oath to support the constitution of the United States, with scorn; they had also refused to admit continental prisoners into their goals—and another circumstance, more hostile to the general government than either of the foregoing had taken place—which he forbore to mention.

He said such was the present state of the public mind, in various parts of the Union, that he should dread taking any measures which might serve to encrease the fermentation which the people are in. An excise he considered of this nature: It would in its operation produce the worst consequences—A more exceptionable mode of taxation, he conceived could not be devised.—A direct, or poll tax, he supposed would not be so odious—and tho' for his own part he should prefer an excise to either of the former, yet such was the aversion of the people to it, that he should prefer almost any other alternative. He thought other objects may be found from which the necessary revenue may be raised. He instanced duties on inland navigation, law proceedings, legal conveyances, &c.

He then adverted to the operation of an excise especially in the State of N Carolina, and said that the consumption of ardent spirits in that State was so great, that the duty would amount perhaps to ten times as much in that State as in the State of Connecticut. On the whole, he hoped if the section is not struck out, that the excise will be reduced.

Mr. Sherman observed, that the subject now before the committee was thoroughly discussed the last session—and as nothing new or of weight and importance had been offered the present session against it, he thought it would be a useless waste of the time of the house to go into a particular reply to the objections offered against the bill. This he thought a sufficient answer to the charge of carrying questions by silent majorities.

He then entered into a short consideration of the subject generally, and defended the system from the charges which had been adduced respecting its unequal operation.

(To be continued.)

FRIDAY, Jan. 7.

Mr. Livermore presented the memorial of William Simmons, principal Clerk in the Auditor's Office, praying for an addition to his compensation as such, for reasons therein stated. Referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Goodhue observed, that the Senate having negatived the bill for the relief of Shubael Swaine, as the house was informed by message, yesterday, without assigning any reason; and as he was at a loss to account for its rejection, he wished some steps should be taken in the business, for he hoped that the proceedings of this government would never be marked with an improper degree of rigor and severity.

He moved for leave to bring in a bill to provide generally for the relief of persons thus situated: Leave was accordingly given to bring in a bill.

The amendments of the Senate to the bill for continuing the act, declaring the assent of Congress to certain acts of the States of Rhode-Island, Maryland and Georgia, were taken into consideration.

Mr. Jackson observed, that on enquiry he found that the State of Maryland had been struck out of the bill, because it was found that the law, to which the clause referred, had been repealed: He hoped therefore, that the house would concur with the amendment of the Senate, otherwise the bill would be lost.

Mr. Seney said he had been informed, that the reason for striking out "Maryland" was, because the law referred to, had not been properly authenticated, or conveyed to Congress through the proper medium, the President of the United States.—He how-

ever should not at present object to the amendments, as he doubted not that when the law of the State of Maryland was produced, with the authentication said to be necessary, a bill might then be introduced for declaring the assent of Congress to it.

The amendments of the Senate were agreed to by the house.

Mr. Sherman, of the committee appointed for the purpose, reported a bill for the establishment of post-offices and post-roads in the United States—read the first and second time, and 100 copies ordered to be printed.

It was then voted that it be referred to the committee of the whole on Monday week.

The order of the day being called for, which was the bill laying additional duties on distilled spirits—Mr. Parker moved it should be postponed, in order to give the members time to consider the statements respecting the funds received from the Secretary of the Treasury. A short debate ensued—further procrastination was objected to—the bill was laid to be as old as Congress—it had been as fully debated as any subject that ever came before the house; the session is wasting, and the time will hardly admit of finishing the business which the house are particularly pledged to do this session—one article of which is to make provision for the support of the public credit.

On the other hand it was said, that the house was not in possession of the necessary information; the time while the requisite documents are preparing may be employed to advantage; and when the members have fully satisfied themselves of the exact sum necessary to be raised, they may proceed understandingly in the business.

The motion for postponing the bill obtained, and the house went into committee on the bill directing the mode in which the evidences of the debt of the United States, which shall be lost or destroyed, shall be renewed.

Mr. Boudinot in the chair.

A great division of opinion appeared in discussing this bill—the time of the committee was employed only on the first section; they rose without agreeing to any determinate principles—reported progress, and are to sit again.

A letter received from the Secretary of the Treasury, was communicated by the speaker, enclosing a statement of the amount of the impost from August, to 30th September, 1789, and from 30th September, 1789, to first October, 1790.

A message was received from the President of the United States, by Mr. Secretary Lear, informing the house, that the bill providing for the unlading of ships and vessels in cases of obstructions by ice, had this day received his approbation and signature.

Adjourned till Monday.

ALBANY, Dec. 30.

Mr. Sheldon, an experienced distiller in this city, has brought the distilling of GIN to such perfection, that the first judges (Europeans and Americans) pronounce it equal to the best imported from Holland.

Mr. Sheldon having made some experiments on the Juice of the Maple Tree, declares, that when distilled, it yields a liquor not unlike ARRAC, and superior in flavor—and that, from the best computation he has been able to make, a tree will produce as many pints of this liquor, as it does pounds of sugar. Admitting this fact, a conclusion highly favorable to the interest of the United States must be drawn, viz. that our import trade from the West-Indies must soon decline, as the two principal articles of it are sugar and rum—the first of which we can produce superior and in sufficient quantities, and a substitute for the latter not inferior to the best Jamaica spirits.

NEW-YORK, January 5.

The legislature of this state is now in session.

At a meeting of a respectable number of the subscribers to a Dispensary about to be introduced into this city, for the relief of the poor and distressed, held at the City-Hall the 4th day of January, 1791.

The honorable Judge Duane was unanimously requested to take the chair, and William Cock to officiate as Secretary.

