even the most trivial reforms by legal and peaceable means. Yet strange to tell, the seven tenths of the placemen, pensioners, and even gentlemen of landed property, will imagine that these strong measures, by strengthening the hands of government, tend to ensure a prolongation of tranquility! Far otherwise indeed, do we conceive of them; and did we wish a revolution in the country, these are the very measures we would recommend to bring it about: the experience of ages and the nature of things, prove that these are the preparatory steps to a convulsion.

The Whig Club of England held an extraordinary meeting on the 11th instant, the Duke of Bedford in the chair, for the purpose of taking the bills now before Parliament into consideration. Several strong resolutions were passed, expressive of their abhorrence of these bills as utterly subversive of the genuine principles of the constitution; and they earnestly recommend meetings of the people for the purpose of protesting against them.

A meeting of those concerned in the Printing business was to be held on Thursday last for a similar purpose. The requisition calling this meeting states, that these bills, by abolishing the liberty of the press, will finally put a total stop to the printing trade.

MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE.

Sketch of the debate in the House of Representatives on the Circuit Common Pleas Court Bill.

January 29.

THE Bill for establishing Circuit Courts of Common Pleas, under debate. The question, *shall the bill have a third reading?*—

Mr. *SLOCUM* first observed, he had a great respect for the gentleman who brought forward this bill—yet he could not believe the benefits would result from it which had been stated;—that he believed that if something could be done to oblige the Lawyers to lay aside "their special pleadings, demurrers, rejoinders, surrejoinders and riders, something good might be expected"—that he believed it a plan to get rid of the old lawyers: that some more benefit might result to the profession, who he believed, had the "*key of knowledge.*"

Mr. *J. C. WILLIAMS* requested that any person who could state any objection to the bill, would come forward with it—that he was not particularly attached to this mode, that he could not boast the honor of being the inventor of the system, the outlines of it were given to him by a gentleman, who, about 30 years ago, had proposed it to those then in power, but it was then opposed; that if these who object to this bill, could propose a substitute more agreeable to the House, he, Mr. W. would give up this bill and join in any other better mode.

Dr. *JARVIS* said he rose in opposition to the bill; that notwithstanding what Mr. WILLIAMS had stated, he should oppose it; he could not believe in this mode; it went to a "*revolution instead of a reform;*" that, melancholy as the assertion was, he *believed in God*, mankind were more generally governed by their feelings than by either their reason or good sense. That if such was the delay of justice, the Speaker's table would have been covered with petitions for redress; that the administration of justice promptly, and without delay, in his opinion, meant that the debtor should have every legal advantage arising from continuances and appeals; that if we should create a system to enforce a punctual payment of debts, it would greatly benefit the creditor to be sure, but at the expense of the debtor;—and this in his opinion, would make the motion like a term in his profession which "*Dr. Slocum*" well understood, *caput mortuum*; That the President, our Senate, and the House of Representatives, had all declared, that we were in a state of tranquility and happiness, which could not be mended, and we had better remain so—that if this system had been 30 years on the carpet, and had not made its way through, it must be a bad one; that as to the estimate of expence to be saved, it might be so, and it might not. He did not understand them.

Mr. *FISK* said he doubted if the business could be done in the Circuit Court; that one action in ten would be for trial; that the stopping of appeals would glut that Court, and the lawyers would be great gainers; that if he could be satisfied that the Court could do the business, he should vote for the bill.

Dr. *EUSTIS* said, that unless he could be satisfied that the Supreme Executive could appoint better men than had been heretofore appointed, he should oppose the second clause in the bill; it ought to have been so modified, that the Judges to be appointed, "*should be men learned in the law,*" otherwise we should be worse off under this system, than the old one.

In answer to Dr. EUSTIS, Mr. *TUDOR*, and Mr. *SPRAGUE* observed that the objection went too far, for it would apply to Judges to be appointed for the Supreme Judicial and every other nomination; that the executive must know that this system was intended to bring men of talents on to the bench; that the fee of office would be an inducement to such men to go there; that in such, the public would have a right to expect such appointments, and the Judges would know it and qualify themselves accordingly; that from being so much of their time on the Circuit, they would be continually acquiring knowledge from experience, and though the persons to be appointed, should not all of them be men of law learning, they must continually increase in legal science, and be able to render service to their country.

Mr. *MARTIN* said, that some of the Judges with whom he was acquainted, knew but very little of the law, and would render no service on the bench.

Mr. *DREW* said the difficulty in his mind was the fear of a salary for each of these Circuit Judges—he wished an alteration in the jury box, and was afraid of reviews, and of cutting off appeals.

Col. *HUBBARD* said, the fault was in the lawyers; "they advised their Clients to go to Law, until their money was expended, and then would send them to references."

Mr. *SLOCUM* then said, that the report of the Committee to abolish the Courts of Common Pleas, and enlarge the number of Judges on the bench of the Supreme Judicial Court was the thing; he wanted but one tribunal, and was willing to subject his Constituents, to the decision of a PAINE, CUSHING or a DAWES.

