

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, On the Subject of the COD AND WHALE FISHERIES, [CONTINUED.]

IN 1771, the Americans had one hundred and eighty-three vessels, of thirteen thousand eight hundred and twenty tons, in the northern fishery, and one hundred and twenty-one vessels, of fourteen thousand and twenty tons, in the southern, navigated by four thousand and fifty-nine men. At the beginning of the late war, they had one hundred and seventy-seven vessels in the northern, and one hundred and thirty-two in the southern fishery.

At that period, our fishery being suspended, the English seized the opportunity of pushing theirs. They gave additional bounties of five hundred, four hundred, three hundred, two hundred, one hundred pounds sterling, annually, to the five ships, which should take the greatest quantity of oil. The effect of which was such, as, by the year 1786, to double the quantity of common oil necessary for their own consumption. Finding, on a review of the subject, at that time, that their bounties had cost the government thirteen pounds ten shillings sterling a man annually, or sixty per cent. on the cargoes, a part of which went consequently to ease the purchases of this article made by foreign nations, they reduced the northern bounty from forty to thirty shillings the ton of admeasurement.

They had some little time before turned their attention to the southern fishery, had given very great bounties in it, and had invited the fishermen of the United States, to conduct their enterprises. Under their guidance, and with such encouragement, this fishery, which had only begun with them in 1784 or 1785, was rising into value. In 1788, they increased their bounties, and the temptations to our fishermen, under the general description of foreigners who had been employed in the whale-fishery, to pass over with their families and vessels to the British dominions either in America or Europe, but preferably to the latter.—The effect of these measures had been prepared by our whale oils becoming subject, in their market, to the foreign duty of eighteen pounds five shillings sterling the ton, which, being more than equal to the price of the common oil, operated as a prohibition on that, and gave to their own spermaceti oil a preference over ours to that amount. The particulars of this history are presented to the eye, more in detail, in the table No. 7.

The fishermen of the United States, left without resource by the loss of their market, began to think of accepting the British invitation, and of removing—some to Nova-Scotia, preferring smaller advantages in the neighbourhood of their ancient country and friends, others to Great-Britain, postponing country and friends to high premiums.

The government of France could not be inattentive to these proceedings. They saw the danger of letting four or five thousand seamen, of the best in the world, be transferred to the marine strength of another nation, and carry over with them an art, which they possessed almost exclusively. To give time for a counter-plan, the Marquis de la Fayette, the valuable friend and citizen of this, as well as that country, wrote to a gentleman in Boston to dissuade the fishermen from accepting the British proposals, and to assure them that their friends in France would endeavor to do something for them. A vessel was then arrived from Halifax, at Nantucket, to take off those who had proposed to remove. Two families had gone a board, and others were going. In this moment, the letter arriving, suspended their designs. Not another went aboard, and the vessel returned to Halifax with only the two families.

The plan adopted by the French ministry, very different from that of the first mover, was to give a counter invitation to the Nantucket men to remove and settle in Dunkirk, offering them a bounty of fifty livres (between nine and ten dollars) a ton on the admeasurement of the vessels they should equip for the whale fishery, with some other advantages. Nine families only, of thirty three persons, accepted this invitation. This was in 1785. In 1786, the ministry were led to see, that their invitation would produce but little effect, and that the true means of preventing the emigration of our fishermen to the British dominions, would be to enable them still to follow their calling from their native country, by giving them a new market for their oils, instead of the old one they had lost. The duties were, therefore, abated on American whale oil immediately, and a further abatement promised by the letter, N. 8, and in December, 1787, the arret, No. 9, was passed. To be continued.

A few copies of the CONSTITUTION of the United States, printed with Notes, may be had of the Editor.

Blank Power to receive the Interest, and for the transfer of the principal of public debt, agreeable to the Rules established in the Treasury Department: Also Blanks for abstracts of Certificates, to be sold by the Editor.

ADVERTISEMENT.

HAVING completed the second volume of this Gazette, its patrons, and the public at large, are informed that it will be prosecuted on its original plan, with every improvement that friendship and ingenuity may suggest.

The price of this Gazette, (published Wednesdays and Saturdays,) is Three Dollars per annum—one half to be paid at the time of subscribing.

The utmost punctuality is observed in transmitting the papers to subscribers: The Editor thinks there is the fairest prospect that Information from the seat of government, to the extremes of the Union, will in future circulate with greater facility and certainty, than through the past winter.—Additional subscriptions from all parts of the Union are therefore solicited.

An index to the second volume is preparing for the press.

This volume contains the laws of the two last sessions of Congress—the journal and debates of the house of Representatives—reports of the heads of departments—besides a greater variety of original communications immediately connected with the interests of the United States, than any other periodical publication.

