

the old and create a collection? and to new all the whole sum on the people, would be a manifest injustice by the operation of the two governments.

Or suppose the delinquent State neglect to make a grant of the requisition will it not be an ungrateful refusal, and have a most powerful tendency to destroy all respect to the State authority, for the United States to come in and tax the people? we have made our demand on your legislature, and we have not done their duty—they have fled, and themselves to be either ignorant or dishonest; we therefore under a necessity of taxing you directly without their intervention; your filer States have paid their proportion, and eliminate your delay, blame not us but your own assembly." Will a measure of this kind be pacific in its tendency? Will it not look like a kingdom divided against itself? Will it not be a source of contention, and either destroy the union, which I think cannot now be done, or annihilate all respect to the State government where it happens? Yes, I fear a share to destroy legislative reverence.—The doctrine of requisition on the States, in every point of view, is a dangerous and impracticable one. Those who tell us, that it is become feasible, since the general government has a power of coercion, either do not foresee the consequences, or intend gradually to subvert the government of the individual States.

That the general government possesses a coercive power over an individual State, is allowed on all hands; but the matter ought to be so conducted, they may never have occasion to use it. In a conflict of this kind, we know that any one State most ultimately bow to the joint decision of all the others; but I intend to consider such an event unpropitious. If we should prefer a respectability to the separate States, we must give the United States, original and sole jurisdiction and executive power of all matters in their nature national; and a general system of finance, and providing for the payment of the whole debt, by whatever name called, is conceived to be such. If the general government must ever exercise coercion, let it be to execute their own laws, and grants, and let individuals and not States be the subjects of it. These truths must lead every friend of the union and of the separate States to reject the idea of requisition. If we design to preserve a respectability to the State legislature and executive, let us cordially, and in the first instance give up all those matters, which may be better conducted by a national assembly and executive.

I have also heard another proposition, which is this. Let there be an appointment to each State of its quota of the sum needed; let Congress directly tax the inhabitants, following in each State the mode of taxation and collection, which is used by their own government. This, it is said, will be more familiar and pleasing to the people than any other possible method. On this I observe, that the proposition keeps up the idea of a previous appointment to the States; which, however never, and which continued must be a source of jealousy. By such jealousies nothing is gained and much endangered.

This plan proposes as many modes of taxing and collecting, as there are States, for no two have a similar procedure—there must be thirteen bodies, complicated organized with limbs, joined to one head, the treasury board of the United States—is it possible for this head to preserve order, control and give motion to so great a number of bodies? Is it possible for the treasury board to comprehend and act on so complex a system? Is the general government to have a complete set of officers of their own appointments or to make use of those appointed by the States? If the former, their number will be immense; if the latter, they will feel no dependence on the union and cannot be brought to account.

The operation of a taxing system is much more expeditious in force, than it is in other States; in some it often runs to an average of years. Can a general system stand with any punctuality upon such uncertainties? Will it not be in the power of a single State, by altering its own laws, at any time to disconcert the general treasury arrangement? Will the treasury officers ever be able to give an exact account of the national revenue, in whose hands money are, or whether in a false situation? I will propose a question which to the people is still a more serious one—Those public officers intrusted with the revenue, and with the disposition of monies, ought to be placed in the most accountable situation; from the integrity of those now in office we cannot infer the honor or honesty of their successors, and will not to complete a plan of the new consideration, give the ground for evasion, and fraud, that can never be detected? Whoever considers these questions, in some of them, will find unanswerable objections, against appointing to the States and adopting in each one its own method of taxing and collecting.

If neither of the above methods are feasible, the general government must adopt a system of its own, on plain principles, which may operate thro' the whole with equal expedition and justice.

The greatest evil is to be expected from a plan, which either gives discretionary power to subordinate officers of government in dividing the taxes on the people, or is so complex in its principles and operation that they cannot understand it. No good man will surmise when he sees himself treated on principles of equality, but less gives, ought to consider, that for the common citizen to see this, the mode of taxation must be very plain. If it be a few, who have a thro' knowledge of the principles and influence of the tax laws in their own States, and thisthey have acquired by living long under them. Should the general government adopt a complex system, by detaching the most eligible parts from all the local customs within the union, it would still appear to the people a proper object of jealousy, and not being an equal operation on

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, FEB. 8.

