

MONDAY, MAY 18.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the second reading of the bill to regulate the collection of the impost.

The object of this bill being a temporary arrangement, applying the revenue systems already extant in the several States to the purposes of the Union—and in those States where no such regulations existed, directing the adoption of the laws of a neighboring State.

Mr. LAWRENCE, Mr. HUNTINGDEN, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. WHITE and Mr. VINING, severally objected to the bill, as incompetent to the purposes intended—as radically bad—as creating insurmountable difficulties, owing to various rates and modes of impost, and its collection in the several States—it would cause an interference with the pre-conceived maxims of particular States, by making the laws of one, the rule of conduct for another—it would sanction the receiving a depreciated paper medium, and other regulations of some of the States, which were inconsistent with the Constitution.

It was therefore moved, that the committee should rise, and the bill lie on the table—this motion was seconded, and carried in the affirmative.

On motion of Mr. PARKER, a committee was appointed to bring in a Bill for laying a tax on slaves imported into the United States, prior to the year 1808.

On motion of Mr. GOODRUE, a committee was appointed to bring in a bill, providing for the enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States, agreeably to the Constitution.

The House, agreeably to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the report of the joint committee respecting the rules to be observed by the two Houses for the enrollment, attestation, publication and preservation of the acts of Congress, and regulating the mode of presenting addresses, &c. to THE PRESIDENT of the United States—and having discussed and amended several paragraphs, the committee rose, and the Chairman having reported progress, the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, MAY 19.

A message was read from the Senate, informing that they had appointed Mr. LEE a committee, to join with a committee on the part of the House, to present to THE PRESIDENT, the engrossed bill, regulating the taking certain oaths. The House voted a concurrence, and Mr. PARKER, and Mr. FLOYD were appointed.

In committee of the whole on the State of the Union, Mr. TRUMBULL in the chair.

Mr. BOUDINOT, according to previous notice, introduced a resolve in which the first object was the establishment of an office of Finance, agreeably to the Constitution; the superintendence and direction of which should be committed to an officer, to be entitled "The Secretary of Finance for the United States."

Mr. BENSON proposed a resolve as an amendment, that it should first be determined how many departments there should be, and proposed a resolution, that there should be three, viz.

The Department of Foreign Affairs,
The Department of the Treasury, and
The War Department—

To these it was proposed by Mr. VINING, to add a fourth, viz. The Secretary of the United States for the Domestic Department.

After some conversation upon the amendment, Mr. BOUDINOT withdrew his proposition for the present, after which Mr. MADISON proposed a resolution, which Mr. BENSON consented should supersede that introduced by him—it was to this effect—That to aid the Supreme Executive in the discharge of his important trust, there should be three subordinate departments established, viz.

The Secretary of the United States for the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The Secretary of the United States for the Department of the Treasury.

The Secretary of the United States for the War Department.

The respective heads of these departments to be nominated by THE PRESIDENT, and appointed by him with the advice and consent of the Senate, and to be removed by THE PRESIDENT alone.—The addition of the Domestic Department, was again proposed.

The question whether there should be three departments passed unanimously in the affirmative.

It was then proposed to strike out the words "with the advice and consent of the Senate," as an unnecessary clause—This was voted in the affirmative.—The last clause "to be removed by the President," occasioned a very long and interesting debate which we have not room this day to insert; but a sketch of which shall appear in our next. It was then moved, that "with the advice and consent of the Senate" should be added after the word "PRESIDENT,"—in the last clause; this was negatived, and the vote being taken on the whole as amended, it passed in the affirmative.

The second article, viz. "Secretary of the United States for the department of the Treasury," was the next in order: when it was moved

that the further consideration of the resolve, should be postponed—This being seconded the committee rose, and the Chairman reported progress.

The joint committee appointed to determine upon the subject of news-papers, and to receive proposals for executing the public printing, reported in part to this effect—That it was expedient to diminish the number of papers which it had been customary to have handed in to the members of Congress, and therefore, that every member be furnished with one paper only, at the public charge, each member to take such paper as he may think proper—This report to lie on the table.

Adjourned.

NEW-YORK, MAY 20, 1789.

Monday last the SENATE of the United States, with THE VICE-PRESIDENT at their head, went in a body, in carriages, from their Chamber of Congress, to the House of THE PRESIDENT, where the Vice-President read and presented to him the following ADDRESS, in answer to his Speech, delivered to both Houses of Congress.