Mr. *Lusk* declared that he could see no advantage in the reform—that if we could alter the jury box and separate the Courts of Common Pleas from the sessions and curtail the gentlemen of the Law in their long pleadings, things would go very well—that however in this instance he believed the lawyers were really honest, and meant to introduce a substantially beneficial reform; that he meant not to offend any body by his remarks, and hoped gentlemen would receive them in good sort; he also said he was afraid of salaries.

Mr. *EDWARDS* advocated the bill—he tho't that it would be productive of great good; it would lessen the number of causes in the Supreme Judicial Court; would lessen the number of continuances there, and would shorten litigation—he hoped too that an alteration would take place as to the jury boxes, that now he was very sure, "the people would not be willing to refer any of their causes to jurors returned for the Courts of Common Pleas."

Mr. *SEWALL* very ably answered Doctor JARVIS, and reprobated his idea respecting the promptitude of legal decisions—he stated that they had no trials in the courts of pleas where he practised, that no honest attorney could advise his client to go to trial there, that of course all causes were carried through the common pleas by demurrer to the Supreme Judicial Court; the whole expense of which beyond the writ and service was thrown away.

Mr. *FISK* thought that appeals from a justice should not be restricted, unless the justice law was altered, and the justice empowered to summon a jury.

Mr. *ELY*, Mr. *BLISS*, Mr. *IVES* and Mr. *BIGELOW* endeavoured to demonstrate that the bill was calculated to lessen the expence, and shorten the course of litigation—they were for limiting appeals, and had a full confidence in the Supreme Executive's making good appointments.

Mr. *WILLIAMS* endeavoured to answer the objections which had been made which other gentlemen had not answered.

He said that he was not anxious to have the bill passed this session; if gentlemen had doubts they ought to withhold their approbation—that the document on which he had made his calculations was handed by the clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court—that the house of Representatives last winter thought it a just calculation when they would not make a grant to the clerk of that court, because the committee on that document had demonstrated that the fees of that office was over £350 to each clerk by the year—He said that the same objections were made to the plan 30 years ago as had now been made, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor then thought it would not do—and his Excellency Mr. ADAMS, has thought "too frequent speculative experiments in the judicial system might have a bad tendency."—Mr. W. said that this bill struck at the influence of the chair—that it struck at the influence arising from patronage—that it was opposed to the internal ambition and avarice of an immense family compact, and excited the vilest affections and prejudices of the human heart—that he would appeal to Dr. JARVIS, (whom he believed was a man of humanity) and make that appeal not only to his "*feelings, but to his good sense and reason*" and demonstrate that the alteration as to the clerk's office, was a great improvement—that limited appeals would shorten litigation; that appeals and reviews grew out of the old system, and were not allowed of in the Supreme Judicial Court even in capital cases, and that in *Suffolk* alone, they were losers under the old system, of 6300 dollars annually—that he would submit those calculations to the severest examination of the opposers of the bill—that there was no danger of any demand for salaries, that the fees contemplated to be raised by the bill, would raise a salary of 1000 dollars for each judge in the Western Circuit, and he believed the effect would be the same in the others: That he thought there could be no danger in trusting the Supreme Executive with the appointments; that this objection came with an ill grace from men whose whole influence had been devoted to place Mr. ADAMS in the Chair—that he, since his being there, had nominated a lawyer for a judge, in the county of *Worcester*, another for *Essex*, neither of whom could be induced to go on to the bench of the Court of Common Pleas, and that his Excellency, in a third instance, had departed from his ancient prejudices, and had even nominated and appointed a judge, who was an old tory, and a *refugee*, (who to be sure was a very worthy good man) and that merely because he had formerly been in the practice of the law. Mr. WILLIAMS said also, that he said this from the necessity of the case, and begged leave to add, that he had been informed that Mr. Adams had always been opposed to the appointment of a *certain judge*, to the bench of a *certain court*, which had given so much uneasiness to the public, and done so much injury to that Court; that he said not this to flatter the Governor—that he had never voted for him, and did not think that he ever should, yet he firmly believed, Mr. ADAMS out of a regard to his own reputation, and *perhaps* from a love to his country, would make proper nominations—yet if he did not, the Council could refuse their advice and consent; and if not, an address might be made to remove them: That at any rate, we ought to do our duty, and submit to the event. However, if the bill was not calculated to place the Judicial Department in a fair, safe, and honorable footing, he hoped it would not pass. If it was calculated to promote the interest of any particular class of men, he hoped it would be shewn, and he challenged the opposition to come forward with a substitute if they would not agree to the Circuit system.

Mr. WILLIAMS stated his objection to the plan of adding four more judges to the Supreme Judicial Court—that inconveniencies arose from a mixture of civil and criminal jurisdiction—that nine judges could not do all the business—that a rival court would excite a competition for public estimation, and that checks were as necessary in the Judicial, as in the Legislative department—that danger might in future exist from an influence such a court would acquire with the Senate; and on the whole, that the more that system was contemplated, the worse it appeared.

