

A petition of the merchants, traders, and other inhabitants of the town of Newport, in the State of Rhode-Island, praying that a rout for the post may be established from that place to Boston, through the towns of Bristol, Warren, and Taunton, presented by Mr. Bourne, was read and referred to the committee of the whole house on the bill to establish the post-office and post-roads within the United States.

Mr. Muhlenberg presented a memorial and petition from the society of the people called Quakers, in Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Virginia, deploring the loss of so many of our brave citizens in the late action with the Indians; and praying that such measures may be adopted as may be the means of restoring peace and harmony between this country and the Indian tribes; which was read, and laid on the table.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury, on the petition of George Webb, late receiver of continental taxes in the State of Virginia, praying compensation for services, and indemnification for public money, of which he was robbed, was read. Mr. Giles then proposed the following resolution—That a committee be appointed to bring in a bill, allowing to such of the receivers of continental taxes as continued in office after April 1782, a certain rate per cent. for their services, &c. which was laid on the table.

Mr. Sedgwick asked leave of absence for three weeks, which was granted.

Mr. Gerry, of the committee to whom was referred certain propositions relative to the annual receipts and expenditures of public monies, &c. brought in a report, which was read and laid on the table.

In committee of the whole, Mr. Smith (S. C.) in the chair—the bill sent from the Senate, relative to the election of a President and Vice President of the United States, and declaring in case of vacancies, in the office of President and Vice-President, what officer shall act as President of the United States, was taken into consideration.

Several amendments were proposed, some of which were agreed to, and others negatived. A motion to amend the ninth section, by striking out the words which designate the President of the Senate *pro tempore*, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to fill the vacancy of President, occasioned some debate.

The committee rose without coming to a decision on the question, and reported progress.

Mr. Dayton asked leave of absence for one week, which was granted. Adjourned.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23.

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 the act making appropriations for the support of government for the year 1792.

The House took into consideration the resolution laid on the table yesterday, by Mr. Giles, pursuant to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the petition of George Webb, receiver of Continental taxes—This resolution was, after debate, agreed to, and a committee, consisting of Messrs. Livermore, Giles, Clark, Fitzsimons, & Bourne (R. I.) appointed to report a bill.

On motion of Mr. Benson, the House took into consideration the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, on the petition of Comfort Sands and others—also the report of a committee to which said report had been referred the last session.—Proceeding on this report being objected to, as informal—the Secretary's report was again referred to a select committee, consisting of Messrs. Benson, Gregg, and Venable.

Mr. Smith (S. C.) presented a memorial and petition of sundry merchants of South-Carolina, who were in business in that State before the revolution—stating the hardships imposed on them, in consequence of being obliged to receive during the war, paper money for debts, &c. and now being called on to pay their foreign creditors in specie, pursuant to the treaty of peace, and pray that Congress would grant such relief as they may see meet—read and laid on the table.

In committee of the whole, on the bill for carrying into effect a contract between the United States and the State of Pennsylvania—Mr. Smith (S. C.) in the Chair. The committee made no alteration in the bill, they reported it accordingly to the House; it was then ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

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

The committee took into consideration those sections of the bill which had been postponed—On motion of Mr. Fitzsimons, the 8th section, which regulated the rates of postage, was expunged, and a clause proposed by him, substituted, in which the rates are reduced below both the present regulation, and that which was originally proposed in the bill.—The section which made it death for robbing the mail, by persons employed in the post office department, was amended, by substituting imprisonment for life, or for such term as the judges may determine.

The committee rose without finishing the bill—and the House adjourned till Monday.

Philadelphia, December 24.

Last Wednesday evening Lieutenant Denny, Aid-de-Camp to Major-General St. Clair, arrived with dispatches for the Secretary for the department of War, dated Fort-Washington, the 17th November.

The garrison at Fort-Jefferson was intended to be continued, and was not conceived to be in any danger: It was well supplied with provisions, provided with artillery, and commanded by Capt. Shayler of the 2d regiment. Most of the wounded had arrived at Fort-Washington from Fort-Jefferson.

Piango, the Chickasaw Chief, had returned safe with his warriors, and Captain Sparks, of Clark's battalion, bringing with them five scalps.

The Kentucky militia, under Generals Scot and Wilkinson, all mounted and furnished with 20 days provision, would probably arrive at Fort-Washington about the middle of November.

