

steps of the criminal hazard. For remedy, I would recommend a continuance of that court during the week in which it commenced, and a continuance so much longer as may be necessary to completely end by verdict and judgement any cause commenced during said week. As it frequently happens that persons accused of the higher grade of offences are not arrested and secured in time so that a precept can issue for holding at the next session a court of oyer and terminer, I would propose that at a court of quarter sessions, the president being present, a court of oyer and terminer and general goal delivery may be opened and held, though no precept for that purpose may have been previously issued. I would propose, also, that seduction be punished as a criminal offence. The law by which persons wrongfully accused of crimes and misdemeanors, are compelled to pay the costs of their own witnesses, is oppressive and dissimilar to the usage in other cases. It ought to be provided, that where the return of ignoramus is made by a grand jury, or where on trial a verdict of not guilty is rendered, and the prosecutor is ordered to pay the costs, the jurics shall respectively determine, whether the defendant's costs shall be paid by the prosecutor or by himself. If an indictment for a nuisance in a public road or highway is not sustained, it ought for obvious reasons to be provided, that the prosecutor shall not be liable for costs, unless there be evident malice and want of probable cause.

The object in the contemplation of a late legislature, in having reported by the judges of the supreme court, such parts of the English statute law as are of force in this state, is considered as anticipated from the present general assembly.

No sufficient reason presents itself to my mind, why the trial of issues in fact is imposed on the judges of the supreme court: so much time is thereby consumed, as makes it impossible for them to hold the courts of error twice a year. I would suggest a provision for the trial and disposal otherwise of such causes, and an injunction that the supreme court be held twice a year in each of the several districts of the state. That an allowance by a judge must be had before a writ of error or of certiorari can issue, proves often derogatory to personal liberty. Those writs, because the judge who allows them has no discretion, might with safety be sued out from the supreme court and courts of common pleas respectively, without such allowance, and the affidavit required on those issuing from the latter court, might be taken before the prothonotary or before a justice of the peace. Arbitrators it would seem, agreeably to a decision of the supreme court, cannot nonsuit a plaintiff. Should they not possess this power, so that they may not be required to try a cause where there is no evidence? Powers co-extensive with those of the supreme court to reverse arbitration proceedings, ought to be vested in the courts of common pleas which now seem to be denied to the latter. Under the arbitration law of 1810, the plaintiff appealing gives bail for the money; but the defendant, who generally is under the temptation to appeal for delay, is only required to enter special bail. This requires correction. The defendant should certainly not appeal with greater facility than the plaintiff. The sureties of sheriffs are now exonerated at the end of two years after the office expires, a period too short for a development of the various transactions incident in many counties to that office. I would recommend that sheriffs bonds hereafter to be taken, as respects their sureties, should be of force for five years after the expiration of the office. The ambiguity in the 20th section of a law, passed 24th of February 1729-30, entitled "An act for the relief of insolvent debtors within the province of Pennsylvania," declaring who shall not be elected sheriff, has created much difficulty. I would recommend the repeal of that section, and the enactment of a law amply guarding the citizen against oppression by the officer, and defining clearly incompatibilities. Sheriffs omitting to return judicial writs at or before the day they are returnable, ought to be personally responsible, unless it happened from some unavoidable cause.

The people are frequently subject to laws for months before they are promulgated. This is much complained of and ought to be remedied, by directing that laws of a general nature, taking effect within six months after their passage, shall be published in newspapers. Decisions by courts of law which regard to acts of assembly, should be represented to the legislature; and uniformity of decision on similar points would more generally prevail throughout the state, if written decisions and all others of importance made and pronounced by courts, were reported and published. These subjects being for the most part intimately connected with the administration of justice, criminal and civil, will, I feel assured, engage your serious consideration.

The subject of manufactures, from full experience during the restrictive system and the war, is now so well understood as

respects the practicability of advantageously carrying them on, as to the kind of goods which may be made and the quality and durability of the articles which have had a fair experiment amongst us, that it is deemed unnecessary to urge arguments in their support. The general government, fully aware of the importance of the subject, will it is confidently hoped, follow the dictates of political wisdom, and protect our manufacturers against injurious foreign competition or combination: a contrary course would pretract the long and anxiously sought real independence of our country, and again impose on us a dependence almost colonial. So far as individual state means can aid national measures for the promotion of this and other desirable objects, we may confidently pledge the cooperation of faithful Pennsylvania, who we anticipate will soon take a conspicuous and permanent rank amongst manufacturing nations.

