

SATURDAY, MARCH 3.

The committee, to whom was referred, on the 23d of February, the following motion:

"Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury cause to be laid before the House a statement of the balances, if any, remaining unpaid, which may have been due by individuals to the United States, previous to the 4th day of March, 1789; and whether any and what steps have been taken to recover the same; and also a statement of the sundry sums of public monies, which may have been entrusted to individuals, previous to the said 4th of March, 1789, and have not been accounted for;"—made a report, which, after stating to the House the various circumstances that had struck them in the examination of the treasury books, they concluded by declaring as their opinion, that it will be impossible to obtain the report of the state of accounts contemplated in the above resolution, during the present session, without greatly retarding the current business of the department; and that it will be inexpedient to take any resolution on the subject matter of the resolution referred to them.

Mr. Goodhue, from the committee appointed, reported a "bill for enrolling and licensing ships and vessels employed in the coasting trade and fisheries, and for regulating the same.

Mr. Findley presented nine petitions from the inhabitants of Chester county, in the state of Pennsylvania, praying a revision of the Excise-Law.

The House proceeded to the consideration of the amendments offered by the Senate, to the "bill to ascertain and regulate the claims to half-pay and to invalid pensions."—Some they agreed to, and disagreed to others.

Mr. Secretary Lear delivered a message from the President of the United States, together with a copy of the return made to him of the number of the inhabitants within the district of South-Carolina.

A report from the Secretary of the Treasury, respecting compensations to the commissioners of loans, was read and referred to a select committee, consisting of Messrs. B. Bourne, Mercer, and Tucker. Adjourned.

MONDAY, MARCH 5.

A letter from the Secretary of State, covering certain acts of the government north-west of the river Ohio, was communicated by the Speaker, and read—and on motion, referred to the committee to whom those before received were referred.

Mr. Grove, of the committee appointed for the purpose, reported a bill providing for the finishing the light-house on Bald-Head, at the mouth of Cape-Fear River, which was read the first and second time, and made the order of the day on Tuesday next.

A report on the petition of the officers of the levies late in the service of the United States, was read, which was in favor of the prayer of the petition.

The House took into consideration the amendments proposed by the committee of the whole to the militia bill. Some of them were adopted, others disagreed to—several new amendments were made, and the bill ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

A message from the Senate informed the House, that they have passed a bill providing for the relief of certain widows, invalids, orphans & other persons, with amendments, in which they request the concurrence of the House.

A message was received from the President of the United States by Mr. Secretary Lear, communicating to the House the translation of a letter from the King of France, announcing his acceptance of the Constitution of that kingdom.—These were read and laid on the table.

A message from the Senate informed the House, that they insist on all the amendments proposed by the Senate to the bill to ascertain and regulate the claims to half pay and invalid pensions—and propose a conference on the subjects of disagreement.

A message from the President of the United States by Mr. Secretary Lear, informed the House, that he had this day approved and signed a bill, entitled, "An act making further provision for the defence of the Frontiers of the United States."

A committee of conference was appointed on the disagreement between the House and Senate, respecting the bill to ascertain and regulate the claims to half-pay and invalid pensions—Committee, Messrs. Livermore, Murray and Kitchell.

The amendments of the Senate to the bill providing for the relief of certain widows, &c. were read, and laid on the table. Adjourned.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6.

Sundry petitions were read and referred. A representation from the legislature of North-Carolina, was read, respecting certain lands ceded to the Indians in the Territory Southwest of the Ohio.

Mr. Parker introduced the following resolution, which being seconded, was laid on the table—viz.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to report what money, if any, now remains in the treasury, of appropriations made previous to the year 1791—distinguishing what sums remain of the respective appropriations.

Mr. Williamson laid the following motion on the table—That a committee be appointed to report a bill to amend the impost law, so far as to permit the landing of salt at certain warehouses belonging to the fisheries—and to provide for the allowance of a drawback on the salt used on provisions exported.

The militia bill was brought in, engrossed, and read the third time.

Mr. Vining then moved that the bill should be re-committed—This motion, after debate, was negatived—28 to 27. The House then proceeded to fill up the blanks—which being completed, the yeas and noes were called on the passing the bill—and were yeas 34, noes 27.

Mr. Gerry reported a bill for reducing the rates of postage on newspapers—this bill proposes a reduction of the postage to one half the rates in the post-office law.

A report was read from the Secretary of the Treasury, respecting the difficulties which have occurred in the execution of the excise, &c. and 100 copies ordered to be printed. Adjourned.

BOSTON, Feb. 22.

LEGISLATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

House of Representatives, Feb. 21.

A Bill to incorporate Henry Knox, John Coffin Jones, David Cobb, Benjamin Hichborn, and Henry Jackson, Esquires, and such others as may associate with them, for the purpose of opening a navigable Canal from any part of Connecticut River, to communicate with the town of Boston, was read a first time, and ordered for a second reading to-morrow, at 4 o'clock, P. M.

FROM THE CONNECTICUT COURANT.

