

A report from the Secretary of the Treasury was read, pursuant to the order of the house of the 19th instant—accompanied with sundry estimates—which were ordered to be printed.

Mr. Fitzsimons moved that the report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the subject of Manufactures, should be referred to a select committee.

Mr. Giles said he should prefer a reference to the committee of the whole house.—He observed that if the gentleman had read it with as much attention as he had, he would consider it as containing propositions which merited the attention of the committee of the whole.

The motion for a select committee was negatived, 24 to 21. It was then voted that the report be referred to a committee of the whole, and made the order of the day for Monday next.

The report of the select committee on a letter from the Attorney-General, communicated to the house by the President of the United States, was taken into consideration, and agreed to—and a committee appointed to report a bill accordingly.

The message of the President of this day, respecting the bounty lands to the officers and soldiers of the Virginia line, it was voted should be referred to a committee formerly appointed on the same subject. Adjourned.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24.

A petition of Louis Gualanjeau, for himself and brother, was read, and referred to a select committee, consisting of Mr. Dayton, Mr. Williamson, and Mr. W. Smith.

A petition of Henry Walton, in behalf of himself and sisters, was read, praying compensation for losses sustained in the late war—Referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Lawrence, of the committee appointed for the purpose, reported a "bill concerning the office of the Attorney-General of the United States," which was read a first and second time, and referred to a committee of the whole house.

On motion of Mr. Benson, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, and took into consideration sundry propositions respecting the apportionment of representatives among the people of the several states.

The propositions were as follow: That it is the opinion of this committee that a bill ought to be prepared, apportioning representatives among the several states, according to the first enumeration—and for making provision for a second enumeration—and for an apportionment of representation thereon, to compose the House of Representatives after the 3d day of March, 1797.

On motion of Mr. Gerry, and by consent of Mr. Benson, (the original mover of the propositions) the following clause was added—And that the committee do not report a greater ratio than 30,000 inhabitants, to every representative.

A motion to strike out the last clause occasioned some debate, and was finally negatived. The foregoing propositions being agreed to by the committee, were reported by the Chairman to the house—who took the same into consideration.

Mr. Dayton moved that the report should be amended, by striking out the whole after the words "first enumeration," in the first proposition. This motion, after some debate, was divided—and the yeas and nays being called on the proposition providing for a second enumeration, the motion for striking out was negatived, 36 to 23. The motion to strike out the last clause, designating the ratio of representation, was carried in the affirmative—Yeas 33, Nays 26.

A committee was then appointed to report a bill, consisting of Mr. Benson, Mr. Madison, and Mr. Gerry.

The House then took into consideration the amendments agreed to by the committee of the whole, to the bill to ascertain and regulate the claims to invalid pensions, &c.

These amendments were agreed to with amendments—additional amendments were proposed, and agreed to.—The House adjourned without finishing the bill.

PITTSBURGH, January 7.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Fort-Franklin, to his correspondent in this place, dated December 29, 1791.

"I arrived at this place after a disagreeable and fatiguing journey of six days. Immediately after my arrival we received very alarming news from the Cornplanter, that the western Indians were coming to cut off both him and us—the event of this God only knows.—By accounts from Indians we hear that 800 Canadians were in the action against our people the 4th of November last, and that 100 Indians were killed, and 400 wounded at that time.

Fort-Washington, Nov. 27, 1791.

My dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to make for you, agreeably to your desire, the following extract from general orders, and am, your most obedient humble servant.

W. SARGENT.

Major HAMTRAMCK.

Head-Quarters, Fort-Washington, Nov. 27, 1791.

Officers for the day, &c.

At the General Court Martial, whereof Major Clark, is President.

Major Hamtramck, commandant of the first United States Regiment, was tried upon the following charges exhibited against him by Lieut. Colonel Darke, of the levies.

Unofficer and unsoldierly behavior in shamefully retreating from or for fear of the enemy on the 4th instant: Also, for scandalous behavior in endeavouring to prevent a guard from going with provisions to relieve Fort-Jefferson.

The Court are of opinion the charges exhibited against Major Hamtramck are not supported, and do acquit him with honor, which the General approves, and directs that he may be immediately released from arrest, and hold himself in readiness for command at Vincennes.

The Court Martial is dissolved.

WINTHROP SARGENT.

Adjutant General.



SECOND CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

AT THE FIRST SESSION,

Begun and held at the city of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, Monday the twenty-fourth of October, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one.

