



CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
FRIDAY, Feb. 4.

The BANK BILL under consideration.
MR. LAWRENCE.

THE advocates of this measure stand in an unfortunate situation; for being those, who in general advocate national measures, they are charged with designs to extend the powers of the government unduly.—He however consoled himself with a conscious attachment to the Constitution, and with the reflection that their conduct received the approbation of their constituents.—If the present, said he, is contrasted with the former circumstances of this country, he doubted not the measures of this government would continue to receive the approbation of the people of the United States.

The silence of the people on the subject now before the House is strongly presumptive that the measure of a bank is not considered by them as unconstitutional. He then endeavored to shew the constitutionality of the bank system. It must be conceded that there is nothing in the constitution expressly against it, and therefore we ought not to deduce a prohibition by construction; he adverted to the amendment proposed by Congress to the constitution, which says, powers "not delegated, are retained;" here said he, to prove that the bank is unconstitutional, the constructive interpretation so much objected against, is resorted to.

The great objects of this government are contained in the context of the constitution; he recapitulated those objects, and inferred that every power necessary to secure these must necessarily follow: For as to the great objects for which this government was instituted, it is as full and complete in all its parts as any system that could be devised; a full uncontrollable power to regulate the fiscal concerns of this union is a primary consideration in this government, and from hence it clearly follows, that it must possess the power to make every possible arrangement conducive to that great object.

He then adverted to the late confederation and pointed out its defects and incompetency—and hence the old Congress called on the States to enact certain laws which they had not power to enact; from hence he inferred that as the late confederation could not pass those laws, and to capacitate the government of the United States, and form a more perfect union, the constitution under which we now act was formed—to suppose that this government does not possess the powers for which the constitution was adopted, involves the grossest absurdity.

The deviation from charters and the infringement of parchment rights which had been justified on the principle of necessity by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Madison) he said had been made on different principles from those now mentioned; the necessity he contended did not at the time exist—the old Congress exercised the power as they thought by a fair construction of the confederation.

On constructions, he observed it was to be lamented that they should ever be necessary—but they had been made; he instanced the power of removability, which had been an act of the three branches and has not been complained of. It was at least as important a one as the present.

But the construction now proposed he contended was an easy and natural construction; recurring to the collection law, he observed that it was by construction that the receipts are ordered to be made in gold and silver.

With respect to creating a mass of capital he supposed, just and upright national measures would create a will to form this capital.

Adverting to the idea that Congress has not the power to establish companies with exclusive privileges, he observed that by the amendments proposed by New-Hampshire, Massachusetts and New-York, it plainly appears that these States considered that Congress does possess the power to establish such companies.

The constitution vests Congress with power to dispose of certain property in lands, and to make all useful rules and regulations for that purpose; can its power be less over one species of its own property than over another?

With respect to giving preference to one State over another, he observed, that 10 years hence the seat of government is to be on the Potomac, and wherever the government is finally settled, the place will enjoy superior advantages, but still the government must go there, and the places not enjoying those advantages must be satisfied.

It is said we must not pass a problematical bill, which is liable to a supervision by the Judges of

the Supreme Court; but he conceived there was no force in this, as those Judges are invested by the Constitution with a power to pass their judgment on all laws that may be passed.

It is said that this law may interfere with the state governments; but this may or may not be the case—and in all interferences of the kind, the particular interest of a state, must give way to the general interest.

With respect to the corporation possessing the power of passing laws—this he observed is a power incidental to all corporations—and in the instance of the Western Territory, Congress have exercised the power of instituting corporations, or bodies politic, to the greatest possible extent.

He defended the right of Congress to purchase and possess property, and quoted a passage in the constitution to shew that they possess this right.

He then touched on the expediency of banks, and of that proposed in particular: The advantages generally derived from these institutions, he believed, applied peculiarly to this country. He noticed the objection from banks banishing the specie—he said the surplus only would be sent out of the country—but is it given away?—No, Sir—it is sent off for articles which are wanted—and which will enrich the country.