Mr. *FISK* in the close, observed, that he was not convinced—and concluded with a Personal reflection on a respectable lawyer, who had in the debate, quoted the practice in *England*.

Mr. MARTIN, in reply to some observations made by Dr. EUSTIS, respecting the new appointments of Judges, whether they might not be expected to be similar to those at present in office, said, he had no fears of that sort. The Supreme Bench was sufficient proof to the contrary. The complaints that had been mentioned against the Judges of the Common Pleas, chiefly respected their age; that many of those gentlemen were grown old in a service which became every day more necessary for the exercise of the clearest judgment. Certainly, if a new arrangement took place, our Supreme Executive would never appoint men upwards of 80, to such an important undertaking. Reports, he said, had gone forth, injurious to the Courts of Common Pleas. These reports had taken deep root in the minds of the people, and indeed too many experienced the truth of it. The grievances were great and alarming, and required the interposition of the Legislature to rectify them. The sentiments delivered in various parts of the house, proved the truth of the general complaint. Should we endeavour to remedy the evils, or should we not? If we reject the first paragraph we in fact reject the whole. If we proceed to consider other parts of the Bill, we may find that it need not be rejected *in toto*; but that which was improper, might be expunged—that which was only faulty might be amended—that which was fundamental might be retained.

SATURDAY, Jan. 30.

Private business, as usual.

A bill requiring all actions to be commenced before a Justice of the Peace, was read a second time, and the motion, that it have a third reading being negatived,

Mr. *LYMAN*, after a number of prefatory remarks, moved, that the vote be reconsidered, and that the bill be committed with the subject at large; which obtained, and the bill was finally committed to a committee of five.

A petition, from a number of persons, praying for an Act of incorporation, for carrying on the printing of cotton and linen, was committed to a committee of three.

MONDAY, Feb. 1.

A new Fee bill was read, and a time assigned for a second reading.

A bill for preventing the sale of Lottery Tickets, except of such lotteries as are or may be granted by the United States or this State, was read a first time.

It was opposed by Mr. SLOCUM, as insufficient to remedy the evil contemplated; and as tending to introduce collusion in the sale of tickets, detrimental to the people of this State.

Dr. HILL observed, that the gentleman last speaking, had mistook the object of the Bill—it was to meet these States on their own ground; which had interdicted the sale of our tickets. He approved of the Bill, as one step towards the abolition of all lotteries—none of which would he ever vote for.

Dr. FREELAND was in favor of the Bill—He mentioned instances wherein the people would not have purchased tickets had there been a law preventing their sale in this State.

After a short debate, the Bill was committed for a second reading.

Several private bills, resolves, &c. passed various stages.

TUESDAY, *February* 2.

The Fee Bill had a second, and a time was assigned for a third reading.

Several Bills of a private nature, also, had various readings.

WEDNESDAY, *February* 3.

VIRGINIA AMENDMENTS.

In a former paper, we mentioned, that the amendments proposed by the Legislature of *Virginia*, to the Constitution of the United States, respecting the power to make treaties, were sent by his Excellency the Governor to the Legislature. They were read in *Senate*, and sent down to the House, without any proceeding thereon.—In the house, it was moved, that they be committed, which was negatived, and they were ordered to lie on the table.

THURSDAY, *February* 4.

Mr. FISK moved, that the Resolutions of Virginia, be taken into consideration, or committed. Dr. JARVIS seconded the motion. Considerable conversation ensued; at the close of which, 4 o'clock, P. M. was assigned for taking the motion into consideration. At 4 o'clock, the business being called up, it was moved by Mr. WILLIAMS, that it be further postponed until the next day, at 11 o'clock, on account of the indisposition of Dr. JARVIS. [*The Doctor about 3 o'clock, was taken with convulsive fainting fits, and was so indisposed as not to be able to attend in the House. He has recovered considerably, but has not yet been able to take his seat.*] The postponement accordingly took place.

FRIDAY, *February* 5.

Agreeably to assignment, the house took Mr. FISK's motion made yesterday, into consideration. After considerable debate, that gentleman withdrew his motion, and asked leave to lay the following on the table—viz.

"*That a Committee be raised to take into consideration, the expediency of obtaining amendments to the Constitution of the United States, in a constitutional way.*"

This motion being seconded, a debate ensued. It was advocated by Mr. FISK, Dr. THORNTON, Mr. SLOCUM, Mr. EDWARDS, and several others. And was opposed by Mr. SEWALL, Mr. TUDOR, Mr. STRONG, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. BLISS, Mr. PARKER, and others—and the question being taken, shall leave be given, passed in the negative. A motion to enter the numbers on the journal, being also negatived; Mr. FISK moved to reconsider the first vote. This motion renewed the debate, and the question, shall the former vote be reconsidered and leave given to lay the motion on the table?—was finally taken by yeas and nays, and were as follows:—

YEAS.

