

THE PATRIOT

Not for himself, but for his country.

WEDNESDAY, December 10

We have the pleasure of presenting the PATRIOT to our readers this week on a superior quality of paper to that which it has been formerly published. Owing to the scarcity of Paper Mills in the Western and interior parts of this state, the great distance to them; and their badness; the editors of newspapers published in this section of the state, have been heretofore subject to many, and almost insurmountable difficulties. We are however, happy in having it in our power to say, that as respects ourselves, these difficulties have been in some measure obviated. Mr. Thomas Wallace, of Birmingham, Huntingdon county, has lately erected a new paper mill, from which we expect to be regularly supplied with good printing paper. We have it in contemplation, if enabled so to do, to renew our type in the course of the ensuing year.

MURDER.

A woman named ANN PHILLIPS a resident of Rush township, in this county, was committed to prison on Saturday the 6th instant, on a charge of having murdered her INFANT CHILD. We have not learned the particulars of this transaction; nor do we feel disposed to give them at present were we enabled so to do. The law considers every person innocent until they are proven guilty.

Proceedings Of the Legislature of Pennsylvania.

IN SENATE.

Senate met at 2 o'clock, P. M. William Marks, jr. was unanimously elected speaker, who on taking the chair delivered the following speech: GENTLEMEN: For the confidence you have been pleased to repose in me, in selecting me as the presiding officer of the Senate, I return my sincere acknowledgments. In the discharge of the duties you have been pleased to assign to me, I promise a strict adherence to the established rules and order of this body. If I at any time should err in their just construction, your indulgence will impute the same to the errors of judgment and not to wilful dereliction of duty. I also rely with confidence on a continuation of that friendly aid and assistance that has been heretofore manifested towards me when I have had the honor to officiate in the same situation.

GENERAL BARNARD, then administered the oath to the Speaker.

The new members were then sworn—the hour of meeting was fixed at 11 o'clock—the old rules were then adopted till new ones shall be made. A resolution was then adopted, to elect clerks, &c. on Friday next.

Mr. D. Mann offered a resolution, to appoint standing committees on accounts, Claims, Judiciary System, Militia System, Banks, Education, Roads, Bridges, and Inland navigation, Agriculture, and Manufactures, Election Districts, and to compare and present bills.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Brewster were appointed a committee to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate was organized.

A resolution was passed to supply each member with two daily newspapers, or the amount thereof, and the Senate adjourned.

December 3d, 1823.

Mr Coleman of Lancaster took his seat. Petitions were presented.

By Mr Groves, from the Bank of Germantown.

By Mr Emlen, from the Farmer's and Mechanic's Bank, for renewal of charters.

By Mr J. K. Mann, from John Davis, praying to be appointed Door-keeper.

Messrs. Smith and McIlwain were appointed a committee to inform the Governor that the General Assembly was organized.

On motion of Mr Groves, an item of unfinished business, relative to tax on real estate in Philadelphia City and county, was referred to Messrs. Groves, Bernard and Emlen.

A resolution was offered by Messrs. Barnard and D. Mann, that the clerk pay the postage on letters received by members.

Mr Conyngnam offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Harrison:

WHEREAS manufactures have been established in Pennsylvania, by the counterpoising, patriotic and laudable spirit of individuals and companies,

and as congress can alone apply the remedy—and as their encouragement would facilitate the employment of the indigent, and afford a market for the surplus produce of the farmer, and it being the interest of Pennsylvania that domestic manufactures should be cherished and nourished,

Therefore, Be it Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives, that the senators of this state in the Senate of the United States, be, and they are hereby instructed; and the representatives of this state in congress, be, and they are hereby requested to advocate, support and procure the adoption of any measures having a tendency to increase, foster and protect the manufacturing establishments of Pennsylvania.

Be it further resolved, That the Governor be and is hereby requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolution, to each of our senators and representatives in Congress. Adjourned.

House of Representatives.

Tuesday December 2.

The House met at 2 o'clock, P. M. On motion of Mr Ogle and Mr Todd the election returns were read; and on calling over the names, it appeared that 93 members were present.

On motion of Mr Ogle and Mr Todd the House went into the election of Speaker. The clerks officiated as tellers.

