

LAWS
OF THE
UNITED STATES.

Third Congress of the United States.
AT THE SECOND SESSION.

Began and held at the city of Philadelphia, in the state of Pennsylvania, on Monday, the third of November, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four.

An ACT for reviving certain suits and process which have been discontinued in the District Court of Pennsylvania.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That all suits and process which were pending in the District Court of Pennsylvania, which, by law, ought to have been holden on the third Monday of November last, and which were discontinued by the failure to hold the same; and all suits and process which were commenced for the said Court, or returnable thereto; and also all suits and process, which were pending in any special Court of the said district, and discontinued by failure to hold the adjournment thereof, on the day appointed, at any time since the last day of July last, be, and they are hereby revived; and hereby day is given to all the suits and process aforesaid, in the District Court next by law to be holden in the same district; and the same proceedings may be had at the same last mentioned Court, in all the suits and process aforesaid, as by law might have been had at the Courts, respectively, in which the same were pending, or to which the same were returnable.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS MUEHLENBERG, Speaker of the House of Representatives.
JOHN ADAMS, Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

Approved, January the twenty eighth, 1795.

G. WASHINGTON, President of the United States.

Deposited among the Rolls in the Office of the Secretary of State.

EDM: RANDOLPH, Secretary of State.

An ACT further extending the time for receiving on loan the domestic debt of the United States.

SECT. 1. BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the term for receiving on loan that part of the domestic debt of the United States which has not been subscribed in pursuance of the provisions heretofore made by law for that purpose, be, and the same is hereby further extended, until the thirty-first day of December next, on the same terms and conditions as are contained in the act, entitled, "An act making provision for the debt of the United States." Provided, That the books for receiving the said subscriptions shall be opened only at the treasury of the United States.

SECT. 2. And be it further enacted, That such of the creditors of the United States as have not subscribed and shall not subscribe to the said loan shall nevertheless receive during the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, a rate per centum on the amount of such of their demands as have been registered or as shall be registered at the treasury, conformable to the directions in the act, entitled, "An act making provision for the debt of the United States," equal to the interest which would be payable to them as subscribing creditors.

Approved, January the twenty eighth, 1795.

An ACT to authorise the settlement of the claim of Samuel Prioleau.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the accounting officers of the treasury department be, and they are hereby authorized to adjust and settle the claim of Samuel Prioleau for property taken from him at Charlestown for the use of the United States. Provided, That the said Prioleau shall adduce proof to the satisfaction of the accounting officers aforesaid, of the contract on the part of the United States, to pay for the same, and likewise of the value of the property applied to public use.

Approved, January the twenty eighth, 1795.

PRICE OF STOCKS.

6 per Cents	20/
3 per Cents	11/6
Deferred	13/
Bank of the United States	35
Pennsylvania	35
North America	45 to 50

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SATURDAY, 14th February.

The bill for continuing and regulating the military establishment of the United States, was read a third time and passed.

The bill making further provision for the support of public credit and the redemption of the public debt, was read a first and second time, and referred to a Committee of the whole house on Monday.

A resolution of the house relative to the illegality of certain laws passed in the district, North West of the Ohio, was read a second time.

The house on motion of Mr. Heath, went into a committee, (Mr. Cobb in the chair,) on the bill for the more effectual recovery of debts due from individuals to the United States.

The first section which produced a debate of some length, was in these words:

Sec. 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 be, and is hereby authorized to issue a notification to any person, who has received monies, for which he is accountable to the United States, or to the executor or administrator of such person, if he be deceased, requiring him to render to the Auditor of the Treasury within months, all his accounts and vouchers for the expenditure of the said monies, comprehending a schedule of all claims of credit, or in default thereof, to remain charged with the monies so advanced; and suits shall be commenced for the same, without further notice: And the party sued as aforesaid, shall be subject to the costs and charges of such suits, whether the ultimate decision shall be in their favor, or against them.

It was moved to strike out the words in Italics; and to insert in their place an amendment signifying that the defendant shall not recover costs.

Mr. Boudinot stated the great difficulty of getting a settlement at the Treasury of the United States, on which account he himself had been put to the utmost difficulties, as well as many other persons with whom he was acquainted. This clause required that all vouchers should be lodged at the Treasury. The persons again called for them, with the official receipts, but in the course of years could not get them back again. It was on this account entirely tyrannical to attempt to make people lodge vouchers in such a place, where, by the loss of the papers, or their being mislaid, the parties concerned might be reduced to ruin. He was equally averse to the making of a new law for debtors of the state. This objection referred to the concluding clause of the section.

