

[Continued from No. XV.]

WE have been, in a former number, speaking of the mode of obtaining money for the support of Government, in which various and complicated difficulties were found to attend the levying the tariff, or impost, with an equal hand and nice discerning eye: we now come to the mode of collection, in which still greater difficulties arise:—In a country possessing the extensive sea coast, the innumerable bays, rivers, creeks and inlets, we have in America, it requires not a little sagacity to construct those guards and barriers, to prevent the evasion of the law, which, in cases like these, mankind have ever been found prone to seek opportunities of doing—and perhaps the inventive genius and subtle arts of men have, on this subject, had their full scope and exercise in all other countries; and to presume on our peculiar virtue, and want of skill or enterprise, in such undertakings, will be building on weak grounds, and doing wrong to the American character: Private interest among mankind, has been generally found to predominate over public spirit—and this principle, so strong in human nature, will not be likely to operate less faintly here than with the rest of the world. These observations being assented to, as I think they must, the necessity of pursuing such measures to prevent as far as possible, the effect of this preponderating principle, as have been attended with success elsewhere, naturally presents itself to view: But here let me renew an observation before made, that the general scale or standard which governs the plan of the Impost, will essentially affect the product of the Revenue—and as far as this is found to be reasonable and judicious, will the need of coercion be proportionably diminished; for in such a position of the case, the risk of smuggling will exceed the object to be thereby obtained—which consideration will be ever nicely weighed by the merchant in his calculations:—But to return to the specific point in view—While every encouragement ought to be held out to the fair trader by the principles of the system—on the other hand, every proper caution and preventative against the pernicious practice of smuggling should mark the plan of collection, not only to secure the revenue, but to preserve the morals of the community from the baneful contagion arising from such pursuits. Those embarrassments which proceed from the natural situation of the country, cannot be avoided—and while numerous harbors and inlets will necessarily multiply revenue officers, yet this reflection is in a degree alleviated, by viewing those harbors and inlets as so many avenues to the increasing wealth and consequent strength of our country; and frequent inland navigation may be esteemed among nature's choicest blessings. It is not to be doubted that every particular part of the community will hope to be freed from the disadvantage of going out of the direct path of their navigation, in order to make their entries, deliveries, clearances, &c. but it will be in vain to expect the wished-for latitude on this point, unless they consent to a total sacrifice of the revenue, and view the payment of its officers as the sole object for which it was levied. Every partial inconvenience, in such cases, must be submitted to, in order to further the general good; and until this principle takes deeper root in the public mind, on all occasions, national measures will only serve to present in a more conspicuous light our national imbecility.

The mode of reimbursing the revenue officers for their services, ought to be as far as possible so constructed, as to make the faithful pursuit of their duty superior to any temptation to fraud: It may be well therefore, to produce this effect, that two different principles should be adopted in determining their stipends: In large ports, and where an extensive trade is carried on, let their compensation result from a specified commission on the aggregate amount of their negotiations, which will tend to excite their vigilance, and make them zealous to fill up the money columns in the custom-house books: In smaller and less productive ports, a fixed salary, in proportion to the probable service, may be thought a stronger incitement to duty, or if paid by commissions, as in the former case, those different powers which in the larger ports are divided, can here be united in one person: It will be difficult to exceed in the number and variety of checks and barriers to prevent false entries, reports, manifestos, invoices, &c. Here ocular demonstrations and critical compares, will be found serviceable auxiliaries to oaths and affirmations: An immediate discharge of duties in every instance, is rather to be wished for, than expected, where a deficiency of circulating medium is evident, and a ready demand and consumption often uncertain and irregular: Therefore the giving bonds in sufficient security for their payment at a short, though future period, will be found expedient—while a discount allowed upon prompt payment will produce exertion to this purpose: In regard to articles on which drawbacks are permitted, it will be found advantageous to provide public stores for their deposit—lest by some magic or miraculous power, wine may be

sometimes converted to water; and the duties on merchandise thus deposited, will be as in other cases, bonded for—which bonds shall be cancelled by a certificate from the naval officer of their exportation.

But I leave any further detail upon this almost exhaustless subject, to take a view of some other sources from which the public chest must also derive its supplies: And here let me observe, that as national wealth is but a composition of the wealth of its individual citizens, from a want of attention to those general principles, which serve to fill the lesser springs and streams, the great common fountain must be less productive, or become proportionably exhausted; and without industry and economy, those handmaids to wealth and affluence, among the great mass of the people, America will in vain expect to reach the zenith of national glory and splendor.

A MERICANUS.

(To be continued.)

THE TRIUMPH OF FATE.—A SONNET.

Tune—The banks of the Dee.

THE beauties of Flora delightfully blooming,
The ladies of Trenton, arranging display'd,
More splendid in beauty fresh glory assuming,
When arches triumphal with them were array'd;
The Hero illustrious had lately arrived,
Who all the past dangers of War had survived;
From whom all the blessings of Peace are derived,
On whom the whole burden of Empire is laid.

The brilliant assembly of beauties advancing,
With harmony soothing, and scenery grand;
While smiles were soft dimpling and graces were glancing,
The Hero himself confederated to stand.
Before him young Virgins gay flowers were frowning,
And all their rich fragrance delightfully blowing,
While musical strains were melodiously flowing,
Sensations of rapture what breast could withstand.

PHILADELPHIA, May 1789.

SKETCH of PROCEEDINGS of CONGRESS.

In the HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES of the UNITED STATES.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1789.

