

averse from every measure which had a tendency to that point—he then enlarged on the ideas he before suggested—he had no objection to the mode of expression proposed by the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. Ames,] but still contended that uniformity pointed out the necessity of one day's being fixed on—this he supposed might be done in perfect consistency with the clause in the constitution.

Mr. Seney was in favor of striking out the words.

Mr. Sherman shewed from the Constitution that Congress possess the power of appointing the time of chusing the electors, and the time when they should meet to give in their votes: He was in favor of Congress' exercising this power in order to guard against all intrigue, and this he conceived was agreeable to the people, for in none of the conventions was an amendment of this article ever moved for.

Mr. Vining was against striking out the words, he thought that uniformity was an essential object to a free and independent election—with that uniformity, the equal rights of the citizens is inseparably connected.—The manner of chusing may be left with the legislatures; but the time of chusing and voting said he, should be determined by Congress.

Mr. Lawrence shewed that the operation of this principle of uniformity, would be to produce the very evil apprehended. Should the time come, when the states are reduced to a size more proportionate to each other, this uniformity may be introduced.

Mr. Williamson was in favor of striking out the words as proposed Mr. Jackson.

The vote being taken, the words were struck out: so that the time of chusing electors is left by the bill with the state legislatures.

The next clause respects the time when the votes shall be counted:

Some of the members supposed that the votes should be counted by the old Congress.

Mr. Benson said if the votes should be counted by the new Congress, they may be counted by men chosen with a special reference to influence finally in the election—no alteration was made in this clause.

The discussion of the bill being finished, the committee rose and reported the same, with the amendments, agreed to—which being taken into consideration, they were adopted by the house, and laid on the table. *Adjourned.*

MONDAY, Jan. 31.

Mr. Contee from Maryland took his seat this day. An engrossed bill declaring the consent of Congress to a certain act of the state of Maryland, was read the third time and passed—to continue in force one year.

Mr. Lawrence from the committee appointed for that purpose, reported a bill making appropriations for the year 1791.

Mr. Floyd, from the joint committee on enrolled bills, reported that they had examined the bill, entitled an act admitting the state of Kentucky into the federal union, and found the same to be duly enrolled; the speaker then signed the bill.

Mr. Sturges presented the petition of Colonel Thomas Hobby, of the state of Connecticut. Referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

A motion being made to go into a committee of the whole on the bank bill as the order of the day—the same was objected to—it was contended that the militia bill was of more immediate importance, when the necessity of making speedy provision for the relief and protection of the frontiers was taken into view.—In answer it was said that a committee was nearly ready to report on this subject, and that more speedy and effectual relief to the inhabitants of the frontiers was contemplated, than could possibly be derived from the militia bill.

The objections to the motion were overruled, by the question's being determined in its favor, thirty-five Members rising in the affirmative.—The house accordingly in committee of the whole took the Bank Bill into consideration.

Mr. Boudinot in the chair. The bill was read in paragraphs; and no amendments being offered, the Chairman reported it to the house, who voted that it should be read the third time to-morrow.

Mr. Boudinot moved the following Resolution: That during the residue of the present session, no debate should be admitted on the question for taking up the order of the day. Laid on the table.

In committee of the whole on the Post-Office Bill. The committee discussed the first and second sections; and then rose and reported progress. *Adjourned.*

TUESDAY, Feb. 1.

The Appropriation Bill for the year 1791, was read the second time, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow. The Bank Bill was read the third time: A motion by Mr. Smith, [S. C.] for a re-commitment, occasioned a debate, which continued till near 3 o'clock; and was finally determined in the negative. The Ayes and Nays being as follow.

AYES.

Messrs. Ashe, Baldwin, Bloodworth, Bourne, Brown, Burke, Carroll, Contee, Gale, Grout, Giles, Jackson, Lee, Madison, Matthews, Moore, Parker, Smith (M.) Smith (S. C.) Stone, Tucker, White, Williamson.—23.

NOES.

