

MR. FENNO,

THE Secretary of State, in his Report on the subject of establishing a uniformity in the weights, measures and coins of the United States, has given us an ample testimony of his scientific abilities, and from a series of public conduct, a proof, that refined science, and republican virtue, are not incompatible.

The idea of using the Pendulum as a universal standard for measure, is not new; but the public is principally indebted to the Secretary for the general application of it, and making it likewise the basis of both weights, and cubical, or solid mensuration.

In order to make a universal standard for any purpose, it will be found necessary to have recourse to some unalterable principle for that purpose. The Secretary has chosen Gravity, which produces nearly the same effects, over every part of our globe: From which circumstance this important conclusion results, viz. that two persons, in different parts of the world, will each, by the application of pendulous bars to their clocks, or regulators, of such a length as to produce seconds, constitute the standard Yard of the Secretary; and so nearly of a length, that they may be indiscriminately used for all common purposes; but where great exactness is necessary, it will be requisite to reduce the Pendulum to the standard of some particular latitude. This Rod, or Pendulum, the Secretary divides into five equal parts, called feet, these feet into ten equal parts, called inches, these inches into ten equal parts, called lines, and lastly, these lines into ten equal parts, called points. The Standard when thus graduated is complete. The foot, or one fifth part of this rod, gives the cubical dimensions of the capacity of the Bushel, which becomes the Standard, or Radix, out of which all the other cubical measures of capacity take their rise. The inch of this rod, gives the cubical dimensions of the capacity of a vessel, the weight of which capacity, or cubic inch of rain-water, constitutes the ounce; which becomes the standard of Weights. The money-unit, or dollar, with the alloy already established by the United States, will be equal to the weight of the ounce, or cubic inch of rain-water.

Hence from this universal standard, (which is nearly as fixed as Gravity,) all kinds of Measures, Weights and Coins, may be regulated in the most harmonious manner. In forming the standard for this plan, there is nothing left to caprice and whim, which circumstance alone must banish discordance, and entitle it to a decided preference over all the various regulations now in use.

Philadelphia, January 17, 1791. E.

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

IT is a republican principle that the majority shall govern: In all communities this majority is composed of the middling and poorer classes of the people; these classes, united, are superior to all opposition; and whenever they are set in motion, to pursue an object on just principles, the general good is invariably promoted—their prosperity always includes that of the other class, the rich and independent. I presume it will be granted, that the education of the children of every rank in society, is a consideration of the first importance, and ought to be an object of attention to every man whose bosom glows with a spark of philanthropy, or good citizenship. The affluent are so sensible of the advantages of learning, that they never neglect a suitable provision for their own offspring; but this charity, which begins at home, is never extended but in a partial manner. I believe it will be found that no competent provision for an universal diffusion of the means of education ever was or can be made, but at the instance of those who constitute what is denominated the mass of the people. On the middling and lower classes then this business devolves, and they are fully competent to the undertaking. Uniting their strength, and exerting their force, they may accomplish the desirable object. If the PEOPLE say that a law shall be made obliging every town, consisting of a given number of inhabitants, to support a school or schools, in which the children of every household shall have a right to be instructed, it shall be done.—Or if the citizens of any corporation unite in so laudable a design as to provide for the establishment of public schools at the expence of the whole community, every individual of which to be benefited by the institution, if they chuse, what is there to hinder the plan from being carried into execution? As I said before, this must be done by the middling class of people—in the country, by the yeomanry, the labourers and farmers—in the sea-ports, by the mechanics, the artists and inferior traders: These are immediately interested—the rich more remotely, tho essentially; but the affluent having it in their power to provide for their own, it is only from necessity, and by being out-voted by the majority that they will ever be brought to contribute to the support of such competent institutions, which they can do without. We hear much about Charity-Schools—they are mere illusions by which the poor are diverted from a proper attention to their interest; they never were competent to the exigencies of the poor in any country. If by united exertions the free citizens of this country can provide for themselves, I hope they will never depend on charity.

I conclude the present remarks by a quotation from an ingenious and animated address to the citizens of Delaware, which appeared in the Delaware Gazette of 8th inst.

