

History of the proceedings of the third Sessio of the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island, &c. held on the 10th day of October last.

The two notes were not organized until Wednesday—chartered election and private business postponed the attention until Thursday, when it was moved in the lower House that provision should be made for the payment of the state notes issued on an interest of four per cent. the principle of which amount, as by a report of a committee, to \$5,711,316.64.

As the mode of payment in currency at par was therefore fixed, and nothing further could be obtained for the holders of them, and these notes having been the ostensible plea of the necessary of a paper currency, and tender, the minority moved accordingly a question for their immediate payment, to induce an acquiescence with his propositions, they proved from the state of the Treasury that there was \$5,500,000 in the Treasury which with the tax of \$50,000, payable in December, would far exceed the amount of the notes and claims made at this session; besides the report of the Treasurer it appeared that in the discharge of six per cent. notes, not one half had been demanded, the holders having refused to receive so depreciated a payment, and it was presumed that many of the holders of the four per cent. notes would refuse receiving the same from the same principle—but some members of the majority were wary, contended the payment by installments, and upon taking the question it was carried by the usual majority to pay off only the one fourth part in two months, and if not demanded within that time to be forfeited—and thus is protracted the payment of the public debt—a striking proof that the discharge of it was not the principal object with the majority.

Like a rub to amuse the whale, some part of it will be politically retained to throw out at the next election to induce the people to re-appoint them to complete so glorious a work.

An act passed authorizing the General Treasurer to make payments of instalments that were forfeited on six per cent. notes, to such holders of them only who had manifested a disposition to comply with the orders of government, by having received a payment in part in the currency.

On Friday a motion was made for the appointment of a Convention to consider of the proposed Constitution; the public letters not having been taken out of the Post-Office in this town since the last session in June, this question was postponed until the express, which had been dispatched for these letters, should arrive.

United States of America. This was intended as a substitute for the calling of a Convention—And notwithstanding the impropriety and absurdity of the measures appeared in the course of the debates, it was carried by the usual majority.

The Hon. Jonathan J. Hazard, and John Gardner, Esqrs. Delegates to Congress, were requested to take their seats in that Hon. Body.

The Assembly adjourned to the last Monday, of December next, then to meet in South-Kingston.

From this plain narrative of facts it appears that the Legislature are determined to hazard the consequences of a paper currency, rather than tamper with their darling currency—a currency depreciated by the acknowledgment of both Houses, and yet continued a tender for private debts—A currency that hath rendered the State with disorder and implanted principles that we trust in mercy to posterity will be discontinued by future Legislatures with the most exemplary punishment.—In a word, by this currency the honest have nothing to gain, but every thing to lose.

SCRAPS FROM THE ENGLISH PAPERS.

THE BOX ON THE EAR. THERE are particular fustian between fathers and sons, in which the latter find themselves not a little puzzled how to act with regard to disclosure, or suppression of their feelings.

When a father—no matter how provoked—strikes a son, can that son with any propriety, return the blow? Refraining, swelling fiercely, replies—"blow for blow."

Fidial Affection is shocked at the idea of such a mode of retaliation. Fidial Duty loudly exclaims against it. A young gentleman, sitting by the side of his father, one day night, at the King's Arms, was so warm, during the course of a debate on the Declaratory Bill in favour of Mr. Pitt, that he received a smart Box on the Ear from him, for his ministerial effusions. He felt the stroke as a man—doubly felt it as it was given in public—a manner; but he also felt it as a son, and had not only prudence enough to keep his own hand from making a return, but thought of a way to make it returned by another. Immediately, therefore, saluting the ear of the gentleman who sat on the other side of him in a familiar style, he laughing, said, "My father, Sir, is in a merry humour to-night, pray let his joke go round."

The gentleman, taking the hint, promoted its circulation, in consequence of which his father received the compliment he had projected for him, that is, "blow for blow."—Luckily, the old gentleman was so pleased with the stratagem employed by his son, to show his resentment that he, with the greatest good humour, held out the offending hand to him, and as a mark of parental atonement, not only acknowledged himself in the wrong, but commended him for his spirited behaviour in the means he had taken to correct him for his impetuosity.