AN ACT to extend the Time limited for settling the Accounts of the United States with the individual States.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the powers of the Board of Commissioners, which, by an act passed in the second session of the first Congress, was established to settle the accounts between the United States and individual States, shall continue until the first day of July, 1793, unless the business shall be sooner accomplished.

And be it further enacted, That the aforesaid act shall extend to the settlement of the accounts between the United States and the State of Vermont; and that until the first day of December next, shall be allowed for the said State to exhibit its claims.

And be it further enacted, That from and after the passing of this act, the pay of the principal Clerk of the said Board, shall be the same as the pay of the principal Clerk in the Auditor's office.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN ADAMS, Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

APPROVED, JANUARY TWENTY-THIRD, 1792.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, President of the United States.

Philadelphia, January 25.

Extract of a letter from Boston, dated January 15.

"A gentleman, who arrived in town last evening, from Portland, informed me, that just before he sat out from that place, a vessel arrived there from the West-Indies—the Captain of which spoke within a few days sail of Hispaniola, a French Squadron, a ship of the line, and 3 frigates, which had on board Count DILLON, and seven thousand troops, destined for Cape-Francois, to quell the insurrection of the negroes."

The act providing for the defence of the Frontiers, and the act to prevent the sale of Lottery Tickets, have both received the Governor's assent.

The committee appointed by the House of Representatives on the petition of Thomas Leiper and John McIlvaine, and others, beg leave to report that they have heard the parties concerned for and against the opening a canal on the waters of Crum Creek, and although your committee feel a strong attachment to the improvement of inland navigation by means of canals, yet they at the same time are sensibly impressed with the necessity of preserving private rights, which they conceive, ought never to be invaded, unless some great public good is to be thereby obtained which cannot be otherwise required; that the peace and welfare of society depend so much upon the inviolability of individual property, that the legislature should at all times touch it with a sparing and trembling hand. That the present case is not one of those which will justify the interference of this house—your committee therefore offer the following resolution—

Resolved, That the prayer of Thomas Leiper's petition cannot be granted.

Saturday last arrived in town from Fort Washington, Major-General ST. CLAIR, Governor of the Western Territory.

A letter from Lieut. JEFFERS, dated Jan. 4, at Fort Franklin, mentions that all was quiet there at the date of his dispatches.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

It is worthy of consideration, how far the public good can be supposed to be the object of those who censure public measures after the event of them is known.—In a free country, every citizen is supposed to enjoy the right of being fully informed of the reasons on which drafts on his pocket are founded—the motives of every public enterprise, and the conduct of every agent of public affairs.

How far these subjects have been disclosed, let the numerous publications on each of them testify.—So fully are our civil rulers impressed with this idea, that the government is suspended on the public confidence, that no parallel in the history of society can be produced, of so scrupulous and universal an attention to inform the public mind.

Our government is young—this idea does not escape the notice of its enemies. For, astonishing as it may appear, there are not wanting those, even among persons of ability, who conceive that either their own advantage, or the public happiness, is connected with prostrating every barrier that defends the lives, the property, the peace, liberty and safety of the people; hence they consider the present as the favorable moment to attack the government.—This is done in various ways; principally by lies and misrepresentations—Truth they are sensible is not of their party; they therefore have never paid any court to its influence—they entrench themselves in falsehood, and from thence they discharge their arrows tipped in gall and venom. But the people see and judge for themselves; and shielded in an impenetrable confidence in the men whom they have chosen to administer their government, the efforts of anarchy prove abortive. But as every good thing in this world must pay a tax, so the prosperity of our country and the general success of public measures, appear to have stirred up the most latent seeds of chagrin and vexation; and hence we may expect more late words from the dying struggles of an expiring antipathy to the tranquility of the United States.

Public credit depends principally on the view of sure, unmortgaged, substantial revenues. If the 5 per cent. impost had been put into the hands of the old Congress, public credit would immediately have been restored. They never were accused of sacrificing the public revenues to their own interest, or to the indulgence of passions. There was always a sufficient confidence in their wisdom and disinterestedness; and their want of credit arose entirely from their want of revenues.

The price of continental money, and of the other circulating paper emitted by the old Congress, as it now sells in the London market, does not shew the state of the public credit of this country, but only the operation of a particular law. If any of the paper of the United States is now selling there from 120 to 150 per cent. it only proves that we have allowed a high interest. A hundred dollars of the old continental bills now sell for one dollar in specie; but should Congress pass a law that they should be redeemed according to the original promise, and allow back interest upon them from the time at which they ought to have been redeemed, one dollar bill would then probably sell in the London market for two dollars in specie; but it would not be full proof that the public credit of this country was two hundred times better than it now is.