A Memorial from the Hon. Robert Morris, late superintendent of finance, enclosed to the speaker was read—the enclosure contained a request that the memorial might be entered on the journals of the House—laid on the table.

The memorial after stating a variety of facts relative to the business of which he had been appointed superintendent—the difficulties, delays and embarrassments which had prevented a final adjustment and settlement of his accounts—praying that commissioners may be appointed for that purpose.

Mr. Goodwin presented a petition from sundry inhabitants of Salem—stating that the very particular construction of a section in the existing law, vests owned by the citizens of the United States, and as they thought properly qualified such, had been obliged to pay the alien duty in some of the southern States—and praying relief or a refund of the duty so paid—laid on the table.

Several petitions and memorials were read, from persons who had made sundry discoveries, and invented certain machines, praying encouragement, and a securing of the benefits of their inventions—laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Sedgwick the committee of the whole was discharged from any further discussion of the bill providing for the actual enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States.

It was then voted that the blanks in the bill should be filled up.

The first blank respecting the time to be allowed for completing the enumeration—6, 4, and 3 months were proposed.

Mr. Sedgwick offered, that as so long time is to elapse before the blanks are to enter upon the business, the work of preparation will be completed in such a manner, that he conceived one month will be sufficient.

Mr. White said that he was very sure that in many of the States, one, three or four months will not be sufficient to complete the enumeration in these States—in the eastern States the business may be finished in a much shorter period—but when the time shall be granted, that is allowed by law, and the enumeration is completed in some of the States, and the numbers fully returned, it cannot be supposed that those States who have not completed theirs, should acquiesce in any regulations and establishments founded on so imperfect a basis.

Mr. Burke was in favour of allowing the longest period—and stated a great variety of obstacles and impediments in the way of completing the enumeration within so short a time, even as six months; and the census when returned in so incomplete a state, it could not be supposed would be satisfactory; it would create uneasiness and terminate in absolute injustice.

Mr. Jackson, addressing to the peculiar circumstances of the southern States, particularly Georgia; and the recent accession of North-Carolina; the present situation of the territory of those States, and the dispersed situation of their inhabitants—contended that six months would be but a short time to complete the business in.

Mr. Madison offered that the situation of the federal States was so various, that the difficulty of adopting a plan for effecting the business upon terms that would give general satisfaction, can only be obtained by allowing sufficient time. Some of the States have been in habits of taking an enumeration of their citizens; others have never done it all; to the former the business will be easy, and may be completed within the time specified; in others it will be attended with difficulties at present unforeseen. In addition to these there is a variety of other considerations to be taken into view; there must be a greater number of assistants employed in the southern States; there are many contingencies that cannot be provided against; the assistants may die, and leave the business unfinished; it may be necessary to appoint others; the returns from so many persons, from such extensive districts, will require quite a length of time, as leaves no probability that it can be completed in a shorter period than six months.

Mr. Sedgwick said he had no wish to precipitate the business—the equalizing representation ought to be a matter of serious contemplation to every gentleman, and is particularly so to the delegation from those States who are to be enumerated. I wish for a full and complete enumeration; and am for allowing full time to complete it in: But there does not appear to me to be any force in the objection raised from the contingency of the death of the assistants: The longest period, the greater the probability of such events: And I am clearly of opinion that extending the period will not conduce to obtaining finally so accurate an enumeration.

Mr. Smith, (S. C.) Mr. Burke, and Mr. Jackson made a few additional observations, when

"The question being taken on "the months," it was carried in the affirmative.

The bill was then taken to make returns to the treasury within the time limited by this act to forty-two dollars.

The marshals to make return of the aggregate amount to the President of the United States, by the first day of June next, under a penalty of \$300 dollars.

Some other blanks were filled in amendments which had been adopted.—The bill being gone through.

It was passed, to be enacted.

A message was received from the President of the United States by his Secretary, with the act for giving effect to the laws of the United States in the State of North-Carolina, and for other purposes, which he received the President's assent and signature.