PHILADELPHIA, November 5. We learn that the distillers of this city have lately examined carefully into the manufacture of wafers, and have introduced the making of them here, of appearance and quality equal to any imported. They now sell them, to the good profit we hope, at 20 per cent. lower than they used to be sold—pure, secure, hylock and peagreen for Bells and Beavers, and common red for the more fastidious of men of business and public offices. It is hoped every enemy to the stamp act will shake off the insipidities upon all letters and sealed writings which we have heretofore paid by purchasing the article of wafers of foreign countries. It is supposed the charges and duties of importing wafers from abroad are equal to 30 per cent. and what the raw material from which they are made, is our great staple and lower than in the European towns. Who then will hesitate to conform this little manufacture by the uniform consumption of the homemade article.

A correspondent recommends to the inhabitants of the interior parts of Pennsylvania the erection of oil mills, to consume their flax seed (perhaps also hemp seed) whenever the expense of transportation to market is too heavy. He thinks also that wine and white rope (not tarred) might be worth attention in the interior towns, also galls and potters ware, for their own use.

The Legislatures of Connecticut, Delaware and Pennsylvania, have a correspondent, hath given a new confirmation to the federal constitution, by electing five of their members of the late Convention to the office of federal Senators—and all fix are ardent and able friends. This must inspire our foreign allies with confidence in the stability of our government, and check the hopes of our foreign enemies.—To crown the whole, the universal voice of America is prepared to call to the chair of President of the United States, the venerated President of the Federal Convention.

HARTFORD, Nov. 5. Last Thursday night, about half after ten o'clock, the dwelling-house of Mr. John Howe, junr. of Cliftonbury, east society, unaccountably took fire. Mr. Howe, a daughter, three sons, and a young lady on a visit were in bed in the house. Mr. Howe was sitting, with two or three other men at his brothers house, about fifty rods distant: on discovering an unusual light, he ran out, and perceived it to be his house on fire. They made all possible speed to the place, where they found all, excepting one, of the above mentioned persons, in the greatest terror and distress, having with the utmost difficulty escaped the flames. The eldest son was missing. The father attempted to enter the bed room to rescue the boy, but was repulsed by a violent current of smoke that issued out, on knocking in the window; had he persisted he most inevitably have perished. Mrs.

Howe being much burnt in attempting to extricate her son, was conducted to a neighbouring house, where she lies dangerously ill of her burns. Although a number of people were soon collected, yet so rapidly and outrageously were the flames, that nothing more could be done, than to prevent their catching the barn. After the building had fallen, and the heat a little abated, the body of the boy was discovered and by means of long poles got out of the fire. A painful and melancholy sight! Nearly one half the skull, one hand, both legs, and part of the thighs were burnt off; the lower bowels burst out, and the whole body burnt to blackness. Besides the loss of their son, of about eight years old, the unhappy sufferers are turned out of home, and have, without clothing to secure them from the inclemency of the season, or food to satisfy the demands of nature. How quick the transition from prosperity, to nakedness and want! It is hoped that charity will open her hands for the relief of the distressed.

Ebenezer Hunt, HAS just received from London, (and now ready for sale at his Apothecary Store, opposite the Meeting-House in Northampton) a full and complete assortment of

MEDICINES; Among which are the following articles, viz: HOPPER'S, Anderson's, & Lockyer's Pills, Balaena's Elixir, Godfrey's Cordial, Franco's Female Elixir, English Oil, Turlington's Elixir of Life, Balsam of Honey, Essence of Peppermint, James's Fever Powder, Bergamot, Oil of Vitriol.—Also, Allam, Coppens, Ground Madder, Borax, Salt-Petre, Brimstone, &c. Amputating Instruments, Surgeons Pocket Instruments, Syringes, Crooked Needles in Cases, Crown and Country Lancets, Bell Metal Mortars and Pella, Grain Scales and Weights, Trocans, Catheters black Lead Pencils, &c. &c.—He has likewise imported a large quantity of Painters Colours—such as White and Red Lead, Spruce Yellow, Spanish Brown, Spanish Vermilion, Prussian Blue, Verditer Blue, Verdigrise, Vermilion, Rofepink Umber, Ivory Black, &c.—He has also for sale, West-India and New-England Rum, Lisbon and Malaga Wine, Bohem Tea, Nanking Cloves, Cinnamon, Pepper, Ginger, Cinchona, Raisin Fig, Sago, Salep, Indigo, Oil of Turpentine, Roan, Pipes, &c. N. B. Family Medicines put up in the best manner with directions.—The above articles will be sold at the most moderate advance, and the payment to the Purchaser made in every respect as easy as possible. November 18, 1788.