At no time since the existence of our government, was the utility and value of inland navigation more clearly evinced than during the late war. The embarrassments, disappointments and losses to the government and to the citizens, consequently from the want of that mode of intercourse and transportation, for war like as well as commercial purposes have been so manifest, that further excitement than a reference to the example and project of our sister states and other nations is deemed to be useless. It may however, be proper to add, that notwithstanding appropriation of nearly a million of dollars of the public treasure during a short period, and the extraordinary expenses of the state during the war, our resources are unimpaired, and united with individual wealth and enterprise, are equal to the accomplishment of any practicable water communication. I presume again to invite your attention to those two highly important objects: the connection of the Chesapeake and the Delaware, and those of the Susquehanna and the Schuylkill.

On the subject of education, I regret to say of the many seminaries throughout the state which have been aided by grants from the legislature, few have gone into operation on a liberal scale and those are unprosperous for the want of sufficient funds. This state of things is probably owing to a too general diffusion of individual support and public bounty; and such would not have been the result, if endowments by the legislature had been more consonant to the constitution, which directs that "the arts and sciences shall be promoted in one or more seminaries of learning." While on this subject I feel it a duty to say that from various considerations and local causes the injunction, that schools be established throughout the state in such a manner that the poor may be taught gratis, has not been carried into effect, to any extent nor in the liberal spirit of that instrument.

It is with high gratification I refer the legislature to the auditor general's exposition of financial concerns of the commonwealth. So abundant has been our revenue, that of the debt of 300,000 dollars contracted under an act passed the 24th of February 1814, to pay expenses incident to the war, there remains unextinguished but 45,000 dollars. This balance could now be paid, but will not be received before it is due agreeable to the contract. And we have a well grounded hope soon to extinguish the loan to the state of other 300,000 dollars first above alluded to, without embarrassing the treasury, and of meeting also in due time any unapplied for appropriations, as well as any probable reasonable expenditure for the further improvement of the state, which the prevailing spirit of liberal policy can dictate to a wise and prudent legislature.

For proof of how little the just and necessary war in which the nation has been engaged has obstructed the channels of wealth, and for evidence of the continued happiness and general prosperity of the state, Pennsylvania exultingly looks to the many and lately erected monuments of public spirit, amongst which are seen, bridges over the Delaware and Schuylkill, and four over the bold and rapid Susquehanna; three of them completed within three years from the commencement of the work, and the fourth at the seat of government rapidly progressing. A bridge is also building at Berwick over the N. E. branch of the Susquehanna. A turnpike road from Philadelphia by way of Reading to Sunbury, is extending itself towards Erie, dividing the state into two nearly triangles. Another turnpike road from Philadelphia by way of Lancaster, is progressing along the southern boundary of the state towards Pittsburg, a place which bids fair to be the great manufacturing mart of western America. A general spirit of public and private liberality, observable in every section of the state—an unparalleled progress of arts and manufactures—vast and valuable agricultural improvements, abundant harvests and consequent increase of wealth—these indisputable and unerring indications of a prosperous community, are amongst the blessings which copiously flow from a rational

government administered by the people's agents for the people's good. May we continue duly to appreciate those inestimable principles of religious, civil and political liberty; and to be duly grateful for the favors lavished upon us by Him, who is the giver of all good.

I am persuaded that your sound judgments and pure motives, aided by local knowledge and a concentration of public opinion from every part of the state, will readily discern and promptly adopt those means which will best promote the happiness and well being of the commonwealth; and I promise a cheerful co-operation in all measures tending to a judicious regulation of our finances, the equal distribution of justice, the promotion of useful knowledge, and generally an inculcation and fostering of all the virtues which constitute the strength and can alone secure permanence to governments, founded as are our state and national constitutions, on the equal rights of man.

Simon Snyder.
HARRISBURG, Dec. 3th, 1815.

AMERICAN PATRIOT.
"To speak his thoughts—
Is every Freeman's right."

BELLEFOSTE, DECEMBER 23, 1815.

FOR THE PATRIOT.

