A SKETCH OF THE POLITICAL STATE OF AMERICA.

[Continued from No. XV.]

WE have been, in a former number, fpeaking 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 difcerning eye : we now come to the mode of collection, in which still greater difficulties arife :- In a country poffeffing the extensive fea coaft, the innumerable bays, rivers, creeks and inlets, we have in America, it requires not a little fagacity to conftruct those guards and barriers, to prevent the evalion of the law, which, in cafes like thefe, mankind have ever been found prone to feek opportunities of doing-and per-haps the inventive genius and fubtle arts of men have, on this fubject, had their full fcope and exercife in all other countries; and to prefume 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, fo ftrong in human na ture, will not be likely to operate lefs faintly here than with the reft of the world. Thefe obfervations being affented to, as I think they must, the neceffity of purfuing fuch measures to prevent as far as poffible, the effect of this preponderating principle, as have been attended with fuccess elle where, naturally prefents itfelf to view : But here let me renew an obfervation before made, that the general fcale or ftandard which governs the plan of the Impost, will effentially affect the product of the Revenue-and as far as this is found to be reafonable and judicious, will the need of coercion be proportionably diminifhed; for in fuch a polition of the cafe, the rilque of finuggling will exceed the object to be thereby obtainedwhich confideration will be ever nicely weighed by the merchant in his calculations :- But to return to the fpecific point in view-While every encouragement ought to be held out to the fair trader by the principles of the fystem-on the other hand, every proper caution and preventative against the pernicious practice of fmuggling should mark the plan of collection, not only to fecure the revenue, but to preferve the morals of the community from the baneful contagion ari-fing from fuch purfuits. Those embarrassiments 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 fo many avenues to the encreasing wealth and confequent ftrength of our country ; and frequent inland navigation may be efteemed among nature's choiceft bleffings. It is not to be doubted that every particular part of the community will hope to be freed from the difadvantage of going ont 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 confent to a total facrifice of the revenue, and view the payment of its officers as the fole object for which it was levied. Every partial inconvenience, in fuch cafes, must be fubmitted 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 ferve to present in a more confpicuous light our national imbecility.

The mode of reimburfing the revenue officers for their fervices, ought to be as far as poffible fo 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 flipends: In large ports, and where an extensive trade is carried on, let their compenfation refult from a specified commission on aggregate amount of their negociations, which will tend to excite their vigilance, and make them zealous to fill up the money columns in the cuftom-honfe books : In fmaller and lefs productive ports, a fixed falary, in proportion to the probable fervice, may be thought a ftronger incitement to duty, or if paid by commiffions, as in the former cafe, those different powers which in the larger ports are divided, can here be united in one perfon : It will be difficult to exceed in the number and variety of checks and barriers to prevent falfe entries, reports, manifestos, invoices, &c. Here occular demonstrations and critical compares, will be found ferviceable auxilaries to oaths and affirmations: An immediate discharge of duties in every inftance, is rather to be wished for, than expected, where a deficiency of circulating me-dium is evident, and a ready demand and confamption often uncertain and irregular : Therefore the giving bonds in fufficient fecurity for their payment at a short, though future period, will be found expedient-while a difcount allowed upon prompt payment will produce exertion to this purpofe : In regard to articles on which drawbacks are permitted, it will be found advantageous to provide public flores for their deposit-left by fome magic or miraculous power, wine may be

fometimes converted to water; and the duties on merchandize 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 fources from which the public cheft 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 ferve to fill the leffer springs and streams, the great common fountain must be less productive, or become proportionably exhausted ; and without induftry and economy, those handmaids to wealth and affluence, among the great mais of the people, America will in vain expect to reach the zenith of national glory and fplendor.

AMERICANUS. (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 fplendid in beauty fresh glory affuming, When arches triumphal with them were array'd; The Hero illustrious had lately arrived, Who all the paft dangers of War had furvived ; From whom all the bleffings of Peace are derived, On whom the whole burden of Empire is laid.

