



# CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.  
MONDAY, December 10.

The petition of Isaac Potts was read, stating that his premises were occupied on account of the public during the late war, and considerable damage sustained, for which he has not received any compensation, and praying relief—laid on the table.

Mr. Williamson of the committee appointed for the purpose, reported a bill to amend the act entitled "an act to promote the progress of the useful arts," was read twice, and referred to a committee of the whole house on Monday next, —100 copies to be printed.

Mr. W. Smith of the committee appointed for the purpose, reported a bill to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States; read a first and second time, and referred to a committee of the whole on the second Monday of January next—400 copies were ordered to be printed.

A letter was read from the Secretary of War, enclosing sundry communications relative to Indian affairs from the Governor of Georgia. Some of these were documents respecting certain violence and murders committed by some of the white people on the friendly Indians of the Cherokee nation; a proclamation by the Governor for bringing the delinquents to justice; a friendly talk from the Governor to the Cherokees; and a copy of his orders to march a body of men to protect those Indians which have been wantonly attacked. These were read and laid on the table.

A motion being made, and agreed to, to take into consideration the confidential message of the President of the United States, received by the House on Friday last—it was ordered that the galleries should be cleared.

TUESDAY, December 11.

After reading a report from the Secretary of the Treasury, on a private petition. A motion being made and agreed to for going into a committee of the whole on the Message from the President of the United States—the doors of the gallery were shut, and so continued during the day.

## Philadelphia, Dec. 12.

Extract of a letter dated Dunkirk, October 2, to a Mercantile house in this city.

"The war has approached so near us, as to be within the sound of cannon in a still night, the city of Lille, about 48 miles from us, being besieged. Lille, it is said, can sustain a siege of six months—that is the last strong barrier near us in Flanders."

The ingenious Mr. Pierce, of Paterson, (N. J.) has invented a gin-crack, for extracting the seed of Carolina cotton from the wool, by which much manual labor is saved. With this machine, it is said, one man will clean seven hundred weight per day.

A New-York paper says, "A gentleman of respectability, who is an inhabitant of, and lately from Kingston, formerly Cateraqua, in Upper Canada, assures us, that the people of that territory are very desirous of having the prohibition on trade with the United States taken off; and that their request being made known to Governor Simcoe, he readily complied with it. Their trade will be by the Western Lakes and the Mohawk.

A Humming Bird is now living in Mr. Peale's Museum.

The Electors of President and Vice-President of the United States, who met at Harrisburgh, Pennsylvania: were unanimous in their choice for GEORGE WASHINGTON, and all but one for JOHN ADAMS.

The Electors of Maryland, we are told, have been unanimous in choosing GEORGE WASHINGTON and JOHN ADAMS, President and Vice-President of the United States.

The Electors of President and Vice-President for the State of Connecticut, have voted unanimously for the Gentlemen who now sustain those offices.

The Electors of New-York have given an unanimous vote for GEORGE WASHINGTON and GEORGE CLINTON, as President and Vice-President of the United States.

The stems of common field nettles, prepared in the same manner as flax, will yield a thread capable of being wrought into durable cloth.

Thionville is another Gibraltar; the Austrians constructed four large floating-batteries, which they let fall down the Moselle; when opposite the town, they were received by a hot fire, so well directed, that in a few minutes they were sent all to the bottom, and every man on board perished. It has cost the Austrians about 500 men to get possession of a hill which commands the town. On this place they erected eight batteries, which the garrison sallied forth and destroyed.

General Vandermerch, who bore so conspicuous a part in the war of the Brabantons Patriots, in the year 1790, died at his seat near Menin, in Flanders, on the 14th Sept.

Extract of a letter from an American gentleman in Dunkirk, to his friend in New Bedford, dated October the 5th, received per the brig Mary.

