

must have dropped down?" "Ah! Yes, Ah! Yes!" cried the Hon. Members, staring at each other with faces of wonder. "But, exclaimed the Hon. A. J. D. certainly sir, you did not write all this poem in one day?" "One day!" replied the astonished author, one day! Why, sir, how you degrade my poem!—Can you be serious in your question? No, sir, —I locked myself in this study for 19 days and night—I lived during the whole time solely on dry bread and strong coffee, which you know Doctor is a powerful stimulant to the imagination—The first day I made one stanza, and so greatly was I agitated by its pathos, that I gained not one wink of sleep that night—The next morning being wearied, I fell into slumbers, during which I saw the ghost of Patty—immediately on beholding her, I broke out into that spirited address which begins the second stanza—"Ah! ah! dear Patty! Oh! ah! oh! dear Cat!"—When I awoke at four in the afternoon, I put down the line, lest I should forget it—then getting my coffee down and walking twice across my room, I was capable of pursuing my labor, and by next day evening finished the second stanza. In twelve days I finished the other four stanzas, and the sixteenth day I began to read over my work, in order to make corrections in grammar and spelling—I came to the line "Ah! what have I to do but lie and bawl!" I saw something wanting, and being then under the influence of strong coffee, and of the poem as I had read it collectively, I sat down, and before night completed the poem, by that master-piece of composition the concluding stanza. The three remaining days I spent in corrections and copying—For the spellings I always followed Entick's pocket dictionary. Thus, my honorable and worthy friends, you see what labor can effect; and as I have done this poem in so short time, you ought not to despair of completing your panegyric poems in the space of one month. But before I conclude, gentlemen, let me take the liberty to observe to you, that the best and easiest method I have found to make verses, is first by putting down the words which rhyme to each other, which you can procure from that valuable book called the Rhyming Dictionary. This is the mode I follow and approve—and indeed I believe the great Mr. Pope followed this plan also, for in his immortal poem entitled the "Wife of Bath," the only poem of his that I have read, I find he has almost every rhyme from that dictionary." Here the honorable gentlemen bowed to the learned author, and the Hon. A. J. D. moved that the thanks of the company be presented to him for his information conveyed; which motion being carried, they were accordingly presented by the Hon. mover. It was now 12 at midnight, and the honorable gentlemen mutually pledging themselves to appear at the same place on the 3d day of February, with their poetical addresses to their worthy leader the virtuous P—t of the S—e of P—a, they retired to their respective habitations.

† Thro' the same channel that I received those sketches, I have obtained the proceedings of the meeting held agreeably to this resolution, on the 3d of February, and shall send them to you in a few days.

For the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES.

MR. FENNO,
I COULD not help smiling at a late remark on the Speeches and Resolutions of certain members of the House of Representatives of the U. S. respecting some of the Officers of Government, viz. "Satan hath desired to sift you as wheat."—I know the transparent and firm integrity of one of those officers of most respectable character: but tho' I had no shadow of doubt of his integrity, or fear of his faith in an omniscient overruling Providence, failing; yet I could not be certain of his faith in the intelligence, penetration and candor of a very great majority of the citizens of these United States, and a continuance thereof, till I considered the further means of useful knowledge and discernment of their own true interests, and of his real merits and capacity, which would be afforded in consequence of the recent investigations and sittings of his conduct since his appointment to that very weighty office—I then took comfort, and doubted not, that even his faith in this respect would not fail him—and upon reading his Letter, or Report, of the 4th inst. I am exceedingly pleased to see his soul rise superior to those premature and groundless insinuations, in a certain precipitate and remarkable publication. And though I perceive he is not insensible to what might have been the motive to those erroneous and uncandid insinuations, yet his answer puts me in mind of the Angel when contending with Satan about the body of Moses—He brought not a railing accusation against him (as in justice he might) but only said, "The Lord rebuke thee, Satan"—to which I say, Amen.

I cannot help feeling hurt when I see innocence and remarkably superior merit attacked by any son of Adam or of Eve—be he whom he will—as I can with conscious truth declare myself a lover of mankind—and in particular, of the peace, credit, prosperity and honor of these highly favored United States—
And am, Sir,
Your friend and subscriber,
PHILANTHROPOS.