Messrs. Ames, Benson, Boudinot, Cadwallader, Clymer, Fitzsimons, Floyd, Foster, Gerry, Gilman, Goodhue, Hartley, Hathorne, Heiler, Huntington, Lawrence, Leonard, Livermore, Muhlenberg, Partridge, R. Neill, Schureman, Scott, Seney, Sherman, Sylvester, Sinnickson, Steele, Sturges, Thatcher, Trumbull, Vining, Wadsworth, Wynkoop.—34.

Mr. Ames of the committee on Indian Affairs, informed the Speaker, that a report was ready to be laid before the house—on which the doors of the gallery were ordered to be shut.

Philadelphia, Feb. 2.

SOME people have thought it a great affair to prove, that the States are free and independent. The word *sovereign* is not worth contending about—but those who use it, certainly mean to secure the state governments from the controuling power of Congress: The state legislatures are to ac-

count for their use of power to the people from whom they derive it, and not to Congress.—If Congress should meddle with them, they would make a sad outcry of invaded rights, of insulted sovereignty, &c. and why should they not? inasmuch as they could say to Congress, you meddle with what is none of your business.

Brother Antifed. take the thing by the other handle: Is not Congress a sovereign legislature, whose power is derived from the people? If the several assemblies should meddle with Congress, what would you say?—O! that is quite another affair, you answer: Then I find your argument will not work both ways.

This government was framed to bind the parts of the Union tightly together: In order to have unity of counsels, the Constitution vested certain powers in Congress: But several of the States are stirring, giving counsel, and directing the affairs of the nation: If all should be listened to, the federal edifice would go on like another Babel.

With the powers given in the Constitution, the opposers thought one Congress dangerous. In this regard, things turn out worse than they apprehended—for half a dozen Congresses have already begun to act: There is the Congress in N. Carolina, and the Congress in Virginia, and the Congress in Pennsylvania—and they will all be doing. A plain man, that cannot see far into things, is terrified by the number of Congresses, and because he is told their power has no bounds. When Virginia or Pennsylvania acts Congress, a man, who is counted vastly cunning, remarked, that there is no check upon them—for, said he, they have no power to do any thing which will not hold out to do every thing.

We must not let Congress swallow up the state governments, says an honest antifederalist, my neighbor, because, says he, Congress cannot govern us well: They will not know what special laws we want to have made: At least as well, said I in reply, as one State can govern all. Virginia has members in Congress—it is therefore more proper for Congress to govern Virginia, than for Virginia, or any other State, to govern the Union. On this a bye-stander demanded sneeringly, Which has most reason to be satisfied, the state assemblies, with the fullness and clearness of the information upon which they have decided on the measures of the Union, or we, the citizens of other States, with the modesty, prudence, and national spirit of their resolutions? My antifederal neighbor and I had nothing to say to this: I do not know which side of the question he meant to take up; but he proceeded to say—

Better times certainly are coming—when the state assemblies give themselves the trouble to act beyond the bounds of their jurisdictions, and indeed of their territory, surely the passions will have no part to play in their doings. When one body contents to do another's business, we may expect more impartiality on one side than gratitude on the other:—Ah perverse human nature! Neither Congress, nor the people of the other States, will ever thank Virginia or Pennsylvania for all the trouble they have given themselves: Let the reflection on their virtuous motives of action, make up what is wanting in the reward. Indeed, if the people should chuse any of them to Congress, they had better let that reflection alone, because they would be rewarded without it.

The opinion of the State, expressed by the members, is nothing in the judgment of some people—but when expressed by the assembly is an oracle. One state came very loath into the Union, because the amendments were not made the condition of their acceding to the Constitution: Congress afterwards agreed to sundry amendments, and proposed them to the States. The State alluded to rejected one of its own precious articles.—What regard is due to the opinion of an assembly, if it should mistake the opinion of the people, or change its own?

We have one government over thirteen: What sort of an administration would it be, if every one of the thirteen should insist upon governing a thirteenth part, and be allowed to do it? Tho' these are not scripture times, yet, if that should happen, we may live to see the tower of Babel finished.