SIR,

WE, the Senate of the United States, return you our sincere thanks for your excellent Speech, delivered to both Houses of Congress; congratulate you on the complete organization of the Federal Government, and felicitate ourselves, and our fellow-citizens, on your elevation to the office of President—an office, highly important by the powers constitutionally annexed to it, and extremely honorable from the manner in which the appointment is made. The unanimous suffrage of the elective body in your favor, is peculiarly expressive of the gratitude, confidence and affection, of the citizens of America, and is the highest testimonial at once of your merit, and of their esteem. We are sensible, Sir, that nothing but the voice of your fellow citizens, could have called you from a retreat, chosen with the fondest predilection, endeared by habit, and consecrated to the repose of declining years; we rejoice, and with us, all America, that, in obedience to the call of our common country, you have returned once more to public life. In you all parties confide, in you all interests unite, and we have no doubt, that your past services, great as they have been, will be equalled by your future exertions; and that your prudence and sagacity as a Statesman will tend to avert the dangers to which we were exposed, to give stability to the present government, and dignity and splendor to that country, which your skill and valor as a Soldier, so eminently contributed to raise to independence and empire.

When we contemplate the coincidence of circumstances, and wonderful combination of causes, which gradually prepared the people of this country for independence; when we contemplate the rise, progress and termination of the late war, which gave them a name among the nations of the earth, we are with you, unavoidably led, to acknowledge and adore the great Arbiter of the universe, by whom empires rise and fall. A review of the many signal instances of divine interposition in favour of this country claims our most pious gratitude. And permit us, Sir, to observe, that among the great events which have led to the formation and establishment of a Federal Government, we esteem your acceptance of the office of President as one of the most propitious and important.

In the execution of the trust reposed in us, we shall endeavour to pursue that enlarged and liberal policy, to which your speech so happily directs. We are conscious that the prosperity of each State is inseparably connected with the welfare of all, and that in promoting the latter, we shall effectually advance the former. In full persuasion of this truth, it shall be our invariable aim, to divest ourselves of local prejudices and attachments, and to view the great assemblage of communities and interests committed to our charge with an equal eye. We feel, Sir, the force, and acknowledge the justness of the observation, that the foundation of our national policy should be laid in private morality. If individuals be not influenced by moral principles, it is in vain to look for public virtue; it is, therefore, the duty of Legislators to enforce, both by precept and example, the utility as well as the necessity of a strict adherence to the rules of distributive justice. We beg you to be assured, that the Senate will at all times cheerfully co-operate in every measure, which may strengthen the Union, conduce to the happiness, or secure and perpetuate the liberties of this great Confederated Republic.

We commend you, Sir, to the protection of Almighty God, earnestly beseeching him long to preserve a life so valuable and dear to the people of the United States, and that your administration may be prosperous to the nation and glorious to yourself.

In Senate, May 16th, 1789.

Signed by order,

JOHN ADAMS, { President of the Senate of the United States.

To which the President was pleased to make the following reply—

GENTLEMEN,

I THANK you for your address, in which the most affectionate sentiments are expressed in the most obliging terms. The coincidence of circumstances which led to this auspicious crisis, the confidence reposed in me by my fellow-citizens, and the assistance I may expect from counsels which will be dictated by an enlarged and liberal policy, seem to preface a more prosperous issue to my administration, than a diffidence of my abilities had taught me to anticipate. I now feel myself inexpressibly happy in a belief, that Heaven, which has done so much for our infant nation, will not withdraw its providential influence before our political felicity shall have been completed; and, in a conviction that the Senate will at all times co-operate in every measure which may tend to promote the welfare of this Confederated Republic.

Thus supported by a firm trust in the great Arbiter of the universe, aided by the collected wisdom of the Union, and imploring the divine benediction on our joint exertions in the service of our country, I readily engage with you in the arduous but pleasing task of attempting to make a nation happy.

G. WASHINGTON.

It has been observed, that foreigners, who were never in America, have been puzzled to localize the several parts of the Union, and to assign to each their proper name—Hence States have been called Towns—and Towns denominated Provinces, in the foreign newspapers.—A Correspondent queries—Whether equal confusion will not take place respecting the term PRESIDENT, which is applied to the Vice-President when speaking of him in his Senatorial character—and in the same unqualified manner is also applied to the SUPREME MAGISTRATE of the North-American Empire.

The Patriot of America, must view with the utmost pleasure, the rising greatness of his country. Glorious indeed! is the prospect the now presents to view. Industry seems to have taken up a residence among us, and with vigour to push forward the arts and sciences: manufactures flourish—agriculture thrives, and literature prevails in every rank.

In the English House of commons, March 13th, The House, upon motion for that purpose, went into a committee "to consider of the trade between the subjects of his Majesty's dominions and the inhabitants of the territories belonging to the United States of America."