The bills for the arrangement of the two departments of war and foreign affairs were read a second time—and assigned for Tuesday next, in committee of the whole.

A message was received from the Senate, informing of their concurrence in a report of the committee of 28th ult. respecting the printing business.

The Senate also sent a message to inform the House, that their members were this day to take the Oath required by the Constitution—and requested the original law respecting oaths, which had been yesterday returned to the House by The President.

In committee of the whole.

The Bill to regulate the collection of the revenue again under consideration—when further progress was made in filling up the blank, by agreeing to the following, as ports of entry and delivery, viz.

- Chestertown,
 - Oxford,
 - Vienna,
 - Baltimore,
 - Snow-Hill,
 - Georgetown,
 - Annapolis,
 - St. Mary's,
 - Patuxent.
 - Norfolk, and Portsmouth,
 - Hampton,
 - Yorktown,
 - Urbanna,
 - Alexandria,
 - Kinsale,
 - Foley's Landing,
 - Cherrystone,
 - South Quay.
 - Charleston,
 - Georgetown,
 - Beaufort,
 - Savannah,
 - Sunbury,
 - Brunswick,
 - St. Patrick's, on St. Mary's river.
 - Pepperelborough,
 - Bath, on Kennebec river,
 - Wiscasset, on Sheepcut river,
 - Penobscot,
 - Machias,
 - Passamaquoddy,
 - York,
 - Barnstable, [Barnstable, in the county of]
- } Maryland.
- } Virginia.
- } South Carolina.
- } Georgia.
- } Province of Maine in Massachusetts.

The Committee then rose, and the House adjourned.

JUNE 4.

In committee of the whole on the bill to regulate the collection of the revenue.

From the first article which provides for the constituting ports of "entry only" the word "only" was struck out, to insert "and delivery."

The next article which runs thus, "That there shall also be constituted, the following ports, which shall be ports of delivery only, viz." was read, and the committee proceeded to fill up the blank by agreeing upon the following ports, viz.

- Kennebunk, Massachusetts.
 - West Point,
 - Newport,
 - Tappahannoc,
 - Fredericksburg,
 - Suffolk,
 - Burmuda Hundred,
 - [City Point,
 - Rockets Landing.
 - Burlington,
 - Newark,
 - New Brunswick,
- } Virginia.
- } New-Jersey.

Mr. LAWRENCE proposed to insert a clause to this effect, that all ships, or vessels, arriving at New-York, from any foreign port, and destined to the city of Hudson, Albany, Esopus Creek, Poughkeepsie, or Newburg, in Hudson River, shall enter at the port of New-York—and having there paid the duties, or secured them to be paid, they may then proceed to either of said ports to deliver their cargoes—the collector at New-York putting on board a land or tide waiter—and taking effectual means to prevent frauds. This clause was adopted.

Mr. JACKSON introduced another clause, providing for the forming the sea coast of the State of Georgia into four districts, to include ports of entry and delivery: This division was agreeable to the laws of that State. This was adopted—as was also a clause, introduced by Mr. GOODRUE, similar to that from Mr. Lawrence—which provided that vessels bound up Merrimack river, should enter and pay, or secure the duties at Newburyport. The committee then rose.

Mr. BALDWIN, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill, or bills, for the arrangement of the Three Executive Departments, reported a bill for the Treasury Department—which was read, and laid on the table.

Mr. BENSON gave notice that to-morrow he should move for a committee of the whole, on the state of the Union—to take up the proposition respecting Rhode Island.

Mr. Benson's resolution is in the following words.

THE Congress of the United States do resolve and declare it to be their most earnest desire, that the legislature of the State of Rhode Island and Providence plantations, do recommend to the people of that State to choose delegates to meet in Convention, and to whom the Constitution of the United States is to be submitted, conformably to the unanimous resolution of the United States in Congress assembled, of the 28th Sept. 1787.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1789.

A message from the Senate, which was received yesterday, providing for the transmission of the acts of Congress to the executives of the several States, was read a second time and received the unanimous concurrence of the House.

Mr. WYNKOOP asked leave of absence for a fortnight, which was granted.

The bill providing for the arrangement of the treasury department, was read a second time, and referred to a committee of the whole House.

Mr. JACKSON gave notice, that on Wednesday next, he should move for the appointment of a committee, to bring in a bill for the establishment of a system of naturalization for the United States.

Mr. BENSON proposed, that the House should then form itself into a committee of the whole, on the state of the Union, and take into consideration the proposed resolution respecting Rhode-Island.

This occasioned a short discussion, which terminated in taking the previous question—Whether the House should now form itself into a committee of the whole for the above purpose? This passed in the negative, and so the proposed resolution was lost.

The House then formed into a committee of the whole, on the bill to regulate the collection of the revenue. The article of "ports of delivery" being under consideration, the following addition was made to those agreed upon yesterday, viz.

- Ipswich,
 - Manchester,
 - Beverly,
 - Danvers,
 - Lynn,
 - Charlestown,
 - Medford,
 - Swansey or Freetown.
 - Westport,
 - Duxbury,
 - Petersburgh,
 - Cumberland,
 - Smithfield,
- } Massachusetts.
- } Virginia.

Mr. AMES introduced a petition from the ARTIFICERS and MANUFACTURERS of the town of Boston—which being read, was laid on the table.

Mr. VINING gave notice, that on Wednesday next, he should submit to the House a resolve, providing for the establishment of a fourth subordinate executive department—to be denominated, the department of the Secretary of the United States for DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

The House then adjourned to Monday next.