People are informed, that it is proper to tell Congress the mind of the State upon the measures before them—and that the assembly is the tongue of the State—and so, they say, it must be suffered to run: That unruly member ought to be kept under prudent restraint. The state has its members in Congress: If the assembly is to speak for the state, what becomes of the duty of those members?—They were chosen to speak for the people: Shall they be silent—or, shall they call themselves the tongue of the State, and speak too. Besides all this, the people may remonstrate to Congress, and use their own tongues. What abundant means of speech to the national government! This superfluity of tongue might be so used, as to overpower the common stock of ears and brains, especially if the assembly should recommend one thing, the members of a State another, and the people themselves, by petition and remonstrance, a third.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in the country to his friend in Philadelphia.

"I am pleased with the spirit of the debate on the part of Mr. Bingham's motion—that it is inexpedient for this legislature, at present, to enter into any discussion respecting the laying and collecting excises by the government of the United States"—contained in the paper you last sent me.

"I have wondered, nay have been vexed at the imprudence of some Pennsylvanians. Some petition for altering the funding bill—some subscribe for the exemption of certain very important members of society from the militia bill (I mean minors and apprentices) because, if they were all excused, the multer-master would be put to difficulty to find his men. Others spout and bawl against excise. And if some people were indulged in their wishes and attempts, we might soon expect a resolution moved for—that Congress might go home, as the Pennsylvanians were (in their own opinion) competent to do their business for them." Not a few, with indignation, behold their presumption.

"But it is believed that the Federal Ship will truly find her own course: That she has the head of the Branch at helm, the world acknowledges: That she is in the main well-manned, all the passengers testify: That she sails well, two years experience has proved: That her voyages have been profitable, appears from the credit of her bills.

"The expectations of the owners are by no means allayed from some little appearance of a mutiny on board one of her Tenders—for they say, that the materials of the ship are good—that she was built by the first of the profession—that her sides in particular are strong—that the crew are in good spirits, and well paid—and that they are confident, the Ship will take more than one broad-side, before she will quit seas, in which she has an indubitable commission to navigate."

BOSTON DUCK MANUFACTORY.

Quantities of this Duck have already been sold at Philadelphia and Baltimore—where it is in high estimation—which must be the case, when its principles are considered—It is made from Flax, the raw material of our own soil—which has not suffered from that fermentation which must arise from all vegetable substances confined in the hold of a ship, whereby the fibre is greatly weakened. In the Boston Manufactory the whole of the clean flax is worked up—which is separated in foreign parts, into eight different sorts, the finest of which they never permit to be worked into their sail-cloth, but reserve for the finer linen manufactories. Another peculiar excellence of the Boston Duck, is, that it is not subject to mildew, as all foreign Duck is—this is owing to the difference of the fixings made use of in the several manufactories.—In the Boston Manufactory, it is made from animal substances—in Europe from vegetable.

Last Saturday the Senate of the legislature of this Commonwealth non-concurred the Resolutions sent on the 22d inst. from the House of Representatives; which resolutions were intended to express the disapprobation of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, with respect to the Excise Bill, now before Congress; and were passed in the form of instructions to the Senators from Pennsylvania in Congress, by a very considerable majority.

Hon. THOMAS JOHNSON and DANIEL CARROLL, Esq's, of Maryland, and Dr. — STEWART, of Alexandria, in Virginia, are the Commissioners appointed by the President of the United States, for running the lines of Experiment defining the territory on the Potowmac to be located as the permanent seat of the government of the United States.

Died the 16th inst., at Boston, much lamented, Mr. SAMUEL GILMAN, Merchant, late partner in the house of Blodget and Gilman of that town, and of the house of Blodget and Co. in London.

PRICE CURRENT.—PUBLIC SECURITIES.

FUNDED DEBT.			
6 pr. Cents	17/3	pr. £	86½ pr. cent.
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Defered 6 pr. Cents	9/	9/1	45 do.
UNFUNDED DEBT.			
Final Sett. and other Certificates	15/6	15/9	78½ do.
Indents	8/9	9/	45 do.
N. and S. Carolina, debts,	11/	11/6.	57½ do.

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Enquire of the Printer, for further particulars. New-York, Jan. 1791.

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