

ing the allowance of a full pension: referred to the committee on similar applications.

Mr. Clark moved, that the report of the Secretary of the Treasury on a variety of petitions for compensation, for property used, damaged, or destroyed, be referred to the committee of the whole to-morrow week—this motion was agreed to.

Mr. Giles's motion that a committee be appointed to report a bill granting further compensation to certain receivers of Continental taxes, was taken into consideration, agreed to, and referred to Messrs. Giles, S. Bourne, and Sylvester.

The report of the committee on the boundary line between the state of Virginia, and the territory of the United States south of the Ohio, was called for by Mr. Boudinot, and read—adopted—and the same committee who brought in the report, were appointed to report a bill.

Mr. Parker reported a bill making compensations to the widows and orphans of certain persons who were killed under the sanction of flags of truce—read twice, and referred to a committee of the whole house on Monday next.

Mr. Steele called the attention of the house to the memorial and representation of Warner Mifflin, on the subject of negro slavery.

Mr. Steele observed, that after what had passed on the subject in New-York, he had hoped the house would have heard no more of it; but to his surprise, he found the business was started anew; and had been introduced by a fanatic, who, not content with keeping his own conscience, undertook to be the keeper of the consciences of other men, and in a manner which he deemed not very decent, had obtruded his opinion into the house. Had an application been made to him to present such a petition, in case he had stood in a similar relation to gentlemen holding that species of property referred to, he thought he should have avoided a compliance with it. Gentlemen in the northern states do not realize the mischievous consequences which have already resulted from the measures which have been taken by certain persons in relation to that property: and, he said, if a stop was not put to these proceedings, the southern states would, ere long, be compelled to refer to the general government for their interference. He concluded by moving the following resolution:—That the paper, purporting to be a petition from Warner Mifflin, received on Monday last, be returned to him by the Clerk of the house; and that the entry of said petition be expunged from the journal.

Mr. Ames rose to explain the motives of his conduct in presenting the petition. He said it was his opinion, and this opinion he had expressed in the House a long time since, that the government could not, with propriety, take any steps in the business referred to in the petition; but on the general principle, that every citizen has a right to petition the legislature, and to apply to any member as the vehicle to convey his request to the house, he had handed it in. The petitioner is a citizen of Delaware; had the member from that State been in the House, he should not have thought himself obliged to have introduced it; but the member from Delaware being absent, the petitioner had a right to apply to a member from Massachusetts, or to any other member. His mind, he said, had long since been made up in regard to the Negro slavery, but he had no idea of supporting the present application; he had uniformly been opposed to those made to Congress the first session; and was decidedly against an interference, considering it as totally inexpedient.

Mr. W. Smith seconded the motion. Mr. Livermore observed that he considered the motion as not in order, the subject not being properly before the House—nor did he conceive there was any disposition on the part of any gentleman to bring it forward.

Mr. W. Smith observed that his object in seconding the motion was to put it out of the power of any member to call up the memorials—for should it remain on the table, it might at any time during the session be called up in the absence of those whose duty and inclination it would be to oppose it. The gentleman from New-Hampshire had indeed pledged himself never to call for it, but he could not pledge other members. Mr. Smith said he admitted in its full extent the right of every citizen to petition for a redress of grievances, and the duty of the House to consider them, but the paper in question was not of that description, it was a mere rant and rhapsody of a meddling fanatic, interlarded with texts of scripture, and concluded with no specific prayer. He observed that it was the practice of legislative bodies in general to have the contents of petitions read by the member in his place who presented them, in order to judge whether they ought to be received, but the House had gone into a loose practice of suffering every kind of application to be received and read at the Clerk's table, the consequence was that the purport of them was entered on the journals; in this particular instance the practice was attended with real danger; the citizens of the Southern States finding that a paper of this nature had been received by the house, and formally entered on their journals, might justly be alarmed, and led to believe, that doctrines were countenanced destructive of their interests. The gentleman who presented the paper, and who he observed with pain had not on this occasion displayed his usual regard for the southern states, had stated its contents to relate only to the slave-trade; had he stated in his place its real purport and object, namely, to create division among the states, and to excite the most horrible insurrections, the house would undoubtedly have refused its reception. After the proceedings at New-York on this subject, he said his constituents had a

right to expect that it would never be stirred again; for his part, he assured the house, that while he continued on that floor, he should upon every similar occasion, pointedly express his abhorrence of these applications which were productive of no kind of good whatever, and had a most mischievous tendency: They were not calculated to meliorate the condition of the persons who were the objects of them, who are at present happy and contented with their situation; but, on the contrary, had a tendency to alienate their affection from their masters, and by exciting a spirit of rebelliousness, to render greater severity necessary on their part. He therefore earnestly called upon the house to agree to the motion, and thereby convince this troublesome enthusiast, and others who might be disposed to communicate their ravings and wild effusions, that they will meet that treatment they justly deserve; as the present application was disrespectful to the house, insulting to the southern members, and a libel on their constituents, it ought no longer to remain on the table, but returned to its author with marked disapprobation.

