

hand could be made of the post-offices, if ever they are under the direction of an improper person. At the time of a general election, for instance, how easy would it be for this man to dictate to particular towns and villages, "If you do not send such a man to Congress, you shall have no post-office; but if you elect my friend, you shall have a post-office, and the roads shall be run agreeably to your wishes." Another improper use may be made of this power by the interception of letters, and checking the regular channel of information throughout the country. Upon the whole, he was clearly for rejecting the motion for striking out the words in the bill.

Mr. Lawrence observed that the revenues arising from the post-office would not, perhaps, produce a sufficient sum to defray the expences of the establishment: if this should be the fact, he would prefer the amendment, but if the revenue should increase from time to time, he should have no objection to the addition of posts and roads in proportion to such increase. The consequence of establishing so extensive a system all at once, as was contemplated in the bill, might be, that the revenue would fall short, and then additional taxes must be laid to pay off the deficiency: however, upon the whole, if he could be satisfied that the revenues of the department would be sufficient to defray the expences of it, he would be against striking out the clause in the bill.

Mr. Page.—If the motion before the committee succeeds, I shall, said he, make one which will save a deal of time & money, by making a short session of it; for if this house can with propriety leave the business of the post-office to the President, it may leave to him any other business of legislation; and I may move to adjourn and leave all the objects of legislation to his sole consideration and direction: But how the President should be better acquainted with the proper places for post-offices and post-roads than the representatives of the people, I cannot conceive: In Virginia, for instance, cannot the 10 representatives say with more certainty what post-roads would be proper in that State than any one man? I look upon the motion as unconstitutional, and if it were not so, as having a mischievous tendency, which I am willing to believe the member who made it is not aware of.

In reply to Mr. Sedgwick, he said, he heard but two arguments on which any stress was laid, viz. that the President's greater responsibility pointed him out as the proper person to be entrusted with the important business of establishing post-offices and post-roads, and that his superior knowledge of this business ought to induce the committee to leave it to him alone—but as to the responsibility, how that can be greater than the responsibility of the members of this house, when he is appointed by electors for a longer term than they are—and they elected by the people themselves, and accountable to them every two years, is to me inconceivable; and as to his superior knowledge, granting that he possessed it, which I cannot grant—can there be a greater paradox than the assertion that the President's knowledge alone, is greater than that very knowledge aided by the united information of both Houses of Congress, collected and presented to him in the bill? Sir, if the clause which it is said we should strike out, instead of communicating the sense of this house to the President, took away his right of approving or rejecting it—there might be some weight in the argument drawn from the supposition of his superior knowledge—but as this is not, and cannot be the case, and so far from it, that the clause submits the business to the most mature deliberation of the President and Senate; it must be paradoxical to say that we lose the advantage of superior wisdom and knowledge of the business, if we do not leave it to the President alone—but we are told that the motion is not unconstitutional:—I think it is;—but who is there that denies it is contrary to the interest and spirit of a free government? The people, however, may think with the member who made the motion, that the President (that is, the man who is now their President) understands this business, and can do it better than their Representatives; and they may think the whole business of government might be safely entrusted to him—but they are too wise to make the experiment, and understand the nature of their government so well as to complain that Congress too often commits to heads of departments what the constitution requires at their hands. The President himself, if I mistake not, views the subject before us in the light I do, or he would not so repeatedly have called on us to make it a peculiar object of our deliberation.

(DEBATE TO BE CONTINUED.)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7.

A bill making appropriations for the support of government, for the year 1792, was twice read and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole (Mr. Smith in the chair) and resumed the consideration of the "bill to establish the post office and post roads within the United States."

Question before the committee,

Mr. Sedgwick's motion for striking out from the first section of the bill; the whole detail of the post roads and roads from Wiscasset to Savannah, and to make it (with the amendment, inserted in italics) to read as follows:

Be it enacted, &c. that, from and after the passing of this act, the following roads be established as post roads, namely, from Wiscasset in the district of Maine, to Savannah in Georgia, by such route, as the President of the United States shall from time to time, cause to be established. Provided that the route, by which the mails are at present conveyed, shall in no case be altered, till the contracts already made by the postmaster general, shall be determined.

After some debate, the question was taken on the motion, and passed in the negative.

The Committee then proceeded to the consideration of the different roads, as detailed in the bill;—sundry amendments were proposed;—various difficulties were started;—the committee rose, reported progress, and the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8.

An engrossed bill, making appropriations for the support of government, for the year 1792, was read a third time, passed, and sent to the Senate for their concurrence.

Nine memorials were presented, from as many societies for the abolition of slavery, in the States of Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. Referred to a select committee, consisting of Messrs. Benson, Baldwin, Dayton, W. Smith, and Learned.