Messrs. *Edwards, Hutchinson, Sinnott, Hildrith, Brooks, Hood, Heard, Ely, Jonathan Smith, jun. Goodman, Clark, Holland, M'Clellan, Fisk, Pepper, Bart, Nathaniel Sprague, Nye, Mason, Sheam, Mitchell, White, Fisher, Brown, Walker, Kinsley, Martin, Parsons, Lithgow, Ludwig, Prescott, Trevitt, Hubbard, Bidwell, Picket, Joshua Beals, Lusk, Stever, Ballard, Randall, Clap, Comstock, Fisher, Adams, Cutts, Thornton,*—46.

NAYS.

Messrs. *Tudor, Mason, Eustis, Little, Norton, Derby, Wade, Emery, Titcomb, Sewall, Carver, Hale, Wood, Nelson, Carr, Lane, Thurston, Perley, Hill, Bond, Dennis, Walker, Fay, Fuller, Paterson, Barnes, Jonathan Bowers, Hale, Minot, Drew, Sanderson, Bigelow, Bliss, Dwight, I. Bliss, Strong, Rodman, Collins, Rust, Browning, Munger, Phelps, Wilder, Hawkes, Fowler, Coleman, Goldsbury, Alvord, Lingley, Goodwin, Turner, Wilder, Heiger, Crocker, Thatcher, John Dillingham, Sears, Talingham, Bullock, Seth Smith jun. Wiggins, Aiken, John Bowers, Flagg, Hale, Butler, Freeland, Howe, Taft, Kimball, Holman, Read, Gregory, Tees, Goddard, Stone, Drury, Rice, Raymond, Davis, Walker, Thatcher, Bridge, Ives, J. C. Williams, Ephraim Williams, Rate, Wheeler, Jones, Remington, Butler, Bruce, Everett, Benjamin Beale, Brigham, Sawyer, Wilder.*—92.

So the motion for reconsideration passed in the negative.

It was then moved, that it be entered on the communication of the Virginia Resolves, and sent up, which passed. [*The debate is lengthy and interesting; we shall endeavour to give a sketch of it in our next.*]

A bill for regulating public stages and hackney carriages, passed to be engrossed.

Extract from the Kentucky Legislature, November 21.

On motion,

Resolved, that a committee ought to be appointed to draught a memorial to Congress, setting forth that Humphry Marshall one of our Senators from this State, has been publicly charged with being guilty of perjury, and requesting that an investigation may be made on the subject, and that if the fact is sufficiently proved, he ought to be expelled from the Senate.

And a committee was appointed of Messrs. Young, Thomas, Davis, Joitt, and Calmes.

FROM THE AURORA.

Mr. Bache,

It may be believed, that the resolution of the Kentucky representatives, published in the Aurora of this day, having for its object an important enquiry relative to myself, before a tribunal in which I can confide, and whose decision I shall continue anxious to obtain, will do that, which I wished done, but knew not how to effect; and hence relieves me from a considerable embarrassment. Looking forward to the course, and result, of the proceedings, I say nothing of the charge suggested. It is enough for me, under the present circumstances, to be prepared to defend myself when called upon. In the interim it will naturally occur to every one, that justice requires a suspension of opinion.

H. MARSHALL.

January, 30, 1796.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 4.

Extract of a letter from a respectable house in Liverpool, to their correspondents in this City, dated November 29, 1795.

"The select committee appointed by the house of commons to consider of the present high prices and apprehended scarcity of grain and flour in this kingdom, have recommended to parliament that our ministers should not interfere in the purchasing of foreign corn, but trust to the speculations of private adventurers for the procuring adequate supplies, and that for their encouragement, the following bounties should be granted.

On the first 300,000 quarters of wheat or flour imported from Europe or Africa 20s.

On the succeeding 500,000 quarters from Europe or Africa, 15s.

On the first 500,000 quarters of wheat or flour imported from America, 15s.

On all subsequent importations till 31st August 1796. 10s.

On the first 300,000 quarters of Indian corn 5s.

On all subsequent importations till 31st August 1796. 3s.

"It is not yet certain that parliament will adopt the recommendation of the select committee, but the general opinion is so much in favour of their doing so, that we think it proper to give you this early information and as soon as any fixed conclusion is come to we hope to write further."

Note. A quarter contains eight Winchester bushels, or four hundred weight of flour.

Extract of a letter from Mole St. Nicholas, Dec. 18.

We know for certain that considerable forces, said to amount to 15,470 men have set sail from England on the 8th Nov. and they are hourly expected here, 10,000 British troops have arrived at the leeward Islands. These forces are sufficient to conquer Guadaloupe, St. Lucia and the whole Island of St. Domingo, which is the plan of the English government. Barracks are built here for 3000 men; magazines are filled and the expences of the British in this place for the three last months amounts to 1½ millions [about 1,500,000 dollars.]

From the London Courier of November 13 & 14.

Yesterday the Lords of the Admiralty ordered four more ships to be put into commission.