That part of the motion directing that the petition be returned by the Clerk, was agreed to. The other part of the motion was withdrawn by Mr. Steele.

A report of the Secretary of the Treasury, on the petition of Griffith Jones, was read and laid on the table.

The bill regulating foreign coins, and for other purposes, was read the third time, and a motion made by Mr. Williamson for its recommitment. This motion was agreed to, and made the order of the day the first Monday in January next.

Mr. Sedgwick laid the following motion on the table:—That a committee be appointed to report a bill respecting fugitives from justice, and servants from the service of masters.

Mr. Giles reported a bill granting further compensation to certain receivers of continental taxes;—read twice, and referred to a committee of the whole for Monday next.

In committee of the whole, on the bill to reimburse certain extra expences of the Commissioners for treating of peace with the Creek Indians, Mr. Sedgwick in the chair.

The bill was read; some debate ensued, which was desultory, as no specific motion appeared to be made: at length, it was moved to fill up the blank in the bill with 1200 dollars. This motion was carried; the committee then rose and reported the same with one amendment;—laid on the table.

Adjourned.

THURSDAY, Nov. 29.

Mr. White reported a bill to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes—which was twice read, and committed for Monday next.

Mr. Hartley had leave of absence, on request, for eight days.

Mr. Williamson gave notice that he should at a future day, move for a committee to bring in a bill to amend the act establishing a copper coinage.

A letter was communicated by the Speaker, from the Treasurer of the United States, enclosing his specie account for the quarter ending Sept. 30, 1793—read, and ordered to be printed.

In committee of the whole on the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, relative to the appropriations necessary for the support of government for the year 1793, including the incidental expences.—Mr. Sedgwick in the chair.

The report was read by the chairman. A motion for the committee to rise, that further time may be allowed to examine the items of the estimate, and that members might come prepared with propositions conformable to the report after such examination.

Another motion was made, that the committee should rise for the purpose of a reference to a select committee.

These motions were objected to on different principles. It was urged that the committee ought to enter on the business immediately—and where articles occurred which wanted explanation, they might pass them over, for further examination.

The motion for the committee's rising was agreed to. Mr. W. Smith moved that the committee of the whole should be discharged for the present, and that a select committee should be appointed to examine particularly into the items of the estimate, and report to the house.—This motion was superseded, after some debate, by a motion that the committee of the whole should have leave to sit again, which was carried.

The house took into consideration the report of a select committee on the petition of Charles and Lewis Garanger. The committee reported a resolution to the following purport, in favor of Lewis Garanger—That he be allowed the pay and emoluments of a Captain of Artillery. After debate, the resolution was divided—and the question, whether he should be allowed the pay of Captain, was carried in the affirmative—the question on allowing the emoluments, or commutation, was negatived.

Mr. W. Smith then moved the following resolution:—That in consideration of the losses sustained by the petitioner, whilst in the service of the United States, he be allowed the further sum of dollars. This resolution was not agreed to.

The committee who reported the resolution which was agreed to, were appointed to bring in a bill.

Mr. Fitzsimons moved the following resolution:—That the President of the United States be requested to cause assays and other proper experiments to be made at the Mint of the United States, of the gold and silver coins of England, France, Spain and Portugal, and a report of the fine metal and alloy in each of the respective coins, to be made to this house.

This resolution was agreed to—and the speaker requested to transmit the same. Adjourned.

FRIDAY, Nov. 30.

The report of a committee on the petition of William Dunbar, was read, and laid on the table—this report was in favor of the prayer of the petition.