Mr. Hillhouse vindicated the character of the officers of the Treasury. Mr. Boudinot explained that his complaints went only to blame the management under the old constitution, but things had then been left in a state of inextinguishable confusion.

Mr. Wadsworth would not oppose the bill altogether, because he was very willing that public money should be, if possible recovered, but he could see no occasion for new and arbitrary laws, to recover it. He believed that out of every twenty debtors found in the books of the treasury not five would be found to owe a farthing. He knew many persons who had received discharges in full at the treasury, and who as he had no doubt, were still standing charged with large sums in the books. He considered the clause to be a clause of tyranny and violence. He entered into a detail of the frauds committed on the creditors of the public during the war, from the villainy of agents and speculators who crowded over Congress itself. At the treasury, clerks were changing every day, and such a scene of book-keeping was exhibited there, as never had been seen any where else. Officers had come to this city with claims consisting of but a single line, and had to wait a long time, and borrow money to support themselves, and could not get the plainest account settled. Many honest men had been forced to settle in such a way, that they were reduced to beggary and sent to jail; and from particular circumstances, the most honest men fared worst. He had seen all these things. He had felt them. He had paid very fully for this part of his knowledge. He mentioned a person who was sent from this city to New Hampshire to get fifty thousand dollars that were due to him. When he went there he was told that there was nothing in the treasury. He came back to Philadelphia, and at the end of two years, he was forced to accept of depreciated paper, and the payment was stated to the public as made in specie. Mr. Wadsworth could not help protesting against this clause, when he knew of so many people who had been ruined by their connections with the treasury. He had escaped ruin, but others were not so lucky. Mr. Wadsworth made a variety of remarks of which the present is but an incomplete sketch. It is at any time difficult to do justice to his interesting simplicity of expression, where nothing can be added without superfluity, or retrenched without mutilation.

Mr. Hillhouse did not approve the manner in which the gentleman last up spoke of the treasury, nor of the hardships said to be imposed by this law. Mr. Heath had the highest respect for the gentleman from Connecticut, and wondered how he could think it possible that an act of tyranny could pass under the present mild government, which was the admiration of the world. His facts were specious but fallacious, being drawn from the disastrous period of the war.

Mr. Wadsworth replied, that he did not indeed expect to have heard of an act of tyranny, under this government, but an act of tyranny this clause most certainly was, and unfit for such a government, and till it had passed into a law, he should continue to call it tyrannical. When pass, he would no doubt submit to it, but his inward opinion would still be the same, and his heart would continue to feel it as oppression. "If I thought," said Mr. Wadsworth, "that by standing here, and speaking on till the fourth day of March, I could prevent this clause from passing, and that I should not fall down with fatigue, I declare that I would rather speak on, than consent to the passing of the bill as it now stands. The gentleman from Virginia says, that my facts are specious and fallacious. Facts, however, they are, and if they must go out to the world, rather than they should go out as specious and fallacious, I will, myself, take the trouble to verify them from the public records."

Mr. Boudinot knew that there had been men labouring for fourteen or fifteen years to get a settlement with the Treasury, and could not accomplish it. Their accounts were in such a condition that it would require the most expert accountant that ever was in the service of the Union, a year or two, to clear them up. He himself had been laboring for ten years to get an account settled, and could not. Other accounts he had wearied himself in attempting to get ended, till he went to the office, and declared he would not quit it till the matter was finished.

Mr. Lyman wondered that any body would venture to call a bill before the committee tyranny. The present secretary of the treasury had said, that these old accounts were in such a confused situation, that the law as it now stands, would not do to get them cleared up. It would be better, Mr. Lyman thought, to make a conflagration at once.

Mr. Wadsworth rose a third time. He would not thus trifle with the patience of the committee, if something of this kind had not really been becoming fashionable. A gentleman had wondered how any body would call a bill before that house tyrannical. It was yet only before the committee, and therefore he conceived himself at liberty to call it what he thought it. Much had been said to day about the opinions of gentlemen in the treasury.