With respect to a run on the bank—he mentioned the circumstances under which those runs on the British banks, which had been noticed, took place—and shewed there was no parallel that would probably ever take place in this country.

From several particulars he shewed, that the objection which arose from the United States' not having made a good bargain by the system, was not well founded. He then mentioned the peculiar advantages which the United States will enjoy over common subscribers.

The objection from banks being already established in the several States, he obviated, by stating the mischiefs which might arise from an ignorance of the situation of those banks—and concluded by some remarks on the inexpediency of the general government's having recourse to institutions of merely a local nature.

Whoe'er thou art—thy Genius boasts the Pow'r
To soothe the Soul in Nature's darrest hour. G. V. S.

FROM THE NORFOLK and PORTSMOUTH CHRONICLE.

"Come gentle Spring, ethereal mildness come."—THOMPSON.

BLINDNESS.

"COME gentle Maid, celestial Comfort, come
And from yon azure opening in the Sky,
(White Peace attends thy train) veil'd in a Show'r
Of shadowing Blessings, on the Blind, descend!"

Those, blest with Sight, who walk abroad and dare
With Eagle Eye, survey the radiant Sun,
Take in the Blaze of Light, and swift as thought,
Can from the dark RETINA throw it back,
And catch Ideas from the Face of Things.

Those, blest with Sight, who on some Summer's Eve,
Walk slowly musing, on the pebbled Beach,
And take the scatter'd Rays, light as they fly,
From Star to Star, or, broke in countless Angles,
As thro' the flying Clouds they shoot along,
And half unveil the Beauties of the Sky,
Pleas'd with such scenes, they little heed the Blind.

But let them turn with me, to yon fair form,*
To you mild mind, that even in Blindness charms.
Her gay, her cheerful Soul, once sent Ideas
From a blue Eye, that scatter'd Blessings round;

Peace and gay Pleasure dwell about those Orbs,
And the bright Rays of Day, that rested there,
Return'd delighted with the Mind within:
But envious darkness drew her sable veil,
And hid their radiance in eternal night.

No day-break now is her's, and the gay Sun
That rides triumphant the meridian Sky,
Shoots not a cheering ray to light her path:
Thick, thick around, impervious Gloom sits brooding,
And tho' she change, her room is ever dark.

She holds no converse with the speaking Eye
Of Husband, or of Friends, that sit, and talk,
And smile around; and when her prattling Babes
Draw her regard, with fond maternal mind,
She looks for some sweet likeness of herself;

But looks in vain!—Her children, but by voice,
She knows not!—'Tis but a general blank
From which the Soul recoils; the Eye rolls in,
And turns with Horror, from the dreary Void.

Oh come some pitying Spirit of the Sky,
Seize some fair wand, dip't in the Fount of Light,
Touch those Blue Eyes, and give them to the Day!
The ardent Gaze, with which her grateful Soul
Will fly abroad, and take Creation in,
The smile of peace with which she'll look on all,
Will pay your pleasing task, and prompt a wish
To quit e'en Heaven, to relieve the BLIND.

Norfolk, February 9, 1791. Y A N K E E.
* Mrs. C—LV—RT.

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

SONNET I.

Sent to Miss ———, with a Braid of Hair.

FAIR shews the rose, but soon its beauty fades,
And soon its balmy-breathing fragrance fails;
The downy peach, sweet pear, DECAY affails,
And clustered purples of the vine invades.

Nor does alone the vegetative realm
Feel the destroyer's over-bearing power;
He joys in ruin, cities to o'erwhelm,
To shake the column, and to sink the tower.

Nor yet can Beauty, radiant as the morn,
Escape his wrath. The rosy cheek he pales;
O'er all the lily of the skin prevails;
And flowing honors that the head adorn.

The soul, refined in sentiment and truth,
Derides his power, and smiles eternal youth.

E L L A.

EXTRACT from the answer of the two Houses of the General Court of Massachusetts, to the Governor's Speech.

