

P A R I S, October 9.

THERE is a general canvass for the offices of Mayor of Paris, Procurator Syndic, &c. but it is believed, that the Democratic party will prevail, and that M. Peythion will be Mayor, and M. Roberspierre Syndic.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, Oct. 13.

The Assembly called for the order of the day. The commissioners appointed to examine the archives, reported that the number of papers contained in them was so great, that to examine the whole would have taken several months. M. Camus, the archivist, had promised to give them an abstract of the whole within two days, and had kept his word. This abstract they had found so ably made out, so clear in arrangement, and so accurate in its details, as far as they had had the means of examining them, that they thought it more honorable to adopt it, and inform the assembly, to whom they were indebted for it, than to present any thing less perfect of their own.

The reading of this abstract, which contained an admirable account of the committees appointed by the constituting assembly, the powers which the necessity of the times had obliged them to assume, the powers which they ought to exercise in less arduous circumstances, what progress each of them had made in the matters laid before them, and the ready means by which any new committee might take up the same subjects, where the former committees had left them, took up the greater part of the day.

The assembly ordered, that honorable mention should be made in the minutes of this important voluntary service, performed by M. Camus, and agreed to take his account of the committees as the basis of their plan.

L O N D O N, November 16.

Very warm debates lately took place in the Polish Diet at Warsaw, occasioned by a proposed revision of the Administrative Commissions, part of which for the Crown, and part for the duchy of Lithuania. The King and his party triumphed, as usual, over all opposition. Several articles at length were unanimously agreed to, which equally favor the Crown of Poland and the Duchy of Lithuania.

Theodore Ropp, an inhabitant of Lithuania, has settled a sum of money for portioning three poor girls annually on the 3d of May, in commemoration of the Polish revolution.

The liberty of the Press gains ground even at Vienna. A work is lately published there, with the permission of government, entitled, "Of the duty of Monarchs, and the Provincial States, to alleviate the burden of the public expences, and of that of subjects, not to pass the limits of obedience." In this treatise the author declaims against the exemption of the Nobility and Clergy from taxes, and the injustice of confining the most distinguished and lucrative employments to the former. He reprobates also the game laws, as destructive of agriculture, and personal servitude as pregnant with every political mischief.

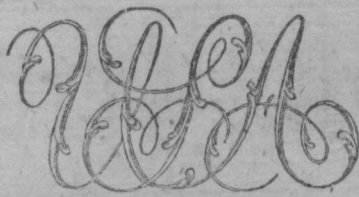
Sorcery, though extinct in most parts of the world, still exists at Rome, where the reverend Father Altizza was lately seized for this crime, by order of the Holy and enlightened office of Inquisition.

The Chevalier Emo, has seized two Tunisian cruizers, under the cannon of Bastia, in the island of Corsica. The Bey has reclaimed them from the French commandant, and declared, that, if they are not delivered up within the space of two months, he will declare war against the National Flag.

M. Collot d'Herbois has gained the prize of 15 louis d'ors, offered by the Jacobins, for the best patriotic Almanack. The judges were M. M. Condorcet, Clavieres, and M. Dufaux.

M. Collot has presented the sum received, among such of his brother patriots as are in distress.

In many particulars we think the new constitution of France much better than our own; and especially in those most important points, which relate to the election and duration of the representative body, and to the entire separation of religion from politics. On the subject of this last article, one cannot but admire at the pertinacious stiffness of our civil and ecclesiastical rulers. Our countrymen are but too visibly cramped in their religion, violated in their morality, and ensnared in their consciences. If this island should still persevere in imposing tests and subscriptions, after the unnatural and unhallowed alliance of church and state is no less wisely than virtuously dissolved in a neighbouring kingdom (France) it will be disgraceful to us, as Protestants; if we continue to impede, and confound and embarrass the kingdom of Heaven by mixing it with the kingdom of this world, after they have been severed by an Assembly, which some among us do not scruple to stigmatize as an assembly of infidels and Atheists, it will be disgraceful to us not only as Protestants, but as the disciples of Christ, and as the servants of the living God.



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,

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1791.

*A Motion for referring the Petition of the Inhabitants of Northumberland County, against the Excise, to the Secretary of the Treasury, occasioned some conversation.*

MR. GILES objected to such reference as improper—He thought the subject cognizable by the House only.

Mr. Gerry made some remarks, which were opposed to a more particular attention to this petition than to others on the same subject—He thought the petition improper, as it prays for a repeal of the law—he threw out some reflections on the people of the Western counties for their want of patriotism, in not paying taxes for the support of their state government—and now, said he, they appear to wish to get rid of all contribution for the support of the general government also.

Mr. Findley observed that it had been customary to refer the petitions to the Secretary of the Treasury. If this regulation had not been adopted, he should now be opposed to it. He replied to Mr. Gerry, and defended the character of the people of the Western counties—said they had paid their taxes for the support of the state government with promptitude. Observations of a contrary kind, he knew, had got into the newspapers, which he thought were very uncandid and improper—but he was sorry to hear such observations from the members of this house. The present petition, however, is not, said he, from a Western county.

The motion for the reference was agreed to.

*On the Report of the Select Committee respecting Receipts and Expenditures of Public Monies.*

Mr. Livermore rose for enquiry as to the denomination of legislative proceedings which this report was to receive, whether it was to be enacted into a law, or to be considered as a standing rule of the house.

