

The amendment to the 23d section was also agreed to, subjecting newspapers conveyed in the mail, to a postage of one cent for 100 miles, and a cent and a half for any greater distance.

Section 25, as amended and agreed to, authorises the post-masters of Portsmouth, N. H. Boston, Providence, New-York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Annapolis, and Charleston, S. C. to send the letters to the houses of the persons, to whom addressed, and to charge, for such conveyance, one cent on each letter, in addition to the postage.

Having proceeded through all the amendments, the house adjourned.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29.

The letter of the Attorney-General of the United States, sent from the President yesterday, was referred to the committee who have before them the report on the judiciary system.

The petition of James Rumsey, respecting his invention of a steam-boat, was referred to the committee on useful arts, &c.

Two petitions, of William Langley and Adam Giffart, praying compensation for services, were read and referred to the Secretary of War.

The House resumed the consideration of the Post-Office bill. Many of the amendments were again amended—the time was taken up in discussing the various propositions offered from all parts of the House—the franking section was restricted in several particulars—A motion to reduce the postage of newspapers to an half cent each—and another providing for the transportation of periodical pamphlets by the mail—both failed. The several sections being gone through with—a motion to recommit the bill and amendments occasioned further debate, which continued to the time of adjournment.

Mr. Hartley obtained leave of absence for 8 days.

Mr. Hillhouse obtained leave of absence for 20 days—and then the House adjourned.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30.

A number of petitions were laid on the clerk's table by several members—these were taken up in order, read, and referred—those for pensions and compensations for services and disabilities, to the Secretary of War.

A memorial of John Churchman was read, renewing his application for the patronage of Government, to enable him to undertake and prosecute a voyage of discovery towards the North Pole—laid on the table.

Mr. Bourne of the committee of enrolment, reported the bill for carrying into effect a contract between the United States and the state of Pennsylvania, as duly enrolled—the Speaker then affixed his signature to the same.

A message was received from the President of the United States, by Mr. Secretary Lear—communicating a copy of the ratification by the state of Virginia, of the amendments proposed by Congress to the Constitution of the United States.

A petition from a number of the inhabitants of Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, against that part of the revenue law, which lays a duty on spirits distilled from the produce of the country, and praying for a repeal of the law—was read and laid on the table.

In committee of the whole, on the bill to extend the time for settling the accounts of the United States with the individual States—Mr. Muhlenberg in the chair.

The bill being read, Mr. Clark proposed an additional section, providing for enhancing the salary of the first clerk in the Commissioner's office to the sum received by the principal clerk in the Auditor's office—which was agreed to.

The committee then rose and reported accordingly—the house accepted the report, and ordered the bill to be engrossed for a third reading.

The report of a select committee, respecting the Secretary of the Treasury's exhibiting annual accounts of the receipts and expenditures of public monies, was taken into consideration—This report consisted of two resolutions—one requiring the account, the other that a committee should be appointed to examine and report thereon.

After considerable debate, the first resolution was adopted—the other disagreed to.

Adjourned till Monday.

FROM A LONDON PAPER.

VOLTAIRE.

AS Voltaire is quoted as the great Oracle of republicanism (as his ashes are looked upon as the embers from which the democracy of France has been lighted up into its present flame) let us per contra, give, in his own words, what that notorious atheistical hypocrite has said of kings:—In his celebrated address to the members of the Academy of Paris, in the year 1746, will be found these words:

In speaking of Louis the XIVth. he says, "Do you think, gentlemen, that the honors resounded by so many voices to the memory of Louis the XIVth. did not open to themselves a way to the

heart of his successor?—It will one day be said, that both journeyed to immortality; sometimes by the same road, sometimes by different routes. Posterity must say, that this was the true pursuit of glory; that the monarchy of France displayed a greatness of soul in the happiness of its people! That land and sea gave testimony of its magnificence—and the smallest objects, as soon as they began to have any relation to it, assumed a new character, and received the stamp of Sterling grandeur!"