From Madrid it is mentioned, that a special Congress will be shortly held, between the principal ministers of the state and the heads of the church, with a view of diminishing the number of religious orders, and to apply the riches and estates which they possess to establishments of real utility, and reparation of the expences of the war. It is supposed that Augustines, Carthusians, Bernadines, and Carmelites, will be the first that are abolished.

The meeting of the inhabitants of Westminster will on Monday next, be so numerously attended, that we much doubt whether the hall will be large enough.

An article from the Hague says, five men of war of our fleet have put to sea from the Texel.

The new taxes at Warsaw have been levied under military execution, and 200 Cossacks introduced into each of the six districts of the city.

The Duke of Northumberland, we understand, has signed a requisition for calling a meeting of the county of Northumberland, to take into consideration the bills introduced into the house of lords and house of commons by lord Grenville and Mr. Pitt.

From the (Boston) CENTINEL.

AUTHENTIC!—IMPORTANT!

Much has been said on the subject of *gratitude* to France for their aid in the late Revolution of America. A discovery of the papers of the old cabinet, since the Revolution in France, throws light on this subject. That France was useful to us is certain; but it is equally certain that the *interest* of America never entered into her views. Attend to the following—

Extract from a Memorial of Mons. Turgot, entitled, Reflections occasioned by a Memorial communicated by the Count de Vergennes, upon the manner in which France and Spain, ought to regard the consequences of the quarrel between Great Britain and the Colonies, dated April, A. D. 1776.

The author makes, at the end of this Memorial, an exact recapitulation of his ideas, as follows—

1st. In tracing with the Count de Vergennes, the different ways in which the quarrel between Great Britain and her Colonies may be supposed to terminate. *It appears to me that the event, the most desirable for the two crowns* (France and Spain) *would be, that England should overcome the resistance of her Colonies, and force them to submit to her yoke*—because, if the colonies are subjugated only by the ruin of all her forces, England will use all the advantages hitherto derived from them, in peace, by the increase of her commerce in war, by the use she is able to make of their forces.—If, on the contrary, the vanquished Colonies preserve their wealth, and their population, they will retain the courage, and the desire of independence, and will compel England to employ part of her forces to prevent them from revolting anew.

The supposition absolute of a separation of the mother country, from the colonies, appears to me infinitely probable. There will result from it, when the independence of the colonies is entire, and acknowledged by the English themselves, a complete revolution in all the political and commerical relations between Europe and America, and I firmly believe, that all countries having colonies, will be forced to abandon all authority over them—to leave them an entire freedom of commerce with all nations, and content themselves in partaking with others of this freedom, and in maintaining with their colonies the bonds of friendship and fraternity. If it is an evil, I believe there exists no means to prevent it—that the only part left us will be to submit to absolute necessity, thence to derive our consolation.

I have developed some motives of consolation, from an appreciation of the benefits of colonies to their parent countries, rather lower than is commonly adopted. [This is the subject of another Memorial immediately following the one here translated.]

I have also observed, that in such case, there would be great danger to those powers who should obstinately resist the course of events; that after being ruined by efforts beyond their means, they would behold their colonies equally escape from them, and become their enemies instead of remaining their allies.

I have dwelt, in particular, upon the importance to Spain, that she now fixes her reflections upon the possibility of this event, and familiarizes herself beforehand, with idea of a total change of her system, in the administration of her commerce, and in her relations to her colonies.

A reconciliation, above all things, and an immediate reconciliation between England and America, appears to me the only event that can threaten the two crowns with any sudden danger.

Secondly—In the examination of this danger, I have observed, that it is twofold, that it may come from England or from Spain.

On the part of England, the Count de Vergennes appears to me to be satisfied, that the present minister has no hostile views—I think with him.

I also think that a new minister would not commence a war, until he had compleated a peace with America.—From their inability to conclude such a peace, I believe we shall not be disturbed in the course of this year.

I have reflected on the different reasons in which our sailors, with those of England, are exposed in their turn, to be surprized by their rival power.

I have observed, that this regular and annual period would determine the time when England shall intend to commence hostilities, and that it would furnish to us the means of discovering her views, by the precautions she then takes—In relation to Spain, I have said, that there is to be feared, on her part, too great confidence in her own forces, the antipathy against the British power, the just resentment which the Catholic King feels against the proceedings of this power towards him, and the obstacles that these dispositions would interpose to a reconciliation, if any dispute or act of violence should happen between the Spanish and English commanders.

I have said, lastly, that it is equally important not to be surprized by England, and not to be hurried away by the ardour of Spain—and I have insisted upon the necessity of encreasing and maintaining between our two crowns a confidence without reserve. As to the measures to be taken by two crowns, to prevent the danger which may threaten them, my manner of thinking is precisely the same as that of the Count de Vergennes, on the necessity of rejecting every plan of aggression on our part.

In the first place, by moral reasons, so conformable to the manner of thinking recognized by the two monarchs.

In the second place, on account of the state in which the King finds his finances, and his land and sea forces, the want of time to regenerate all the branches of his power, and the danger of perpetuating our weakness, by making a premature use of our forces.