“It is too notorious to need formal proof, that in those parts of our own and other countries, where public schools, and places of liberal education, are numerous, encouraged, and amply supported, there without many exceptions, flourish improvements in society, and the arts of life, and every thing contributing to national happiness and prosperity; there government is spirited and energetic; there wealth and eminence rise with equal and rapid strides; there is most permanency and tranquility. The reason is plain—Every rank

“and order of citizens, in the mechanical as well as the liberal professions, are men of information, discernment and reflection; capable not only of managing their business in such a manner as to procure themselves affluence and ease, but of making and communicating such interesting discoveries and inventions, as shall be of extensive utility. Thus may the artist contribute his mite, with as much success as the more splendid character, towards increasing the wealth and glory of his country.”

A MECHANIC.

MR. FENNO,

As you published the Resolutions of North Carolina in their immature state, it will be proper to do it correctly. The Resolutions finally passed, are as follow.

Yours, B. C.

NORTH CAROLINA.

In General Assembly, December 14, 1790.

WHEREAS, the secrecy of the Senate of the United States, the alarming measures of the late session of Congress, and the silence observed by the Senators from this state, in not corresponding with the legislative or executive thereof, strongly impress this general assembly with the necessity of declaring their sentiments thereon.

Resolved, that the Senators representing this state in the Congress of the United States be, and they are hereby directed, to use their constant and unremitting exertions to have the doors of the Senate of the United States kept open, that the public may have access to hear the debates of the Senate, when in its legislative or judicial capacity.

Resolved, that when in Congress they be directed to correspond regularly and constantly with the Legislature, but during the recess thereof with the executive.

Resolved, that they use their endeavours to have such of the journals as are not of a secret nature printed, and transmitted by post or other wise to the executive, regularly, during each session of Congress.

Resolved, that the Senators of this state use their utmost endeavours to effect economy in the expenditure of the public monies, and to decrease the enormous salaries given to the public officers and others, who, however much they may be deserving of the public gratitude or liberality for the eminence of past or present services, ought only to be compensated agreeable to republican economy.

Resolved, that they strenuously oppose every excise and direct taxation law, should any be attempted in Congress.

Resolved, that the Senators from this state be, and they are hereby strenuously enjoined, to exert themselves to effect an alteration in the present rout of the mail, or to establish another general post through the interior parts of this state, by way of Halifax, Warrington, Hillsborough, Salisbury, and Charlotte, so as to give that satisfaction which is not now experienced, but which is essential in such a government as that under which we now exist.

And whereas, from the present distribution of the federal judiciary, the inhabitants of this state do not receive the benefits intended them by Congress: Therefore resolved, that our Senators be directed to have the district and circuit courts appointed at two places in this state, to make it convenient to the citizens.

Resolved, that his excellency the governor be requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing resolutions to Samuel Johnston and Benjamin Hawkins, Esquires, the Senators representing this state in the Congress of the United States, and another copy to the legislature of each state.

W. LENOIR, S. S.

S. CABARRUS, S. H. C.

A copy from the journal of the house of Commons.

J. HUNT, Clk.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 25.

Extract of a letter from lieut. Ebenezer Frothingham, of the 1st U. S. Regiment, to a brother officer, dated Fort Pitt, 23d June last.

“I had determined to write to you very particularly from this place, but you will excuse me when you know the grief and pain of heart I now feel. I arrived the day before yesterday; Mr. Ernest informed me that he had the evening before received a packet of letters for me from home; my heart gladdened in expectation of hearing from my wife and friends; but O! the astonishment of my soul, when on opening my letters I found my dear wife was no more: My fairest, my brightest prospects on this side eternity are blasted in the very bud; she died suddenly, only five days illness; went off in a fainting fit without a groan. The most comfortable assurance she passed to her Saviour's arms, is my only consolation in this my hour of grief and woe: why was she removed so soon, even whilst my fond heart was anticipating the help and advantage I should receive from her virtue and piety? But should I complain, when she is such an infinite gainer? Yet I feel as though my loss was irreparable. May my soul be well prepared

to go and soon to join her spirit above, where sin and sorrow are known no more.

“My dear sir, do not place your happiness on calculations in this world, where grief and disappointments await us. May your hope and mine be beyond the reach of all transitory things.”

Lieutenant Frothingham being on the late expedition against the Indians, was killed in battle; his friend thought proper to publish the above extract, in order to shew the great piety and Christian dependance of Mr. Frothingham, and how fearless he must have met death.