The House having resolved itself into a committee of the whole, proceeded to the further consideration of the post-office bill; and, after some time spent therein, agreed to establish the main post-road as follows:

Wiscasset, Portland, Portsmouth, Exeter, Newbury-Port, Ipswich, Salem, Boston, Worcester, Springfield, Hartford, Middletown, New-Haven, Stratford, Fairfield, Norwalk, Stamford, New-York, Newark, Elizabeth-Town, Brunswick, Princeton, Trenton, Bristol, Philadelphia, Chester, Wilmington, Elkton, Charlestown, Havre-de-Grace, Hartford, Baltimore, Bladensburg, George-Town, Alexandria, Colchester, Dumfries, Frederickburg, Bowling-Green, Hanover Court-House, Richmond, Peterburg, Halifax, Tarborough, Smithfield, Fayetteville, New Bridge over Downing-Creek, Cheraw Court-House, Camden, Statesborough, Columbia, Cambridge, Augusta, Savannah.

The committee then proceeded to consider the cross posts, pointed out in the bill; agreed to some—altered others—introduced some additional ones—rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again. Adjourned.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9.

The Speaker communicated to the House a report from the Secretary of State, on the petition of Samuel Breck, and others, proprietors of the Boston Duck Manufactory, requesting an exclusive right to affix a particular mark to their manufactory. The report proposes that the subject should be provided for by a general regulation. Read and laid on the table.

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Secretary Otis, with the bill apportioning the Representatives of the people of the United States according to the first enumeration—passed with amendments, in which they request the concurrence of the House.

The principal amendment is to encrease the ratio of representation from thirty to thirty-three thousand.

In committee of the whole on the post-office bill:—Mr. Muhlenberg in the Chair. The subject was further discussed, several motions for additional routes of the post were made, lengthy debates ensued; some of the motions were rejected, and others agreed to. The committee rose and reported progress—and then the House adjourned till Monday.

PROVIDENCE, November 26.

From an undoubted channel of information we are authorized to mention, that the Secretary of the Treasury, whose wisdom and patriotism are conspicuous on all occasions, has directed the collectors of the customs in this State to deposit all monies received by them in the bank of Providence, and to receive the notes of said bank in payment for duties—the bank in this as in all other cases of deposit, being subject to the payment of drafts on sight. This arrangement of the Secretary, while it aids the operation of mercantile and other business, must give the notes a general circulation.

ARTICLE FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

The general assembly of the State of Vermont, at their session in October last, passed an act to found a University within that State. It is to be situated in the town of Burlington, on the southern bank of the Onion river, and will command a prospect of Lake Champlain, and a most romantically beautiful view of the settlements and highlands in the State of New-York, west of said Lake. One of the fundamental principles of the institution is, "that in the laws and regulations thereof, preference shall not be given to any sect or denomination of men whatever."

NEW-YORK, December 6.

The death of his Excellency the Marquis De La Luzerne, late Minister Plenipotentiary from the court of Versailles to the United States of America, being confirmed, the Members of the New-York State-Society of Cincinnati are requested to honor the memory of their deceased brother by wearing the usual mourning for 21 days. By order of the President, W. S. SMITH.

FROM THE ROYAL DANISH AMERICAN GAZETTE.

CHRISTIANSTED, (St. Croix) Nov. 2.

ACCOUNT OF THE HURRICANE OF THE 25th ULT.

Accounts received from the West-End and North-Side Quarters, are calamitous beyond imagination, unless to those who have been on the different Plantations in those parts of the Island; more particularly at the North-Side, where the devastation has been most deplorable: all the forward canes being totally destroyed, and those which were not so far advanced in growth, twisted and torn to pieces. Some few estates which were more forward than others, have lost every piece of cane, nearly the whole turned out by the roots, many of which are blown in whole hools out of the pieces, and where there was the most flattering prospect of a great crop, not a hoghead of sugar will be made the ensuing year, as the pieces are so destroyed, that the whole must be turned out and new holed and planted, before there can be the least expectation of a crop.

EXTRACT.

"IN America, the European mode of classing the several ranks of a nation is unknown—They allow neither of great men amongst them, nor men of genius, nor aristocrats, nor populace—and this is what is to be understood by a PURE REPUBLIC."

PRICE CURRENT.—PUBLIC SECURITIES.

Table with columns for FUNDLED DEBT and UNFUNDLED DEBT, listing various securities and their prices.

Philadelphia, December 10.

The substance of the following truly melancholy intelligence, there is reason, from various concurring accounts, to believe is too true.

Extract of a letter from Shippensburg December 5, 1791.

"I herewith write you the disagreeable news of our army being totally defeated the 4th November, about 15 miles from the Miami Village, and 30 from Fort Jefferson.

- KILLED: General Butler—Colonel Oldham. Majors—Brown, Heart, Clark, Ferguson. Captains—Bradford, Tipton, Smith, Newman, Phelon, Kirkwood, Price, Sweringen, Cubbs, Gaither. Lieutenants—Warren, Spear, Luckins, M'Mickle, M'Math, Hopper, Reed, Kello, and two others. Ensigns—Bentley, Cobb, Balch, Brooks, Chaie, Truman, Purdy, and two others. Quartermasters—Ward, Reynolds, Semple. WOUNDED: Colonel Gibson [mortally] Colonel Dark. Major Butler [mortally].