Messieurs PRINTERS,

I AM a man of nature—my ideas are not twisted by the sophistry of government-makers; yet I am for government, and here is my plan. I have followed nature, and that sense which nature has implanted in every man. I would have a government, but it should not govern me—that is my first article. My second is, I would govern it. And thirdly, I and my government would govern every body else according to my pleasure. Here is a plan of three parts, as it should be and which follows nature; whereas every other scheme thwarts it, and may be truly said to be against nature. I am clear against an Excise, therefore I would not submit my property to any authority.—As to my person, hands off. Am I to be dragged about in the militia? or in the wars? or to answer my creditors (worse than Indians) in the law courts? No. I am a freeman—and shall government, a creature I have made and pulled to pieces twenty times, lord it over me? No, Messieurs Printers, I give the world notice that I will fill the newspapers full till government haul in its horns, and regulate its measures by my three articles of natural law. I will rail against the debt—the army—the war—the bank—the Excise—the P—the heads of departments. I will cry out re-publican-ism and the rights of man, by which I dont mean the laws of the land, nor equal government; but a government agreeable to my three articles. I will hold forth loudly about republican virtue and equality—I will inveigh mightily against public faith—when I am tired of going on foot I will get up and ride on consolidation. The state governments shall be so wise, so pure, so free, so modest and so much in danger, that I will advise the small states to take away power from Congress and give it to the large states. Congress and the public officers shall be painted like devils, except there should be found any of them who are among us who write in the newspapers, like Caius, &c. these I will praise in poetry and prose. In my next I will send you a new song, in which some of my heroes are celebrated, to the tune of Oh my kitty, my deary. WHISKY.

Philadelphia, March 7.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

It is hardly possible to conceive that a more favorable opportunity than the present will ever occur of establishing free schools in this commonwealth. The public Treasury is full and flowing; so that pecuniary aid can be immediately afforded if necessary, to as great an amount as may be expected at any future period. But it is presumed that disbursements from the public Treasury will not be necessary. It may be questioned whether on the plan of County Schools appropriations of this kind, would be equitable or just. The income of the State applied to discharge its debts, support the government, and for other general purposes, so far as it goes, will supercede the necessity of taxation for those objects: the way then appears to be fairly open for an universal tax to support an universal plan of education, so far as to comprehend READING, WRITING, GRAMMAR and ARITHMETIC.

It ought to be taken for granted by all legislative bodies that the people will be pleased with measures which reason and experience shew will conduce to their interest—but, the public sentiment is, and must continue to be in favor of a general diffusion of knowledge—this they know cannot be obtained without expence; and the supposition ought not to be made that they would not cheerfully incur it, much less supercede an experiment in the case.

The establishment of COUNTY schools or ACADEMIES, will not be of universal utility—they will benefit the more wealthy part of the community—and by the accommodation they afford to this class, will lessen the number of those who feel interested in a more general plan—and, in the same proportion, procrastinate the period when a system for the poor as well as the rich, shall be adopted.

It is an imputation on the good sense of the people, to suppose that they would not with cheerfulness pay a tax for the support of learning—for it must occur to them that the rich will pay more than their proportion, when they consider that the major part of children are the inheritance of the poor and middling classes of citizens.

The plan of education here contemplated is, that every person who pays a tax, however small, shall have an equal right to the benefit of this free and universal institution.

The wealthy are interested peculiarly in this work of benevolence; for the knowledge of the people is the security of tranquility under a just government—without knowledge, they cannot appreciate the value and importance of government—and hence the possessions of the rich, among an ignorant people, are held by a very precarious tenure—unless the people are slaves.

The poor and middling classes are deeply interested in this public provision for the education of their children—For it is tantalizing to say that there shall be no distinctions of ranks, or exclusive privileges—and that the avenues to the posts of honor and profit under the state and general governments, shall be accessible to all, without distinction, who possess talents and virtue—while the paths of learning are not, and cannot be trodden by the poor.

There is a double security to the liberties of the people derived from their being well informed—The first is, it leads legislators to be cautious in enacting laws, lest they infringe on the rights of man—and secondly, it enables the people to discern the more speedily those errors or designs of an administration which have an unfavorable aspect on the public interest and happiness.

Some old fable tells us, that Jupiter was so much teased by the prayers of mankind, that at length he resolved to grant them whatever they asked. But the spirit of discontent was so far from being allayed by it, that it broke out in murmurs more than ever. If this tale were of modern date, we should believe the author had intended a sting at us.

Some time ago, before the new government was put in motion, all the cry was—we are a poor distressed nation—there is no money, &c. The revenue and finances are put into order, credit is revived, and money is plenty—and now the cry is louder than ever.—We are too rich to be free.—Money is too plenty—the people will not work to earn it.

The Lansingburgh paper says, that on the nomination of the Hon. Judge Jay, and Mr. Van Ranslaer, as Governornor and Lieutenant-Governor of the State of New-York, at a large meeting of the citizens of Albany, only 5 dissentients appeared—and that the same unanimity in their favor appeared in every place from whence information had been received.

PRICE CURRENT.—PUBLIC SECURITIES.

Table with columns for security types and prices. Includes entries for FUNDED DEBT (6 pr. Cents, 3 pr. Cents, Deferred 6 pr. Cents) and UNFUNDED DEBT (Final Sett. and other Certificates, Indents, half shares Bank Stock).

CONTRACTS.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, March 6, 1792.

NOTICE is hereby given, that Proposals will be received at the Office of the Secretary of the Treasury, until 5 o'clock in the afternoon of Wednesday the 21st day of March instant, for the supply of the following articles of Clothing for the Troops in the service of the United States, viz.

Table listing clothing items for INFANTRY and ARTILLERY (hats, coats, vests, overalls, linen, shoes) and CAVALRY (caps, coats, vests, leather breeches, boots, spurs).

Of the above clothing, five hundred suits are to be delivered on the 15th day of April next; one thousand suits on the 15th day of May next; one thousand five hundred suits on the 15th day of June next; and the remainder on the 15th day of July next.—The place of delivery may be either at New-York, Philadelphia or Baltimore, at the option of the contractor or contractors.

Proposals will be received for the whole of the above mentioned clothing, or for any one component article separately; to be furnished agreeably to patterns or specimens, which may be seen at the War Office.

Good security for the punctual and faithful performance of the contract will be required. The payments will be on the delivery of the clothing; or, if necessary, such reasonable advances will be made as may be desired.