At the conclusion of this memorable harangue, we find Voltaire again either a strong royalist, or the most profound hypocrite. His words are, in decanting on the character of the late king of France, "We are happy, we have known his virtues ever since he began to reign. We have always thought of him, as all ages, and all nations will think. Never was there a love more sincere, or better expressed: By all hearts it is felt, and by your eloquent tongue it is declared. Medals worthy of the most polite times of Greece eternize his triumphs and our happiness. O! that I could see in our public places, statues of that humane monarch carved by the hands of our Praxiteles's, environed with all the symbols of public felicity: O! that I could read at the foot of each statue, these words, which are engraved upon all our hearts, "To the father of his country."

After this, what must the public think of the admirers of Voltaire?

FROM THE LONDON CHRONICLE.

THOMSON.

One of the most elegant compliments ever paid to this charming Poet was by a person of his own name, who sent him the following Verses:

To Mr. JAMES THOMSON, on his SEASONS.

HA!L Nature's Poet, whom she taught alone
To sing her works, in numbers like her own,
Sweet as the thrush that warbles in the dale,
And soft as Philomela's tender tale;
She lent her pencil too of wond'rous pow'r,
To catch the rainbow, and to form the flow'r,
Of many mingling hues—and smiling said,
(But first with laurel crown'd her Favourite's head)
"These beautiful Children, tho' so fair they shine,
"Fade in my Seasons; let them live in thine."
And live they shall, the charm of every eye,
Till Nature sicken, and the SEASONS die.

WILLIAM THOMSON.

Philadelphia, December 31.

All accounts of the late action with the Indians reflect honor on the conduct of General St. Clair and his gallant troops. It is true the army was defeated, but it is highly probable they were overpowered by superior numbers.—The annals of the late war do not exhibit a more lengthy and severe conflict; and although the issue of it was unfortunate, the reputation of the American arms remains unimpeached.

Whatever may be the consequences of the Indian war, the United States are not responsible for them.—The predatory incursions of the Wabash and Miami Indians, began in the early part of the late war, and have continued without intermission to the present time.

These Indians have constantly refused the invitations of the United States to treat of peace, although the neighbouring tribes did, at several periods since the late war, conclude treaties with us. Some people have supposed that this war has been lighted up by the encroachments of the whites.—This does not appear to be the case.—The Wabash Indians have not any claim to the lands within the boundaries stipulated by several treaties with the Western Indians;—nor have they urged any such claim: they appear to have been incited to a continuance of their depredations, by a thirst for blood and plunder, with both of which they have been but too abundantly gratified.

When the insolence and cruelties of these banditti shall be fully explained to the public, together with the means used to bring them to a just sense of their situation, without having recourse to the last extremity, the humanity of the United States will be abundantly apparent, and their conduct receive, as it merits, the approbation of the enlightened part of mankind.

Six Cherokee Chiefs, with a woman and boy of that nation, accompanied by Mr. Carey, interpreter, arrived in town on Thursday last, about twelve o'clock. They were attended by Colonel Procter, of this city.

The following are the names of the six Cherokee Chiefs:

- Ininnetua, or Bloody fellow: a General.
- Chadlaw, or King-Fisher: a Colonel.
- Nattawego, or the North Nation: a General.
- Kuthaguita, or The Prince: the Old Warrior.
- Teyestiskey, or The Disturber: a Captain.
- Shucwegee, or Captain George.
- The Squaw, Jean Dougherty.

Christian Febiger, Esq. is unanimously re-elected Treasurer of this Commonwealth, by the Legislature.

A vessel arrived at Boston brings a confirmation of the destruction of Port-au-Prince.

Port-au Prince was a large and populous city, containing more than 20,000 inhabitants—It is now an heap of rubbish and its citizens reduced to indefinable distress.

We can inform our readers from the best authority, that in the late action of the 4th of November, under Major-General St. Clair, the following gallant conduct of Major Butler, brother to the late General Butler who commanded one of the battalions of levies from this state, took place—the Major having received the wound which broke his leg, he retired to be dressed, and the moment it was over, got himself put upon a horse, and returned to his battalion, and continued with it until it was ordered to retire.

The Subscription-Book for opening the Canal and Lock Navigation between the rivers Schuylkill and Susquehanna, by the waters of Tulpehocken, Quitapahilla, and Swatara, in the counties of Berks and Dauphin, having been kept open for fifteen days, agreeable to law, were closed on Saturday last, when it appeared that there were 40,000 shares subscribed, being 39,000 shares more than the law requires, the whole number is to be reduced down to one thousand shares, by lottery.