Hezekiah Hutchins, INFORMS his Customers and others, that he has a hand a number pair SHOES, which he will Exchange for Wheat, Rye, or Indian Corn. N. B. He has also a few Sides of upper and sole leather, which he wants to exchange for green hides. Northampton, Nov. 19, 1788.

For SALE, by the Printer hereof, STRONG'S Genuine ALMANACK, for 1789; By the gros, dozen, or single.—Likewise, An ESSAY on the Life of Gen. JEREMY PUTNAM, by Col. D. Humphreys—Webster's Institute, 11, 2d, and 3d parts.—Hain, Root, & Friends—Pike's Arithmetick.—Stubbs's Military Exercise.—An Essay on Baptism—An Enquiry concerning the Degree and Importance of Christian Baptism and Discipline—Account Books—Writing Paper, &c. CASH, or any of the above articles, given for clean Cotton and Linen RAGS.

BROKE into the inclosure of the Subscriber, about the first of October last, two STEARS, one year old last spring, marked with a crop in the near ear, a fit on the top of the off ear, one a dark red and the other a brown. The owner is desir'd to prove his property pay charges and take them away. ELIJAH RUST. Westampton, Nov. 6, 1788.

WHEREAS, the Subscriber, (through the influence of his Sarcanic Majesty) being actuated by the violent aspirations of a blind and impetuous passion to which the generality of weak mortals are addicted to in some measure in the present day, did on the 5th of last July, insert an advertisement against his wife and her relations in the public paper.—These are therefore to inform the respectable inhabitants of the neighbouring towns, that he has satiated matters with his Wife, therefore takes this method of recalling the aforesaid advertisement by making the most solemn acknowledgments to his Wife and her relations, and is heartily sorry for the same. This he is desirous should be taken notice of by all Households, not to listen to the counsel of his Sarcanic Majesty, but repose their greatest confidence in a superior power, who is the wife disposer of human events.—And he is all willing to make the most humble confessions to his Wife and her relations for any offence which he may have given them since the date of the above mentioned advertisement to this present. BENJ. COLBY. Conway, Nov. 4th, 1788.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1788.

NORTHAMPTON, (MASSACHUSETTS) Published by WILLIAM BUTLER.

ALL Persons indebted to the Printer hereof, are requested to make payment immediately,—especially those whose accounts have been due one year, or more.

Extracts from the Journals of Congress. [Continued from our last.] 7th—Of the quarter master's department. THE quartermaster's department on the frontiers is arranged on principles highly economical and beneficial to the public. Instead of an officer at the head of this department, with his train of attendants, all supplies are furnished by the contractors of provision, who have also from time to time contracted with the secretary at war, to furnish all necessary articles on the frontiers, which shall be required for the troops, on the following principles:

1st. No article to be furnished but by an order in writing from the commanding officer of the troops, or the commanding officer of a separate post, who shall be responsible to the secretary at war, that only such articles shall be ordered, as the situation of the troops render indispensably necessary.

2d. That for all articles so furnished, the original bills of parcels shall be produced by the contractor, which shall be verified upon oath if required.

3d. That no charge shall be allowed the contractors, which shall be deficient in the vouchers, the nature of which are precisely pointed out.

4th. That for all supplies, advances, and services rendered in this line, the contractors shall have an allowance made of five per cent. on the settlement of their accounts, every six months, at the treasury.

All necessary articles which are furnished within the states for the troops, are purchased by the secretary at war without any commission or charge thereon to the public.

This arrangement existed previously to the resolve of Congress for abolishing the quartermaster general's department, July 25, 1785.

8th—Of the supplies to the troops. There have been forwarded to the frontiers during the present year, supplies to the troops of clothing, new tents and other articles in the quartermaster's line, and a considerable quantity of ordnance and military stores, agreeably to the invoices thereof lodged in the war office.

The returns on the files of Congress will shew the brass and iron ordnance, and the spare arms and ordnance and military stores on the frontiers.

If there are not so ample as could be wished, yet the state of the public finances will not admit of a further supply at present.

9th—Of the ordnance department. This branch of the department of war is important and interesting to the union.

The ordnance, arms, ammunition, and all the numerous appendages and complex apparatus belonging thereto, in possession of the United States, are highly valuable, and require an incessant attention to their preservation.