THE United States of America are now placed in a respectable situation. Their honor and credit, which at certain periods seemed doubtful, are now established on a permanent basis. By enlarging the system of our government, and by bringing the strength of the several States into one uniform plan of operation, we are enabled to form connexions with other nations; to defend the Union against foreign invasions; and to preserve harmony, and support justice between the citizens of the different States.

We presume it will ever be the disposition of our legislature, to guard against every infringement on the Constitution of our own State, being convinced that by such conduct we give vigor and energy to the general government.

The debt of the United States and of the particular States, we conceive to be the price of our peace, liberty, and independence, and it must be a pleasing reflection that we are not obliged to have recourse to oppression and violence, to cancel this debt, as the resources of our country, with decent economy, are amply sufficient to do justice to our public creditors.

While contemplating the pleasing enjoyment of liberty and independence, we are no less blessed with the fruits of industry and peace. The husbandman rejoices in the increase of his fields, and we acknowledge with gratitude the prosperous events which in the year past have attended the various branches of commerce prosecuted in this State, and have in some degree revived the fisheries under their continued embarrassments; our manufactures and mechanical arts are rapidly increasing, and daily improving.

NORFOLK, February 19.
SHIP NEWS.

CAPE HENLOPEN, Feb. 5.

P. M. Wind E. N. E. a heavy BANK hovering over Philadelphia—dark gloomy weather.

The B—t, a line of battle ship of New-Jersey, in the offing, making signals, but not understood by the fleet.

The A—s, one of the first ships of Massachusetts, sheltered herself under the bank, but was mistaken in her soundings.

The Constitution, a new ship, constructed for the Eastern Ocean. The crew of this ship, it is said, has disobeyed orders, in assuming prerogatives which they were not entitled to, at which, the late Lords of the Admiralty are much displeas'd, and for which she has been so generally assaulted, that her frame is much wrecked, and it is said she must be coppered, as her bottom is worm eaten. She is supposed to be a ship too large and unwieldy for the Atlantic Ocean, and it is thought by some (who are not acquainted with navigation) that it would have been better to have laid out the money that she cost in two light 74's, one to have cruised on St. George's Bank, and the other off Charleston bar.

The J—n, an active 74 of Georgia, has never seen an enemy, but has attacked it with firmness and intrepidity, but has unfortunately been overpowered by heavier metal; being much shattered, it is said she is to be laid up in ordinary, for two years, having received a sound drubbing from the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary at War, two flag ships of the enemy's squadron.

The M—n, a small ship with heavy ordnance, has been attacked by every capital ship of the enemy's fleet; she, however, broke their line and fought herself clear, but by an error in keeping the log, she over-run her reckoning to the Eastward, and got entangled with the rocks of Scilly, and the whirlpool of Charibdis; but by altering her course she escaped shipwreck;—she is a valuable ship and it is to be hoped she will be more cautious in her reckoning for the future. It is apprehended the bank has opened a false channel for her to enter at, to take her off from the support of her squadron, but it is expected she will keep a good look-out and not be decoyed—her batteries have been opened against the bank, with well directed fires, but it has such a number of heavy metal ships moor'd around it, that little impression has hitherto been made, being covered with the Wealth of the Nation, a ship of 120 guns, the A—s, a 74, the G—y, an old ship that has proved herself very obstinate in many hard fights, the S—k, commanded by a puritanical presbyterian, of more self-importance than any in the navy, the Sh—n commanded by old Reynard, who scarcely ever lost a battle, the L—e whose captain is very confident in the weight of his own metal, the V—g, a 50 gun ship, whose captain expects promotion from his ship's quick sailing, and his readiness to repeat signals from the Admiral, with a number of other of smaller note; hence it is supposed the M—n and its fleet will not be sufficient to dispel the bank, as he has in his fleet the J—n which has as already observed, been much wrecked in the service, the G—s, a new 74 from Virginia, the crew of which has not been yet well disciplined, the L—e a 64 who was never considered a sound ship, the W—e an old crazy ship, her command-