The Editor acknowledges with gratitude the punctual payments received from a great proportion of his subscribers—some arrearages remain—which he is confident will very speedily be discharged.

Payments may be made to the several persons of whom the papers are received.

Advertisements of one square, or less, will be inserted in this Gazette, three times, for one dollar—subsequent insertions, twenty-five cents each; larger advertisements in proportion: No vehicle in the United States gives so immediate a circulation—and the number of each impression is at present fourteen hundred.

MASSACHUSETTS SEMI-ANNUAL LOTTERY.

THE MANAGERS of the STATE-LOTTERY assure the Public, that the second Class of the SEMI-ANNUAL LOTTERY will positively commence drawing on the day appointed, viz. On Thursday the 13th of October next, or sooner, if the Tickets shall be disposed of. As the Managers have in their several monthly Lotteries commenced drawing at the hour assigned, so they are determined to be equally so punctual in this.

NOT TWO BLANKS TO A PRIZE. 25,000 TICKETS, at Five Dollars each, are 125,000 Dollars, to be paid in the following Prizes, subject to a deduction of twelve and an half per cent. for the use of the Commonwealth.

Table with 4 columns: PRIZES, DOLLARS, is, DOLLARS. Rows include prizes of 10000, 3000, 2000, 1000, 500, 200, 100, 50, 40, 30, 20, 10, 7585.

8388 Prizes. 16612 Blanks. 25000 Tickets.

TICKETS in the above CLASS may be had of the several MANAGERS, who will pay the prizes on demand; of the TREASURER of the Commonwealth; of JAMES WHITE, at his Book-store, Franklin's Head, Court-street—and at other places, as usual.

BENJAMIN AUSTIN, jun. DAVID COBB, SAMUEL COOPER, GEORGE R. MINOT, JOHN KNEELAND, MANAGERS. Boston, April 14, 1791.

PINTARD and BLEECKER, PURCHASE and SELL all kinds of

Certificates & Public Securities, On COMMISSION, at public and private sale, on the following terms:

ON the specie amount of all sales or purchases at auction, one eighth per cent.

On ditto of all sales or purchases at private sale, on all sums below 5000 nominal dollars, one-half per cent.; and on all sums above 5000 nominal dollars, one-fourth per cent.

For receiving interest at the Loan-Office, one per cent. For making transfers at ditto, one dollar each transfer.

Such persons throughout the United States, as may be pleased to favor the subscribers with their orders, may rely on their being executed with punctuality, fidelity and dispatch, as considerable experience in the public stocks, together with extensive connections in the city of New-York and different parts of the continent, enable them to conduct their operations with peculiar advantages.

PINTARD & BLEECKER, New-York, No. 57, King-Street. (97 law 6m) March 15, 1791.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Subscriber, who served a regular apprenticeship to the business of VENDUE-MASTER, under Mr. GEORGE KELLY, has just opened an OFFICE in the Borough of NORFOLK, Virginia, in a good and convenient House, situated near the County Wharf, where he is in hopes of giving general satisfaction to all those that may be pleased to favor him with their commands. JOHN H. HALL. Norfolk, Virginia, April 21, 1791. (1 ep 7w)

MATTHEW M'CONNELL,

IN CHESNUT-STREET, No. 66, BUYS and SELLS all kinds of THE PUBLIC DEBT OF THE UNION; has frequently occasion to NEGOTIATE INLAND BILLS OF EXCHANGE—and will receive Orders for making SUBSCRIPTIONS to the BANK of the UNITED STATES. Philadelphia, March 30, 1791. (96 lf)

CONTRACT,

For erecting BRIDGES over the HACKINSACK and PASSAIC RIVERS, between Powlas-Hook and Newark, in the State of New-Jersey.

THE Commissioners appointed by an act of the legislature of the state of New-Jersey, to erect bridges over the Hackinsack and Passaic rivers, having obtained the necessary surveys, are now ready to receive proposals for performing the same; and offer the following conditions for the consideration of such as may be inclined to contract:

The situation of the bridge across the Hackinsack river, will be at one of the following situations, as shall be hereafter determined most eligible.

1st. At the place where the present ferry is established, where the width of the river is 1448 feet.

Depth at the eastern shore, 8 feet 8 inches. Do. western shore, 8 11. Greatest depth, 25 4.

2d. At a place more northerly, called Douw's Ferry, where the width of the river is 846 feet.

Depth at the eastern shore 19 feet 10 inches. Do. western shore 12 8. Greatest depth 35 8.

The situation of the bridge across the Passaic river, will be at one of the three following stations, as shall be hereafter determined most eligible.

1st. At the place where the present ferry is established, where the width of the river is 676 feet.

Depth at the eastern shore 8 feet 6 inches, Do. western shore 9 6. Greatest depth 17.