In committee of the whole, on the report of the Secretary of the Treasury relative to a provision for the support of the public credit—Mr. Baldwin in the chair.

Mr. Smith (S. C.) after premising a mode which he deemed ineligible in making up the subjects contained in the report, read certain resolutions which he proposed to lay on the table: These resolutions he proposed would bring the several objects of discussion before him, so that the committee might proceed with more accuracy in the business.

These resolutions referred to the principal objects of the report—laid on the table.

Mr. Boudinot entered into a consideration of the subject of the debt: He adverted to the resolution of the last session, and to the answer of the House to the President's speech; by which he conceived the United States have pledged themselves to make adequate provision for the support of the public faith: He thought the mode pointed out by the gentleman from South-Carolina, would bring the business before the committee in a proper point of view: He conceived the subject of his report, viz. to fund the debt, the present session was the first thing to be taken into consideration. In order to bring before the committee a just and adequate idea of the debt, he recurred to the journals of the late Congress. He commenced his researches with the year 1779; and read the resolves, declarations, addresses and engagements of Congress from period to period relative to the loans, services, supplies, &c. He then said, that he conceived that there was not a person within the sound of his voice, possessing the feelings of honor and humanity, who would harbour an idea against funding the debt of the United States; He touched on the public sentiment—the present situation of the country; and after repeating some of the observations contained in the report of the Secretary, said, he doubted not that the question for funding would meet the ideas of a decided majority of this house: The manner how this should be done will be an after consideration: He concluded by observing that he felt full confidence that before the present session should be closed, the arduous and important business would be completed.

Mr. Boudinot read in his place several resolutions affirmative of the great objects contained in the report of the Secretary, which he laid on the table—they are as follows:

Resolved, that adequate provision ought to be made for fulfilling the engagements of the United States in respect to their foreign debt.

Resolved, That permanent funds ought to be appropriated for the payment of interest on, and gradual discharge of the domestic debt of the United States.

Resolved, That the arrears of interest, including incidents, issued in payments thereof, to be provided for on the same terms with the principal of the said debt.

Resolved, That the debts of the respective States ought, with consent of the creditors, to be assumed and provided for by the United States.

Resolved, That it is advisable to endeavour to effect a new modification of the domestic debt, including that of the particular States, with the voluntary consent of the creditors, by a loan, upon terms mutually beneficial to them and to the United States.

Resolved, That for the purpose expressed in the last preceding resolution—subscriptions towards a loan ought to be opened, to the amount of the said domestic debt; including that of the respective States, upon the terms following, to wit:

That for every hundred dollars subscribed, payable in the said debt (as well interest as principal) the subscriber be entitled, at his option, either

To have two thirds funded at an annuity or yearly interest of six per cent. redeemable at the pleasure of the government, by payment of the principal; and to receive the other third in lands in the Western Territory at the rate of twenty cents per acre.

To have the whole of twenty cents per acre.

The interest of four per cent. funded at an annuity or yearly interest exceeding five dollars per annum on account both principal and interest; and to receive a compensation for the reduction of interest, fifteen dollars and eighty cents, payable in lands, as in the preceding act. Or

To have five—six dollars and two thirds of a dollar funded immediately at an annuity or yearly interest of six per cent. irredeemable by any payment exceeding five dollars and two thirds of a dollar per annum, on account both of principal and interest; and to have, at the end of ten years, twenty six dollars and eighty cents, funded at the like interest and rate of redemption.

Or

To have an annuity for the remainder of life, upon the contingency of living to a given age, not less distant than ten years, computing interest at four per cent. Or

To have an annuity for the remainder of life, upon the contingency of the survivorship of the younger of two persons, computing interest, in this case also, at 4 per cent.

Resolved, That immediate provision ought to be made for the present debt of the United States; and that the faith of government ought to be pledged to make provision, at the next session, for so much of the debts of the respective States, as shall have been subscribed upon any of the terms expressed in the last resolution.