It was expected that the dispersed situation of the Indians would afford a good opportunity for the militia to make an important stroke yet this winter.

The brave Major Clark (who covered the retreat with some soldiers) supposed to be killed, had arrived safe at Fort-Washington.

The levies were generally discharged, excepting those who had enlisted into the regular service.

Non commissioned Officers and Privates—Killed and Missing, 593—Wounded, 214.

N. B. Of the 1st United States Regiment, a small detachment only was in action, the Regiment being on command.

Late accounts from Rotterdam mention, that Gin has risen in price from 7l. 5s. to 14l. per cask, of 30 vells or 60 gallons. This is occasioned by the unparalleled demand in France for that article, owing to the scarcity of Brandy in that kingdom.

It is said that the denomination of people called Methodists, of the late Mr. Wesley's persuasion, has greatly increased in France of late.

The citizens of Petersburg and Richmond, Virginia, are taking measures for the establishment of a State Bank in that Commonwealth.

We hear from Brunswick, New-Jersey, that on the 15th inst. the valuable mills upon Millstone river, belonging to Archibald Mercer, Esq. Deputy Governor of the Manufacturing Company of New-Jersey, took fire and were totally consumed, with property therein to the value of about five thousand pounds in flour, wheat, and other species of grain. The fire is said to have been communicated from an iron fire-stove which was used in severe weather to prevent the ice from clogging the wheels.

Some of the eastern papers have published the following article, viz.

"We learn from Philadelphia, that there is no hope of any commercial treaty between Great-Britain and the United States on terms of reciprocity, but that the language of Mr. Hammond indicates an adherence on the part of Britain to her old system."

It is very frequently the case, that persons several hundred miles from the scene of action, appear to know more of a particular business than those on the spot. It is fairly to be presumed that the above is a fabrication, without the least foundation to support it. Nothing that wears the semblance of authority has ever appeared to sanction the suggestions.

The articles sketching the outlines of colonial government, as proposed to the Assembly by M. Barnave, on the 24th September, have been decreed, only with the following amendment in the third article: "The laws relative to slaves, and the political situation of mulattoes and free negroes, as well as the regulations relative to the execution of such laws, shall be made by the colonial assemblies; and, with the approbation of the several governors of the colonies, shall be executed provisionally, during one year, for the American colonies, and two years for the colonies in Asia; immediately after their passing in the colonies they are to be sent home, for the sanction of the King, their execution in the mean time not to be impeded, or the power granted to the assemblies, infringed, by any prior decree whatever. French Paper.

If the amount of free letters by the mail is at the present time equal to the amount of those which are not free, what will their amount be when the number of the members of the House shall be double to what it now is?

Will it not very much reduce the revenue of the Post-office?

Will not the diminution of the revenue of the Post-office necessarily tend to obstruct the channels of information, since the Postmaster-General's arrangements are confined to the amount of the revenue?

While the constitution of the United States was on its passage by the people, the men of wisdom and virtue very generally paid a close attention to politics; and never did any country profit more by the united cares and exertions of its most estimable citizens. The constitution was guided by the temperate zeal and persuasive arguments of its advocates; nothing then escaped their vigilance—they watched for the safety of a plan of government which they justly considered as involving their own, and their country's safety. Their affection for so excellent a plan was naturally great, but this was greatly increased by the sense of the hazard while on its passage, and even during the first operations under it. But the federal zeal has abated, parties have, very much to their honor, shook hands: But there is some risk in this new state of things; the government being prosperous, its friends think it no longer stands in need of their cares—having gained strength and consistency, they fear nothing for it. They are even told that they have much to fear from it. They are open to such impressions; and the men and the occasions are not wanting to make them. The State governments are frequently called the most popular, the most friendly to republican liberty: and their consolidation is held up as a dreadful tendency of our political state. Tho' the constitution of the nation is a copy of the best of the State constitutions, perhaps an improvement upon them all, yet this style of suspicion and accusation may grow into a habit, very much to the prejudice of those sentiments of brotherhood, which ought to prevail in every American bosom. The conclusion from these observations, is, that the government of the United States having been called into being and supported thus far, by the enlightened zeal and virtue of our best and wisest citizens, the necessity still subsists for those men to aid it, to watch for it and to guard it against those encroachments which may be attempted upon its authority. Jealousy against government is often recommended; let it still be wakeful: But jealousy for government is also a virtue—as our present condition proves. We should to this day have remained a divided people, if the friends of union had not guarded with a wise jealousy against the further prostration of all government; it was in effect liberty that they watched for.—And such men will never be false to it. It is hoped that they will never cease to pay attention to the conduct of government, as the weight of their virtuous influence will be sufficient to support a good one, and to reform a bad one. There is some appearance that they are become more inattentive and cold towards it than they once were. Being in part a government over governments, questions of jurisdiction will arise. Very good men it is well known incline to extend the jurisdiction which they exercise; disputes between the State and national governments will arise—candor will allow that it is probable the latter will be in the right half the times: But there are reasons which will operate to make error and encroachment appear less excusable on the part of Congress than of a State legislature. In every fray, we naturally enough take part against the strongest. A State, a small one especially, is not the object of fear to the union—and under this impression it is overlooked that an encroachment made by one State establishes a new and more ample line of authority to every other. In this way the power of Congress may be pared away, and the friends of union may not take any alarm.

