

while pursuing the gratification of their natural or artificial propensities: From this cause, Britons with all their boasted freedom, consent to bear willingly the greatest burthens. I have been speaking of luxuries, but in general observe, In order that our expectations may not be defeated, a nice distinction ought to be made as to the quantum each specific article imported will probably bear, and that while we suppose our public coffers daily increasing, the fact may not be that a premium is held out by government to defraud the revenue. This has been often the case where exorbitant and ill-judged duties have been laid, calculated upon the mistaken principle, that the consumer eventually bears the burthen, whereas experience teaches us that the original importer is very often in such cases the sufferer, as there are many articles which may not bear the additional price of the duty, and a curtail of the consumption follows, leaving the surplus as a heavy tax in the merchant's hands, the whole duty on which he is bound to discharge; but while a proper caution is observed as to those articles from which we expect to derive an income, there are others we are to consider in a different view; and as they may relate to our manufactures: here it will be found our policy to give every encouragement to the raw materials of foreign growth, and which our country does not afford, which ought to be introduced without burthens, that we may export them afterwards with the additional price of the labor upon them, which is the most beneficial part of commerce, as employing the greatest number of hands—and the cheapness of the raw material will tend to give a preference in competition at foreign markets: Upon like principles every discouragement ought to be placed upon the introduction of foreign wrought articles, which may be manufactured with advantage at home.—Some considerations on this head may come under a future number.

AMERICANUS.

(To be continued.)

Of the CONSTITUTION—and AMENDMENTS to the same.

THE transactions which have taken place in our country, fill every patriotic mind with pleasure; inasmuch as they realize the confidence which had been reposed in the native good sense of the people; that whenever their public affairs get obviously wrong, they would interfere, and set them to rights.—The example of changing a constitution, by assembling the wise men of the States, instead of assembling armies, will be worth as much to the world, as the former examples America has given it.—The constitution which has been the result of our deliberations, is unquestionably, the wisest ever yet presented to men; and the accommodations of interests, which it has adopted, are greatly pleasing to those, who have been anxiously concerned upon this point, having realized how difficult it was to accommodate those interests.

A great concurrence of opinion, however, authorizes to say, that this constitution has some defects: It is, perhaps, not one of the least, that the important rights, not placed in security by the frame of the constitution itself, were not explicitly secured by a supplementary declaration. There are rights, which it is useless to surrender to the government; and which, yet, governments have been always fond to invade:—There are the rights of thinking, and publishing our thoughts, by speaking and writing: the rights of free commerce: the right of personal freedom: There are instruments for administering the government, so peculiarly trust-worthy, that we should never leave the legislature at liberty to change them.—The new constitution has secured these in the legislative and executive departments; but not in the judiciary.—It should have established trials by the people themselves, that is to say by jury. There are instruments so dangerous to the rights of the nation, and which place them so totally at the mercy of their governors, that those governors, whether legislative or executive, should be restrained from keeping such instruments on foot, but in well defined cases. Such an instrument is a standing army.

Such a supplement to the constitution, where that is silent, is wanting to secure us in these points. The general voice has legitimated this objection; and though it does not authorize us to consider as a defect, the perpetual re-eligibility of the President, but three States out of eleven having declared against this, it may nevertheless be considered as one, and should the majority change their opinion, as to this point, yet it is devoutly to be wished, that this may remain unaltered, as long as we can avail ourselves of the services of our great leader, whose talents, and whose weight of character, are peculiarly necessary, to get the government so under way, as that it may afterwards be carried on by subordinate characters.

Under the auspices of this constitution, administered with justness, firmness and wisdom, our America must rapidly advance to distinguished eminence, power and prosperity: and the perfecting this constitution, by the addition of such a supplementary declaration as is above suggested, may be the result of the same calm deliberation and greatness of mind, which led to the

ratification of the system—for if this cannot be effected quietly and peaceably, the constitution had better, infinitely better, be left to descend to posterity as it is, than to hazard so invaluable a jewel on the ocean of public discord.

NATIONAL POLITENESS.

EVERY friend of taste and sentimental improvement, must wish to encourage the THEATRE, unless they suppose that it is injurious to the morals of the people, and opposed to the spirit of republicanism.—But still the best friend the theatre can boast, may imagine it is liable to errors; and among these errors, may it not be reckoned one, that an English play should introduce a French character, in such a manner, as to excite derision and contempt? To burlesque and sport with foreign manners, is, in any instance, rather barbarous and unpolite; but in the case of the English comic writers, it is an unpardonable injustice, committed against their own countrymen. Who can be so little acquainted with the diversified qualifications of the English nation, as not to know that they abound in suitable characters for every description of theatrical exhibitions? Wit, and ridicule, may have a full scope without wandering into other countries for objects.—What excuse can therefore be offered, that their comic writers, should neglect their countrymen, in order to drag the lower orders of Frenchmen on the stage. Such unpoliteness reflects more dishonor on the nation that countenances it, than on that against which the ridicule is levelled. I could wish American politeness may bear testimony against such partiality and prejudice.

CIVIS.

SKETCH of PROCEEDINGS of CONGRESS.

In the HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES of the UNITED STATES.

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 1789.

Mr. BLAND asked leave of absence for six weeks, which was granted.

A message was received from the Senate, informing the House of their concurring in the report sent up, respecting the receiving bills and messages from The President.

It was then voted, that the Chairman of that Committee, be intrusted to acquaint the President with the arrangement upon this subject, adopted by both Houses.

In Committee of the whole.