The committee of the House of Representatives appointed to consider and report on the act respecting dramatic exhibitions, have reported in substance, That as the public sentiment will forever prescribe the language, and stamp the character of public exhibitions, it becomes unnecessary for the Legislature to place the Theatre under the trammels of censors.

Late letters from Jamaica to a gentleman in this city, mention that the spirit of revolt among the negroes had at length reached the island—that the white inhabitants were sincerely alarmed for their safety, had proclaimed martial law, and were taking every precaution in their power to prevent a general insurrection. The flame is spreading, and threatens the West-India islands with ruin and devastation.

Wednesday last the Senate of this Commonwealth, voted that the choice of a Federal Senator should be by a concurrent vote—11, to 6.

The amnesty, allowed in France to the fugitive princes, and others who have opposed the revolution, is very honorable, as well as wise and politic. Men overturn a tyranny, because they fear it; and what they fear they hate. The struggle for liberty inflames both passions, fear and hatred. The moment of triumph is a dangerous trial of the heart; for it finds the latter passion thirsting for the destruction of the objects and persons, which it lately feared and continues to hate. The amnesty evinces the magnanimous confidence of the National Assembly in the stability of their own work; no longer fearing their foes, they have the nobleness of soul, as well as wisdom, to forgive them. It is to the honor of the age that opinions are no longer punished as crimes. Go on, enlightened Frenchmen, your mildness (a national virtue now resumed) in the use of your privileges, will make liberty appear amiable in the eyes of other nations.

Hitherto a free people have been considered as a kind of sectaries; it has been a distinction in the world, and a proud one too of more worth than all its titles. But the time is coming, and the French, if they are wise and prudent enough to make their work strong as they do it, will hasten the period, when the major vote of the world will be given in favor of liberty—when the want, or the loss of it, will be considered as a stain, a mark of ignominy and degradation, which slaves, the most used to it, will not have the patience to carry.

The example of a free people is important to the world. The common objection against free governments, is, that they run into licentiousness. A free people, therefore, by refusing obedience to the laws, do an injury not only to themselves, but to mankind. It is not kings only who are terrified by seeing the effects of this disobedience—it seems, in their view of the matter, a duty with men of sense and virtue, living in countries whose governments need reforming, to oppose the work of reformation, and to preserve the public tranquillity, even at the price of delaying, perhaps of finally losing the opportunity of changing things for the better. How would it discourage the European lovers of liberty and good order, for they are the same sort of men, to find that we in America have made a new form of government, as free as the air, and one that has been found as good to dispute about as ever was made; but the people will not obey it. Surely then no American who is half as proud of his country and his liberty as he has cause to be, will give occasion for his own and his country's dishonor, by opposing or counteracting the excise laws. There is no liberty without government—and surely there is no government where men govern the laws. Men may love liberty in their hearts who join in the cry against the excise—but if they are wild enough to oppose it forcibly, they are the worst enemies of liberty.

The excise has a bad name—but never was more pains bestowed to make the act deserve a good one. Will not the men who think it a dangerous law, give those who would explain it an hearing? Will they not see the effects of the law before they pronounce it oppressive? It is to be feared that great misrepresentations have taken place. But the truth, though slow, will arrive at last, and thousands will be surprised to find how grossly they have been imposed upon, in relation to this obnoxious law.

With so much good sense as our countrymen are known to possess; and after so much as they have done and suffered to establish an equal government, by laws and not by men, it is impossible to conceive that any men, unless in a fit of mad passion, can be found so wicked and foolish as to fly in the face of authority, and to oppose those very laws which they, by their representatives, have had part in framing.

PRICE CURRENT.—PUBLIC SECURITIES.

FUNDED DEBT.		
6 pr. Cents	23/	115 pr. cent.
3 pr. Cents	13/6	67 1/2 do.
Deferred 6 pr. Cents	13/8	68 1/2 do.
UNFUNDED DEBT.		
Final Sett. and other Certificates	20/6	102 1/2 do.
Indents	12/9	63 1/2 do.
Bank Subscriptions,	158	Dollars.

THE annual election of OFFICERS of the AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, will be held at their Hall between the hours of 2 and 5, P. M. on FRIDAY the 6th of JANUARY next.

December 31.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS, Sec'y.