"As to public matters, some things are too horrible to relate, particularly the dreadful massacre in Paris. The abominable instrument that set this on foot, is a member of the national convention; and I am rejoiced to find that almost the whole assembly are disgusted at his being one of their body.—Great severity has been poured out upon him there, and many call for a decree of accusation against him; but others I apprehend fearing it will make too great a bustle, have put it by for the present. The desolations of war approach us! Lille is besieged by 31,000 Austrians. It is a strong city, 48 miles from this: in still weather, the report of their cannon are heard here. It is supposed, if no treachery takes place, to be able to withstand a siege of many months, opposed to an army of 600,000 men. The 1st inst. 6000 women and children were sent out of the town. The enemy have thrown into Lille 500,000lb. of iron—have erected 9 batteries of 6 guns each, carrying balls from 15 to 33lb. Lille has sent them in return 57,000 cannon balls—have lost 130 men, and 100 houses burnt. The most horrid part of this siege is out of the common line of war. The Austrians oblige the neighboring peasants to work on their trenches and fortifications, erecting in the front and most exposed part of the army, where many of the poor creatures are killed by their own friends and fellow subjects. On the night of the 2d, 6000 fresh troops were thrown into the town; and in two days many more will be in its neighborhood.

"All the fire engines are sent off from this town for that city, to assist in extinguishing the fire kindled by the red hot balls. It is daily expected that Spain and all Germany will declare war against France. The diet of Ratisbon is supposed to have concluded on this measure. Russia is marching her forces from Poland.—

"Switzerland, it is feared, will be added to the number on account of the late inhuman massacre of a great many of their officers; and France has declared against the King of Sardinia, and has marched an army into his dominions: His army has fled before them, and many of the towns have opened their gates, and desired to be under the French government: But as they have declared against "War for Conquest," they propose only setting the people free from their king, and for themselves to form a republic, or any other government, except a monarchy, they may choose. The answer of the municipality of Lille to the Duke Albert of Saxony, when summoned to surrender the town, deserves to be preserved.—"We have sworn a few hours ago, to remain faithful to the republic; to defend with all our force and powers, Freedom and Equality, or to die at our post.—We are not perjurers.—Spartans could not have answered better."

EXTRACT from the Governor's Speech, delivered to both Houses of the Legislature on Friday last.

"I announce to you, Gentlemen, with peculiar pleasure, the execution of the law which provided for the redemption and extinguishment of the State debts. As soon as overtures were made for purchasing the requisite amount of the 3 per cent. stock of the United States, belonging to Pennsylvania, at the rate stipulated by the act of assembly, I issued the regular notification to the public creditors, and you will perceive, from a particular report of the transaction, which is prepared for your information, that the sales, for this object, have amounted to 986,000 dollars; which, at the average price of 12 1-16 in the pound, has produced the specie sum of 593,201 dollars & 1 cent; that the aggregate of the debts already redeemed amounts to the sum of 548,988 dollars and 13 cents; and that there remains (allowing for certain contingencies) in the Treasury, the sum of 72,201 dollars and 50 cents, to answer the further operation of the redemption law, and such new appropriations as you shall be pleased to direct. I have found it impracticable, however, on the terms prescribed, to vest any part of this surplus in the stock of the bank of North America, according to the view and disposition of the Legislature.

"Thus honorably disencumbered from the pecuniary obligations, that were incurred in consequence of the late war; the honest price of our independence; I cannot conceive (as I have before suggested) any situation of political prosperity and affluence, surpassing that which the citizens of Pennsylvania are invited to enjoy. From that part of the wealth of the community, which consists in the debt of the United States, there will, notwithstanding the recent diminutions of the capital (reducing it to the estimated amount of about 167,000 dollars in six per cents, 187,000 dollars in three per cents, and 218,000 dollars in deferred stock) arise an income, which, together with the product of the ordinary and permanent revenues, will be sufficient to defray the expenses of government, and to prosecute any rational objects of public convenience.—Our unliquidated demand against the Union, may, at the same time be considered, as promising an accession of productive property; for, although nothing can be precisely ascertained in this respect, until the final settlement of all claims of the sister states, the agent, on behalf of Pennsylvania, assures me, that our accounts bear a favorable aspect, and that he has reason to believe, that the principal charges which they exhibit, stand, at present, in a state of approbation. In addition to these funds, the arrearages of taxes (amounting, exclusively of the known exonerations, to the sum of about 537,000 dollars) form a considerable, though, from the nature of the subject, a temporary resource; and the operations of the land-office (which, since the

first day of November, 1791, have brought, of specie and certificates, a sum exceeding 210,000 dollars into the treasury) may be regarded with the most sanguine expectation of benefit and enjoyment."

