

pectability of the members of the House, and of the popular confidence which resulted therefrom. No man, said he, had a more respectable opinion of the representatives of the people than himself; he need not, however observe to them, that they were men, subject to the like passions and imperfections as their fellow-citizens: It could not have escaped the reflection of the committee, that the gentlemen who composed it, had a very important interest in establishing the directions of the post—that on the declarations of men thus interested, we must rely for the justice of our ultimate conclusions; on evidence of interested individuals—individuals who are by their relation to the subject of enquiry, excluded on principles of law, from all credit, must we rely for a knowledge of those facts which are to direct our judgment?

Mr. Boudinot and Mr. Gerry made some further remarks, and then the question being taken, Mr. Sedgwick's motion was negatived.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14.

Mr. Sedgwick, from the committee to whom was referred sundry propositions as amendments to the Constitution of the United States; made report to this effect—That it will be most expedient, that the same be taken up in the House, or in committee of the whole, and that the select committee be discharged from further proceeding; ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Kittera presented the petition of Susannah Taylor, relict of William Houston, late a Lieutenant in the service of the United States, praying compensation, &c. which was read and referred to the Secretary at War.

The amendments proposed by the Senate to the bill, entitled, an act for the relief of David Cook and Thomas Campbell, were agreed to; the substance of which were, that said officers return into the treasury a sum equivalent to the half pay due to each.

The House then proceeded to consider the report of the committee of the whole, on the amendments proposed by the Senate, to the representation bill—It was moved, that the amendments proposed by the Senate, with the report of the committee of the whole thereon, be recommended to a committee of the whole House; and on the question to agree to this motion, it was carried in the affirmative.

IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

Mr. Vining moved this amendment, to strike out thirty-three thousand, and to insert, that Representatives be apportioned among the several States as follow, that is to say, New Hampshire shall choose 5, Massachusetts 16, Connecticut 8, Rhode-Island 2, Vermont 3, New York 11, New-Jersey 6, Pennsylvania 14, Delaware 2, Maryland 9, Virginia 21, Kentucky 2, N. Carolina 12, Georgia 2. On the question to agree to this amendment it passed in the negative; the committee then rose, and the chairman reported.

Mr. Vining renewed his motion in the House; where it was again negatived, ayes 23, noes 27; and on the question to agree to the first amendment of the Senate, the yeas and nays being demanded, it passed in the negative; the yeas and nays were as follow:

YEAS.

Messrs. Ames, Barnwell, Benson, Boudinot, S. Bourne, B. Bourne, Clark, Dayton, Fitzsimons, Gilman, Goodhue, Gordon, Hillhouse, Hartley, Jacobs, Kitchell, Kittera, Livermore, Niles, Sedgwick, J. Smith, I. Smith, W. Smith, Sturges, Sylvester, Thatcher, Vining, Wadsworth, Ward—29.

NAYS.

Messrs. Ashe, Baldwin, Brown, Findley, Gerry, Giles, Griffin, Grove, Huger, Key, Lee, Macon, Madison, Moore, Muhlenberg, Murray, Page, Parker, Schoonmaker, Seney, Sheredine, Steele, Sterrett, Sumpter, Treadwell, Tucker, Venable, Wayne, White, Williamson, Willis—31.

The second amendment, after the word South-Carolina, to strike out state, and insert district, was agreed to. Adjourned.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15.

A number of petitions from invalids and others, praying for pensions, compensations, &c. were read and referred to the Secretary of War.

In committee of the whole, on the Post-Office Bill—Mr. Smith (S.C.) in the chair.

Mr. Vining's motion for striking out the second section, which empowers the Postmaster-General to establish additional post-roads, for the purpose of substituting a clause making it his duty to report to Congress, from time to time, such cross post-roads as may appear necessary, with information respecting the amount of the income of the department, and the expence of such additional post roads, was taken into consideration—after some debate, the second section was struck out—and the substitute being withdrawn, a clause proposed by Mr. Fitzsimons in lieu thereof, empowering the Postmaster-General, under certain restrictions, to form contracts for extending the line of posts, was adopted—The committee then rose and reported progress.