In the third place, by the decisive reason that a war, offensive on our part, would reconcile the mother country with her colonies, by giving to the minister a pretence for yielding, and to the colonies a motive to bend to his propositions, that they might gain time to consolidate, and to mature their plan, and multiply their means.

I have afterwards discussed the idea, that we might send, without hostile views, land troops and squadrons into our colonies to put them in a state of defence, and protect them from invasion.

I am bound to prove that this plan ought to be rejected as ruinous, insufficient and dangerous.

As ruinous, because the expence it would occasion, and which must be continued as long as our fears continue, being added to the actual deficiency of the Treasury, would render the establishment impossible; because it would become, perhaps, more embarrassing to this department than even the projects of war; Necessity authorising in time of war, the use of extraordinary means, which, in time of peace, would become odious and would strike the last blow to public credit.

As insufficient, because England would not undertake to attack the two crowns in America, without sending there, forces superior to ours, and this power having in America, at least thirty thousand men, which she may, on this supposition, transport, to any point of attack she shall choose, it is impossible that the forces, even much more numerous than those we can send, being divided among all the places threatened, can be in any one, able to resist an army so numerous.

As dangerous, because it would force the English minister to send, on his side, into America, squadrons at least equal, and prepare himself for war in all parts of the British dominions—because, this appearance of war would probably have the same effect as war itself, in bringing the two parties to a reconciliation, and provoking the danger we would avoid; lastly, because the execution of this plan would encrease the confidence of Spain, and expose us to be drawn into the war, in spite of ourselves.

I have concluded that we must confine ourselves to precautions less expensive, and less approaching to a state of hostility.

These precautions reduce themselves to the following:

1st. To observe attentively every thing which can avert the approaches of danger; to observe the coasts of our islands, and the entrance of the Gulph of Mexico. This is the object of the cruises spoken of in the letter of the Marquis de Grimaldi, and of the orders which will be given, in conformity thereto, to the ships we have sent to those latitudes. To procure frequent information of every thing that passes on the Banks of Newfoundland. To observe in England, the state of her troops, of her armaments, the situation of public credit, and that of the minister.

To endeavour to know every thing that passes in the English Colonies; avoiding, however, every thing that may lead to a suspicion that we have there any direct, and characterised agent.

2dly. To facilitate to the Colonies the means of procuring, by the way of commerce, ammunition, and also the money which they want; but without departing from neutrality; and without giving them direct succours.

3dly. To establish without noise our maritime forces, to supply our magazines, to refit our vessels, to put us in a state of arming quickly, whenever there shall be occasion, a squadron at Toulon, and one at Brest, during which, Spain should arm one at Ferrol.

In case we should have well grounded motives to fear a more eminent danger; to arm effectually the squadrons, without suffering them to leave the ports.

In case every thing should be disposed for an immediate war, collect numerous troops on the sea coast, and dispose every thing for an expedition into England, to oblige that power to recall her forces, to profit of the moment to send troops and vessels, either into our colonies, if it is judged necessary, or into the Indies where we should be provided before hand, with the means of either in forming leagues with the natives of the country, or in perfecting the establishment of our isles of France and Bourbon.

As one part of these precautions would also require expences already heavy enough, I believe it essential to precipitate nothing; above all things as relates to the two last objects, unless we should have reason to believe that this power really intends to attack us.

I cannot terminate this memorial without making one observation which I think very important on the manner in which we ought to concert with the court of Spain.—No doubt that the interests being common the confidence ought to be entire and the measures adopted in concert.

But there is too much reason to believe that England has, in the councils of Spain, correspondents who give to her advice of most of their important secrets.

I know that the hostile project concerted between two ministers, if I do not mistake in the year 1766, in consequence of which Mr. Bucarell had received orders to drive the English from the Faulkland's Isles, which was not even thought of in Spain, was known to the minister of England. This is a danger against which we should guard in communications we make with Spain. Certainly the communication of every thing, which, announcing the firm resolution of the two monarchs to maintain peace, indicates the sure means to threaten England directly, cannot injure even when the British minister shall have knowledge of them.

But every thing that would lead to enterprizes on Minorca or Gibralter, to combined measures for transporting forces into India, can be considered without danger, only to the King of Spain, and to the marquis of Grimaldi, for him alone.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 8.

On Saturday last, about five o'clock in the afternoon, arrived in this city, after an absence of more than three years, on an expedition against the Western Indians, in which he proved so happily successful, MAJOR GENERAL WAYNE.—Four miles from the city, he was met by three Troops of Light Horse, and escorted by them to town. On his crossing the Schuylkill, a salute of fifteen cannon was fired from the Centre-square, by a party of Artillery. He was ushered into the city by ringing of bells, and other demonstrations of joy, and thousands of citizens crowded to see and welcome the return of their brave General, whom they attended to the City Tavern, where he alighted. In the evening a display of Fire Works was exhibited, in celebration of the Peace lately concluded with the Western Indians, and the Algerines—and also on account of the Peace concluded by France with several European Powers.