NORFOLK, January 26.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Cape-Francois, to his friend in this town, dated Dec. 28.
"We have for some time been under fearful apprehensions that the opinions of the metropolis would prove fatal to the interest of the country. We are now happy to inform you, that the National Convention have sent 45,000,000 livres to the relief of this colony—Ninety thousand dollars arrived last evening in a vessel from Bourdeaux, and 190,000 more are now entering our port. We are farther assured, that 20,000 troops have lately embarked from France, who will establish good order in Martinique & Guadalupe. This ought to animate our courage and forces, and inspire us with a hope that a general tranquillity will soon be established in this unhappy country."

Foreign Affairs.

F U L D A, November 9.

PRIVATE letters from Hanau mention, that they expect every day large reinforcements from Austria and other powers. Eight days ago, three Hanoverian regiments arrived already at Marburg, where are likewise some Hessian dragoons, and ten thousand men more are ready to march at a moment's warning to the assistance of the Prince of Hesse Cassel.

The regiment of Carabineers of Hesse Cassel is marching towards Hanau. Three thousand three hundred Austrians, who had with them great quantities of cannon and ammunition, were obliged to halt at Ascaffenburg, on account of the French being in Franckford. In Franconia the quarters were bespoken for the Austrian troops, and they are procuring provisions for the men and horses.

It is said for certain, that the Elector of Saxony is going to march his contingent of six thousand men towards Mentz, and that six thousand more are in readiness in case of necessity.

LIMBURG (on the Lahn) Nov. 9.

The Prussian van-guard, which was quartered here, and amounted to about thirteen hundred men, was attacked this day by the French; these advanced suddenly from Weilburg, with about two thousand five hundred men. The engagement was very severe, and lasted from one till four o'clock. But this time the superior numbers had the advantage, the Prussians were obliged to retreat by the Lah Bridge, with a loss of two hundred men killed and wounded. The French then took possession of our city. They had in the engagement five cannons served with canister shot, which gave them a great superiority, the Prussians had only two cannon with them.

The French immediately took possession of the Electoral Castle and Offices. They demanded two thousand five hundred guilders as a contribution from the same, but did no kind of injury to any of the citizens.

C O B L E N T Z, November 11.

As soon as the news of the engagement at Limburg arrived here, the Duke of Brunswick marched thither with a considerable body of troops. The King departed likewise with a small retinue.

P. S. This instant we received the news, that the Duke of Brunswick has drove the French out of Limburg again. The Prussian general Prince Hohenlohe, who commands the rear-guard of that army, covers the city of Treves, where there is yet a considerable Prussian magazine. Our Elector (of Treves) is gone to Augsbourg, and the Elector of Mentz to Vienna.

It is reported that an engagement took place between the Hessians and the French, wherein the first had the advantage. Several Prussian regiments passed thro' this city to-day for Limburg on the Lahn, where general Kalkreuth stands now, who is ready to march against Frankfort.

Nov. 12. The king of Prussia is still with the army, and the duke of Brunwick, it is now ascertained, will keep the command in chief. They have built a bridge across the Rhine in order to accelerate the march of the troops—A great many wounded have been brought in here, amongst the rest a prisoner of state, whose name is not known. A strong corps of Prussian cannoniers is marched into our fortrefs. The Carthusians have left their convent and have taken lodgings in town. Their convent is full of Prussians, and several batteries are to be erected there. General Hlow has died here. The French troops near Weilburg are said to amount to 8000 men. The army of general Kellerman, which some reckon at 40,000 men, is already near Metz and threatens Treves. The garrison in Mentz must be very strong, as every day fresh troops are marching there; those that have not room in the city, entrench themselves under the cannon of the fortrefs. General Custine neglects nothing to secure himself; it is even said that he is about conducting the river Mayn so as to strengthen and secure his fortifications. It is said, that ten more regiments are to come from Brandenburg. Yesterday an express brought the account, that the French had destroyed the Prussian and Imperial magazines at Remich and Grevenmachern.

R E G E N S B U R G, November 9.

The consideration of the third article of the Imperial decree of the 1st of September, concerning the safety and the war establishment of the empire, which had been made the order of the day for the 5th instant, has been postponed quite unexpectedly a second time. Some say that the electorate courts had altered their instructions. So much may be depended upon, that the day preceding that appointed for the said deliberations, a number of expresses arrived at the hotels of some of the electoral ambassadors. A great number of French emigrants arrived here within those few days, but our magistracy hath intimated them, that they must quit the city before Sunday next. Orders have been likewise given at the gates, that no more Frenchmen shall be admitted into the city without having previously obtained a special permission for that purpose.

Much is talked here of a great prisoner of state, who was with the combined armies in France, and as it is said, had been guilty of treachery when they were about surrounding Gen. Dumourier.