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Secretary Otis, informing the House, that they

had taken into consideration their first amendment to the Representation Bill, which was disagreed to by the House, and do insist thereon.

Mr. Bourne, of the committee on enrolled bills, informed the House, that the committee had this day presented to the President of the United States, the bill entitled, "An act for the relief of David Cook and Thomas Campbell," for his approbation. Adjourned.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16.

A message from the President of the United States, by his Secretary Mr. Lear, informed the House that he had this day approved and signed an act for the relief of David Cook and Thomas Campbell.

Several petitions from invalids praying for pensions and compensations, were read and referred.

In committee of the whole, Mr. Muhlenberg in the chair, the post office bill was further discussed, sundry amendments were proposed, some of them adopted and others disagreed to—the committee proceeded to the 19th section—they then rose and reported progress, and the House adjourned till Monday.

BOSTON, December 5.

A subscription is on foot for building a Bridge from Barton's Point, in this town, to Lechmere's Point in Cambridge.

There not being a choice of a Federal Representative for the District of Bristol, precepts are issued for a seventh trial, on the 26th inst.

The Government of Halifax have advertised for 1000 tons of shipping, to convey the Blacks from thence to the Coast of Africa.

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

SONNET.

SERENELY moves along the bending sky,
The queen of solemn night, whose silver beam
Delights young fancy's ever gazing eye;
The while it plays on yonder chrystal stream,
The airy fays to spheric music beat
Their mystic dances with their feathery feet.
So peerless moves my Anna o'er the earth,
So far outshines each other female light;
Divinely made she seems—of heavenly birth—
And beams with fadeless lustre on the sight.
Within her eyes the little fays of mirth
Appear to dance and frolic with delight;
Her words in trembling cadence touch my ears,
Soft as the melting music of the spheres.

CHAMONT.

Philadelphia, December 17.

By an arrival at New-York, European accounts are received to the 21st of October.—They inform, that the Elector Palatine has laid a duty of 30 per cent. on all merchandise coming from France —That the result of the conferences between the Emperor, the German Princes and the King of Prussia, was to form a joint attack on France; but the King's acceptance of the Constitution had changed the face of affairs—the Emperor has since that event given public orders to recognize the national flag, and declared that the means are now restored of treating with France as heretofore—That notwithstanding this, great emigrations from France had taken place, since the law for preventing persons from leaving the kingdom had been repealed—That the exiled Princes keep their court at Colbentz, and that the Empress of Russia had sent Count Romanzoff to assure them of her favorable regards—That notwithstanding the peace between Russia and the Turks, the land armaments of the former are still kept up—this circumstance, with the zeal of the King of Sweden in favor of the exiles, and the hatred of some of the German Princes to the revolution, have induced an apprehension of an invasion of France.

That the kingdom has very little, however, to fear from its enemies; the Minister of War being called upon by the National Assembly for accounts respecting the defensive measures of the kingdom, reported, that the regular troops amounted to 105,000 infantry, 27,000 cavalry, and 12,000 artillery—two-thirds of which are on the frontiers, as are also 44 battalions of national guards; to these means of defence may be added 45 fortified places, in a late fit for a long resistance.

That 248 millions of Assignats have been burnt—That the office of Commandant General of the National Guard of Paris being abolished, M. de la Fayette had sent in his resignation, accompanied with a most patriotic and public-spirited address.

The Emperor of Morocco has made peace with the King of Spain—the brother of the Emperor having raised an insurrection in the empire. The Queen of France has begun her Sunday card parties for the winter—an evidence of her resolution to make the most of the new order of things. M. de la Fayette retires to his estate. Late accounts from Venice say, that a man was lately hung there for being a Free-Mason—and that the people of that republic are prohibited from talking of the affairs of France. The second National Assembly of France is constituted, and have proceeded to business.

The meeting of Parliament is postponed to the 25th January. There is some talk of a change in the British Ministry—the Duke of Portland to be first Lord of the Treasury, &c. Their High Mightinesses the States General, in answer to the letter of the King of France, notifying his acceptance of the Constitution, assure his Majesty that nothing shall be wanting on their part to promote a good understanding between the two countries. The Diet of Warsaw (Poland) have agreed to erect a statue to the King. The Elector of Saxony has determined to accept of the succession to the crown of that kingdom. The King and the Members of the Assembly have declared that they will defend the new Constitution with their blood, if necessary.

