

terest up to the close of the last year; and the only question now is, whether any alteration shall be made in the funding bill; whether one class of public creditors shall have a different measure of justice dealt out to them, from what others have had: he concluded with a wish that the subject should be taken up in committee of the whole.

The question, on the reference to the Secretary of the Treasury, was then taken, and lost: whereupon,

Mr. Lawrance moved, that the petition should be referred to a committee of the whole house.

Mr. Boudinot was of opinion, that the funding system had done ample justice, and that those who complied with it, have no reasonable ground of complaint: at the time of the passing the law, it had been said, that men would be forced by it to come in and subscribe, whether they would or not; a clause was therefore inserted in favor of non-subscribing public creditors, by virtue of which, the petitioners, who are of the non-subscribing class, consider themselves in the same situation as before the law was enacted; but an improper construction has been given to that clause, and therefore it is that the creditors complain: were any one of them to bring an action against the public officers, he would in his opinion, obtain redress: they applied to the House for redress; and the question was, whether they should be forced to subscribe, or be entitled to the benefit of their contract; he would not wish that any man should be forced to comply with the terms of the funding system against his will: he would have every man at liberty to accept or reject them at his pleasure; and he thought it unreasonable that any man should have his six per cent reduced to four, without his own consent.

Mr. Fitzsimons thought further information on the subject necessary, and therefore it was, that he favored the reference: one circumstance, he said, was unattended to by the gentlemen who had spoke on the subject; and that was, that the non-subscribing creditors must deliver up the original certificates, before they can receive their interest; but this they do not choose to do, because these certificates bear a promise of interest on the original value, and they would afterwards receive interest only on the reduced value.

The question being then taken on the commitment to a committee of the whole, and lost.

Mr. Sedgwick moved a resolution, that the prayer of the petition cannot be granted.

The question being called for, Mr. Barnwell observed that he, and probably some others of the new members, were not thoroughly acquainted with the subject; and therefore he wished the question might be postponed. The resolution was, in consequence, ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Lawrance then called up a petition of sundry inhabitants of the state of New-York, holders of certain bills of credit, issued in 1780. Referred to the Secretary of the Treasury, to consider and report his opinion thereon.

Mr. Baldwin called up the petition of General Jackson, relative to the Georgia election; which, after some debate, was referred to the committee heretofore appointed to report a regular and uniform mode of proceeding in cases of contested elections. Adjourned.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17.

Mr. Hartley, member for Pennsylvania, and Mr. Schoonmaker, from New-York, took their seats this day.

Sundry petitions were presented, read, and committed.

Mr. Lawrance laid the following resolution on the table,

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to bring in a bill for extending the time limited for settling the accounts between the United States and individual States.

IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE,

On the bill directing the mode in which, certain evidences of the debt of the United States which have been lost or destroyed, may be renewed—

Mr. Muhlenberg in the chair—

The bill was read.

Mr. Sedgwick moved that the words, *lost or*, should be struck out of the first clause—He said that the provisions in the bill to guard against imposition on the public in cases of lost certificates, did not appear to him to be adequate to the purpose—and this was not only his opinion, but that of every gentleman who was on the committee who had reported the bill in the above form, a agreeable to orders of the House. He called on those gentlemen who were in favor of retaining the words, to devise a mode by which the public might be secured.

Mr. Lawrance was opposed to the motion—He thought the bill itself contained competent provisions in the case; he pointed out several other particulars which might be attended to in the process of this business, that would afford sufficient security—such as the checks which would ascertain that the certificates, which it was said were lost, had existed—reference to the lost certificate might be contained in the renewed certi-

cate—a procrastination for a considerable time of the payment of the interest, &c.

Mr. Sedgwick replied, that the difficulties would not, in his opinion, be obviated by what the gentleman had suggested. The committee had applied for information to the Officers of the Treasury, who were decidedly of opinion that no adequate provision against deception could be devised in respect to the renewal of lost certificates. Considerable debate occurred on the motion, which was finally agreed to, and the words *lost or* struck out. Sundry other amendments were agreed to by the committee—they then rose, and the Chairman reported them to the house.

On motion to agree to the first amendment, Mr. Bourne (R. I.) said he hoped that it would not be agreed to, as he conceived the bill in its present form would not afford the relief proposed in any degree—because, he observed, that there were very few cases in which positive evidence of the destruction of a certificate could be produced.

