

Gazette of the United States.

A NATIONAL PAPER, PUBLISHED WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS BY JOHN FENNO, No. 69, HIGH-STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

[No. 99, of Vol. III.]

SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1792.

[Whole No. 307.]



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 for the relief of certain widows, orphans, invalids and other persons.

SECTION 1. BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Comptroller of the Treasury adjust the claims of the widows and orphans respectively, as the case may be, of the late Colonel Owen Roberts, Captain William White, Lieutenant Colonel Bernard Elliott, Major Samuel Wise, Major Benjamin Huger, Lieutenant John Bush, and Major Charles Motte, deceased, all of whom were killed or died in the service of the United States, for the seven years half pay stipulated by the resolve of Congress of the twenty-fourth day of August, one thousand seven hundred and eighty; and that the register of the Treasury do issue his certificates accordingly.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of the department of war be, and he hereby is required to place on the invalid list, Timothy Mix, disabled in the late war, by the loss of his right hand, while in the service of the United States, at the rate of five dollars per month, to commence on the fourth day of February one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three. That the said Secretary place on the invalid list, Abel Turney, mariner, disabled while in the service of the United States, at the rate of one dollar per month, to commence on the first day of January, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That the arrears of the said pensions be paid as the laws direct in similar cases.

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That the Comptroller of the Treasury be, and he hereby is required to adjust the accounts of Joseph Pannil a Lieutenant-Colonel in the service of the United States, as a deranged officer upon the principles of the act of the late Congress, of the third of October one thousand seven hundred and eighty, and to allow him the usual commutation of the half-pay for life of a Lieutenant-Colonel, and that the Register of the Treasury be, and he hereby is required to grant a certificate for the amount of the balance due to him. That the Comptroller adjust the account of the late Brigadier-General De Haas, admitting to the credit of the said account, such sums as by evidence shall appear to have been advanced for the public service, and which have been charged by the United States to the officers who have received the same for the public service, and that the said Register do grant a certificate for the balance due on such settlement. That the said Comptroller adjust the account of Thomas McIntire, a Captain in the service of the United States, during the late war, and allow him the usual commutation of the half-pay for life of a Captain, and that the said Register grant a certificate for the amount thereof accordingly.

SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, That the Comptroller of the Treasury be, and he hereby is required to adjust the account of Francis Suzor Debevere, a surgeon's mate in the service of the United States during the late war, and who remained in captivity to the end thereof, and that the Register of the Treasury be, and he hereby is required to grant a certificate for the amount which shall be found due for the services of the said Francis Suzor Debevere. That the said Comptroller adjust the account of Robert King, as a Lieutenant, deranged upon the principles of the act of the late Congress, passed the twenty-fourth day of November, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight, and that the said Register grant a certificate accordingly. That the Comptroller adjust the account of Lemuel Sherman, as a sailing master of a galley on Lake Champlain, and as such taken prisoner; and that the said Register grant a certificate accordingly.

SEC. 6. And be it further enacted, That there be granted to Nicholas Ferdinand Westfall, who left the British service and joined the army of the United States, during the late war, one hundred acres of unappropriated land in the western territory of the United States, free of all charges, and also the sum of three hundred and thirty-six dollars, out of any money appropriated to the contingent charges of government.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

APPROVED, MARCH THE TWENTY-SEVENTH, 1792.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, President of the United States.

AN ACT supplemental to the Act for making further and more effectual Provision for the Protection of the Frontiers of the United States.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it shall be lawful for the President of the United States by and with the advice and consent of the Senate to appoint such number of Brigadier-Generals as may be conducive to the good of the public service. Provided the whole number appointed, or to be appointed shall not exceed four.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

APPROVED MARCH THE TWENTY-EIGHTH, 1792.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, President of the United States.

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MR. FENNO,

IN every age peculiar follies have prevailed, and the present seems to be distinguished for a propensity to gaming and speculation. We possess a country which holds out the most alluring motives to the exertions of the industrious, and enjoy, at the same time, the greatest degree of political freedom, both in the principles and administration of our government. But this is not sufficient to content us—impatient to acquire riches, too many of our citizens suffer themselves to be influenced by an avaricious spirit, the fruitful parent of the various paper bubbles, every day exhibited to the admiration and astonishment of the public. Here is ample scope, it must be confessed, for the reprehension of the moralist; and hence we find the discontented declaiming on the degeneracy of the times, and prognosticating the ruin of this young and rising empire. But, Sir, tho' individuals may fall into these predominant follies, and many innocent persons be thereby ruined, yet, I am persuaded, they will soon operate their own cure; and the time is approximating when a speculator or swindler will be stoned, as a dangerous and dishonest character.