Extract of a letter from London, dated March 9.

"The friends of your country are very anxious to know the operations of your federal system, in order to be able to oppose the general opinion that prevails, of your people being impatient under good government, and unwilling to be controlled by legislative authority."

"The election of General WASHINGTON to the Presidential Chair, and the expected choice of Mr. ADAMS as Vice-President, will have an auspicious tendency. Europe as well as America, concur in the praises due to that great and good man, and are well convinced, that nothing which can degrade your national character, or diminish your national consequence, will ever meet with his assent."

"Mr. ADAMS, by being employed in the diplomatic line in England and Holland, must have had the best opportunities of making observations on the politics of Europe, as well as on the internal systems of polity and public credit, which have aggrandized these nations, and rendered them so conspicuous for their resources. Such knowledge must be of eminent service to you, in your arrangements of Finance."

"I am happy to observe, that our opinions on the subject of the United States are already essentially changed—they are no longer treated with that supercilious contempt, which their former insufficiency of government, and disunion of sentiments, gave too much reason to justify."

"Your situation and resources entitle you to hold a high rank amongst the powers of the world. If your government is well administered, you will soon feel your consequence."

It is a very general idea, that the wisdom of America at this important Epoch, will be discovered to the greatest advantage, by turning her attention to those objects, which are obviously within her Attainment, rather than to subjects of experiment, in the present state of her finances.

The commercial interests of this GREAT CONFEDERATED REPUBLIC are many and important, but complex to the highest degree, especially in their present situation.

Their extension is circumscribed only by the bounds of this lower creation: Are not the hardy sons of the Eastern States, now exploring the polar Regions of the North? while others, the "Mighty Hunters" of the Monsters of the Deep, are compassing those of the South—and the Indian Seas are ranged from Isle to Isle by enterprising adventurers, from Georgia to New-Hampshire.

The Commerce of the several States is complex—but this complexity does not involve incompatibility—our enemies have asserted it, but their interest was connected with the currency of the falsehood: The lie has been so often told, that it began to assume the semblance of Truth.—However, nature having done every thing for us, in point of climate, soil, and produce, to constitute a most perfect domestic Commerce, nothing remains, but to avail ourselves of these advantages, to prove that the interest of the Union is ONE.

The operation of the National Government will naturally open and expand the views of America: She has yet to learn how extensive are her resources—their competency to her wants, and to all the purposes of refined enjoyment.

The late War afforded an inadequate opportunity for these purposes: The repelling the enemy, a great and powerful enemy, possessing all the advantages resulting from speaking the same language—having connections in all parts of the country, and being indefatigable in availing themselves of these circumstances, to weaken and divide, required that the whole force of our exertions should be centered to one point: The discoveries we then made respecting our Resources, were incidental; but now, this must be the great object of national concern: The Earth—the Sea—the Mountains—the Rivers—the Forests—the Plains—and Climes of every Sun, invite America to be wise—to be great—to be truly independent, happy, and glorious.

Our prospects as a people, turn upon the operation of the New Government: Should its administration be entered upon with dignity, firmness, a sacred regard to justice, and the rights of the people, agreeably to the spirit of the constitution; there can be no doubt of its answering all the great purposes for which government was instituted—and there can be no doubt of an accordant disposition of the people—for they fully realize, that "peace, liberty and safety," with all their attendant blessings, depend upon just and equal laws, faithfully, strictly and impartially executed.

The address of the German Lutheran Congregation of Philadelphia, affords a striking trait of that UNIVERSAL SENTIMENT of affection towards the father of his country, which pervades the bosoms of the various inhabitants who compose the great volume of American citizens.

ERRATA IN OUR LAST.

In the sketch of Thursday's Debate, the paragraph which begins "To counterbalance, &c." should stand thus—"To prevent any discouragement to the Fisheries, or to the exportation of provisions, from the duty on Salt, it was voted, that a bounty of 5 cents each, should be allowed on the following Articles, which may be exported to foreign markets, viz.

On dried Fish, pr. quintal,
Pickled Fish, pr. barrel,
Salted Provisions, pr. barrel.

In the first class of Senators—for "John Elmer," read JONATHAN ELMER.

ARRIVALS.

At the Port of New-York.

Monday. Ship Francis, Power, Madeira. 44 days.
Ship Willson, M'Ever, Liverpool. 49 days.
Brig Nancy, Barnard, Cape Francois. 20 days.
Brig Pearl, Pell, Newry. 63 days.
Tuesday. Brig William, Stephenson, Londonderry. 45 days.
Sloop Polly & Betty, Folger, Cape Francois. 14 days.