Mr. Wadsworth was quite different to the other legislators, and not to receive opinions or information from any body. As to burning the books, Mr. Wadsworth did not approve of that neither. It would be much better to let matters go on as they are. Mr. Wadsworth said, that for his part there was nobody who stood more independent than he did, either as to public or private money. He was all open, and ready to meet and answer every demand of every sort, that the world could bring against him. He had brought more public money to be accounted for than any man in that house; so that nobody could suppose him averse to getting justice done to the public from their debts. He should feel if the act passed as it now stands, that it was tyranny against many worthy men who had been injured by the public.

The amendment was, on a division, negatived, and the clause went through in substance as above. Some verbal amendments were made. The bill was then reported to the house, and agreed to, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading on Monday.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 23.

Was married, on Wednesday, the 11th inst. by the Rev. Joseph Hutchins, D. D. Mr. SAMUEL SWIFT, son of Joseph Swift, Esq. of Philadelphia, to Miss MARY SHIPPEN, daughter of Joseph Shippen, Esq. at PLUMLEY, in Chester County.

By this Day's Mail.

BOSTON, February 16.

On Saturday evening, returned from France, via Philadelphia, JAMES SWAN, Esq. by whom we learn, that our republican friend, LE TOMBE, whose former residence in this town endeared him to so many of its citizens, is appointed Consul General, from the French Republic, to the United States.

FRENCH CONSTITUTION of '91.

Private letters from Paris, of the 9th inst. state, "That the French Constitu-

tion of 1791, has been lately reprinted in that metropolis, and has met with a very extensive sale; that the Duchesse of Orleans has been set at liberty, and occupies the Hotel de Touloufe (a palace which she inherited from her father, the late Duke de Penthièvre, son of the Count de Touloufe) and that the chief motive which actuated the Convention to grant a general amnesty to the insurgents, having for their object a descent to be made by the English, for the support of the French Royalists."

Foreign Intelligence.

NATIONAL CONVENTION.

December 2.

Mathieu, in the name of the Committee of General Safety—I come to contradict in the most formal manner, the following calumny inserted in the Courier Universel of the 26th of November.

"The son of Louis XIV. will also derive advantage from the revolution of the 27th of July. We know that he had been abandoned in the care of the fisher Simon, the worthy follower of Robespierre, whose patriotism he has shared. The Committee of General Safety, persuaded that, for being the son of a King, one ought not to be degraded below humanity, have appointed three commissioners, men of probity and knowledge, in the room of Simon. Two of them are charged with the education of the Orphan, and the third is to take care that he want not common necessaries as formerly."

"To refute this fable of Royalism, it is only necessary to recapitulate the measures which your Committee have taken. After the 27th of July a new guardian was appointed at the Temple by the Committee of General Safety. It was afterwards thought by the Committee of General Safety that a single guardian was not sufficient. The Committee of Police was desired to recommend a citizen of approved Republicanism, as an assistant to the former guardian; and as the continuance of two persons in the same office might be thought to afford an opportunity for seduction, it was ordered that the Civil Committees of the forty-eight sections of Paris, should send one of their members in turn to do duty for twenty four hours with the two constant guardians at the Temple, and for as much as possible the detention of the children of the tyrants. The Committee concerted measures with the military Committee, for the due performance of the military duty of the Temple. Thus you see there was no intention to mitigate the captivity of the children of Capet, or to give them instructors. The Committee and the Convention know how to strike off the heads of Kings, but not how to educate their children. For several days it has been rumoured, that the Orphan would have recovered some degree of credit."

There can be no doubt but these rumours, the one relative to the offspring of an abhorred race, and the other signs of royalism, withdrawn from circulation, proceeded from a same source, and were intended for the same end. But in spite of all plots and expedients, the national credit will be established on the most solid basis, the public tranquillity will be maintained, and the son of Capet as little referred to credit, as assigns with the Royal Head."

Cambon—"I too must contradict the rumour circulated over all Paris, and perhaps over all the Republic. It has been said that the National Treasury is buying up all the gold and silver, and paying 100, 150, and 200 livres in paper, for 23 livres in gold or silver. I declare that since the law of the 8th April, 1793, prohibiting the sale of money, the Treasury has purchased neither money nor Bullion."

[The Debates in the British Parliament are interesting. They furnish great information on the various events occurred, and which are daily occurring in Europe. We therefore, conceive the apportionment of a page of our Mercury to the publication of those last received will be gratifying to our readers.]

