

engage their feeling, inform their judgment, attach their interest, and establish their confidence in their fidelity and disinterestedness—had that number been much smaller, it is probable France would never have been delivered from oppression by their exertions.

I believe the National Assembly have judged about 750 members sufficient to represent their people, which on a supposition that they amount even to 26 millions, will be 1 representative for every 34,000; a larger representation than is proposed by the amendment before us; but, sir, it is not and cannot be the interest or wish of the people at large to have a small representation in Congress under the present government. We are told however that to avoid expence the people wish it—and that to avoid confusion in this house we should comply with that wish. With respect to the article of expence, I think we may with propriety make use of arithmetical calculations, and to find how much at 6 dollars per day paid to 1 representative it would cost the 30,000 divide 600 cents by 30,000, the number of citizens—and we have 1-50 of a cent per diem, the expence of each citizen, if to be equally divided amongst them—that is 1 cent for every 50 citizens pr. diem, or which must be the same thing 1 cent must be paid by each citizen for every 50 days session of their representative in Congress; Sir, I have the consolation to find that if our constitution had 1 representative for every 15, instead of 30,000 they could well afford to pay them, and that if it were even more expensive as to the payment of members, yet the people would most certainly be better satisfied with the laws which they would then have so great a share in framing. The people see that if their interests are not well guarded by a sufficient number of their fellow-citizens, who have a fellow-feeling, a common interest, they may be sacrificed to the ambition of some, or the vanity of others; I trust sir, that they know too well the high price they have paid for the purchase of their liberties, to be unwilling to pay a few farthings for the only possible means of preserving them. They see now that the monarchical and aristocratical part of government is to be restrained—the former from absolute tyranny, and the latter from an insufferable insolence, by a very numerous body of the representatives of the people alone. Americans know, sir, that monarchical governments were necessary for the protection of weak ignorant people, against the encroachments of ambitious and ferocious neighbors; and for the preservation of order amongst themselves; that an aristocratical form became convenient to protect them against the oppression of tyranny springing up out of monarchy—that this form was adapted to a small progress in the science of government, and that these two forms properly checked and controuled by the democratical form, is still better suited to a general knowledge of that science; that a representative government such as their own is, every part of which is more or less pervaded by the spirit of representation, cannot by any other means be so perfectly secured, as by their having at least as full a share as they have claimed in the democratical branch of their government.

I know, Sir, that many friends of our constitution, thought that the Convention did not pay a sufficient attention to the interests of their constituents, when they restrained them from having more than one representative for every 30,000 citizens.—I know that there is a report that the people are indebted to their President, even for this share in their government; and I believe, Sir, if this report be true, that whatever has been so justly said of him, as compared to Fabius, to Hannibal, to Alexander, may be forgotten, when this instance of his wisdom, disinterestedness, and attachment to the interests of his fellow citizens, will be more and more known and applauded, and be forever engraved on the hearts of their posterity.—Shall we then, Mr. Chairman, the direct representatives of the people, be less attentive to their interest, and that too respecting their share in the deliberations of their own House of Representatives, than the President of their Convention was? I trust not.

I will not pretend to say, however, whether in an assembly where attempts are frequently made, to carry into effect the projects of monarchical or aristocratical juntas, the virtuous struggles of patriotic members, may not produce mobile disorders; but in an assembly like Congress, where I should suppose no such question can be agitated; none which may not be discussed with temper and decency, such disorder need not be apprehended. I should suppose there would be less danger of animosities and disorderly debates in Congress, amongst 1200 members, than in the British Parliament, if it consisted but of 100.—Where we have all but one and the same great object in view, the happiness of our country, (not the interests of a particular body of men, born with privileges insulting the feelings and the rights of freemen, nor the whims of an individual, born to trample on his fellow creatures) we can have no cause to be dissatisfied with one another.

Surely, Sir, unless these gentlemen suppose the members of Congress void of sense, or of every idea of decency and propriety, they cannot suppose that even 500 members would not be easily restrained within the bounds of order.

Upon the whole, Sir, I conclude that neither an apprehension of expence, nor of disorderly debates, ought to induce this committee to run the risk of being charged with indelicacy, if not, of sacrificing the interests of their constituents. I hope, therefore, that the worthy and ingenious members who, by supporting the amendment, have produced a full discussion of the question, will now join with me, and a great majority, in voting against it.

(To be continued.)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21.

The address from the General Assembly of St. Domingo, to the Congress of the United States, was read.

