

P A R I S, October 9.

WHEN the king understood that the usual ceremonial of salutation between the National Assembly and himself was to be changed at his meeting them, he seemed very much affected—"I should have thought (said he) that altho' they have deprived me of all honor, as an individual, they would have manifested some regard for the dignity of their first magistrate, the hereditary representative of the nation."—This effusion spread like wildfire; and to such a height were the populace raised, that when the great chair of state was brought into the assembly's hall, they seemed to worship the very chair. Such an excess of enthusiastic applause was reprobated by one of the orators—but his voice was drowned in the murmurs of the people.—This gave great umbrage to M. Goupilleau, one of the members of the second legislature, who cried out that *the majesty of the people was sacrificed to the majesty of the king.*—"If you dare to express yourself again in that manner (said one of the officers of the national guard) I will cut you to pieces—you are a traitor—and, take notice, that we have bayonets!"—"Yes! (replied the national guard)—we will cut him to pieces should he infringe the constitution—we are also ready to cut that man to pieces, who offers him the most trifling insult, while he is doing his duty!"—M. Goupilleau then exclaimed aloud, *The temple of the country is become the stage of bullies and gladiators. The national guard wears a menacing aspect—they tell us that the word majesty belongs to the king only—that the people are nothing, and the king every thing.* The officer was then called to the bar, and desired to explain. Three hours were spent in debating on this insult, and examining witnesses. The officer at length interpreted his expressions into another meaning; and the assembly passed on to the order of the day.

The Directors of the Social-Circle Printing Press in this city, anxious to contribute all in their power to the more general dissemination of that immortal effort of human reason, the New Constitution of France, have lately put to press a polyglot or general translation thereof into all the languages of Europe. The typographical part is to be executed with the most scrupulous attention, that it may not in that respect disgrace the translations which will be made under the inspection of a man of acknowledged learning and merit, and entrusted by him into the hands of such persons as he shall judge properly qualified in the several languages into which it is to be transferred. Each translation will be sold separately. The English will appear this week, and the others successively once a fortnight. These translations when bound up into one volume will, it is hoped, become a classic for the study of different languages.

*The following animated sentiments are taken from the Bishop of Paris's circular letter, of the 25th ult.*

"The simple and majestic edifice of our new government is now firmly established upon the ruins of the feudal tyranny, odious chicanery despotic sway, and every other species of unrestrained power that have in all ages crushed the genius of the French nation. The whole of this constitution displays to the view of man all that can be wished for to render him happy in a state of society, by an equal mixture of morals, politics, and religion. Let us cherish, then, under the two-fold relation of christians and citizens, this precious constitution, which seems to be the gospel itself transferred, for the happiness of France, to the code of her civil government.

"For a long time we were governed by the Romans; then conquered by the Franks who obliged us to become christians, afterwards ruled by ambitious usurpers of the throne—enjoying a short interval of happiness under Charlemagne; crushed under the fall of this Prince's family, and bowed down under the weight of the feudal system: rising a little under Louis the IXth, only to fall lower still under his successors, and endure the shackles of despotism or aristocracy, which ever happened to prevail—France, before the memorable era of the present revolution, possessed a government void of form and order, a barbarous mode of legislation, and, in fact, no constitution at all.

Thanks to the labors of the National Assembly, light has beamed forth from the bosom of chaos. Our political duties are now so plainly prescribed that he who runs may read. France is free; the people are the sovereign; the king is only a king while he obeys the constitution. We acknowledge no authority superior to the laws; the king only reigns by the law, and it is only in the name of the law that he can exact obedience from the people. This law is made by the temporary representatives of the nation, depositaries of the legislative authority and the mouths of the public will of the people."

L O N D O N, October 25.

The great care which the French Government have taken of the little settlement of Senegal, has improved it into one of the most advantage-

ous Colonies in their possession. A very extensive trade is now carried on with the Moors and Negroes at each side of the river, and posts established at proper distances, for the protection of those concerned therein.

The garrison is numerous and healthy, and from the great care taken to supply the Hospital and the people with proper medicines, the place does not experience that fatal mortality which it formerly did. The late Lord Sackville was so sensible of the extraordinary advantages which might be derived from this settlement, when in the hands of the English, that he took great pains to accommodate it as the French now do, but he could not prevail upon the Treasury to adopt his plan, however laudable, and the place was lost, more from inattention than from the power of the enemy.

A letter from Prague, has this luxurious passage—"Three hundred kids are daily served up for the Court—fourteen thousand pheasants, and twenty thousand partridges, and every thing else in proportion.

When the celebrated Montesquieu returned from visiting every part of Europe, and residing two years in England, he observed that Germany was fit only to travel in, Italy to reside in—England to think in, and France to live in.—If the good Baron could now take a peep into the latter, he would, we believe, be of a different opinion.

Dodd's second address in Acres on Saturday was well calculated to ridicule the corps. His falling collar—his breeches almost up to his chin, and his short stick, set the house in a roar. The corps looked rather awkward on this occasion.



CONGRESS.

P H I L A D E L P H I A.

H O U S E O F R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S,

F R I D A Y, D E C E M B E R 1 6, 1 7 9 1.

*In committee of the whole, on the Post-Office Bill.*

[Continuation of arguments against the motion for striking out the section which gives the Members of Congress the privilege of franking letters.]