The Governor in his late message recommends for the consideration of the Legislature, a law placing the property of habitual drunkards in the hands of trustees for the use of their wives and children; and disabling them from contracting debts without the consent of the guardians of their property. Such a law (though it would be a reflection upon the morality and sobriety of Pennsylvania) would undoubtedly have a salutary effect. It is a melancholy truth, that intemperance is prevailing to an alarming degree in this country. It is no disparagement to men of influence and respectability to be seen frequently in that state of intoxication that brings them upon a level with the vilest of the vile. And the man, who is free from the sin of drunkenness at all times and upon all occasions, is held up not as a pattern to imitate, but as an example to deter, and stigmatized by many, as a man of no soul and destitute of the spirit becoming a gentleman. It is not the mere love of ardent spirits.—It is not because men are not sensible of the evils consequent upon a life of intemperance, that makes so many drunkards; but it is because they have not firmness enough to resist the sneers of those who laugh at them for their sobriety. And because they are ambitious to receive the appellation of a "clever jolly fellow," as the popular phrase is. Thus men begin by moderate fashionable drinking; and the transition from this to habitual drunkenness is insensible and easy. These are the reasons why so many of our husbands who were sober and industrious, have become profligate and dissipated; relinquishing the calm satisfaction of the family circle for the more boisterous pleasures of the bottle. To effect a reformation, we have entreated, remonstrated, and scolded, and all to no purpose. We, therefore, think the Governor acted wisely in recommending a law to the Legislature depriving habitual drunkards of the dominion over their property, and placing it in the hands of trustees for the support of their families. We think the Legislature will do well to enact the law immediately. Although the men claim exclusively all the talents, knowledge and foresight; yet we women have some influence in the recommendation of this measure, and we will have more in the execution. The Governor has been married lately, and we suspect the honey moon is not quite over, and that the recommendation of a measure so favorable to the rights of women must have been at the instigation of his wife. Let no one oppose the law for fear it will be said, that they are under petty-coat government; for it would be much better for society if the women had more voice in legislation than they have. We have been called federalists and aristocrats, because it is said we are fond of the show and parade of Monarchy, and hate republican plainness and simplicity. Now we promise that if the Legislature will enact our favorite law, that we will become staunch republicans; and as soon as the men refrain from foreign wines and brandies, we will lay aside our foreign fineries and appear clad in homespun. We request all women whose husbands are members of the legislature, to write to them giving them positive instructions—promising, in case they support the measure, that they shall be welcomed home at the end of the session with pleasant looks, smiles and kisses. But threatening, in case they should oppose it, to give them a most villainous scolding the first salutation, and a certain lecture every night for six months afterwards. We seriously de-

clare that if the members of the present Legislature do reject this benevolent law recommended by the Governor, we will put a period to their political existence. We will use our influence (which is not small) against them at the next election, and the "places which know them now, shall know them no more.

The Married Ladies.

Washington, Dec. 12.
The House of Representatives yesterday sat in the Chamber prepared for it in the building erected by the citizens for the accommodation of Congress, and the Senate will convene there to-morrow.

From the Senate having occasionally been engaged last week on what is called Executive business (which is always transacted with closed doors) a very general impression prevails, that they have already had under consideration the Commercial Treaty with G. Britain. If ratified, it will of course be made public.

Gen. RIDGELY a federalist was elected Governor of the State of Maryland on Monday.

VIRGINIA SENATOR.

On the 7th inst. John W. Eppes, Esq. was chosen by the two houses of the United States, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of the honorable William B. Giles.

THE TREASURY REPORT.

The National Intelligencer of the 9th instant, after giving a portion of the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, publishes the following summary of the contents of that part of the report which relates to the improvement and management of the Revenue.

"Mr. Dallas proposes that the double duties on imports be continued until the 30th day of June 1816; that the present duties on sugars refined within the United States, on stamps, on sales at auction, and on postage, be continued; that the Direct Tax be reduced from six to three millions of dollars; that the duties on the quantity of distilled spirits be discontinued after the 30th day of June 1816, and, in lieu thereof, that the duty on licences to distillers be doubled after that day; that the duties on licenses to retailers, be reduced to the rates of the year 1813, that the duties on articles manufactured in the U. States, and the duties on household furniture and watches, be repealed.

"The third branch of the Report, related to the National Circulating Medium, and concluding with the following proposition:— "That a National Bank be established at the city of Philadelphia, having power to erect branches elsewhere; and that the Capitol of the Bank (being of a competent amount) consist of three fourths of the public stock, and one fourth of gold and silver."

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 11.

THE BANKS.—Our letters say it is intended to introduce a bill into the House of Representatives to compel the several banks of this Commonwealth, to pay to each other legal interest on the several balances which may become due to each other. Whenever this subject shall come to be discussed it may lead to such an extension of the principle as may probably not yet be contemplated.

NEW-LODGE, Nov. 29.

Captain Kirtland, of the Brig Hercules, from Cork, has favored us with a file of Cork papers up to the 7th of Oct. The situation of Ireland is most distressing; their papers are full of open murders, private assassinations, highway robberies, plunderings, burnings, &c. Bands of men amounting to several hundreds, infest the roads, killing the drivers and guards, and plundering the mail coaches.

BOSTON, Dec. 9.
An expedition under Marat to regain