Lord Cornwallis, in a letter to the Secretary of State, informs, that it is his determination to attack Seringapatam, Tippo Saib's capital.

On the 9th inst. the Directors of the National Manufacturing Society met at Brunswick, in New-Jersey, when WILLIAM DUER, Esq. of New-York, was chosen Governor, and ARCHIBALD MERCER, Esq. of New-Jersey, Deputy Governor. The Directors have voted that the first payment shall be made on or before the 15th January next, and that to accommodate the subscribers, the payment may be made either at the Bank of New-York, the Bank at Philadelphia, or to Mr. Nelson, or to Colonel Bayard, at Brunswick, in New-Jersey. No place was fixed upon at which the buildings should be erected for the manufactory.—The Directors are to meet again on the 17th of January.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman of intelligence in London, to a gentleman in this city, dated October 8, 1791.

"Great sums have been lately purchased in this city, and confidence is daily increasing; yesterday six per cents were sold at 120l. per cent. which is 24s. besides paying about 1s. more in allowing 4s. 6d. sterling for the nominal dollar."

Extract of a letter from Boston, Dec. 4.

"We wish here that the Representation to the next Congress might be only one for 40,000. We are not so jealous of our liberties as some of our southern friends appear to be. We know that the business of the Union, as it respects legislation, can be done better by 80 or 100 members, than by 200.—The only point is to have an equal representation, and to be careful to choose good men—and to enable us to do it in future, we ought to be particularly careful to give all our children a good public education."

There are two descriptions of bad watchmen, those who sleep upon their posts, and those who sound false alarms.—The question is, which is most dangerous in a community?—Undoubtedly the latter—in the same proportion as bad principles are worse than none; besides, false alarms have a tendency to lull the people into a fatal insensibility in a time of real danger, whereas a surprize will ever afterwards induce a proportionate degree of vigilance in an enlightened people.

Ignorance is the proper basis of a blind zeal—when united to credulity, it forms the materials of which the unprincipled kindle the flames of discord and anarchy. Knowledge alone extinguishes the fire. The patriot who devises a feasible plan of enlightening the people in respect to their civil rights, and social duties, deserves the confidence of his countrymen; and he whom Providence hath furnished with the means of carrying such a plan into execution, and whose purer strings dilate on such an occasion, gives more substantial evidence of his philanthropy and attachment to the rights of man, than is comprized in all the harangues and addresses to the passions which have been uttered since the creation.

How numerous are the pretended friends to the rights of the people!—how few have come forward with any specific propositions to scatter the rays of knowledge among them, in such manner as to make their attachment to liberty the result of sentiment!

A correspondent remarks, that we sometimes hear of a restless turbulent spirit among the people in particular parts of the Union. This will forever be the case where the people see things through a medium presented by a few, in whom they have an implicit confidence—but from those parts of the country where competent schools and other means of instruction are provided, we do not hear the voice of complaint—the inference is plain.

QUERE.—Is a debate like matter, infinitely divisible?—Every great question consists of little ones—and every little one of less. Now what is wanting, but a hair splitting genius to open every question, like a nest of boxes or baskets, one within another, in infinitum?—And as that faculty appears not to be wanting, what is there to hinder our enjoying the pleasure of one debate to all eternity?

THE CONSTITUTION.

OUR Constitution's like a spring-leg'd boot,
Which legs with calves, or those without, will suit.

AMENDMENTS—A QUIBBLE.

THAT must grow good which every day we mend,
That must be bad whose failings have no end.

THE ART OF SPEAKING.

THE art of speaking—what a strange position!
Consists in—repetition! repetition!

Married, at Providence, R. I. Mr. NICHOLAS BROWN, Merchant, to Miss NANCY CARTER, daughter of John Carter, Esq. Postmaster, of that town.

Died, at New-York, Major MONCRIEFFE, late of the British Army.

From PELOSI's MARINE LIST.

ARRIVALS at the PORT of PHILADELPHIA.

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