About 600 privates killed, and God only knows how many wounded. There were few, if any, officers of distinction escaped, except Gen. St. Clair.

Seven pieces of cannon, and all the tents, fell into the enemies hands.

Mr. Elliott, the Contractor, wrote this account to Mrs. Elliott, in Hagerstown, therefore the truth of it need not be doubted."

Accounts from Pittsburgh add, that the attack on our encampment began about day-break, and continued with relentless fury for four hours—that Gen. St. Clair, after sustaining so great a loss, withdrew with the remaining troops to Fort-Jefferson, and there suffered so extremely for want of provisions, as to be obliged to kill his horses for the immediate subsistence of his army.

RICHMOND, December 2.

FROM THE LEXINGTON (KEN.) GAZETTE.

Copy of a circular letter from Brigadier-General Scott, to the different County Lieutenants in Kentucky.

SIR, LEXINGTON, November 11, 1791.

"We have now received certain intelligence that the army have been defeated. The loss is very great. The garrison at Fort-Jefferson is intercepted, and many, many brave wounded gallant men are now left on the road unable to travel, and without any provision but the flesh of the pack-horses. This case requires immediate exertions. I have appointed rendezvous of volunteers at Craig's Mill, the 15th inst. completely equipped, with arms, ammunition, and 20 days provision. I trust that no exertion on your part will be wanting, when the safety of our country, and the lives of brave men are in danger. The circumstance requires the greatest dispatch, and no friend to his country can now be idle. Believe me with respect, your's."

\* \* \* The volunteers who are not ready by the 15th inst. are to follow as soon as possible."

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Mercer County, to a member of the General Assembly, dated November 13, 1791.

"The defeat of General St. Clair, on the 4th inst. engrosses all our thoughts; we had 600 men killed and wounded, all the stores lost, and 7 pieces of artillery. This engagement happened about 15 miles from the Miami Village, 30 from Fort-Jefferson, and 98 from Fort-Washington.

"General St. Clair expected an action; the men were drawn up in order of battle, and stood in their ranks all night, the army were formed into a hollow square, the artillery and baggage in the centre—the enemy made their attack at the dawn of day on all the lines, particularly on the rear, which was composed of militia; they were overpowered and gave way, the Indians rushed on and soon were possessed of the artillery, which was retaken in a few moments by a company of regulars with fixed bayonets, but most of the matrosses being killed, no use was made of it; the action continued obstinately till 9 o'clock, when our men gave way.—General St. Clair rallied them, and brought off the greater part of the wounded to Fort-Jefferson, being pursued about 3 miles, where the remains of the army and wounded are cooped, almost starved, living on poor pack-horses.

"The people of the district are preparing to go to the relief of Fort-Jefferson, and I hope by the 20th, 1000 or 1500 effective men will be at Fort-Washington, on their way. Upon this occasion, a number of your acquaintances will turn out, in Lincoln, Logan, Shelby, and Ewing, and Mercer, Col. M'Dowell, and myself, with a number of young fellows; we shall carry provisions to the garrison, and bring off the wounded."

How various is the scene of human existence!—this has been said a thousand times. Still the course of nature, or which is the same, the dispositions of Providence continue from year to year, and from age to age, to enforce the solemn remark, that all subinary things are vain.

How often are our fondest expectations blasted, our brightest prospects overcast with shades!—and true it is that the best arrangements, and the calculations of the wisest among men, are susceptible of the most grievous disappointments.

The Assumption of the State Debts, (says a New-York paper of the 2d inst.) was amongst the wisest measures of the late Congress; even those who formerly thought it an exceptionable act, now approve of it, because they have seen the good consequences flowing from it, and they now join with its former advocates in lamenting that the opposition made to it was the cause of its being left incomplete. Had the sum been assumed which was originally reported by the Secretary of the Treasury, as the amount of the debts of the several States, nothing more than justice would have been done, and some time would have been saved to the present Congress, who will undoubtedly be disposed to follow the liberal and just example of their predecessors, and complete that which peculiar circumstances left unfinished on a former occasion.

LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Wednesday the House of Representatives proceeded to the choice of a Speaker, and upon counting the votes, it appeared that the honorable WILLIAM BINGHAM, Esq. was unanimously elected.—On Thursday the house proceeded to the choice of their other officers.

The honorable RICHARD PETERS, Esq. continues Speaker of the Senate.

From PELOSI'S MARINE LIST.

ARRIVALS at the PORT of PHILADELPHIA.

Table listing ship arrivals with columns for ship name, captain, and destination.

Dr. WILSON'S first Lecture, of his first Course, will be delivered at the College, next Monday, at six o'clock in the evening; and the first Lecture of his second Course, will be delivered at the same place, at six o'clock on Tuesday evening.