From the result it appeared, that Joseph Lawrence had 43 Wm. Lehman 19 R. Smith 16 J. Holgate, 7 J. Reynolds, 2 J. Cassat, 1

So that it appeared that Joseph Lawrence had a majority of three votes over all the other candidates.

The clerks announced that they agreed in their tallies, and that Mr Lawrence was elected.

Whereupon he took the chair and delivered the following address:

GENTLEMEN: For the renewed expression of your confidence, in electing me as your presiding officer, I return my grateful acknowledgments.

In entering upon the duties of my station, it affords me pleasure to find myself associated with many with whom I had the honor to serve on former occasions, as well as those whose talents and experience in the general and state governments, will render eminently useful in this body.

Satisfied that a disposition prevails among my fellow members to observe and preserve order, it is fondly anticipated that but few occasions will occur which may render it necessary to enforce rigidly, those rules by which we are to be governed, a duty at all times disagreeable to the speaker as well as the members.

In the discharge of my duty, it will be my constant aim to merit a continuance of the confidence with which I am honored.

Mr Lawrence then called on the house to name the member to administer the oath. The house referred it to the speaker, who named Mr. Holgate. The oath was administered in due form, by Mr Holgate; after which the necessary qualifications were administered by the speaker.

On motion of Mr Wise, a resolution was adopted, authorising each member to subscribe for two daily newspapers for the session, or the amount thereof to be paid by the clerk.

On motion of Mr Norbury, a committee was appointed to inform Senate, that the House of Representatives was organized. Committee, Mr. Norbury, Mr Hutter.

On motion of Mr R. Smith, the hour of meeting was fixed at 10 o'clock, each day, till otherwise ordered. The House adjourned.

Wednesday December 3d.

Mr Shearer presented the petition, and documents of Andrew Krewson, of Philadelphia county, a soldier of the revolutionary war, for relief, and moved that it be referred to a special committee.

Mr Ogle supported the motion. He said it appeared to be a claim of an individual for services; and who had a claim for immediate relief; he was for referring his case to special committee, who would give him his bread in due season.

Mr. Holgate opposed a special reference, on the ground that a committee on claims would be appointed, to whom all petitions of a similar nature would be referred.

Mr Shearer supported his motion, on the grounds that he was better acquainted with the petitioner than any committee that should be appointed by the House could be—He had been acquainted with him from his infancy and as the claim of the petitioner is of a regular nature, he hoped he would respectfully recommend to your

committee on claims, in the usual way.

Mr Ogle moved that a committee on claims be appointed.

Mr Sterigere said he had a resolution prepared, for the appointment of standing committees, on Ways and Means, Judiciary System, Claims, Agriculture, Education, Domestic Manufacture, to compare bills and present them, Accounts, Vice and Immorality, Militia System, and Election Districts.

Adjourned.

Thursday, December 4.

At 12 o'clock Governor Hiester sent in the following

MESSAGE.

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

IN addressing you, fellow citizens, on the present occasion, I derive peculiar satisfaction from the opportunity it affords of congratulating you on the numerous blessings with which we continue to be so highly favored by a beneficent Providence. As citizens of the United States, we can with pleasure and feelings of national pride, contemplate the growing prosperity of the country under the administration of the general government. Fortunate in its exterior relations, enjoying peace and cultivating a friendly intercourse with the governments of other nations, we view with satisfaction the zeal with which it is also engaged in the prosecution of measures wisely adapted to cement the union of the various members composing the confederacy, to promote the harmony of the people in the different states, and to afford security against the apprehension of any future dangers from foreign aggressions. Neither as citizens of Pennsylvania, have we any just cause to be discontented with our situation; on the contrary, the returning health of our citizens in those districts lately affected with disease; the satisfaction of the people in the enjoyment of their rights, and their peaceable acquiescence in the administration of laws emanating from their own will, the success attending their enterprise in prosecuting various branches of useful industry; and the abundant productions of the soil, which, for the last season have exceeded the experience of any former period; are circumstances eminently calculated to distinguish the goodness of that Being from whose favor they flow, and to call on us for an expression of the profound gratitude we owe for his bounty.