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ADDRESS.

THE Speaker reported to the house the answer which his Majesty, in the usual terms, had been pleased to give to the address, when it was presented to him yesterday.

HABEAS CORPUS.

Mr. Sheridan said, that on the first day of the sessions he had brought forward a subject which appeared to him to involve objects of no less magnitude, than whether the benefit of the Habeas Corpus Act was ever again to be restored to the subjects of this country; whether the wonted respect to the trial by Jury was in future to be entirely superceded. He had then been induced, however, to waive the consideration of these important matters, and therefore now took the opportunity of naming the earliest day, Monday next, as the day on which he meant to make the motion that on the former occasion he had alluded to.

STATE OF THE NAVY.

Mr. Maurice Robinson wished to call the attention of the house to a fact, which struck him as being of the great

est importance, viz. That in general the French ships sail far better than ours. The effect of this, he thought, became extremely injurious to the navy, and required immediate remedy, and at no time could the subject fall under contemplation with greater propriety, than when, as at present, the Lord of the Admiralty had newly come into office.

Unleis, therefore, it was intimated by a Lord of the Board of Admiralty that some measure was likely soon to be adopted in pursuance of that object, he should give notice of a motion which he intended to submit to the house concerning it.

No answer being given, he named the first open day, Tuesday next, on which he said he should bring forward a motion on the present state of the navy.

SUPPLY.

On the motion of Mr. Rose, the house resolved itself into a committee of supply, Mr. Hobart in the chair, and his Majesty's speech was referred to it, when it was moved, a supply be granted to his Majesty.

Mr. Fox, adverting to the Imperial Loan, said, that it was a subject of such importance, that the house was entitled to a longer notice than usual, before it was taken into consideration, in order that it might be fully apprized of the subject, and that a numerous attendance might be obtained; from the very uncustomary period at which the house now assembled, it was not very fully attended, and many gentlemen would soon be called into the country, either on private affairs, or to attend the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace. He hoped, therefore, that the consideration of the Imperial Loan would be protracted till the period of their convenient return, if it were not, as he should prefer and think most proper to delay till a Call of the house would take place. However that might be, he wished that Mr. Pitt, whose absence he, therefore, regretted, would, as soon as possible, name the day which he had fixed upon for that subject, that gentlemen might, before they go out of town, be acquainted with it, in order to calculate their return accordingly.

Mr. Rose could not take upon himself to reply, positively, to this observation, but conceived, that the necessary forms of the house would render it in possible for Mr. Pitt to enter upon the subject, which he would do, sooner than a fortnight or three weeks.

Mr. Sheridan thought no reliance was to be placed on Mr. Pitt's respect to the forms of the house, when, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, he had treated them with such flagrant contempt as to absent himself, contrary to all usage, on the first opening of the Committee of Supply; and had negotiated a loan before Parliament was convened.

Mr. Rose said, that so far from the absence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer being uncustomary, it had invariably fallen to his lot, ever since Mr. Pitt was in office, to make the motion for the Committee of Supply, which had been understood always as being merely formal. It occurred to him, that possibly Mr. Pitt might chide a day, previous to the Budget, for the consideration of the Imperial Loan, and therefore what he had said before, might not be satisfactory. All, however, that he could do at present, was to suggest, that Mr. Pitt would, probably, have so far considered the subject by Monday, as to be able to give, on that day, the information required.

Mr. Steele rose principally to notice the indecorum of Mr. Sheridan, in personally arraigning a gentleman who was absent, at the same time he admitted that he was not sparing of his attacks when his right hon. Friend was present. He could not but remark the fallacy of supposing the negotiation unwarranted by custom. In fact, it always preceded the vote of the house, though it was not ratified till that passed. The same was the case of all Treaties relative to Subsidy.

Mr. Fox saw a strong distinction between a negotiation for a Loan, after a vote of supply, and services had passed, and previous, as in the present case. Nor could he agree, that the power his Majesty was invested with for the purposes of Foreign Treaty, had any similarity. At this period, however, he should decline entering into any argument upon the subject.

Mr. Sheridan conceived that Mr. Rose, so far from extenuating Mr. Pitt, had confessed and extended the charge. He was inclined, he said, totally to disbelieve the report of the guarantee to the Imperial loan of six millions. It was a thing he thought too scandalous for any man to dare to come forward