Mr. Williamson presented an affidavit respecting the loss or destruction of sundry certificates, the property of a citizen of North-Carolina, which being read, it was moved that it should be referred to the Secretary of the Treasury. The motion being objected to, as informal, the affidavit not being accompanied with a petition, was negatived.

Mr. Wadsworth, of the committee appointed for that purpose, reported a bill more effectually to provide for the national defence, by establishing a uniform militia throughout the United States—read the first and second time, and referred to a committee of the whole house, and made the order of the day for Monday next—to be printed in the interim.

The report of the committee on the petition of James Jackson, was referred to the committee of the whole, and made the order of the day for Thursday next—Report to be printed in the interim.

The report of the committee on the election of John Francis Mercer, was again read.

Mr. Giles observed that the case involved two principles, which he conceived to be of some importance to be fully discussed and decided, previous to an unqualified acceptance of the report—the first was, whether a member had a right to vacate his own seat—and the other was, how far it is in the power of the executive of a particular State, to fill the vacancies which may take place in this house. These considerations, he thought, had essential reference to the privileges of members.

Mr. Seney observed, that he conceived the report was strictly conformable to the rules and precedents of the house, in similar cases—several of which had occurred. With respect to the right of a member to resign, he thought the reverse idea involved an attack on the privileges of the citizens of the United States.

The motion for referring the report, after some brief debate, was carried, and referred to a committee of the whole house to-morrow.

Mr. Smith (N. H.) presented the petition of Jason Waite—read and referred to the Secretary of War.

Mr. Boudinot moved that the petition of James Weeks should be referred to the Secretary of War. The petition was again read—the motion for a particular reference to the Secretary of War, was objected to.

Mr. Williamson said the motion ought to be for a general reference. This motion being put, was negatived; and a motion to reject the petition was put and carried.

The petition of J. E. Moore, respecting a number of certificates of public debt, which were destroyed, praying they may be renewed, was read—and with some others of a similar nature, referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

The resolution for extending the time limited for settling the accounts between the United States and individual States, was agreed to; and a committee, consisting of Messrs. Dayton, Griffin and Hartley, appointed to report a bill accordingly.

The order of the day—on the bill apportioning the representation of the inhabitants of the United States, according to the first enumeration—Mr. Muhlenberg in the chair.

The bill was read by the Clerk.

Mr. Macon moved that the first section be amended, by inserting the word five after the word thousand.

This motion, after some debate, was negatived—as were also motions to insert four and three.

Mr. Benson then moved to strike out the whole of the first section, in order to substitute another which he had prepared.

This motion respected a different modification of the section, still retaining the ratio of one representative to thirty thousand. Further debate ensued, and the committee rose and reported progress.—The house then adjourned.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22.

A letter from the Secretary of State, enclosing a report on the petition of Jacob Isaacs, of Newport, (R. I.) who had prayed for a reward from government, for discovering the art of converting salt water into fresh, by an easy process—This report stated an account of certain processes made by the petitioner in presence of the Secretary of State, to ascertain his pretensions—the result was that simple distillation, without Mr. Isaacs' discovered mixture, produced as great a quantity of fresh water, as with it.

Mr. Sylvester presented the petition of Reuben Murray and Daniel Schermehorn—read, and referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Sundry other petitions were read and referred.

Mr. Findley presented a petition of certain inhabitants of the counties of Washington, Allegany, and Westmoreland, respecting the excise law—read, and referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Lawrence reported a bill making appropriations for the support of government for the year 1792—read the first and second time, and referred to a committee of the whole house, to be made the order of the day on Wednesday next.

Mr. Williamson presented the remonstrance and petition of a yearly meeting of the people called Quakers in the State of North-Carolina, against the duties and penalties of the militia law—read and referred to the committee of the whole House to whom the militia law was referred.

Mr. Lee presented the petition of John Crane, praying the renewal of a lost certificate, read and referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

The petition of sundry surgeons of the late army praying a fair and equitable settlement of their accounts, was read.

In committee of the whole, on the report of the select committee on the election of John Francis Mercer.

It was moved that the report should be accepted—Mr. Giles objected to the motion, and in a speech of considerable length, stated the reasons of his dissent from it—He was replied to by Mr. Smith, (S. C.) Mr. Murray, Mr. Gerry, and Mr. Seney. Mr. Sedgwick suggested some difficulties in the case—The question being called for, Mr. Lee moved that the committee should rise and report progress—this motion obtained, and the committee rose, and asked leave to sit again.

In committee of the whole on the bill apportioning the representation of the inhabitants of the United States.

The committee agreed to sundry amendments to the bill—then rose, and the house adjourned.