"In causes of defence, 'tis best to weigh
The enemy more mighty than he seems;
So the proportions of defence are fill'd,
Which of a weak and niggardly projection,
Doth like a miser spoil his coat with scanting
Of a little cloth."

To effect any object the means must be proportioned to the end; and something should be added for contingencies.

What prudent Captain bound on a month's voyage, would restrict his ships stores to thirty days allowance?

What the plan of our future military operations will be, time will disclose—but we may justly expect, that, guided by experience, government will adopt the most economical plan, by making the most ample provision for the effective defence of the frontiers.

There are always existing in every country, and under the best governments, real or imaginary causes of complaint—these are occasionally made use of to answer the purposes of individuals; experience shews us in the history of free countries particularly, that the public good is not contemplated by the majority of public complainers.

In Great-Britain this observation has been verified in the most striking manner, a thousand times. Stockjobbing is the spring that gives motion to the pen of slander, defamation, and false reports; if the credit or stability of the minister, or his plans can thereby be affected, the object of such perfons is gained—for the decline of the stocks is the buying season—and innumerable are the arts employed on such occasions.

America has a debt—speculations in this debt have become a great object to monied men, both natives and foreigners. Its great rise of late, it is said, has been contrary to the expectations of many; those who have waited for a fall—and those who have recently sold out, are interested in a reduction of the current price.

Whatever motives of patriotism may have influenced the authors of some late strictures on the conduct of the Secretary of the Treasury, it is highly presumable, that those publications are the work of, or instigated by, the buyers of the public debt, particularly some foreign ones.

It has been observed that every measure of government which has been in the remotest degree calculated to promote manufactures in this country has received some opposition. But, says a correspondent, it is undoubtedly a criterion of patriotism to afford them due encouragement; nor is it easy to conceive, how any man, even from the Southern States, can be inimical to the establishment of those branches of them, which experience shews, we need not be any longer dependant on Europe for.

In Europe, manufacturers and artisans are said to be but a degree removed from slaves. In the United States this can never be the case, so long as our millions of unlocated territory remain to be settled; nor does it follow of course, that because the European artificer receives but a mere pittance for his labor—the American manufacturers should be a meagre, pale, starveling crew of emaciated wretches; the heavy charges of importation which will be saved, will enable us to give an enhanced price to our workmen; and the cheapness of our raw materials is another great advantage.

LUXURY.

How far LUXURY is or is not beneficial or pernicious to a state, has been a question of much fanciful and ingenious discussion—which remains, and will remain, unsettled. In relation to very rich countries, much may be said in its favor. Perhaps it is in such countries necessary to diffuse the wealth among the community, which might otherwise stagnate in a few hands, and to give support to a great number of industrious individuals, who might otherwise want it. But in a country which is not rich, or like the United States, in a state of mediocrity, as to wealth, which does not abound with a variety of elegant manufactures for the support of its luxury, but is obliged to derive a supply of them from abroad, in exchange for the simple productions of the soil, or some temporary and adventitious resource, there can be no danger of mistake in pronouncing that luxury, or expensive living, is the moth of public happiness. It cannot require the gift of prophecy to foretell that the degree of it, which at present exists, will prepare the way for public distress at a period not far distant. It is then a clear duty of patriotism to discountenance it, and to cherish, by example and precept, frugality and moderation.

TICKETS.

OUR politics have got the rickets,
Hence they forbid the sale of tickets;
But laws that run against the grain,
Will shew their object is in vain—
The world, whate'er some people say,
Like hogs will run the contra way—
Since fortune evermore advises,
That tickets bo't by stealth are prizes.

Married, on Thursday evening last, JOSEPH STRETCH, Esq. to Miss SYBIL MATLACK, daughter of Timothy Madack, Esq.

PRICE CURRENT.—PUBLIC SECURITIES.

Table with columns for FUNDDED DEBT and UNFUNDDED DEBT, listing various securities and their prices.

POST-OFFICE, Philadelphia, Jan. 24, 1791. LETTERS for the British Packet, the Queen, Capt. Ratcliff, for Falmouth, will be received at this office until Tuesday morning the 31st inst. at 8 o'clock.

American Apollo.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE AMERICAN APOLLO, A new Publication, just commenced in Boston, ARE RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR HEREOF.