N E W-Y O R K, February 6.

We are assured that the brig Jenny Capt. M'Intire from Lisbon has bro't an elegant sword and belt with some other presents from the Dey of Algiers to the President of the United States.

February 11.

Extract of a letter from Norfolk, dated Jan. 30.

"There is arrived in Hampton Road, a vessel in 14 days from Martinique, with accounts of a disturbance in London, which had caused the troops that were to sail for the West Indies, to be disembarked. This news had reached Martinique two days before the sailing of the above vessel."

PROVIDENCE, Feb. 6.

On Thursday the 4th Instant the Honorable General Assembly of this State passed the following Resolutions.

State of Rhode Island, &c.

In GENERAL ASSEMBLY—*House of Representatives—February Session, A. D.* 1796.

Whereas Attempts have been made to diminish the Confidence of the People in the President of the United States, by misrepresenting the Motives which determined him in the Execution of his official Duties, and particularly in his Ratification of the Treaty lately negociated by John Jay with Great Britain, as consented to and advised by the Senate of the United States; which Attempts manifestly tend to deprive the President of the well-earned Esteem and Affection of his Fellow Citizens, the only Reward acceptable to this disinterested Patriot and Father of his Country:

Lest therefore our sentiments of the President should be deemed equivocal, and to rescue our republican Character from the Imputation of Ingratitude,

Resolved, As the Opinion of this House, That Attempts to lessen the well-grounded Confidence of the People in the President of the United States, have a tendency to injure the Cause of Liberty, by weakening the Influence of one of its principal defenders; they consequently merit and meet our pointed Disapprobation.

Resolved, That the same disinterested Devotion to his Country which characterized George Washington as Commander in Chief of our Armies, has evidently distinguished him as our Chief Magistrate.

Resolved, That, in the Opinion of this House, the President, in ratifying, and the Senate of the United States in consenting to and advising the Ratification of the Treaty lately negociated by John Jay with Great-Britain, were actuated by one common Motive—a Regard to the Peace and Prosperity of their Country.

Resolved, That we conceive it to be our Duty, as the Organ of the People of this State, to declare, that the President of the United States has not ceased to deserve well of his Country.

Voted and passed, *nemine contradicente*.

ELISHA R. POTTER, *Speaker*.

In the HOUSE of MAGISTRATES.

Read the same day and concurred, *nemine contradicente*.

By Order,

HENRY WARD, *Secretary*.

An act has passed the General Assembly of this state, now sitting here, to incorporate John Brown Esq. and others, by the name of *The Proprietors of the Providence Plantations Canal*, for the purpose of cutting a navigable Canal from this town to the line of this state, towards the town of Worcester, in Massachusetts. A subscription is to be opened immediately to carry it into effect.

PORTLAND, Jan. 28.

FROM EUROPE.

Saturday night last, arrived here brig *Fame*, Capt. JORDAN, 68 days from *St. Ubes*. He informs that a Packet arrived at *Lisbon*, two days before he sailed, in three days from *England*—she brought the account of the capture of 14 English sail of Indiamen, off Cape Good Hope, by a French squadron. Just before Capt. *Jordan* left *Lisbon*, our Consul there informed him, that they had received accounts of the defeat of the Austrian army—a few days before they had received the account of the defeat of the French, and the court of *Portugal* had ordered rejoicings, but their joy by this reverse of fortune, was turned into mourning. The Austrian army had got the advantage of the French and pursued them across the Rhine, but the French being met by the reinforcements, turned upon the Austrians, pursued *them* across the Rhine, with immense slaughter, and were in full pursuit of them. Great talk of peace at *Lisbon*.

B O S T O N, Feb. 6.

FROM PHILADELPHIA, JAN. 23.

[Communicated by a Member of Congress, to his friend in this town.]

"Congress have accomplished very little business, excepting such as relates to memorials and petitions. Petitions and resolutions of various kinds, are before committees, and on the table, maturing and preparing for the more public consideration and deliberation of the House.

"Among other matters, the following questions will be involved, and I expect soon engage our serious attention, viz:—

"Shall we proceed, and finish the frigates, which are now building, or desist, and sell those materials which were procured for this purpose, and appropriate the money arising from the sale, to other uses?

"Shall we guarantee a loan, for the purpose of completing the public buildings in the Federal City?

"Shall we pass a resolution, prohibiting all nations, from importing any articles into the United States, excepting those articles which are the manufactures, or produce of their own country?

"Is the treaty lately negociated between *Great Britain* and *America*, constitutional? and shall we make laws and appropriations, in order to carry it into effect?

"With respect to the treaty, I expect there will not be a majority of the House against its being carried into effect; but I think it is likely that a major part of the House of Representatives, will be in favor of discussing the merits and demerits of it; and, with a view to the forming of their opinion, with respect to the propriety, or impropriety, of making such laws and regulations as may be requisite in order to its going into effect. This discussion and the result, I expect will be contended for, as a constitutional right."

No mention, by last night's mail, of the arrival of any armed force in the *West Indies*.