JANUARY I.

The arrival of Mr. Robins at this place from Sandusky, and the accounts brought by him of the disposition of the Indians, is rather unfavorable. It appears that they are determined early in the spring to turn out for war, and commit depredations on the frontiers; that they are greatly elevated with the issue of the late campaign, and (when speaking of it) say they are more than men. It may be necessary for the inhabitants on the frontiers to keep a watchful eye, although there may be no great danger, as a report of this kind never loses by frequent repeating; and we flatter ourselves their attention will be called to a more distant quarter, in order to protect themselves.

The navigation of the Ohio has been closed this somerime, so that all communication, by that channel, is for the present stopped between this country and Kentucky.

HARTFORD, Jan. 10.

Some of the public creditors in Pennsylvania, have presented Congress with a petition, the title of which, in imitation of Gibbon, is most sublimely and elegantly obscure, but the design of which is to induce Congress to alter the funding system and give six per cent. interest on the whole public debt at once. They call themselves the patriotic victims of the war; when in truth three fourths of them are speculators, who have purchased most of the public paper for less than half its value.

They begin their tedious address with charging the Secretary of the Treasury with inconsistency, in recognizing the justice of their claims in the utmost latitude, in the beginning of his report, and then recommending a plan of funding the debt at less than was originally promised. They proceed to charge Congress with having lost the disposition to do justice, altho they had acquired the power. After some common place remarks on the moral and political obligation of contracts and the importance of public credit, they enumerate the many promises made to the creditors by Congress under the confederation, and then charge the present legislature of the Union, with having clandestinely obtained an unreasonable concession from the creditors, and with having infringed the original contract and destroyed its principles. They charge the Congress indirectly with being callous to their merits and sufferings, and tarnishing the glories of America with broken contracts and violated faith. They declare the old Congress to have been a wise and virtuous body, who professed rights, as far as they were able; but the present act for making provision for the public debt, they say, is an unwise and impolitic violation of the public faith, a striking contrast to the illustrious example of the old Congress, and a dangerous infringement of the fundamental laws of justice. In short, the whole petition is but a round about way of telling Congress they are a nest of scoundrels.

CHARLESTON, December 11.

John Boydell, Esq. late Alderman of Cheap Ward, was elected lord Mayor of London, on the 29th September.

EDINBURGH, September 30.

Thursday last arrived at Greenock, the Peggy, Captain Marquis, from Leghorn, on board of which came passenger, Charles Colville, a native of Arbroath, from Algiers, from whom we have received the following information:—In July, 1785, the ship Dolphin, O'Bryen, master, belonging to Philadelphia, was captured by an Algerine xebec, and the crew, consisting of 15 men, carried into slavery, four of whom belong to Scotland, viz. the above Charles Colville, John Robertson, son of John Robertson, cooper in Glasgow, George Smith, of Portray, and William Paterfon of Aberdeen. The three last still remain in slavery, and six of the rest were cut off by the plague about two years ago, at which time above 800 christian slaves shared the same fate. Colville obtained his liberty, upon his friends paying 350l. as a ransom, part of which was obtained by a contribution set on foot by that ornament of mankind, George Dempster, Esq. of Dunichen, who negotiated the whole business with Charles Logie, Esq. the British consul at Algiers, as appears from the pass granted Colville from that gentleman. He left Algiers, in July last, and has brought letters from the above mentioned persons to their friends.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, Jan. 11.

In committee of the whole, on the bill repealing after the last day of next the act laying duties on distilled spirits, &c. and imposing others in their stead.

THE 13th section was read, which respects the duty on spirits distilled from materials the growth or produce of the country.

Mr. Jackson moved that this section should be struck out. He observed that this he conceived to be the stage of the bill in which a stand ought to be made by its opposers; this clause respects the produce of the country—and here the friends of American manufactures and produce ought to make their exertions to defeat the bill. He then read a particular estimate, by which he said it appears that the proposed provision was entirely unnecessary. He then offered some general observations on the bill: Direct taxation, said he, has been objected to—this power is as fully recognized in the constitution as the right of laying excises—those therefore who are opposed to the latter, have as good a right to offer their objections as those opposed to the former. The Secretary says we ought to leave direct taxes as a resource for a future emergency; but is it not better to have two resources than one? The in-