Since the adjournment of the last Legislature, the duties specially entrusted to the Executive, have received due and punctual attention. The loans negotiated with the Bank of Pennsylvania, in the year 1818, have been renewed as they severally became due, agreeably to the provisions of the act of the thirty-first March last; and under the power vested in the governor by that act, two loans have been obtained from the Bank of Philadelphia, each for fifty thousand dollars, dated respectively on the second of June and tenth of October, at an interest of five per cent per annum, and reimbursable in one year; these being the terms prescribed in the law, and in accordance with the provisions of the charter of that institution.

The commissioners appointed by law for fixing a site for the seat of justice in Perry county, were notified of a time and place of meeting, and a report, signed by a majority of them, is filed in the office of the secretary of the commonwealth, copies of which will be delivered with this communication. I have also directed you to be furnished with copies of such papers from the executive authority of other states, as appear to require any agency on the part of the legislature. The present state of the militia, the arsenals and the public arms, will be submitted in the annual report of the adjutant general; and the progress made in the construction of the Union Canal, in the erection of the penitentiaries at Philadelphia and Pittsburg, and the improvement in the navigation of the rivers, will be exhibited in the reports, which the laws require to be made by the managers and commissioners of these several establishments.

The acts of those who have preceded us in the business of the legislation, have left little remaining to complete our system of laws on general principles; but, the constant and rapid increase of population, the continuation to which all human affairs are subject, and the daily accession of knowledge gained by experience, render it necessary occasionally to review in detail, many of the acts that have been passed on general subjects, and conform their provisions to such alterations as a change of circumstances may have rendered necessary. Of the acts of this description, I would respectfully recommend to your

providing for the support and maintenance of the poor; to the construction of artificial or turnpike roads; and to these I might add the several acts comprising our present system of education; but that subject has been so often submitted to the legislature in executive communications, and so specially pressed on their attention by the constitution, that it will naturally present itself to your view, and I should consider it an unjustifiable trespass on the time and patience of the enlightened assembly I now address, to ask their attention to any arguments in proof of the position, that to promote knowledge among the people, and inculcate virtue, the natural offspring of information, is the proper and most efficient course for giving stability and securing permanency to our republican system of government.

A revision of the laws respecting the general elections, appears to have become necessary for the purpose of ascertaining, whether by their present provisions, every citizen entitled to vote, is fully protected in the free exercise of his elective franchise. It has been represented as a subject of complaint, that some persons possessing all other requisite qualifications, have been deprived of their votes, by their names being, either accidentally, or through design, omitted in the assessment of taxes. The duration of time necessary to constitute a residence to entitle a qualified elector to vote at any particular district, has been so much disputed and so differently decided, at different times and places, that a legislative provision to settle the question would have a happy influence, not only in the relief it would afford to the judges, but also in preventing the excitement of angry passions, intemperate debate, and unnecessary delay. And it would certainly be an important amendment, as it would essentially contribute to the obtaining a fair expression of the public will, if a provision could be adopted, by which our fellow citizens might be secured against the deceptions of designing individuals, to which they are exposed at elections in the exercise of their invaluable privilege of voting.

As connected with this subject, I would submit also the propriety of so amending an act passed on the 24th of March, 1817, entitled "An act to prevent wagering and betting on elections," as to render its provisions more competent to the object contemplated by its passage. Experience has proved that in its present form it is but a dead letter. The practice of betting, instead of diminishing, appears to have increased. The design of the original law being, as stated in its preamble, to prevent immorality and corruption, every effort so to amend as to render it efficacious in producing that important end, will receive the approbation of all, who consider the purity of elections as essential to the preservation of our liberties and republican institutions.

Most of the roads and bridges for which appropriations have been made by the state, are now reported to be completed, and the remainder expected to be finished in the course of the ensuing season. The large capital the state has invested in these establishments, requires the adoption of more efficient measures than are now provided by law, for keeping the roads in repair and securing to government that portion of interest to which it is entitled by the amount of its subscription. A provision to secure these objects appears to be rendered peculiarly necessary by the consideration, that some of the roads have been principally, if not exclusively, made by the money appropriated by the state.