Doctor S. Bard moved that it be resolved, that the managers of the institution shall have power to make such alterations in the original constitution of this society as they from time to time shall find necessary.

Provided always, that such alteration shall be subject to amendment or revocation at any annual meeting of the members; and the same being seconded, and the question being put, it was carried unanimously in the affirmative.

The subscribers assembled then proceeded to elect twelve managers, of the Dispensary, for the ensuing year. And the ballot being taken, it appeared that the Rev. Dr. Beach, the Rev. Dr. Rodgers, the Rev. Dr. Livingston, the Hon. Judge Hobart, Mr. Moses Rogers, Isaac Stoutenburgh, Esq. Melancton Smith, Esq. Gen. M. Clarkson, John Watts, Esq. John Broome, Esq. the Hon. Isaac Roosevelt and James Watson, Esq were duly elected.

On motion, ordered, that the said managers be requested to attend on Thursday the 13th day of January instant at the house of Mr. John Simmons in Wall-Street, at 6 of the clock, in the evening for the execution of the trusts, reposed in them, and it is further ordered, that the proceedings of this meeting be published.

Published by the direction of the Society,

Jan. 4. W. COCK, Sec.

Extract of a letter from Liverpool, dated 21st October last, to a Merchant in New-York.

"We beg leave to acquaint you, that an order of council, is issued to prohibit the importation of wheat, rye, barley, beans, and oats, into any part of the kingdom, at the end of six days after the price of each sort, taken upon an average of the prices of the whole kingdom, according to the tables published weekly in the London Gazette, shall be below the price at which such sort of grain is allowed by the consolidation act to be imported at the low duties.

"The first general average prices of the whole kingdom, to which this order of council refers, will be published in next Saturdays London Gazette; and as the prices have been on the decline for several weeks past, it may be expected that the ports will very soon be shut against all sorts of foreign grain, pease, alone excepted, which are not included in the prohibition."

Philadelphia, Jan. 8.

Extract of a letter from Governor St. Clair, to the Secretary of War, dated Marietta, 26th Nov.

"If the report respecting Major Hamtramck be near the truth, that he had destroyed four of the Indian villages, and all their provisions, and had returned without the loss of a man, the success will then have been as a complete as it could have been wished; and the first news we shall hear from the Indians, will be a humble supplication for peace: Should that, however, not happen soon, I will find means to let them know, that it will not be refused if they desire it on reasonable terms."

CHRISTOPHER RICHMOND, Esq. is appointed commissioner by the State of Maryland, to settle the accounts of that State with the United States.

The information contained in the extract of a letter from Fayetteville, as published in our last, purporting that the Senate of North-Carolina had rejected the extraordinary resolutions which had passed the House of Commons of that state, we are informed is premature. It seems that those resolutions were amended in the Senate, by striking out the preamble, and changing the word "monstrous" to enormous! and a message was then sent to the House from the Senate informing, that if the House would agree to these amendments, the Senate would concur in the resolutions.—The House accordingly agreed.

If government should be deterred from enacting particular laws, because some persons say, and perhaps with truth, that they are contrary to the sentiments of the people in some parts of the union:—It is evident the business of legislation must stand still.—There cannot be a more odious law to many persons, and the number is not inconsiderable, than that which compels the payment of debts—hence every previous step to that point is proportionably obnoxious to the cavils, objections and opposition of those it may ultimately affect.—One great object of government, and of the new constitution in particular, is the distribution of equal justice—the administrators of this government are the arbitrators between debtors and creditor.—but it is a most monstrous, enormous business, that they should be paid, even at a less rate than private persons often pay, the referees in a common commercial dispute between man and man.—It would be doubtless a consummation of the wishes of many, who would rejoice to see this country revert to its former state of anarchy and imbecility, to have the compensations of the legislature and the executive branches so reduced, as that the government may sink into contempt.

A correspondent observes that the reasonableness and modesty of a late resolution of a certain legislature, in which the SENATORS of the UNITED STATES are instructed to oppose every excise, and direct taxation-law, are abundantly evident when it is considered, what a monstrous disproportion of the impost and tonnage is now, and ever will be, collected from that state!

The spirited and humane exertions of the citizens of New-York, we find have been crowned with success in the establishment of a public dispensary in that city. This institution is one of the most benevolent and extensively useful that can be devised; and it is but a just tribute of praise to say that on this, as well as on various other occasions, the philanthropy and good citizenship of the gentlemen of the faculty is abundantly exemplified.

Extract from the new year's address of the carrier of the Connecticut Courant.

"THEN let's leave other realms alone,
And see what's doing in our own.
"Congress, 'tis true, in various arts
Right manfully have play'd their parts;
And in the scale of empire rais'd us
So high, in truth it has amaz'd us;
Fram'd resolutions and rescinded,
'Till all they'd done was fairly mended;
Made treaties with one tribe of Indians,
And to another threatened vengeance;
Sent General Harmar in a fever,
To make a dam o'er Joseph's river;
To tell the world one Indian Savage
Is worth two white men on an average;
To throw away the lives of many,
And recommend Lieutenant Denny.
All this has Congress done, and more;
But why should we the list run o'er,
For mighty deeds in Congress done,
Or other States, when in our own
We've quite enough on small reflection,
To load the fiercest recollection?"

PRICE CURRENT.—PUBLIC SECURITIES.

FUNDED DEBT.		
6 pr. Cents	17/—17/3. pr. £.	86½ pr. cent.
3 pr. Cents	8/6.—8/6.	43½ do.
Deferred 6 pr. Cents	8/6.—8/9.	43½ do.
UNFUNDED DEBT.		
Final Sett. and other	Certificates 15/—15/3.	76½ do.
Indents	8/6.—8/9.	43½ do.
State debts	12/6.—8/9.	