We are told by a letter from *Gibralter*, that a correspondence has taken place between Admiral RICHERY, commanding the French squadron in *Cadiz*, and Admiral MANN, commanding an English one at *Lisbon*. They had reciprocally exchanged prisoners; and had invited each other to another trial of strength, at the end of which adds one of them, "*There will unquestionably be more bats less than heads.*"

The Merchants of *London*, trading to *North America*, have resolved a letter of thanks to Col. CAMPBELL, the British commander of the port at the *Miamis*, for his conduct, when the decisive action took place between Gen. WAYNE, and the Indians, by which wise, temperate, and dignified conduct, say they, "*the effusion of human blood was prevented; and the door kept open for a friendly adjustment of the existing differences between Great Britain and America, and which has since taken place.*"

February 13.

The Hon. WILLIAM SHEPARD and DANIEL DAVIS, Esquires, are chosen commissioners for treating with the *Penobscot* tribe of Indians. The Senate have not added their commissioner.

The reform of the Judiciary has been the principal topic of discussion in the house, since our last. The committee for revising the Laws having reported a complete system of Judicial proceedings—the same was yesterday under discussion. A variety of private business was reported on, and finished.

Last Saturday night a very melancholy affair took place at *Middleborough*—the house, of the Widow DUNHAM, accidentally took fire and was entirely consumed, together with the Furniture and two Children.

NORTHAMPTON, Feb. 17.

A Resolve granting to *Williams' College*, two townships of land, has passed both branches of the *Legislature*. In the House, the question was taken whether the grant should be *one* or *two* townships; and was decided, by yeas and nays, in favour of the latter, 60 to 58.

A Statement of the present Military Force of the United States.

General Staff.—1 Major General, 1 Brigadier General, 1 Adjutant General, 1 Pay-master, 1 Surgeon, 1 Chaplain.

Cavalry. 1 Major, 3 Captains, 3 Lieutenants, 2 Cornets, 240 Non Commiss'ioned Officers and Privates.

Artillery. 1 Lieutenant Colonel, 4 Majors, 15 Captains, 27 Lieutenants, 1 Surgeon, 4 Surgeon's mates, 931 Non Commissioned Officers and Privates.

Infantry. 4 Lieutenant Colonels, 12 Majors, 44 Captains, 43 Lieutenants, 27 Ensigns, 3 Surgeon's Mates, 2252 Non Commissioned Officers and Privates.

Total. 1 Major General, 1 Brigadier General, 1 Adjutant General, 1 Paymaster, 1 Surgeon, 1 Chaplain, 5 Lieutenant Colonels, 17 Majors, 62 Captains, 73 Lieutenants, 2 Cornets, 27 Ensigns, 4 Surgeons, 18 Surgeon's Mates, 3228 Non Commissioned and Privates.

With General Wayne, including the garrisons on the lower parts of Ohio, and in advance of Fort Washington,	2039
At Pittsburgh, Fort Franklin, Presq'Isle, &c.	222
In Georgia,	78
Sailed to Georgia,	172
In the South Western Territory,	83
At West Point, fortifications of the harbours, and the several recruiting rendezvous,	584
Total,	3228

Levi Shephard,

HAS just received a variety of different colored Superfine BROAD CLOTHS and CASIMERES, which he sells at the retailing price in Boston.

He pays cash for SHIPPING FURS, BEES-WAX and FLAX.——He wants also, 20 or 30 good fat HOGS.

Northampton, Feb. 15, 1796.

Zebina Montague,

TAKES this method to inform his friends and customers, and the public at large, that he has just received a fresh assortment of English, India and Hard Ware

G O O D S,

which with all kinds W. I. Goods and Groceries—Iron Hollow Ware, Painter's Colours, Oil, &c.—make his assortment well worth their attention—He proposes to sell cheaper than ever, and will take produce as usual, and good House Ashes, particularly wanted, for which cash will be paid if desired.

☞ HE solicits all indebted to him, whose accounts are of six months standing, and whose notes of hand are due, to make immediate payment—otherwise they will be lodged in the hands of *Simeon Strong*, Esq. to collect, by the 15th March next.

Amherst, Feb. 4. 1796.

WANTED *immediately, a Journeyman Shoemaker, to whom the first wages will be given*——*Also, an Apprentice to the above business, to whom good encouragement will be given*—*Enquire of* SMITH COPELAND.

N. B. None but good workmen need apply.

Northampton, Feb 23. 1796.

ALL *Persons indebted to the subscriber, either by Note or Book, are once more called upon to make immediate settlement, otherwise they may expect something in the name of the Commonwealth.*

JOSEPH CLAP.

Easthampton, Feb. 16. 1796.

STRAYED *from the subscriber, on the* 11*th inst. a sorrel yearling horse* COLT, *natural trotter, a white streak in his face, all feet white. Whoever will take up said Colt, and bring him to the owner, or give information where he may be found shall be handsomely rewarded.*

SALMON MUNSON.

Whately, Feb. 15, 1795.