Philadelphia, November 23.

Some accounts from England, recently published, inform that Mr. Burke is become so unpopular, that both his friends and the world are deserting him—and even the Ministers treat him with coldness.

Late accounts from France say, that after the first day of October, 1791, no American ships laden with Tobacco were to be admitted to entry in the French ports, except upon condition of coming directly from America with clearances for France.—See the letter in the last page of this paper.

A subscription is to be opened in this city on the first day of next month, for raising a sum of money for the purpose of opening a Canal between the waters of Schuylkill and Susquehanna, to extend from the Quittapahilla to Tulpuhocken.

The Aristocrats in Paris, it is said, were confounded at the King's acceptance of the Constitution—and it is now added, that this event has thrown a universal damp on the spirits of the exiles from that kingdom. The latest European intelligence contains very little information on the subject of a counter-revolution. The prospects of the anti-revolutionists grow fainter and fainter, as the people grow more and more habituated to the walks of freedom.

The account of the arrival of the Countess of Effingham at New-York, is premature.

A proposal has appeared in the Boston papers for publishing in that town a new weekly paper, to be entitled, the AMERICAN APOLLO: some further account of which, shall, by request, appear in our next.

The Hon. GEORGE PLATER is elected Governor of Maryland.

Thursday last a fire broke out in the house of Mr. ROBERT HODGE, bookfeller, in New-York—which, notwithstanding the great exertions of the citizens, was nearly consumed. Mr. Hodge's loss is said to be great.

Two instances of alarms by fire have occurred in this city since our last—a small framed house and a stable were destroyed, but the vigilance of the citizens prevented the flames from spreading any further.

We have the pleasure of announcing to the public, the arrival of Brigadier-General Harmar, his lady and family.

A citizen adds—"It must give peculiar pleasure to every real friend to the army to be informed, that this worthy officer (whose services, during the late war as Colonel of a regiment, and since the peace as Commander in Chief in the Western Territory, can never be forgotten while gratitude is considered of any worth amongst us) has again returned to his native place in good health and spirits, where he intends to remain the ensuing winter. And although the shafts of malice have been thrown at him, touching his conduct on a late Indian expedition, yet they have wholly missed their aim—as the General, after many and repeated solicitations for a court-martial, at length obtained a trial, and now stands acquitted of any and every charge alledged against him, with the highest honor to himself and entire satisfaction to his country."

When Congress adopted the State debts, and put them on the same footing as the Continental Debts, because they were incurred for similar objects, peculiar difficulties induced the necessity of confining the assumption within certain limits, which were then known to be short of the actual size of those debts. The opponents to the measure felt their opposition diminished, because they saw the utmost extent of the engagement—its friends acquiesced, because they knew that the establishment of the principle must finally lead to a general assumption. The measure having generally met with a favorable reception from the public, and having evidently been attended with good effects, there is no reason to anticipate much opposition to the completion of so beneficial a system, inasmuch as the existing revenues will probably supply an ample fund for the purpose. The surplusses of these debts must be very inconsiderable, and it would be inconsistent with that enlightened policy which has hitherto marked the proceedings of the national Legislature, to cripple a system which has been so universally applauded, and by a narrow-minded conduct to involve in perpetual confusion the national finances.

Married, last Thursday evening, Mr. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BACHE, to Miss MARGARET H. MARKOE—both of this city.

Died at New-York, the 18th inst. Dr. CHARLES M'KNIGHT, one of the most eminent Surgeons of that city—perhaps of the United States.

The communication from a friend at Trenton, is very reluctantly, tho' necessarily postponed till Saturday.

The poetic effusion "To War" is too incorrect for publication.

PRICE CURRENT.—PUBLIC SECURITIES.

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

Bank of the United States.

PHILADELPHIA, November 22, 1791.

THE STOCKHOLDERS of the BANK of the UNITED STATES are hereby informed, that according to the statute of incorporation, a general election for twenty-five DIRECTORS will be held at the Bank of the United States, in the city of Philadelphia, on Monday the second day of January next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

And, pursuant to the eleventh section of the Bye-Laws, the Stockholders of the said Bank are hereby notified to assemble in general meeting, at the same place, on Tuesday the third day of January next, at five o'clock in the evening.

By order of the President and Directors, JOHN KEAN, Cashier.

Second fundamental Article of Statute of Incorporation.

"Not more than three-fourths of the Directors in office, exclusive of the President, shall be eligible for the next succeeding year. But the Director who shall be President at the time of an election, may always be re-elected." [Epi]