The affairs of New-York and Philadelphia, bring to my mind the uproar which the failure of FORDYCE, the banker, caused in London, about twenty years ago: *Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum*—as a warning to others, I shall beg leave to present to your readers a few anecdotal notices of this gentleman; it may serve as an example to display the ill consequences of gaming and speculation, and prevent some of our plain and industrious friends from treading on such dangerous ground.

Mr. FORDYCE was born of a very respectable family in Scotland; he had several brothers, who distinguished themselves as great and good men in their respective professions. Being endowed with good natural parts, he was a most promising youth, and assisted in his education by Doctor BLACKWELL, a gentleman well known for his writings in the republic of letters. He was bred a hosiery at Aberdeen; but this being too confined a scene for the extent of his abilities, he soon quitted it, and repaired to London, as the great mart for genius, where he soon obtained employment in the capacity of an out-door clerk to Messrs. B. & Co. bankers. Here he displayed a great facility in figures, and an uncommon attention to that business, in which he afterwards became so eminent and conspicuous. His employers being convinced of Mr. FORDYCE's talents and abilities, and judging he would be a very useful partner, and manage the most laborious part of their business, admitted him upon the firm of the house, through the interest and recommendation of a friend. Scarce had he been thus established, before he began to speculate in the Alley for very considerable sums, and was judged in the beginning to be very successful, particularly at the time of the signing the preliminaries of the peace in 1762, of which he gained intelligence before the generality of the Bulls and Bears at Jonathan's Coffee-House.

This success was fatal to Mr. FORDYCE—for it induced him not only to speculate for still larger sums in the Alley, but in many other pursuits, particularly in hops. The capricious goddess still favored him, and he seemed so infatuated with her kindness, as to think she was entirely at his command. He purchased a large estate, with a most elegant villa, at Roehampton, where he aimed at surpassing commissaries & nabobs, in grandeur and magnificence. He supported a chapel for himself and family, adjoining to his mansion; his ambition was now unbounded, he soared far beyond the line of mere mercantile splendor, and nothing less than nobility seemed equal to his wishes. The next testimonial he gave of his desire of exaltation, was his being a candidate for a certain Borough; upon which occasion, though he was not returned, he spent near £. 14,000 sterl. and to secure his future election, erected an hospital, and established other charities there, in order to render himself the popular candidate upon the first vacancy. Failing in this attempt to obtain a seat in Parliament, he sought for honours in another channel, and paid his addresses to a lady of quality, who, dazzled by his pomp and apparent fortune, consented to the marriage; and Lady M— was now frequently introduced to the public in the papers, her portrait displayed at the exhibition, and her picture in every print-shop. He made a handsome settlement upon her Ladyship, and is said to have purchased some estates in Scotland, to give him weight and dignity in his native country.

But the fatal period now approached when all his tinsel glories vanished. The affair of Falkland Island, which occasioned Stocks greatly to fluctuate, gave the most sensible shock to his finances; and to make up his speculative differences, he was compelled to employ a very considerable sum of the Company's Stock. This step alarmed the partners, and they remonstrated to him upon the impropriety of his conduct. Mr. FORDYCE treated the remonstrance of his partners with the most mortifying contempt, threatening to dissolve the partnership, if they attempted to restrain his operations, and leave them to manage a business to which they were altogether unequal; and to convince them that he had power to put his threats in execution, produced bank notes to a great amount, which had been borrowed for a few hours to answer his purpose. Equally struck with the plausibility of his discourse, and the sum, they were easily reconciled. But Mr. FORDYCE's ill fortune now pursued him as rapidly and invariably as his good genius had before accompanied him; he found himself incapable of fulfilling engagements, so very considerable on all hands, that he resolved upon a retreat, after having employed every method his imagination could suggest to discover some new resource. The immediate consequence of his absenting himself from business, was a stoppage of payment at the house, and an advertisement succeeded, intimating that the other partners were not privy to Mr. FORDYCE's proceedings; however, the whole Company became bankrupts; the fatal influence of which affected a great number of other considerable houses involved with them. Such were the effects of gaming in Change-Alley, and such may be the effects of similar proceedings among ourselves.

Many unsuspecting industrious people were entirely ruined by this unlucky event. A merchant in the city put an end to his existence with a pistol, on hearing the news; a considerable silver-refiner had recourse to a knife; a lady, finding herself undone, followed the example; and a gentleman near Bloomsbury Square became melancholy.

The following Anecdote is worth notice:—The day before Mr. FORDYCE stopped payment, he called on a Banker, who was a Quaker, of whom he desired the loan of £. 20,000—On being refused, and going away dissatisfied, the latter called him back, and said, "Harkee, friend, Two-dice have hurt many, but I promise thee, Four-dice shall never ruin me."