Mr. TRUMBULL in the Chair.

The bill, regulating the collection of the Revenue, having been assigned for the order of the day, was taken into consideration.

The first paragraph being read, which provided, that "there should be ports of entry," Mr. LEE rose, to enquire into the necessity of establishing ports of entry only.

Mr. MADISON answered the enquiry, by saying, that it will be proper to constitute some ports of entry in situations where it would be productive of unnecessary expense to establish officers to superintend the delivery of cargoes: Long navigable rivers afford great conveniences, for landing goods, as vessels may be proceeding up such rivers to the port of destination: This fraud upon the revenue should be guarded against, by obliging vessels to report their cargoes immediately on entering such rivers.

Mr. WADSWORTH observed, that it would embarrass trade exceedingly to establish ports of entry, that should not at the same time be ports of discharge: He moved to have the article struck out.

Mr. LEE stated to the House the difficulties which had resulted from similar establishments in Virginia; and therefore seconded the motion to expunge the article.

Mr. FITZSIMONS said, that instances no doubt might be mentioned, which would plainly point out the necessity of such a provision as the article referred to; but as there appeared some difficulty in the way of determining upon the proper situations for such ports, he moved, that the article should be passed over for the present; and the next in order taken up: Agreeably it was voted to suspend the consideration of the first article respecting ports of entry.

A message from THE PRESIDENT being announced, the committee rose.

The message was then received—by which the House was informed, that THE PRESIDENT had approved of an act, regulating the time and manner of taking certain oaths, required by the constitution, and now returned the same to the House in which it originated, with his signature.

The Clerk of the House was directed to inform the Senate of the above circumstance.

The chairman of the committee then reported progress in the bill, and asked leave to sit again to-morrow upon the same subject, this passed in the affirmative.

Mr. BENSON gave notice, that immediately after the business now assigned, was completed, he should move for a resolution to the following effect—That it should be recommended to the legislature of the State of Rhode-Island, to call a convention of the people of that State, in

order to adopting and ratifying the federal constitution agreeably to the recommendation of the late Congress. Mr. BENSON observed, that the communications which had been received from the executive of Rhode-Island, respecting the proceedings of that State upon the Constitution, had not been noticed by the late Congress, in as much as they had not followed their directions in the mode of deliberating upon the subject.—He supposed, that an interference of Congress in some such way as he proposed, might be proper to ascertain whether any thing decisive had been done by them in the business or not.

Mr. BALDWIN from the committee appointed on Monday last, to form an estimate of the compensation which it may be proper to allow The President, Vice-President, Senators and Representatives of the United States, reported, that the sum of twenty thousand dollars per annum, be allowed The President, exclusive of the salaries of Secretaries, Aids and Clerks—That be allowed to defray the expenses of household furniture, carriages, &c. and for keeping the same in repair.

That five thousand dollars per annum, be allowed to the Vice-President.

That the Speaker of the House of Representatives be allowed twelve dollars per day—and the members of the Senate and House, six dollars each per day; and six dollars for each days travelling expenses, reckoning twenty miles to a day.

This report was laid upon the table.

Mr. SMITH (of South-Carolina) introduced his motion for the appointment of a committee, to bring in a bill for the establishing a permanent system respecting bankruptcy, throughout the United States.—This motion having passed in the affirmative, Mr. Smith, Mr. LAWRENCE, and Mr. AMES were appointed a committee, accordingly.—Adjourned.

TUESDAY, JUNE 2.

On motion of Mr. PAGE, it was voted unanimously, that those members who had not taken the oath required by the Constitution, should be called on to attend the Speaker, for that purpose—accordingly eighteen members appeared, and had the oath administered to them;—after which the Speaker administered the requisite oath to the Clerk of the House.

Mr. BALDWIN, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill, or bills, pursuant to the resolution for instituting the three subordinate executive departments, reported two bills—One for the arrangement of the War Department—the other for the Department of Foreign Affairs:—These bills provide in substance, for bringing under the direction of these Departments, by orders from the President, those national objects which had come within their cognizance, under the old Confederation.

It was voted, that 100 copies of these bills be struck off, for the accommodation of the members.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole; and resumed the bill for the collection of the revenue.

On motion, it was voted, that the consideration of the two first articles, should be postponed; the third article, which is in these words, viz. "That there shall also be constituted the following ports, which shall be ports both of entry and delivery, to wit:" was taken up—when Mr. LIVERMORE proposed, that

Portsmouth, in New Hampshire, should be one of the ports of entry and delivery, to fill up the blank.

Alachias and Portland were next mentioned; upon which many observations were made by different members—chiefly with respect to the number of ports for entry and delivery, which it might be necessary to constitute: The committee appeared to be divided in sentiment; and some gentlemen having observed, that they were not sufficient prepared to decide what ports would be most suitable in the several States, it was moved, that the committee should rise, and make the further consideration of the bill the order of the day for to-morrow.

The vote on this motion being taken, it passed in the negative.

The Committee then proceeded in filling up the blank, when the following ports were agreed upon, viz.

- Portsmouth, in New Hampshire.
- Portland,
- Newburyport,
- Gloucester,
- Salem,
- Marblehead,
- Boston,
- Plymouth,
- Dighton,
- New Bedford,
- Sherburne, Nantucket,
- New London,
- New Haven,
- Norwalk,
- City of New York,
- Sag Harbour,
- Perth Amboy,
- Egg Harbour,
- Salem,
- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Wilmington, Delaware.

Massachusetts.

Connecticut.

State of New York.

New Jersey.