On the other hand, the authority of the union being exercised in one place, being very conspicuously placed, excites the fears of many, even when it keeps within its proper bounds—but if it should pass them, the whole people would see and check them. Thus, Congress will feel the strongest restraints against any undue exercise of its power.

Very sanguine hopes were entertained at the time of the establishment of the Bank of the United States, of its eminent utility to trade. We have seen its first operations. Though the transactions of a Bank are not exposed to view, yet enough is conjectured, and on very satisfactory grounds, relating to the great extent of its deposits and discounts, to justify the conclusion that our first hopes will not be disappointed—Certainly the affairs of a trading country cannot be well managed, where a Bank of extensive circulation is not in being. The utility of a Bank is little short of that of a Canal—it opens a trade where obstacles not less stubborn than those of nature's make, would have prevented any without it.

The late Fires which have distressed a part of the public, were solely kindled by the hand of a malevolent boy, who, after an examination before the Mayor, uniformly perseveres in his declaration, that he alone was the actual incendiary, and that no other person was in any degree concerned in his villainy. The panic therefore excited on that occasion, must subside; and age, sickness and debility may take their usual repose. It must however be confessed, that the conduct of this boy has been artful and atrocious, and can scarcely be paralleled.

CHARITY.

On Tuesday evening next, the 27th inst. being the anniversary of St. John the Evangelist, will be performed at the Theatre in the Northern Liberties, the Tragedy of VENICE PRESERVED, &c. &c.—The proceeds of the sale of Tickets to be applied to the immediate relief of distressed Widows and Orphans.

Died, at Galatz, Prince Charles Frederick Henry of Wurtemberg Stutgard, brother to the Grand Dukes of Russia, aged 21. On his journey to Italy, Lord Craven. In London, Lieutenant-General John M'Kenzie, aged 80. In Scotland, by his horse rearing and falling upon him, Lord Haddo, only son of the Earl of Aberdeen.

From PELOSI's MARINE LIST.

ARRIVALS at the PORT of PHILADELPHIA.

Ship Atlantic,	Hutchinson,	Liverpool
Brig Naucy,	Hathaway,	Port-au-Prince
Schooner Friendship,	Foster,	Charleston
	Franklin,	Aux-Cayes
Sloop Polly & Sally,	M'Neeran,	Maryland

PRICE CURRENT.—PUBLIC SECURITIES.

FUNDED DEBT.		
6 pr. Cents	23/6	pr. £. 111½ pr. cent.
3 pr. Cents	13/	65 do.
Deferred 6 pr. Cents	13/3	66½ do.
UNFUNDED DEBT.		
Final Sett. and other Certificates	20/6	102½ do.
Indents	12/6	62½
Bank Subscriptions,	146	Dollars.

Bank of the United States.

DECEMBER 22, 1791.

RESOLVED, That the Discounts in future be made upon Tuesday and Friday, and that the Notes or Bills offered for Discount, be presented at the Bank on Monday and Thursday.

(4) JOHN KEAN, Cashier.

TO BE SOLD,

On the Waters of TYE RIVER, a Branch of JAMES RIVER, in the County of Amherst, and State of Virginia,

About 7,000 acres of rich Land,

Well adapted to produce every kind of grain and grass a farmer can wish to cultivate, distant from navigation twenty miles.—For terms apply to JAMES ROSE, residing on the Land. Amherst County, Virginia, Dec. 10, 1791. (4)