Resolved, That the funds which shall be appropriated according to the second of the foregoing resolutions, be applied, in the first place, to the payment of interest on the several subscriptions towards the proposed loan; and that if any part of the said domestic debt shall remain unfunded, the surplus of the said funds be applied, by a temporary appropriation, to the payment of interest on the unfunded part, so as not to exceed, for the present, four per cent per annum; but this limitation shall not be understood to impair the right of the non-subscribing creditors to the residue of the interest on their respective debts: And in case the aforesaid surplus should prove insufficient to pay the non-subscribing creditors, at the aforesaid rate of 4 per cent, that the faith of government be pledged to make good such deficiency.

Mr. Paine moved that the report of the Secretary should be read. The Clerk then commenced reading, and having proceeded as far as the 11th page—It was moved that the committee should rise: They accordingly, and the House adjourned.

V I E N N A, (Germany) Nov. 19.

A Courier has this moment arrived with the news that General Bathy has taken Cladova, and consequently the whole district of Crainia, comprising 310 towns and villages. Bathy has forwarded to Prince Potemkin, and Drorova a mail full of gold.

L O N D O N, December 31.

Thursday the sessions ended at the Old Bailey, when the Recorder put on the black cap, and proceeded to adjudge upon twenty six capital convicts, and a more dreadful sight perhaps never presented itself in any country; seven of them being women and eight men.

Saturday the 19th inst. a very extraordinary circumstance happened at Wells. Mrs. Say, the landlady of the White Heart Inn, observing the appearance of blood trickling down the breaches and stockings of an inmate had surveyed of the neighbourhood who was her house—she asked him if his wife had been bleeding—He replied, No—but upon feeling the same pain himself, he clapped both his hands to his stomach, complained of a violent pain there, and exclaimed, "I am a dead man—I have burst a blood vessel—send for a surgeon immediately." Upon which he fainted away, was stripped and put into a warm bed, but no apparent relief from whence the blood issued—but upon searching his clothes, which seemed to be very bloody, they found in his breeches pocket a bottle of red ink. This unravelled the mystery, as the ink had been forced out, and is a strong proof of the bounding effects of imagination in suspending the human faculties. On proper applications, however, the vigorous soon restored their patient to his health and ease.

N E W - Y O R K, March 10.

A Correspondent observes, it is so long since the agricultural interest of this country enjoyed the advantage of a considerable temporary rise in the prices of grain, that it is not a little surprising to find persons coming forward with their proposals of an embargo, by any thing of the extreme modesty in which this prohibition has obtruded itself on the public—provided it is favoured with a very great surplussage of grain, as it is presumed—the prospect of having an embargo on its exportation would be as wise, as the conduct of a merchant, who should shut up his warehouse at the moment of a brisk demand for his commodities.

A correspondent would suggest the propriety of Government offering bounties for the encouragement of agriculture the existing cause, more particularly to the poor farmers, who shall raise the greatest quantities of summer grain of all sorts—and of such vegetables as are the easier substitutes for grain.

We learn a gang of thieves, consisting of men and women, were taken up in Monmouth, New-Jersey, and were now in the goal of this country, to take their trials and preferred wagers. Their practice was to travel in a covered wagon, from whence they occasionally detached thieving parties. They had robbed several families, and goods to the amount of six or seven hundred pounds were discovered in their possession, which have been claimed by their respective owners. The prisoners, it is said, are very penitent, and promise to be reformed in their time not to do like again.

Accounts from Fort Pitt say that about Christmas last more than 2000 persons (emigrants) were waiting their place for the riging of the Ohio in order to proceed down that river to the new settlements. The ship was never known to be lower than during the fall and winter.

W I N D S O R, (Vermont) February 17.

On Wednesday last, the dwelling house of Mr. Elisha Melrose, of Tubbidge, was consumed by fire.

Not experienced, within the last week, the most extreme cold weather. The oldest men amongst us, do not recollect to have felt the cold so sensibly, since the memorable Cold Sunday, in 1773. On the night of the 11th inst. the weather was so exceedingly severe, as

to freeze bread-corn to death. A young cow, that was tolerable well, belonging to Captain—Cady, of Cornish, (New-Hampshire) was froze in such a manner that they were necessitated to kill her next morning. A young owl belonging to Dudley Chase, Esq. of the same town, was found in the morning of the 12th inst. frozen to death.