"Soon, very soon, the list of patriots that now adorn the theatre of American politics, and have a claim to the confidence of their fellow citizens, by the hazards they encountered in achieving their Independence, will be buried with the dust—and if we can readily believe that such characters are regardless of the public interest; those, who succeed them, may more easily be considered as mere paanders for their own base ends—a dissatisfaction with the present, would not probably be followed by a fruer government, but by one that might sacrifice the liberty and property of the many to the few.

"That the funding system and national bank will eventually involve the country in almost irretrievable calamity," must be considered as a prophecy, the fulfillment of which no good citizen can wish, and of which no evidence is adduced, or appears.—At present, the constant employ of every mechanic—the plenty of our market, and the increased demand for our shipping; the cultivation of our lands in the country, and the improved appearance of our houses in the city, loudly proclaim that our situation is prosperous.—And if there be any thing that discovers this to be a delusion, or the phantom of a dream, they ought to offer good evidence before our assent is demanded against the conviction of our senses." [Columb. Centinel.]

"God hath done great things for us" Peace within our walls—Health in every breeze—The earth yielding abundant supplies—Pastures clothed with flocks—Vallies covered over with corn—The sea resigning its treasures—Commerce unfolding her stores—Civil Freedom securing political happiness—Religious toleration pointing to universal concord—Manufactures daily increasing—Arts spreading themselves abroad—Science greatly encouraged—Unitedly ask the ascriptions of gratitude to GOD: And the bosom that swells not with Praise, must be insensible to all the feelings, which adorn human nature.

### COMMUNICATIONS.

It should seem by the unceasing murmurings of some people, that the affairs of the public cannot be well managed, so long as their individual prosperity is not particularly promoted. The general prosperity of the country is, with such persons, no indication of wisdom in its public councils.

Four years are nearly closed since the meeting of the first Congress under the New Constitution—from that time to the present, the world has been perpetually amused with dark and dismal descriptions of "woes in embryo ripening into life," for this devoted country. These predictions have been nearly completed thro' the Union—and, alas, alas, for the anti-federal spirit of prophesy, its credit must be in a most pitiable case. The people are so uncomplaisant, they are so honest and plain-hearted—and so true to their own federal feelings, that the croakings, forebodings, insinuations, lies and slanders of those, who declared that they would have "a change of men at least, if not a change of measures," appear to be totally disregarded.

What can more fully evince the general approbation of the people of public measures, than repeated re-elections of their representatives, the great deliberative council of the nation?

But perfect peace is no more to be expected than perfect wisdom. Hence the scythe of time, which lops off the rank shoots of the weeds, which are occasionally seen in the luxuriant American soil—leaves many bitter roots, which will be springing up at all times and seasons—and biennially we may expect they will assume a front and importance deceiving and alarming for a time—but so long as the people are just, wise and steady, Party in the United States will ever be "portentous to itself alone."

The men influenced by political and avaricious views disgraceful to the American name and character, took advantage of the sleep into which the people were lulled by the quiet and orderly establishment of our new government, to sow the tares of monarchical principles and predatory speculations in the fields where public justice and public happiness were to be reaped. Hence have sprung up the fashionable doctrines, that the people are not the proper keepers of their own liberties, that mankind cannot govern themselves, that hereditary dignities, pecuniary influence, and military force only, are the only means whereby they can be kept in necessary discipline and obedience; that public debts are public blessings, &c. with many other exotics not less poisonous to the spirit of our republican constitutions, and the manly independent character of American citizens. Time with his scythe is mowing down these noxious weeds, and the occasion calls upon all who love liberty and the public good to unite in rooting them out of our country.

As an enlightened people will seldom or never be governed or controlled in their political affairs, by mere professing patriots, without personal honor and probity—so, on the other hand, artful and unprincipled seekers will praise the public virtue and intelligence in exact proportion to that want of discernment and ignorance which they realize to be the only tenure on which they hold the public favor. Hence you may observe that simple, feasible plans of diffusing knowledge among the great body of the people, are generally lost, by being overshadowed by plans totally impracticable from their magnitude. This

impracticability constitutes their excellence with those whose interest it is to perpetuate ignorance.