Sympathy will naturally invite the attention of the Legislature to that unfortunate class of people, who, through misfortune, being unable to provide for themselves, are compelled by necessity to depend for support on public bounty. The experience now had may, on a general revision of the different acts on this subject, lead to some useful amendments; and for the purpose of obtaining information as a foundation for farther improvement, I would respectfully suggest the propriety of its being made the duty of the directors of the almshouse in Philadelphia, and of the several poor houses in the state, annually to submit to the legislature, a statement exhibiting the number of paupers, and the average expense of their maintenance, in their respective institutions. If a similar statement could be obtained from the township overseers in those counties where there are no poor houses, it would be an important addition to the stock of knowledge necessary to the formation of a more perfect system. To aid your present deliberations on this interesting subject, I have directed you to be furnished with copies of communications from the directors of several poor houses, in reply to sundry

from a sister state.

The approaching election of president and vice president will take place on the first Wednesday of December, 1824, agreeably to the constitution of the United States, and the acts of Congress; each state appointing, in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors equal to the whole number of senators and representatives to which the state may be entitled in Congress. By an act of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, passed on the second of February, 1802, directing the manner, times and places, of holding elections for electors of president and vice president of the United States, it is enacted, that every citizen qualified to vote for members of the general assembly, shall vote for the whole number of electors; and by the third section of the act it is further enacted, that the electors, who shall be chosen as aforesaid, shall meet at the seat of government, of the state, at 12 o'clock, on the day which is, or may be directed by the congress of the United States, and then and there perform the duties enjoined on them by the constitution and laws of the United States. Now it so happens that the day appointed by congress for the election of President and Vice President, takes place at a time when the legislature of this state is in session; and, as it is essential to the union and harmony of the states, and the liberties of the people, that the election of these high officers should be conducted in as pure and perfect a manner as possible, every vigilance and caution should be observed, not only to preserve its purity, but to avoid even the appearance of extrinsic influence, arising from executive or legislative interference, or from any other source. Governed by these impressions, I have thought it my duty to notice the subject at this time, and with the single view of suggesting the propriety of altering the existing law of this state, so far as respects the place of meeting of the electors, changing it from the seat of government to some other convenient place. No objection to the proposed alteration can arise, it is presumed, from a contingent necessity of filling up vacancies, should any occur. As the electors are a special body of representatives chosen immediately by the people themselves, for the temporary and sole purpose of electing these officers, they will be fully competent to the task of performing the duty of filling vacancies, and be equally capable with the Legislature, of representing and executing the views of their common constituents in relation to this matter.

Among the various topics of public importance recommended to the legislature in former communications submitted to their consideration, there are several not yet acted on, and to which I would again respectfully invite your attention, particularly an alteration of the militia system, so as to render it less inconvenient to individuals and less burdensome to the public, by dispensing with one of the days of training, and diminishing the expense, to which in its present form it subjects the treasury; the repeal or modification of the act imposing a duty on the retailers of foreign merchandise; the enforcing a more prompt and strict accountability of all officers and agents entrusted with the receipt and expenditure of public money; the annual examination of the bonded concerns of the treasury; and the more early promulgation of the laws.

Avoiding unnecessary expenses, regulating expenditures by the amount of income; creating no debts beyond a reasonable prospect of means to ensure payment; graduating salaries and fees according to the nature of the services to be performed; and guarding against such excess as might tend to excite an inordinate thirst for office, are important duties devolving on legislatures in the administration of the fiscal concerns of governments, more especially of republics. The reduction of salaries that took place during the session of 1820 and 1821, in conformity with these maxims of political economy, has furnished practical evidence of its utility, in the annual saving of several thousand dollars to aid the treasury in meeting its engagements; and the beneficial effects of the act regulating fees are still more sensibly felt by the people, in the relief it has afforded from the oppressive costs to which they had been exposed by the law, as it stood prior to the adoption of that measure. It will rest with the legislature to decide whether, in any of the cases of costs or salaries, the public would be promoted by a still further retrenchment. So far as applications for office may be considered a safe criterion by which to judge of their emoluments, we have abundant evidence, that the standard at which they are now fixed is not too high. From the statement of the finances