N E W - P O R T, (R. I.) March 17.

In commencing a detail of the proceedings of the Convention of this State, we subscribe a recital of the conduct of the leading characters in opposition since the appointment of it, from the flattering hopes that the constitution would be not only investigated, but candidly decided on; but the hopes being blasted, duty and honor forbid us to be silent.

Previous to the election of Delegates, letters of an insidious nature were circulated in every town where they could be supposed to influence, and in many of them were read in open meeting—innocent falsehoods were propagated, and every artifice used to excite and continue the fatal delusion of the people—In one of the towns, the Serjeant was furnished by a leading Antifederalist with a bag-bear, to relate to every Freeman whom he wanted, in order to excite prejudices against the federal candidates—and when this artifice was charged with fabricating the lie, he had the audacity to declare, "that he was a party man, and would stick at no means to rectify his error." A spirit of insubordination was disseminated in the Northern and Western parts of the State, and several of the leaders of the Anties (among whom were those who sustain offices under government) at a clandestine meeting, actually deliberated upon levying a body of men, and marching them in a hostile manner, to prevent the meeting of the Convention.—Though this measure was not attempted to be carried into execution, it however shows the licentiousness of the opposition.

From the conduct and conversation of many of the members of the majority in the Convention, in and out of the House, we have reason to believe, that it is their determination again to adjourn and never to agree to an adoption, but upon the most urgent necessity.

H A R T F O R D, March 8.

On the night of the 5th ult. the house of Mr. Benjamin Sawyer, of Canaan, in the State of New-Hampshire, was consumed by fire. The family narrowly escaped with their lives, not being able to save even their daily clothing.

P I T T S F I E L D, February 27.

On the 23th of December last, 1789, a fellow of the name of Peter Sanders, but who calls his name John Smith (late of Woodstock, in the State of Connecticut) was apprehended in the act of passing a counterfeit French Guinea, at Granville, in the county of Washington, and late of New-York. His person is tall, somewhat exceeding six feet, his shoulders roundish, his tongue fissured, his countenance bold and daring, his hair is a light coloured coating furrow, and his complexion coloured cast, leather breeches, boots, and a light coloured hat. A like prepared to act the part of Christ (as he says) will much excitation and fervor, at the next with unflinching hands, he distributes his counterfeit among the ignorant and unwary; he has visited many of the prisons on the continent, not indeed as a Christian to relieve the unfortunate, but in the character of a prisoner, in vile degrading gear, and at present he is lodged in the city-hall of Albany, the last jail we presume in his circuit. From the tenor of his conversation it appears that he came last from the province of Canada, by way of Vermont, where, he says, he has greatly deceived and taken in the inhabitants; there, for the benefit of the public, this information and description is given.

B O S T O N, March 18.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION.
RECEIVED BY LAST EVENING'S MAIL.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES—TUESDAY, March 9.

IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

ON THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

ASSUMPTION OF THE STATE DEBTS UNDER

Mr. Sherman, Mr. Bond, Mr. Lee, Mr. Page, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Sedgwick and Mr. Vining spoke on the subject.

Mr. Vining concluded, with a handsome figure, concerning his arguments to a vessel launched into the federal ocean. He wished that the business could have been postponed with propriety, but feeling that gentlemen were anxious to bring it to a decision after so long a discussion, he would therefore with it were ended.

After further debate on this important question, it was adopted; 57 to 26—as in the following words:

Resolved, That the debts of the respective States, ought, with consent of the creditors, to be assumed and provided for by the United States; and at the same time that the usual provision be made for the liquidation of, and crediting to the States, the whole of their expenses during war, as the same have been or may be fixed for the purpose—and that the best evidence of the same be taken, the nature of the case will admit.

The next proposition was also agreed to viz

Resolved, That it is advisable to endeavour to effect a new modification of the domestic debt, including that of the particular States, with the voluntary

consent of the creditors, by a loan, upon terms mutually beneficial to them and to the United States.