F R A N K F O R T, November 13.

The king of Prussia is said to be near Limburg on the Lahn with 16,000 men, and the French have withdrawn from that quarter. On the 9th the French marched 5000 men from Hunningen into the neighbourhood of Speyer, and on the 13th, they were to be followed by 7000 more.

H A N A U, November 13.

Yesterday some more French troops, with cannon and ammunition-waggons, marched into Frankfort; but another large detachment marched from there likewise with cannon towards Friedberg. According to the account which the Wetzlar Gazette has given of the engagement near Weylburg, between the French and Hessian troops—the Hessians have taken two cannon and a number of horses ready saddled, and the French had carried off seven waggons with wounded. In the Hessian dominions every body is taking up arms; all the corps-de-reserve are complete, and several thousand Hanoverian troops have marched into Lichtenau and Witzenhauhen.

B R U S S E L S, November 15.

On the 13th instant, a severe engagement took place between the rear guard of the Austrian army and the French, which reached our suburbs of Anderlech. They fired from our walls till night, when the Austrian troops marched off and some of the French officers came into town with torches. The next day General Dumourier followed with his van-guard, consisting of about 8000 men, and another column passed by this city. The cities of Ghent, Cortryck, Dornick, &c. have been taken possession of by the French in the name of the committee of revolution of the Belgians and Liegeois.

C O N G R E S S.

H O U S E O F R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S.

In our Paper of 6th instant, we gave the substance of Mr. Murray's remarks on the bill to amend the act to promote the progress of the useful arts,—the following is a more particular sketch of his observations on that occasion.

MR. MURRAY said, he intended to move to strike out director of the mint, for the purpose of inferring, the judge of the district wherein the applicant might reside. As he thought the bill of great consequence as it related to the useful and ornamental arts, he would trouble the committee with his reasons. He thought it was of consequence, that while the law holds out an invitation to genius, the mode of gratifying the fair & honest inventor should be as easy as possible. The director of the mint must reside at the seat of government; and if he alone, or any other person were exclusively empowered to issue patents, the benefits of invention would be but very partially enjoyed by the citizens who reside at a distance from the seat of government. The law ought to facilitate the granting of patents, and as the right of exclusive enjoyment, at least for a limited term, was inherent in all equally in every part of the nation, so all should as far as possible have equal facility in making their pretensions known and effectual. A country in Europe, Great Britain, had afforded, it was true, much experience on the subject; but regulations adopted there, would not exactly comport in all respects either with the situation of this country nor with the rights of the citizen here. The minds of some members had taken a wrong direction, he conceived, from the view in which they had taken up the subject under its analogy with the doctrine of patents in England. There is this strong feature which distinguishes that doctrine in that country from the principles on which we must settle it in this. These patents are derived from the grace of the monarch, and the exclusive enjoyment of the profits of a discovery is not so much a right inherent, as it is a privilege bestowed, and an emanation of prerogative. Here on the contrary the citizen has a right in the inventions they may make, and considers the law but as the mode by which he is to enjoy their fruits. England is one entire kingdom. Its court is the scene where its prerogative diffuses its bounties, and being stationary at London, the business can be well managed in a single spot. Here on the contrary, there are fifteen states sovereign as to many purposes, and forming within themselves centers of attraction for the ingenious and aspiring. London in that country, not only attracts as the mart of genius and of all that contributes to ease or gain, but by its immense combination of things aids invention and draws the genius into action which it may have attracted—But we are differently circumstanced both as to local situation, and as to the thing as it regards the principle on which it is to be obtained. The distance from the extremes of the union, or from its center to its extremes, is very great. If the power were lodged with the district judges, the citizen of ingenuity would have an opportunity of taking a patent certainly with more ease, than if you oblige him to take a journey of perhaps six or eight hundred miles. The facility of enjoyment would prove an incentive to invention. Difficulty and distance would discourage it, and would frequently overpower the wish to obtain a patent for a discovery, the profits of which would often be doubtful. One, and but one objection had been made to this alteration—that if the district judges have the power, patents may issue in different places for the same discovery. This would be an evil, but is not without a remedy. Patents are matters of record. Let it be the duty of the judge, immediately after the granting of a patent, to transmit a copy of the application with all the necessary description of the article, to the supreme court, from which it may be easily disseminated to every district court, and through the United States. An inventor desirous of obtaining a patent, would of course examine the patent records, to see whether he had been anticipated. The grant of a patent does not destroy a claim or right founded in priority. Here he would observe, that if the inconvenience were not entirely removed by this measure which he proposed, neither was the inconvenience of clashing claims as to originality and priority of discovery removed by any provision of the bill as

