

among other objects which may engage the attention of the legislative body, we sincerely hope that a worthy and respectable member will not forget his plan for checking the progress of Female Prostitution—an evil which, in this country, and particularly in the metropolis, has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished. Though this evil cannot be abolished, it may, however, be lessened. The establishment of a proper police, vigilant magistrates, active officers, and suitable punishment inflicted upon those who offend, will undoubtedly contribute to promote so desirable an object, and be of the utmost benefit to society.

The arms of Great-Britain continue prosperous in India. But it would be rash, after the public dispatch of Lord Cornwallis, to predict sudden or unobstructed success. We therefore wait the event with the solicitude and anxiety of good citizens.

The marriage of the Duke of York with the Princess Frederica of Prussia, has taken place sooner than we expected. This alliance is highly creditable to the Duke, and honorable to the nation. The union of the young Prince of Orange with another branch of the same family, renders the connection still more desirable. The Duchesses of York, if fame speaks truth, possess every amiable quality that can adorn her sex.—At Berlin her character is held in high estimation. Her Royal Highness, it is to be hoped, will become the model of female imitation; and her example may banish from the higher circles those modish follies which at present prevail, & which, if not criminal, are certainly ridiculous, and engage too much of their leisure and attention.

A printed paper has been distributed at Stockholm, one of which the King found under his seat, and of which the following is a copy:

“The Swedish nation will not go to war against the French nation:—The law only permits our assembly to make an offensive war; thy oath obliges thee only to lead thy troops for the service of the nation; and it is only in this service that we will fight against who ever offers to offend or transgress the laws, and are in any wise deficient in discharging their duty.”

By the Nancy, Captain Anderson, arrived yesterday in the river, from Rouen, in Normandy, we are acquainted, that the utmost rejoicings were observed in that city, so long celebrated for its exertions in the cause of freedom, on the day which the intelligence arrived of the French King's acceptance of the Constitution. Captain Anderson adds, that the people of that country seem so attached to the late changes, that if he may judge of all France by the people of Rouen, all the powers of Europe united, will not be able to make them change their political creed.

The price of bread in Paris still continues to rise, and it is feared may interrupt the public tranquillity. It is attributed to the failure of the crops through the southern provinces of France. In the north the harvest was good.

The plague still rages at Constantinople, and still more in the Morea and in Egypt.

The different presents made in Berlin, which the Duke of York distributed on account of his marriage, cost the sum of 35,000 rix dollars.

The American funds are now much sought after, and have risen within the two last months from 92 to 120 per cent. The Dutch have sold out very large sums from our funds, to purchase those of America.

Accounts from Constantinople mention, that every thing was reduced to order in that empire, the rebels in Asia and Africa were entirely subdued.

The Dutch have continued selling out of our funds for some time, especially Bank Stock, so that at the opening of the books last Thursday, more transfers were made than ever were known in one day before. The high rate at which they have sold will give a vast profit to the foreigners; but it is a comfort to see now little the price has been affected; not above two or three per cent. by the prodigious sums sold out. Nothing proves more the internal riches of our country, than this circumstance, that when the foreigners chuse to sell out of our funds, the native stockholders can take on themselves all that comes to market, and as the interest of it will in future be paid to and spent among ourselves, and not remitted abroad, it will operate to keep up the course of exchange in favor of this country.

The French king has begun to appoint the officers of his new household. M. de Brissac is commander in chief of the military department, M. de Harvelly is commander of the infantry, and M. de Point l'Abbe of the cavalry.

The Empress of Russia has disbanded the greater part of her Asiatic troops, and distributed among them implements of agriculture.

The Royal Academy of Berlin held their anniversary meeting on the 5th ult. the king's birth-day, when M. de Hertberg notified, that, amongst several others, the King of Poland had been elected a member of that Academy.

The disturbances which existed in the Canton of Berne, are entirely settled without bloodshed.

This morning John Hopkins, Esq. Lord Mayor elect, was presented to the Lord Chancellor, at his house in Ormond-street, and received the signification of his Majesty's approbation.

The King of Spain has lately made considerable promotions among the officers of his army, and has intimated an intention of raising the pay of his troops. These are very obvious, but only temporary expedients for securing the obedience of troops, between whom and their commanders there is no common interest.

Spain seems to take one lesson from France. In order to effect the Revolution the more surely, France increased the pay of the soldiers. Spain, to secure their allegiance to Monarchy, has done the same. Thus has the soldier fared well, whether freedom or despotism prevails: but it may be a bad military lesson, to adopt that cause which pays best.

The Resolutions of the Emperor are the most fatal strokes that could possibly have been given to the hopes of the refugee princes; for independent of depriving them of all expectations from him, they will throw a damp upon the success of their negotiations elsewhere.

M E N T Z, October 17.

The French emigrants who were here a few days ago, received a message from the Prince of Conde, requesting them to repair to him at Worms; but on their arrival in that city he was not to be found, having set off for Alchassenbourg. By the despair and sadness visible amongst these foreigners, it is imagined that the object for which M. de Conde desired their attendance, was to communicate to them the bad news of the acceptance of the new constitution by his Most Christian Majesty, which destroyed every hope of succour from foreign powers to restore the ancient form of government, and enable them to return to their own country.



## CONGRESS.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1791.

The Report of the Committee of the whole House on the Post-Office Bill, was taken into consideration.