Mr. Sedgwick observed that, most undoubtedly, strong presumptive evidence would answer in every case, which would come before the person appointed to judge on those occasions.

Mr. Seney was opposed to the amendment—he said it made a discrimination between two classes of unfortunate persons, which was not warranted in reason or justice. If this amendment should be agreed to, he should think himself obliged to vote against the bill altogether.

Mr. Sheredine and Mr. Murray spoke also against the motion to agree to the amendment.—An adjournment being called for, the house rose without taking the vote.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18.

Mr. White presented the petition of Philip Bouff, praying that a lost or destroyed certificate, his property, may be renewed.

Mr. Vining presented a petition from the branch pilots of the river and bay of Delaware, stating certain disadvantages which they labor under, on account of the suspension of a certain law of the state of Pennsylvania, in their favor; also on account of the reduced rates of pilotage, which were established upwards of 30 years ago—read and referred to the committee appointed to report a bill for the regulating of pilots, &c. in the bays of Chesapeake and Delaware.

Mr. Lawrance presented the representation and petition of John Franklin, praying compensation for a quantity of mahogany, &c. used in the public service during the late war—read and referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Boudinot presented the petition of James Weeks, praying compensation for loss sustained on a vessel destroyed during the late war, to promote the public interest; laid on the table.

Mr. Page reported a bill apportioning the representation of the people of the United States according to the first enumeration, which was read the first and second time, and referred to the committee of the whole house, on Monday next—to be printed in the interim; By this bill New-Hampshire is to have 4, Massachusetts 15, Rhode-Island 2, Vermont 2, Connecticut 7, New-York 11, New-Jersey 5, Pennsylvania 14, Delaware 1, Maryland 9, Virginia 21, Kentucky 2 after next June, North-Carolina 11, and Georgia 2 Representatives in the Congress to be chosen after March 1793; South-Carolina according to the census after it is completed.

Sundry petitions were read, and committed to the Secretary of War to report thereon.

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Secretary Otis, communicating to the House a letter from the President of the Assembly of the Colony of St. Domingo to the Congress of the United States.

The Speaker communicated a letter from the Treasurer of the United States enclosing a copy of his Indent account; these were read and laid on the table.

The amendments proposed by the committee of the whole to the bill directing the mode of renewing certain certificates of public debt which have been lost or destroyed—were taken into consideration, and after considerable debate accepted by the House; but the question for engrossing in order to the third reading being put was negatived, and the bill consequently lost.

Mr. Ames of the committee to whom the petition of James Jackson was referred brought in a report which was read, and laid on the table. This report had reference to the mode of procedure in investigating the subject of the contested election.

The memorial of the commissioned officers serving in the army of the United States, respecting the reduction of their pay, &c.—was read and referred to a select committee, consisting of Messrs. Lawrance, Williamson, and Kitchell.

The standing committee of elections, reported on the letter from the Executive of the state of Maryland, respecting the resignation of William Pinckney, and the election of John Francis Mercer in his stead—the report was that John F. Mercer was duly elected. The report was read and laid on the table.

The petition of Capt. Jonathan Haskell, respecting a sum of money received by him on the public account, and which he had lost, was read and committed to the Secretary of War, to report a state of facts relative thereto.

The petitions of Josias Clapham, Daniel Robbins, Philip Bouff and Phineas Ware, praying that certain lost or destroyed certificates may be renewed, were read, and referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Fitzsimons, of the committee on the petition of Stephen Zachary, reported a resolution for the appointment of a committee to bring in a bill to grant relief pursuant to the prayer of said petition. Adjourned till Monday.

The Speech and Oath of the King of the French, spoken in the National Assembly, on the 14th Sept. 1791, for the Acceptation of the Constitution.

GENTLEMEN,
I COME here solemnly to confirm the acceptance I have given to the Constitutional Act; in consequence—I SWEAR TO BE FAITHFUL TO THE NATION AND TO THE LAW, and to employ all the power which is delegated to me to maintaining the Constitution decreed by the Constituent National Assembly, and causing the laws to be executed. May this great and memorable era, be that of the re-establishment of peace and unity, and become the pledge of the happiness of the people and of the prosperity of the empire.