it stands, nor could human ingenuity perhaps devise a complete mode in which it could be obviated. If a man who is really the inventor, chuses to try his title as to the originality of the invention, even after a patent is given to another, he will make and vend the article, and the solid title will be tried before a jury in an action brought against him by the patentee. If the measure he proposed were not deemed a sufficient guard, he would suggest the propriety of a further caution—Let the application be published and remain in the office, as in England it does, he believed, two months in the office of the attorney-general, that a caveat may be entered by any man who might claim or dispute the applicant's title.

He believed that the bill, either as it tended to foster the genius of men, or was considered with respect to distant enjoyment and national character, was extremely important. It was almost immediately one of those laws that embraced national views and national citizenship, and looked to an object of advantage which nothing but a national government could secure. Without the aid of a general government, the genius of the Americans could not reap its fruits; nor had the state governments given a fair occasion for the display of the ingenuity which he believed existed in the country. As to this great object, which requires national citizenship, the state laws were impotent. He thought that it was of consequence that no invention however small or irrelative it might at first appear, should be lost; and where he saw the idea of a patent law ridiculed by some, and unattended by others, he believed they were accustomed to take things in their appearances, and had not exerted their reflection. A little reflection would teach us that whatever is great and astonishing in the works of art was humble in its origin, had been opposed by ignorance or cramped by poverty, and had become important but by gradual accumulation and a very slow progression; and that the wisdom of government should be exerted in forming a repository, where nothing that might eventually be of service should be suffered to perish. He therefore wished to see such a law as would not only secure what might be offered near the seat of government, but invite and draw forth the useful invention of those who lived at a distance. That it should present an easy method of granting it protection, he therefore moved, that the judge of the district wherein the applicant may reside, should be substituted for Director of the Mint.

T U E S D A Y, February 12.

A bill pursuant to the petition of Robert Eden for exempting from duty live stock imported in to the United States, for the purpose of improving the breed of particular species of useful animals; was reported, read twice, and committed. The petition of Giffard Dally was taken up, and a resolution proposed pursuant to the prayer thereof—Laid on the table.

A petition of Lewis Garanger was read, praying an adjustment and payment of interest on certificates received by him and his brothers; and that they may be considered as foreign officers of similar rank—Referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

A bill for the relief of Elijah Bostwick was taken up in committee of the whole, Mr. Muhlenberg in the chair, amended, reported, and ordered by the House to be engrossed.

A petition of Lewis Pintard, of the state of New-York, was presented by Mr. Lawrence, praying to be exempted from the duties on a quantity of wine lost by leakage—Referred to a select committee.

A message from the Senate by Mr. Otis, informed the House that they have agreed to the report of the joint committee, respecting the mode of opening & counting the votes for President and Vice-President of the United States.

In committee of the whole on the plan reported by the Secretary of the Treasury for the reduction of the public debt—Mr. Muhlenberg in the chair.

The resolutions offered yesterday by Mr. Fitzsimons were discussed. These resolutions are in conformity with the Secretary's report.

After further debate, the committee, without coming to any vote, rose and reported proposed, and had leave to sit again. Adjourned.

W E D N E S D A Y, February 13.

A bill for the relief of Elijah Bostwick was read the third time and passed.

The resolution, laid on the table yesterday by Mr. W. Smith, in consequence of a petition of Gifford Dally, authorizing the Clerk to discharge the necessary expence for L. B. R., incurred during the present session, out of the money appropriated by law for the contingent expences of the House, under the direction of the Speaker; was taken up and agreed to.

Mr. Parker presented the petition of Thomas Mathews, which was read, and on motion of that gentleman, referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Sumpter called the attention of the house to an act passed the last session, providing for the settlement of claims not barred by the limitation heretofore established; recurring to particular sections of that act, he shewed that the provisions therein contained subject the claimants to so much expence and delay in getting their claims adjusted and settled as amounts to precluding them from obtaining that justice the act appears to be designed to afford. Mr. Sumpter concluded his remarks by moving that a committee be appointed to bring in a bill for repealing the second section of the act, and to provide adequate regulations in the case—Laid on the table.

The bill to refund to Jacob Bell certain duties on pickled fish, was taken up in committee of the whole, Mr. Murray in the chair. The bill was reported without amendment, and ordered by the House to be engrossed for a third reading.