WHEN the bill under consideration is once passed into a law, it is presumable, that no gentleman will ever ask a member to frank for him, as he cannot grant the request consistently with his honor:—the apprehension entertained of the existence of abuses, and of their encreasing with the encrease of numbers, would be an argument equally valid against every law: for no law can be so framed, as that people will not find means to evade it: but still the legislature will have the power of correcting the abuses, as soon as discovered, by passing new laws to check them. The committee, who drafted the bill, had before them all the acts of the British legislature, respecting the post-office: they saw the abuses and how they had been remedied; and with such light to guide their steps, they had proceeded in the execution of their task. The privilege of franking they had introduced into the bill, upon mature consideration—to take it away, would be levelling a deadly stroke at the liberty of the press: the information conveyed by franks, may be considered as the vital juices, and the channels of the post-office, as the veins; and if these are stopped, the body must be destroyed: it is treading on dangerous ground, to take any measures that may stop the channels of public information, especially of that which relates to matters in which the people are interested:—to check the circulation even of foreign intelligence, may be dangerous; but it is highly so, to deprive the people of information respecting the measures of the general government:—nor ought the members to complain of being obliged to read so many letters and petitions as come to their hands in consequence of the exemption from postage. If any gentleman thought this a heavy task, he ought to remember that it was only his duty, and a task which every member had undertaken when he accepted a seat in the House.

The privilege of franking was granted to the members, not as a personal advantage (for in fact it proved rather a burden) but as a benefit to their constituents, who, by means of it, derive information from those who are best qualified to give it, as they are the persons chosen to administer the general government. The members also receive useful information through the same channel. When the impost law and the excise law were under consideration, many persons, who were better acquainted with the operation of such laws, transmitted to the house much valuable information on those subjects; and to such information the house ought ever to be open; as on the other hand, the motives for adopting certain

measures, ought always to be explained to influential characters in the different parts of the Union. Such conduct will produce the most salutary effects, in reconciling the people to the measures of government, when the principles upon which every law is framed, are explained to them, as well by the correspondence of the members, as by their debates, published in the newspapers.

It is the duty of the members to disperse the newspapers among those people who cannot perhaps otherwise obtain them, than under the protection of franks:—even along the post-roads, the common packets of newspapers are not safe from depredation: but when once they get into the interior parts of the country, there is hardly any chance of their escaping.—whereas under cover of a frank, they are sure to reach their destination in safety.

If the privilege were confined, during the session, to letters sent from and received at the seat of government, and the members limited to their own letters, and obliged to write the whole superscription, the encrease of the apprehended abuses would be prevented: if it were further restricted, by limiting it to those letters only that are sent to or come from the state to which the member belongs, this would convince the people, that the privilege was intended for the benefit not of the members but of their constituents.

Further it was observed, that every argument, which might be adduced in favor of withdrawing the privilege from the members of Congress, might be used with equal force in the cases of the President, Vice-President, and every other public officer, mentioned in the same section. If the allowance of six dollars per day was a reason for subjecting the members to the payment of postage, every public officer ought also, on the same principle, to pay for his letters, as they were all compensated with equal liberality. If abuses were apprehended from the members, others were as likely to introduce them as they: if an encrease of revenue was contemplated, the postage of all letters to and from the President, the Vice-President, the Secretaries of State, of the Treasury, of the Department of War, &c. would contribute to that encrease:—but on the other hand, those gentlemen must have their compensations encreased, if their letters were to be taxed; for they could not be expected to pay for them at their own expense. If the privilege can be guarded against abuse, with respect to those officers, it can also be guarded in the case of members of Congress.

The establishment of the post-office is agreed to be for no other purpose than the conveyance of information into every part of the Union; and a greater portion of that had been conveyed into many of the interior parts of the country, by the newspapers sent by the members of the house, than could be conveyed by other means, excepting on the main roads on which stages go:—that information had proved highly serviceable to the present government; for wherever the newspapers had extended, or even the correspondence of the members, no opposition has been made to the laws, whereas the contrary was experienced in those parts to which the information had not penetrated; and even there, the opposition ceased, as soon as the principles on which the laws had been passed, were made known to the people.

As long as the privilege can be thus used for the general advantage of the citizens, it ought not to be relinquished by the members merely through fear of its being thought a personal privilege: it might be confined to members actually attending the session; they might be obliged to write the whole superscription, and even to add the date. In short, the wisdom of the house, it was hoped, would prevent all the evils apprehended from it, and retain the advantages.

The question being taken on the motion (for withdrawing the privilege from the members) passed in the negative—yeas 21, nays 35.

W E D N E S D A Y, December 28.

Mr. Livermore presented a memorial from the legislature of the State of New-Hampshire, remonstrating against the inequality in the assumption of the State debts; referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

A message, from the Senate, was delivered by Mr. Secretary Otis, informing that they had passed a bill (sent to them from the house) for carrying into effect the contract between the United States, and the State of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Secretary Lear delivered a message from the President of the United States, accompanied with the copy of a letter from the Attorney-General, stating certain difficulties in the execution of his office.

The house resumed the consideration of the amendments, proposed by the committee of the whole, to the post office bill.

The 20th section, with the amendments, was agreed to, and the privilege of franking continued to the members of both houses, and conferred on the Secretary of the Senate, the clerk of the House of Representatives, and some other officers.