Philadelphia, November 19.

In classing the Senators from the state of Vermont, Mr. BRADLEY is of the class whose seats will become vacant at the expiration of four years, from March, 1791—and Mr. ROBINSON, of that whole seats will be vacated in six years,

A bill respecting Consuls and Vice-Consuls, and a bill to determine the time of choosing President and Vice-President of the United States, have had a second reading in the Senate of the United States.

In our last it was mentioned that the King of Spain had declared war against the Moors—it now appears that the sovereignty of Morocco had been before hand in declaring war against Spain.

The letter from the King of France to the National Assembly, in which he accepts of the Constitution, is dated the 13th Sept. On the 14th he was to meet the National Assembly to ratify the celebrated instrument in their presence. The ceremony of the proclamation of the Constitution took place the 18th, in the Field of Confederation. The Mayor of Paris, preceded by Herald, and surrounded by a numerous and brilliant troop of grenadiers, ascended the *Altar of the Country*; arrived at the summit, he held up the Constitutional Code to the veneration of an immense multitude of citizens, who rent the air with shouts and acclamations of joy. At 5 o'clock, a superb balloon was raised, and in the evening the most brilliant illuminations took place in the Elysian Fields, &c. &c. The King and Queen, with the Prince Royal, visiting these, were received with enthusiasm, and shouts of *Vive le Roi*, and *Vive la Reine*, were heard from all quarters. The Aristocrats, it is said, are all in the utmost consternation at the King's accepting the Constitution.

Thus the National Assembly have brought their labors to a triumphant issue, by giving to the people of France a Constitution, in which, like that of the United States, the principle of improvement is infused; so that, if on experiment, it should be found inadequate to the preservation of "peace, liberty and safety," it is susceptible of being carried to the desired degree of perfection.

The subject of the disturbances in the French Colonies has occasioned much warmth in the National Assembly, according to the latest accounts. The intelligence we may expect to receive from France after the recent accounts from Hispaniola shall have reached Europe, will be peculiarly interesting; for notwithstanding the idea of distant Colonies as appendages to a government, has been lately philosophized upon, as disadvantageous, and pernicious to the parent country, it appears that very powerful interests are involved in the question as it respects France.

As a free government depends on the virtue of the people, and every degree of virtue owes its existence to light and information—the friends of our happy Constitution and the rights of the people, may be felicitated on the prospect which now presents of opening the channels of information to all parts of the Union. The President of the United States, with that promptitude and decision with which he delivers his opinion on every subject connected with the public welfare, has recommended this business to the serious consideration of the Legislature.—And it may be depended on that every individual member of both houses, as well as every officer at the head of the executive departments, are fully impressed with *this idea*—that the people have a right to be fully informed of the transactions of their government, and of the reasons on which all its decisions are founded. This being the case, it is hardly possible that the public expectation should be again disappointed.

Extract of a letter from Port-au-Prince, dated Oct. 25.

"I have the pleasure of informing you, that peace is once more made between the Whites and Mulattoes, on Saturday last, the 22d inst. and yesterday 2500 of the latter marched with their arms into town, and paraded in company with the former before the church; at which time the inhabitants, with the officers of each party, entered the church, and sung *Te Deum*. How long the peace will last, is uncertain, as a number of the inhabitants are not well pleased. Upon what terms the peace is made, I cannot at present inform you."

The English newspapers are, according to some late accounts, divided into three descriptions—Ministerial, Anti-Ministerial, and Neutral—that is, those in favor of Administration, those against it, and those who are indifferent. In this account we do not find that there are any who are in favor of the people—What a set of venal wretches does this make of the Printers!—The same, or similar accounts, appear respecting the French papers—they are said to be licentious to the highest degree—the facts only, which they detail, are to be relied on—for in the collisions of party, right and wrong, truth and falsehood are merely convertible terms—Hence we are obliged to go to the Netherlands for impartiality and honesty—hence also the celebrity of the Leyden Gazette, which is now said to be the oracle of politics in the European world.

PRICE CURRENT.—PUBLIC SECURITIES,

Table with columns for FUNDED DEBT and UNFUNDED DEBT, listing various securities and their prices.

AN OPPONENT is received, but prior engagements prevents its appearing till our next.