With a view to render every species of gaming as detestable as possible, I would make a few remarks on the unhappy fate of another eminent character. The late Doctor DODD was universally admired and esteemed, as a polite scholar, an elegant writer, and an energetic graceful preacher. *Charity and brotherly love*, when recommended with the charms of his pathetic language, warmed every breast; his hearers hung about him with admiration and rapture! But, what a falling off! when we contemplate the *fine man* engaged at the card-table, and rattling the dice-box!—"I was gaming multiplied his wants—was gaming led him to forgery, in order to supply them, and forgery led him to the ignominious tree! Religion saw it, and wept, and cried aloud to sinful mortals, "let him that standeth, take heed, lest he fall."

It was not inexperience, or the want of knowledge, that involved this celebrated Divine in the snares and infatuations of gaming. I have heard him preach against it like an Angel—but preaching and acting are two different things. What pen can describe the effects of this odious vice better than his, in that admired *Novel*, entitled, the "Sisters." Captain THOMAS had met with a great loss at a gaming table; he grew frantic, and destroyed himself—how elegantly doth DODD reflect on this occasion? "But do thou, if gaming is thy ruling and favourite passion, O reader! not yet depart hence, till thou hast well considered, and diligently meditated on the whole transaction. Behold here a man strong in youth, buoyant in health, and blessed with profuse plenty of this world's good; behold him in an instant, by his own hand, cut off from the fons of men, and blotted from the book of life! One fatal cast hath done it! Beware, and even now stop thy hand: thy all, thy present and eternal all, think and tremble, depends on those hasty dies! This cast perhaps drives the hot ball through thy distracted brain, plunges thee in irrecoverable perdition, and leaves a forlorn, distressed and undone family, to struggle with want and affliction; to languish in sorrow, in penury and contempt. What is the pleasure that can counterbalance these?—Be wise and reflect—refrain and be happy."

Elkton, April 2, 1792.

SENECA.

FROM THE NORFOLK AND PORTSMOUTH CHRONICLE, PUBLISHED AT NORFOLK (VIRGINIA.)

IT has been stated as a fact, and proved on the floor of Congress, by Mr. Sedgwick and Mr. Boudinot, and confirmed by a majority of the members, that discrimination was impracticable, because the greatest part of the public debt was in fictitious certificates, and a revision of the several species of paper that constituted the public debt could not be admitted.

It was also brought forward as the most powerful and persuasive arguments against discrimination, because the soldiers had been fully paid by the bounties they received at the time of their enlistments.

This, however, was poor consolation for the men who had loaned their money and rendered supplies, and received certificates of inconsiderable value, forced on them by the public, and depreciated by their acts, and compelled to part with their evidences of the debt at one-sixth of their nominal value, for a subsistence occasioned by a diminution of their stock and other property.

But as these gentlemen are unacquainted with military operations, I beg leave to inform them, that contracts in time of war are estimated according to the magnitude and hazard of the enterprise—and from twenty to forty dollars per month was given by merchants for sailors, according to the risk of the voyage.

And when a soldier enlisted in the Continental army, he received a premium from individuals for the risk of being killed, or perishing in a sugar house in New-York, and a promise from his country, of six dollars and two-thirds, as his monthly wages, if he proved victorious.

If the public did not owe the monthly wages, the certificates ought not to have been issued; and if the old Congress issued twenty millions of dollars without consideration, the new government ought to have corrected the error, and not compelled their constituents to pay the full sum, with interest, in gold or silver, because they had been purchasers of these demands at 1s. 6d. in the pound.

This kind of public faith and national honor, being a new religion, and Mr. Hamilton the grand hierarch, it will be laid open and fairly explained in an address to the people of the United States, at their next election.

A CONTINENTAL SOLDIER.

N. B. The public are referred to the Journal of Congress, in the committee of the whole on the Secretary's Report on Public Credit.

FROM THE COLUMBIAN CENTINEL.

MR. RUSSELL,

You are desired to publish the following account of the loss of the ship Columbia, of Exeter, late commanded by Capt. Isaac Chauncey.

THE ship left Liverpool on the 18th of December last for this port, laden with about one thousand hhds. of salt, four hundred crates of earthen ware, and about thirty bales of dry goods. She made the land of Cape-Cod on the 10th inst. and took her departure from the Race Point, about 12 o'clock: The wind being to the southward, and thick weather, it was judged best to keep the south shore on board, and on the weather clearing up they found themselves close in with Duxbury beach, the ship then hauled to the wind to the northward, but the wind shifting to the N. E. she could not lay clear of the Brant Rock; they then hove about intending for Plymouth, and would have gained that port, but when passing a ledge of rocks, called High Pine Ledge, it died away calm, and a high sea setting directly on the reef, obliged them to come to an anchor about 3 o'clock, P. M. on the outside in 5 fathoms of water, but in a quarter of an hour afterwards the ship struck on the reef; they then got a spring on their cable, and casting the ship's head off, cut away the cable and got under sail; deepening their water, they came too again in