The places where they are deposited are as follows. Providence, in Rhode-Island. Springfield, in Massachusetts. Mohawk river. West Point, on Hudson's river. Philadelphia. New-London and Manchester, Virginia. and Charleston, South-Carolina. Besides which there are considerable quantities of stor and shells at the furnaces at which they were cast. The proportions at the respective places are specified in the returns on the files of Congress.

The principal arsenals are at Springfield, West-Point, and Philadelphia. The other places can be considered only temporary accommodations for the stores which are to be removed as soon as permanent arsenals and magazines shall be decided on, and provided by the United States.

By the information of the secretary at war, it appears that the stores are well accommodated at Springfield, in wooden buildings, except the magazine, which is an excellent one built of brick at the public expense, in 1782.

That the powder and stores are well accommodated at West-Point; although the buildings being built of wood, and the materials unseasoned, are going fast to decay.

That the stores in Philadelphia are too much dispersed in different parts of the city, and placed in buildings illly calculated for their reception.

The establishment of proper and permanent arsenals and magazines, is an object of high importance, and demands the serious attention of the government of the United States. But as the expense of erecting suitable buildings for this purpose will be great, it will perhaps be thought advisable to defer it for the present.

The arms at Springfield are new and in excellent order, the secretary at war having had the whole taken to pieces, cleaned, and placed in racks prepared for the purpose.

About five thousand arms have been repaired at West-Point, and are fit for immediate service—about ten thousand of the others are supposed to be worth repairing, and this necessary work is going on at that post on a small scale. To employ the number of workmen requisite to effect the business in one year, would be too expensive for the public finances. These arms would probably, on an average, cost about one dollar and an half each to put them in complete order. Between four and five thousand arms are in Virginia, the most of them require repairs.

The new arms in Philadelphia are in such a state of repair as to need cleaning only; the secretary at war has been constrained to defer this operation, until a suitable building could be obtained, or an arsenal erected in which to deposit them that they can be kept easily in order.

The powder at Springfield and West-Point, which places include the greatest quantities in possession of the public, is in excellent order; great attention has been annually paid to this article in having it aired, cleaned, proved, well packed, and also turned frequently.

The brass cannon and mortars are and will

remain fit for immediate service. But it is to be remarked generally, that no new carriages for the cannon, or beds for the mortars have been made since the peace. At Springfield there are a number of new cannon carriages, which have never been in service, and also at West-Point there are a number fit for service, but in general the carriages which were left at the close of the war, are too defective for use.

This object will require attention when the finances of the Union will admit of replacing the carriages, without which the cannon are of little service.

The ordnance and military stores at the several arsenals are under the charge of storekeepers, or deputy commissaries of military stores under the following rates of pay:

Table with 2 columns: Position and Pay. Springfield—One deputy commissary, at 40 dollars per month, 480. One assistant, 15 dol. per do, 180. Providence—One store keeper, 8 do, 96. West-Point—One deputy commissary, at 40 dol. per month, 480. Fort Herkener, and the Mohawk river—One store keeper, 17 1/2. 14 3/4 goths. Philadelphia—One Commissary of military stores, at 41 and 64 goths per month, 500. One assistant, 30 dol. per do, 360. New-London and Manchester, one deputy commissary, 480.

There are also deputy commissaries having the charge of the public property in South-Carolina, and at Carlisle—but they will soon be discharged.

Table with 2 columns: Buildings and West-Point. For the buildings occupied in Philadelphia, Do. in Virginia, Do. for the post of West-Point, 75: 60, 350, 400.

On the establishment of Permanent arsenals, and the stores being collected together, the expenses arising at any other places will cease.

10th—Of West-Point, on Hudson's river, and its dependencies. Congress, by their resolution of the third of August 1787, directed that this post, together with so much land contiguous thereto, as might be deemed necessary to be included within the limits of the garrison, should be purchased of the proprietor by the board of Treasury; but this has not been effected—owing, as the Committee has been informed, to the absence of said proprietor.

Fort Clinton, which is the principal work on the plain, having been highly built for a temporary purpose has decayed in such a manner, that unless it should be substantially repaired it will soon become an heap of rubbish, as will also most of the redoubts which were built of timber.

To repair fort Clinton with stone in a suitable manner, would require the sum of six thousand dollars, and a further sum of four thousand dollars would be requisite to place other necessary fortifications and buildings in a proper state.

These circumstances are stated to the consideration of Congress.