Resolved, That for the purpose expressed in the last preceding resolution, subscriptions towards a loan, ought to be opened, to the amount of the said domestic debt; including that of the respective States, upon the terms following.

This resolve was adopted; the first alternative which follows being read, a considerable debate ensued, considered principally by a motion of Mr. Boudinot, to strike out all that relates to the western territory; the committee finally vote without deciding on the motion for the rates of interest.

Adjourned.

A letter, we are told, has been received in town from the Eastern part of this Commonwealth, directed to Mr. Vane, Representative from Massachusetts, informing that the Sheriff of the British Majesty's Province of New-France, had lately served several precepts on the citizens of this Commonwealth, within the jurisdiction thereof—forcing at the time he did it, that he expected it would breed a quarrel.

S P R I N G F I E L D, March 17.

At the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, in &c for the County of Hampshire, holden in this town by adjournment, on the second Tuesday of March instant, the following persons were tried for their, found guilty, and sentenced as follows, viz

Uziah Pratt, of Belchertown, on two preferences, sentenced to be whipped 30 stripes, and confined to hard labour on Castle-Island, for the term of two years.

David Green, of Granby, on two indictments, ordered to be whipped 30 stripes, and to be taken to the Castle, to be kept to hard labour for the term of three years.

Ethan Smith, of Amherst, to be whipped 20 stripes, and confined to the Castle for three years.

John Kinn, late of South-Hadley, convicted of horse-stealing, to be whipped 20 stripes, and to spend 1 year at the Castle.

John Dorrifield, of Northfield, fined 3l.

Sauvel Jackson, a negro, to be whipped 20 stripes, & ordered to be disposed of in service for the term of two years.

Frederick Bigelow, for horse stealing, fined 10l. to be paid in 30 days, in default whereof, to be whipped 10 stripes.

On Saturday last, fix of the above culprits received the discipline of the post.

N O R T H A M P T O N, March 24.

We are informed, that three vessels have lately arrived in James River, Virginia, from Europe, for which the price of which is now as high as seven shillings six pence per bushel, and very hard to be got at any price, owing to the large quantity that has been shipped to Europe. There is also a very great demand for Indian corn—Several thousand barrels are wanted by the merchants of that place, who now offer two dollars per barrel (five bushels) and it is apprehended that when this supply is shipped, it will raise the price of that precious article so much, as to put it out of the power of the poor to obtain bread to eat. We may therefore dread the fatal consequences of this alarming evil.

A Liverpool paper of November 12, has the following paragraph: "In consequence of the act of Congress, imposing duties on tonnage, government has caused inquiries to be made on its mischievous tendency; and a meeting was called by the Worshipful the Mayor, of the merchants concerned in the American trade last Monday, when a committee of five was appointed to draw up a proper statement, and what would most effectually tend to remove the evil complained of. We have the satisfaction to inform our readers that there is a fair prospect of the British shipping being warmly supported by government, and that duties will be laid to equalize the benefit held out to the American vessels on the other side of the Atlantic, in opposition to the British vessels."

The Convention of Rhode-Island has adjourned to the last Monday of May next, then to meet at Newport.

On the 18th of February last, the wife of Mr. J. Paul Cox, of Granville, was delivered of a living and proper child, which weighed one pound and four ounces, the child has never lived but about ten hours.

WE the Subscribers being appointed Commission by the hon. Judge of Probate for the county of Hampshire, to receive and examine the claims of the creditors to the estate of ORIB TAYLOR, late of Shelburne, deceased, represented insolvent, and twelve months being allowed for the creditors to bring in and support their claims—Do hereby give notice, that we shall attend the business of our appointment, at the dwelling house of the widow Sarah Nims, in said Shelburne, on the first Monday of May, July and September next, from 6 o'clock P. M. No accounts will be allowed after said term.

SAMUEL BOLD,
ASA CHILDS,
JABEZ RANSOM,

ALL Persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to

SARAH NIMS, Administratrix.
ELISHA RANSOM, Adm'r.

March 2d, 1790.

WANTED,

As an Apprentice to the Tay-lor's business, a BOY, about 14 years of age. Enquire of

JOHN CUNNINGHAM,
Washington, March 19, 1790.