THE several amendments agreed to by the committee were read. The first section, as amended, after some further amendments, was agreed to—this section details the roads. Second amendment was to authorize the Postmaster-General to form contracts for carrying the mail on cross-roads—agreed. In the eighth section the rates of postage are established by an amendment, the lowest at six cents for a single letter, and the highest twenty-five cents for the greatest distance—agreed.

The substitution of “imprisonment for life,” in lieu of the words “shall suffer death,” for robbing the mail, was objected to by Mr. Hartley, who observed, that for the protection of property, most countries have enacted penal laws.—Those which have been the most sanguinary, have, I think, not been the most successful.—Those of a moderate complexion, have had a better effect, without sporting with the lives of men.

While the English government had its influence in America, the public mind in most of the Provinces was in favor of the former kind. Pennsylvania was among the first exceptions. The Quakers, who first settled Pennsylvania, were moderate in their manners and principles:—their penal code remained till the late revolution. The independence of America has led to great inquiry—and we have ventured to change our laws, and made them less sanguinary—this has happened in a greater or lesser degree in most of the States.

Life is not sported with, and the idea of confinement and repentance strongly prevails. As I have said the other day—we have altered our laws with great success in Pennsylvania.

What protection are we to have to this property?—What danger is it subject to?

The Postmaster-General will doubtless take security from the deputies he appoints, and of those to whom the mail is entrusted.

This is our security—and there is scarcely an instance where a man is punished with death for a mere breach of trust.

Fines and imprisonment will be sufficient to punish the party, and deter others from committing the like offence.

It is not like a robbery upon the person, taking money. There is, in the latter, a complication of offences—Personal security as well as property are involved, and the crime enhanced. Perhaps robbery should be punished with death; but I

think fine and imprisonment sufficient for the crime now under consideration. The public mind would more approve of it than the punishment of death.

Mr. Boudinot agreed in sentiment with Mr. Hartley. He said that extreme punishments often prevented a jury from convicting a criminal.

Mr. Barnwell was of opinion that a crime of so pernicious a nature as robbing the mail, ought to be punished with death.

Mr. Livermore was also in favor of the original clause. He observed that a felon was never so secure as when he was hanged out of the way. In reply to Mr. Hartley's remarks respecting the salutary effects of the new system adopted in Pennsylvania, he said he did not think they were so apparent as had been represented—crimes were still committed, he said, in this city; for that since the meeting of Congress, several attempts had been made to set it on fire. He said that punishments, and capital ones, would always be found necessary.

Mr. Smith (N.H.) observed, that punishments ought to be proportioned to the offences committed; this is not done in the bill—He therefore was under the necessity of voting against the clause, in order to having some modification of it made.

Mr. Hillhouse was in favor of the amendment as reported by the committee.

Mr. Hartley moved an amendment to the amendment, by striking out the words “for life”—this was seconded by Mr. Findley, and supported by Mr. Kittera—who observed, that it was a principle in jurisprudence not to leave too much in the discretion of the judges. This amendment was carried.—On the question to agree to the section as thus amended,

Mr. Baldwin stated sundry particulars to shew that the crimes and punishments referred to in this bill, were on a totally different principle from those mentioned in laws already passed by the Legislature of the United States. He should therefore vote against the amendment.

The question being divided, the first was on striking out the clause, “shall suffer death,”—it passed in the negative—so that the original clause remains.

The twentieth section, respecting *franking*, Mr. Wadsworth moved should be struck out.

Mr. White observed, that he did not like the clause as it stands; but he was not for abolishing the privilege altogether. He read a clause which very much restricted the business, and which he should prefer to the section in the bill.

Mr. Hillhouse said he had thought favorably of the motion; but on more mature consideration, and after hearing the arguments on the subject from gentlemen in favor of it, he was of opinion it would be best to retain the privilege.

Mr. Wadsworth observed, that finding a great alteration had taken place in the sentiments of gentlemen on the subject, he had been induced to renew the motion.—He observed that the evils resulting from the practice, he had found on enquiry, were much greater than he had supposed; but if the practice is retained, he should greatly prefer the proposition of the gentleman from Virginia. He doubted not that a revenue might be raised from the post-office, and in a way which would be perfectly agreeable to the people, provided abuses were kept out of the department, by franks and other means.

Mr. Sturges replied to Mr. Wadsworth.—He observed that it was not to be considered as a privilege conferred on the members, but intended solely for the benefit of the people; it had not been complained of—was productive of the most salutary consequences—and he did not think the disadvantages counterbalanced the numerous benefits resulting from it. As to the abuses mentioned, he had greater confidence in the honor and integrity both of the present members, and those of any future national legislature, than to suppose they would abuse the privilege. He was in favor of every necessary restriction, but still for retaining the substance of the clause.

Mr. Gerry replied to Mr. Wadsworth.—He observed, in the course of his remarks, that the arguments offered for abolishing the privilege, were the most forcible in favor of retaining it.

Mr. Kittera observed, that though the revenue of the post office might at first be affected, yet he was of opinion that the correspondencies which would arise from those begun by franking, would eventually contribute to an increase of the revenue.

[The further consideration of the amendments was postponed.]

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18.

A bill to reimburse certain extra expences of the late commissioners for treating of peace with the Creek Indians, having been read a second time, and referred to a committee of the whole house on Wednesday next, it was (on motion of Mr. Giles) resolved, that the Comptroller of the treasury be directed to lay before the house a copy of the account of the said extra expences.

A message, from the President of the United States, was delivered by Mr. Secretary Lear, together with the copy of an act of the Legislature