In committee of the whole—Mr. Sedgwick in the chair.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the petition of the executors of Edward Carnes, was taken into consideration.—This petition was for the payment of about 5000. the balance of an account settled with the navy board of the United States in Massachusetts—which balance had not been discharged by reason of the said Board's not having settled their account with the public.—A general provision in the case is suggested by the Secretary.—Mr. Goodhue offered a resolution in conformity to the spirit of the report—but this was considered as being too complex—and the following was agreed to—Resolved as the opinion of this committee, that a select committee ought to be appointed, to enquire whether any and what measures are necessary to be taken, to facilitate the settlement of claims against the United States, not barred by acts of limitation—founded on certificates, or settlements made by any officer or officers, heretofore authorized by the United States to issue certificates, or to make settlements on their behalf—and who have not settled their accounts—and to report the result of their enquiry. This resolution being reported to the House, was adopted—and Messrs. Goodhue, Fitzsimons, Dayton, Parker, and Niles appointed the committee.—The report of the Secretary of the Treasury was referred to the same committee.

Mr. Dayton laid the following motion on the table.—That the Secretary of War lay before the House a list of the names of the invalids returned to his office by the judges of the circuit courts—with an account of the circumstances attending the respective cases.

In committee of the whole on the appropriations for 1793. A long and desultory debate took place, respecting detailing the items of expence either in the journal of the House or in the Act; some were in favor of both—in order to give more full and complete satisfaction to the people.—It was objected that as the details are published in the Report—and were circulating in the newspapers, the object was fully answered; that if the items are passed on individually, and the Ayes and Noes called, after a debate on each—a period of two years would hardly be sufficient for pass one appropriation law;—it was at length determined by the committee, that the items should be entered on the journal. Progress was made in the discussion of the Report—and the committee had leave to sit again.

Mr. Williamsons' motion respecting the copper coinage, was referred to a select committee.

A report on the petition of Abigail Heart, was read, which was in favor of the petitioner.—Laid on the table.

Adjourned till Monday.

Philadelphia, Dec. 1.

The British October Packet arrived at New-York on Wednesday last. She brings London papers to the fourth of October. The accounts of French affairs, if not contradictory, are by no means sufficiently explicit to give a satisfactory idea of their real situation.

Accounts from Ostend, under the London head of Oct. 2, say that the army of M. Dumourier, consisting of 25,000, having been surrounded by the Austrians under the Duke of Brunswick, had surrendered at discretion—that the Duke took possession of Chalons the 23d, and that Rheims surrendered the 24th September; and the advance guard of the Austrian army was at Meaux, about twelve leagues from Paris. It appears, however, that the latest accounts received direct from Paris in London, do not contain the above events. The French papers mention that a negotiation had been on foot between the Duke and the French General.

Official accounts are published of the success of M. Montequiou, commander of one of the French armies, who had invaded Savoy, and made a conquest of almost the whole duchy—and was in possession of Chamberry, the capital. Lille, a strong town in French Flanders, was besieged by a large army of Austrians; the garrison making the most vigorous defence. Other accounts under the Paris head of 29th September, say that the communication between Chalons and the army, which had been interrupted, has been re-established by General Du Bouquet, at the head of 10,000 men, and that a battle was become inevitable from the position of the Prussians, who were masters of the heights behind St. Menchould.—General Anselm, with a French army of 6,000 men, was gone on an expedition against Nice; if he is successful, the King of Sardinia will be confined to the territory of Piedmont and the Island of Sardinia.—A fête is to be celebrated in Paris, in commemoration of the restoration of liberty to the Allobroges.

A Paris article of 30th Sept. says—The people become very uneasy for the state of the Armies. A certain air of mystery pervades the few accounts which are given from thence; and the War Minister receiving no advices, is a circumstance of alarm. A strange intimacy subsisting between the Officers of the Combined Armies and those of Dumourier and Kellerman. It is said, there have been several secret conferences between Brunswick, Lucchesini, and several Frenchmen; and, it is presumed, that these conferences tend to an accommodation, though some persons think it is a stratagem.

Several other articles mention that frequent interviews had taken place between the French and Prussian officers; particularly that the son of the King of Prussia had dined with General Dumourier.

A letter to the French National Convention from Dr. Priestley, is published; in which he declines the honor of a seat in that assembly; but expresses the warmest wishes for a speedy and happy establishment of their affairs.—Marshal Luckner was at Paris at the date of the last accounts; the convention had decreed that he should not quit that city till a definitive decision had taken place respecting him.—The French convention have decreed that the plan of the constitution to be formed by that body, shall

not be discussed by them until two months after it shall have been reported by the committee appointed to draft it.—All was quiet in Paris the latter end of September. No late accounts of M. la Fayette. M. Barnave, a prisoner with the Austrians, was said to be dangerously sick.—On the 22d Sept. the Minister of War communicated to the Convention a letter from M. Kellerman, in which he gives an account of a severe action between his army and a large body of Austrians, on the 20th, in which the French had greatly the advantage, though the Austrians were more numerous: the French lost 250 killed and wounded. There is a letter under the Paris head, from the Commissioners to the Northern Army, dated Chalons, Sept. 27— which, if authentic, proves beyond doubt that that place had not surrendered to the Duke of Brunswick the 22d, as before stated in the account from Ostend. M. Sevan and M. Roland, two of the French Ministry, appointed on the deposing of the King, have resigned.