2d. At a place more westerly, called Beef-Point, where the breadth of the river is 799 feet.

Depth at the eastern shore 11 feet, Do. western shore 4 5 inches, Greatest depth 13 4.

3d. At a place still more northerly, called Hedden's dock, in the town of Newark, where the width of the river is 526 feet.

Depth at the eastern shore 4 feet 5 inches, Do. western shore 10 8. Greatest depth 15 11.

The bridges are to be constructed on the principles of those erected over Charles, Mystick, and Beverly Rivers in the State of Massachusetts, with a draw to admit a free passage for vessels with fixed standing masts, not less than twenty-four feet wide, to be placed in such part of the bridges as shall be determined most convenient for the navigation of the river, with piles or blocks on each side of the entrance of such draw, as shall be judged sufficient to aid vessels in passing through. Also, one lamp on each side of the draw, to be lighted every night from sunset to sunrise, during the continuance of the leaf.

The bridges are to be built with such piles, timber, scantling, and plank, as shall render them perfectly substantial and secure in the opinion of the commissioners, and are to be of a sufficient height to protect them against the tides, which rise at ordinary tides from 5 to 6 feet, and at spring tides from 8 to 10 feet. They are to be 31 feet in breadth, viz.

Allowance for carriage way, 20 feet. Do. for foot walks, railed off on each side, 4 feet each, 8 feet. Do. for ballustrades, 1 foot each, 2 feet. Do. for hand-rails for do. 6 inches each, 1 foot.—Total, 31 feet.

The sides of the bridges to be secured with strong ballustrades, after the manner of the bridge between Boston and Charlestown.

The bridges and draws are to be kept in constant repair, and at the expiration of the lease are to be surrendered in good order, agreeably to the act.

The following are the terms which the commissioners are authorized to offer to contractors:

A lease of the exclusive privilege of the bridges for a period not exceeding 99 years, with a toll equal to three-fourths of the present rates of ferriage.

From as accurate an estimate as could possibly be obtained, the actual receipts of the ferries for a medium of five years last past, amount to twelve hundred pounds, New-Jersey currency, per annum, three-fourths of that sum will consequently produce an immediate income of 900 pounds per ann. This may fairly be estimated as the smallest profit that can be calculated upon. The advancing population of the United States, the increasing intercourse between the two cities of New-York and Philadelphia, the facility which the construction of these bridges will give to travelling, the easy communication thereby offered with the state of New-York, on the western side of the Hudson, are all important circumstances, which must necessarily tend rapidly to accumulate the profits of the bridges. The commissioners are moreover authorized by law to raise four thousand pounds to be applied towards making causeways and laying out proper roads connected with the bridges, and have a lottery now on foot for that purpose. As soon as the places shall be determined on where the bridges are to be fixed, and the contracts for erecting them are executed, the roads and causeways will be immediately undertaken.

Such persons therefore as may be inclined to contract on the above principles, will be pleased to send in their terms sealed, within three months from this date, to WILLIAM MAXWELL, Esq. in New-York, specifying the shortest period of lease for which they will undertake to erect the said bridges, together with proper security for performing the same.

SAMUEL TUTHILL, JOHN NEILSON, ROBERT KEMBLE, WILLIAM MAXWELL, JOHN PINTARD, Commissioners. Newark, State of New-Jersey, April 22, 1791.

Funds of the United States.

ALL kinds of the Public Debt of the Union, bought, sold, or exchanged; Foreign and inland Bills of Exchange, negotiated; Merchandize of all sorts Bought and Sold on Commission, and all other Business in the line of a Broker, transacted by WILLIAM CLELAND, At the Office, next door to the Custom-House, State-Street, BOSTON.

A CARD.

JOSEPH WHEATON PRESENTS his compliments to his old Military Friends, the Gentlemen of the Civil List, and the Public—wishes they may be informed that he has received a very handsome ASSORTMENT of the best chosen

SPRING GOODS,

By the PIGOU, and other late arrivals, which are now opening at his KNOWN CHEAP STORE, No. 38, Third-Street, North, and which he is determined to dispose of (at wholesale or retail) on so low terms as must make it an object to customers.—Orders from his friends will be attended to with punctuality and dispatch, and the time of payment made convenient. Philad. May 2, 1791.

PHILADELPHIA, May 3.

WE, the Commissioners, appointed to receive subscriptions to the Bank of the United States, do hereby give public notice, that the Books will be opened by us for that purpose at the Bank of North-America, on Monday the 4th day of July next. THOMAS WILLING, SAMUEL HOWELL, BEALE BORDLEY, LAMBERT CADWALADER, DAVID RITTENHOUSE, All the Printers in the United States are requested to publish the above