The brilliant affembly of beauties advancing, With harmony foothing, and fcenery grand; While fmiles were foft dimpling and graces were glancing, The Hero himfelf condefcended to ftand. Before him young Virgins gay flowers were flrowing, And all their rich fragrance delightfully blowing, While mufical ftrains were melodioufly flowing, Senfations 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.

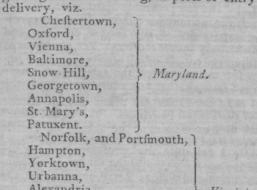
The bills for the arrangement of the two departments of war and foreign affairs were read a fecond time-and affigned for Tuesday next, in committee of the whole.

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

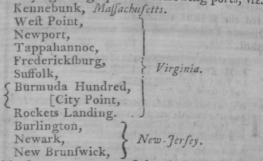
The Senate alfo fent a meffage to inform the House, that their members were this day to take the Oath required by the Conftitution-and requefted the original law refpecting oaths, which had been yesterday returned to the House by The Prefident.

In committee of the whole.

The Bill to regulate the collection of the revenue again under confideration-when further progress was made in filling up the blank, by aeeing to the following, as ports of entry and



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.



Mr. LAWRANCE proposed to infert a clause to this effect, that all ships, or vessels, arriving at New-York, from any toreign port, and defined to the city of Hudion, Albany, Efopus Creek, Poughkeepfie, or Newburg, in Hudfon River, shall enter at the port of New-York-and having there paid the duties, or fecured them to be paid, they may then proceed to either of faid 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 claufe was adopted.

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Mr. JACKSON introduced another clause, providing for the forming the fea coaft 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 alfo a clause, introduced by Mr. GOODHUE, fimilar to that from Mr. Lawrance-which provided that veffels bound up Merrimack river, should enter and pay, or secure the duties at Newburyport. The committee then rofe.

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 ftate of the Union-to take up the proposition refpecting Rhode Island.

Mr. Benfon's refolution is in the following words. THE Congress of the United States do resolve and declare it to be their most earness define, that the legistature 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 Conflitution of the United States is to be fubmitted, conformably to the unanimous refolution of the United States in Congress alfembled, of the 28th Sept. 1787.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1789. A meffage 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 fecond time and received the unanimous concurrence of the Houfe.

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 Wednefday next, he fhould move for the appointment of a

committee, to bring in a bill for the establishment of a fystem of naturalization for the United States. Mr. BENSON proposed, that the House should then form it felf into a committee of the whole, on the ftate of the Union, and take into confideration 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 confideration, the following addition was made to those agreed upon yesterday, viz. Ipfwich, Manchester, Beverly, Danvers, Lynn. Massachusetts. Charlestown, Medford, Swanzey or Freetown. Weftport, Duxbury, Petersburgh, Cumberland, Virginia. Smithfield, Mr. AMES introduced a petition from the AR-TIFICERS and MANUFACTURERS of the town of Bofton-which being read, was laid on the table. Mr. VINING gave notice, that on Wednesday next, he should submit to the House a refolve, providing for the eftablishment of a fourth fubor-dinate executive department—to be denominated, the department of the Secretary of the United States for DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

Alexandria, Virginia. Kinfale, Foley's Landing, Cherrystone, South Quay. Charleston, Georgetown, South Carolina. Beaufort, Savannah, Sunbury, Brunfwick, Georgia. St. Patrick's, on St. Mary's river. J Pepperelborough, Bath, on Kennebec river, Wifcaffet, on Sheepfcut river, Penobfcot, alfach. Machias, Paffamaquoddy, York. [Barnstable. Barnstable, in the county of The Committee then rofe, and the Houfe adjourned. JUNE 4 In committee of the whole on the bill to regu-

late the collection of the revenue. From the first article which provides for the conflictuting ports of " entry only" the word " only" was ftruck out, to infert " and delivery."

The Houfe then adjourned to Monday next.