Paris, Sept. 28.

Official information is now received of the arrival of the Duke of Brunswick and the Prussian army at Chalons, as well as that the Austrian army and that under the command of the French Princes was at Rheims on the 24th instant. The former is 95 miles E. of Paris, that latter 85 miles N. E. of that place. The combined armies met with no opposition at either of those places. These facts were perfectly well known at Paris on Wednesday and Thursday last, although the French prints for obvious reasons, are silent on this head.

OFFERS OF PEACE.

The following note from the National Executive Council was read on Wednesday last to the National Convention.

“The generals of the North, and of the Centre, having communicated to the Executive Council, that overtures had been made to them, on the part of the King of Prussia, which announce his desire of entering into a negotiation, the council decrees the following answer to them:—“The French republic will not hear any propositions, before the Prussian troops have entirely evacuated the French territory.”

SAYS A CORRESPONDENT,

We have heard much of party of late—party, Mr. Editor, is an odious word—it imports as occasion requires, federalists, anti-federalists—republicans, anti-republicans—aristocrats, democrats—monocrats, moneycrats, and what not—Now, Sir, I have constantly been opposed to parties—but one of your correspondents has sagaciously informed us that we owe to party, the adoption of the constitution of the United States—if this is a fact, the good people of this country may be felicitated on the existence of such a principle—for surely whatever were the means, the effects have been highly propitious to their interests. The slightest view of the contrast between the existing circumstances of the United States, and those in which they were involved previous to the “forming a more perfect union” by that cementing bond, the new constitution, will convince every unprejudiced mind, that something superior to the base motives of avarice and ambition, have wrought the mighty change. But if such are the effects of party, who will not exclaim, *May it be perpetual!* The fact is, the government of this country is in the most appropriate sense, the government of the people. This being the case, it follows, that to say, it is the work of a party, of whatever description you please, is an abuse of terms. It is an old device of those who in fact constitute a party in every free government, to attempt to shift off from themselves the odious appellation—in pursuance of this idea, every friend to the government, on its true principles, and to those measures which Congress have adopted in conformity thereto, have been stigmatized as a party—which is just as much as to say, that the people are a party against themselves.

From the peace to the adoption of the new Constitution, the United States rapidly declined in prosperity—on every hand the prospect was truly gloomy—or, to use the words of a late writer, “America was so situated during that period of anarchy, that the most dangerous crisis was to be apprehended.”—But in contradistinction from this, another writer, unwilling to ascribe the present degree of prosperity enjoyed by the people to its principal cause, the operation of the general government, says, “Causes the most palpable and obvious present themselves.”—They are, “an extended, fertile, unexhausted country—the active, uninterrupted industry of individuals—the blessings of peace, and laws securing to each individual the exclusive use of the products of his own labor,” &c.—It will not be denied that all these sources of prosperity existed before the adoption of the new government, except the last—for with respect to laws securing property, the country was so palpably deficient, that it was one great cause of the ruin impending over us, immediately antecedent to the new state of things.

SHIP NEWS.

ARRIVED at the PORT of PHILADELPHIA. Ship Rising Sun, Tatem, Turks-Island; Mary, Morton, Teneriffe; Rochampton, Aukin, London; Brig Catharine, Drisdale, Jamaica; Industry, Blake, Liverpool; John, Burnham, Curacao; Betsey, Baden, Cape-Francois; Hector, Baker, Port-au-Prince; Schr. Two Sisters, Barry, do; Sloop Francis, Hill, Montserrat; Tryan, Vanneman, St. Thomas

Price of Stocks as in our last. Agreeably to the Seventh Article of their Constitution, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, TO the Members of the Insurance Company of North-America, that Forty Thousand Shares are subscribed; and that a General Meeting of the Subscriber is to be held at the State-House in this city, on 10th inst. at 10 o'clock, A. M. when the Directors are to be chosen. EBENEZER HAZARD, Secretary. Philad. Dec. 1, 1793.