"Corruption of the best is always worst; this remark applies to many modern refinements on some of the most important principles of freedom and civil policy.—The reason is obvious; these refinements are either the varnish of superficial minds, or the false deductions of unprincipled sophists, who profane the sacred name of Liberty by prostituting it to the purposes of individual ambition, and lust of power.

As education alone creates the greatest difference and inequality in the relative circumstances of mankind, when partially enjoyed—so the general diffusion of knowledge among the people is the only adequate foundation on which the fabric of equal rights can be reared.

The materials of happiness are perhaps within the reach of every country—but if, like the United States previous to the operation of the general government, those materials either lie dormant, or are converted into instruments of disunion, fraud and injustice—reflection embitters public misery, while it tantalizes the people for their want of wisdom to improve the means of happiness, obviously within their power.

Philadelphia, Dec. 10, 1792.

At a meeting of the INSURANCE COMPANY of NORTH AMERICA, held this day at the State-House, the following gentlemen were elected Directors, viz.

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|--------------------|------------------|
| Joseph Mill,       | Thomas L. Moore, |
| Magnus Miller,     | John Rose,       |
| Michael Prager,    | William Cramond, |
| John M. Nesbit,    | Walter Stewart,  |
| Sam. Blodget, jun. | John Leamy,      |
| Matt. McConnell,   | John Swanwick,   |
| Jaques Moylan,     | John Barclay,    |
| Charles Pettit,    |                  |

EBENEZER HAZARD, Sec'y.

M. de la Fayette appears to be equally the aversion of the Aristocrats and Levelers, both of the old world and the new.—It is well known that the French Aristocrats in America, as well as in Europe have always considered him as the enemy of every species of tyranny—whether of the one, the few or the many.—There have not been wanting those in this country who have attempted to blast his reputation as the friend of man—and a foreign paper informs us that the emigrants at Luxembourg, attempted to force his apartments in that city—which were at that time not in a castle, but in a private house—they were however prevented.

### EXTRACT.

"Ignorance is equally the friend of a despotic and the enemy of a free government; when vested with power it is the most dangerous foe that can attack our liberties. Yet how often may it be seen entwining the laurel of fancied merit around the brow of commiserated honor, and trampling under its feet the most sacred rights of man."

The Tables referred to in the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury shall appear in our next.

### SHIP NEWS.

ARRIVED at the PORT of PHILADELPHIA.		
Ship Robert,	Jacobs,	London
Nellor,	Birkett,	Jamaica
Brig Mercury,	Gardner,	St. Croix
Lydia,	Vanfle,	Capt. Francois
Sch'r Friendship,	Caiver,	Bolton
Sloop Lark,	Burrows,	St. Martins
Chance,	Babcock,	N. Carolina

### PRICE OF STOCKS.

6 per Cents,	90/3
3 per Cents,	12/
Deferred,	12/3
Full shares Bank U. S.	40 per cent. prem.
1/2 shares,	50

### A GREAT BARGAIN.

FOR Sale, a beautiful situation on the Potowmack, adjoining the town of Alexandria and in a line of direction towards the Federal City and George Town, in full view of each place, commanding a prospect of the river and adjacent country of Maryland and Virginia, for many miles; about 45 or 50 acres of Land, lying directly on the river, will be sold, with the improvements, which are, a two-story framed dwelling-house, neatly finished, a kitchen, office, brick smoke-house and dairy, two-story framed barn, a well of excellent water, and an ice-house, a yard and garden, neatly railed and highly improved, with a number of other necessary improvements; the whole of the land enclosed with posts and rails, ten or fifteen acres laid down, with different kinds of grass. Its contiguity to those three towns must render it an object worthy the attention of any person who wishes to invest money in a property that must enhance in value, in proportion to the rapid increase of the Federal City, Alexandria and George-Town. This property lies nearly in a central situation to each place. The Potowmack at this spot has a fine deep shore and harbour, capable of receiving vessels of any burden. It may not be improper to observe, that men of judgment think a profitable and convenient Ferry might be erected here to the City of Washington and the Maryland shores leading to Baltimore and Philadelphia.—Also to sell, 215 acres of Wood-Land, about three miles distant, which will suit well to supply the above in wood and timber. The title may be seen to the above property, which is indisputable, and terms known by application to the subscriber, living on the premises.

BALDWIN DADE.