Mr. Gerry replied—He said the object was to obtain such information, from time to time, as was necessary to forming a judgment respecting the propriety of additional taxes. The committee has taken such steps as they thought proper—the result is before the house, and it remains for them to dispose of it as they may think proper—he however thought that there would be a propriety in making it a standing rule of the house—he said it would be acting agreeable to the Constitution, which expressly says that such an account shall be exhibited.

Mr. Livermore said he could not see any propriety in this mode of proceeding—he was in favor of as full an investigation into the expenditures of public money as any man—but he tho't that no rule or standing order of the house could controul the law. A law is already enacted for the regulation of the Treasury Department—if this law is defective, it may be amended—but he had no idea of doing business in this way. As the gentleman has observed, we have a right to call for such an account whenever we please, agreeable to laws already enacted, and therefore the resolutions appear to be superceded—besides, he doubted whether the power of this house extended to the making rules which shall bind any future Congress.

Mr. Giles undertook to shew, from the Constitution, that one Congress had a right to prescribe rules for a subsequent Congress—he shewed that several disadvantages would accrue from the contrary position, and in fact do already exist in consequence of the house having acted on the opposite supposition.

Mr. Gerry contended that the regulation proposed was necessary, in order to securing this important object—the house has a right to call for this information; the Constitution has made it our duty to do so, and we have a right to say in what manner and at what periods this information shall be received.

Mr. Bourne said he conceived the resolutions were entirely superfluous, as the law was express on the subject. He called for the reading of the law—which was done.

Mr. Barnwell spoke in favor of the resolutions—

Mr. Livermore denied the right of one house to impose rules on another—He said the supposition, in his opinion, was contrary to several express provisions in the Constitution; to prove which, he referred to several parts of the instrument.

Mr. Murray was of opinion that the practice of the house justified the adoption of the resolutions now under consideration—he referred to the Secretary of the Treasury's report on manufactures, which had been ordered by a former house, and received by the present.

Mr. Gerry, in reply to Mr. Bourne, observed, that the article in the law just read, had respect only to the estimates of receipts and expenditures. An estimate, he supposed, was a very different thing from an account.

Mr. Williamson supported the resolutions—He said the present Congress had a right to make such rules and regulations respecting the treasury as they thought proper; and to say that those rules shall be perpetual—still a future Congress may repeal them, and establish others which they may say shall be standing rules.

Mr. Niles wished some rules similar to those proposed should be adopted—He denied the right of one Congress, in its rules and regulations, to bind another. On this principle, the present house may chuse a speaker for a subsequent house. The question never has been for repealing the rules and regulations of a former house; but, whether they shall be adopted?—He wished for a law on the subject, but was opposed to the business in its present form.

Mr. Clark was in favor of adopting some measures to obtain the information in question—but he thought the present house had no more right to bind a future house by a standing rule in this respect, than they have to say that the speaker of the next house shall wear a tye wig—He moved an amendment, by making the resolution to read, "that the return should be made on the fourth Monday of October next." This motion was seconded, but not agreed to.

One of the resolutions offered by the committee, after some modification, was agreed to; the other rejected.

MONDAY, JANUARY 23.

A letter from the Comptroller of the Treasury was read, inclosing a statement of the extra expences, not allowed, incurred by the Commissioners appointed to treat with the Creek Indians.

Sundry petitions for pensions, compensations, &c. were read and referred.

The order of the day being called for, on the report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the petition of Catharine Greene, several members objected to taking up this business, being of a private nature, while matters of the greatest public importance demand the immediate attention of Congress. The question being taken, the motion for going into a committee of the whole on this business was carried, 21 to 16.—And Mr. Livermore took the chair.

After a lengthy debate, the question was put for agreeing to the first resolution, in the following words:

Resolved, as the opinion of this committee, That the estate of the late Major General Greene ought to be indemnified for the engagements entered into by that General, with certain persons in the State of South Carolina, for the purpose of obtaining supplies for the army of the United States, under his command, in the year 1783.

Which was negatived, 23 to 25.

The committee then rose, and the chairman reported that the committee of the whole house had had under consideration a report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the petition of Catharine Greene—and had come to no resolution thereon.

Mr. Macon then moved that the committee of the whole should be discharged from any further proceedings on the subject—which motion was agreed to.

Mr. Bourne then laid on the table a resolution for referring the Secretary's report, together with Mrs. Greene's petition, and the vouchers accompanying it, to a select committee, with instruction to enquire into the facts which rendered it necessary for General Greene to become security to Banks and Co. and the nature, circumstances, and amount of the original debt, and the obligations entered into by General Greene for payment thereof; with an account of the monies or collateral security received by the obligees, or by General Greene in his life time, or his representatives since his death, in part thereof; and the eventual loss which his estate will sustain in consequence of the said securities;—and after examining all the circumstances, and such further evidence as may be offered relative to the transaction, to report their opinion thereon to the house.

A message was received from the President of the United States, by Mr. Secretary Lear, conveying certain documents received from the Legislature of the State of Virginia, respecting lands located by the officers and soldiers of the Virginia line, under the laws of that State, and since ceded to the Chicasaw Indians.—Also informing the house, that the President had this day approved and signed an act for extending the time limited for settling the accounts of the United States with the individual States.