

The Speaker informed the House that the enrolled bill to provide for the establishment of light-houses, beacons, and buoys, was ready for the inspection of the committee, who should examine and present the same to the President, for his approbation and signature.

Mr. MADISON moved that the house should now form itself into a committee of the whole, on the state of the Union, to take into consideration the subject of amendments to the Constitution.

Mr. AMES proposed that the committee of the whole house should be discharged from their obligation to consider the motion of 8th of June on the subject of amendments, and that the said motion, and such other amendments as have been proposed by the several States be referred to a special committee—this being seconded by several members, occasioned a debate, which terminated in favor of the motion of Mr. AMES, by a large majority—and accordingly the following gentlemen were chosen by ballot, a special committee for the aforesaid purpose, viz.—Messrs Gilman, Goodhue, Sherman, Benson, Boudinot, Clymer, Vining, Gale, Madison, Burke, Baldwin.

It was then voted that the committee be instructed generally to take the subject of amendments to the constitution of the United States into consideration, and report.

Another motion was made, that the committee be instructed to report as expeditiously as possible—this was superseded by a motion for adjournment—which accordingly took place.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

An ACT imposing duties on Tonnage.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, That the following duties shall be, and are hereby imposed on all ships or vessels entered in the United States, that is to say, on all ships or vessels built within the said States, and belonging wholly to a citizen or citizens thereof; or not built within the said States, but on the twenty ninth day of May, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine, belonging, and during the time such ships or vessels shall continue to belong, wholly to a citizen or citizens thereof, at the rate of six cents per ton: On all vessels hereafter built in the United States, belonging wholly, or in part to subjects of foreign powers, at the rate of thirty cents per ton; on all other ships or vessels at the rate of fifty cents per ton.

Provided always, and be it enacted, that no ship or vessel built within the aforesaid States, and belonging to a citizen or citizens thereof, shall, whilst employed in the coasting trade, or in the fisheries, pay tonnage more than once in any year.

And be it further enacted, That every ship or vessel, employed in the transportation of any of the produce or manufactures of the United States, coastwise, within the said States, except such ship or vessel be built within the said States, and belong to a citizen or citizens thereof, shall on each entry pay fifty cents per ton.

And be it further enacted, That this Act shall commence, and be in force, from and after the fifteenth day of August next.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS MUEHLBERG, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN ADAMS, Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

Approved, July twentieth, 1789.

G. WASHINGTON, President of the United States.

AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

WINCHESTER, JULY 8.

Extract of a letter from John Sevier, dated Seneca, South-Carolina, June 4, 1789.

"About three days ago, three men were killed and scalped by the Creeks, at a place called the Mulbery, on the frontiers of Georgia: It is also reported here, that a large number of Creeks are on their way for Tugalu, in consequence of which guards are posted there, in order to protect the inhabitants. Yesterday I heard that 400 were seen on their march towards that place—God only knows what the event will be!"

PETERSBURG, July 9.

Virginia Cloth—of excellent quality and very cheap—may be purchased almost every day, of the country people who come to town for the purpose of making sale of it. It is infinitely superior to any thing of the kind imported, and wears remarkably well. This cloth is made of cotton, wove with great taste, and by the ingenuity of our FAIR, has been brought to such perfection as to be preferred to many of the European manufactures. Several gentlemen have furnished themselves with full suits of this cloth, and as many others are as anxious to obtain it, we hope that every one who professes himself to be a Virginian will be distinguished by their cloth, as it will be promoting the manufactures of our country, and giving that encouragement to industry, which it ought ever to meet with.

Extract of a letter from North-Carolina, July 3.

"The exertions that have been made by many friends to the new government, in this State,

gives me reason to hope that we shall have a convention in the fall, that will extricate us from our lonefome and disagreeable situation; but still I have my fears, unless Congress should take up the subject of amendments before, as many seem determined still to reject it, until some objections are removed, particularly as one of your greatest supporters of the constitution, has admitted that there are many.

PHILADELPHIA, JULY 20.

On Saturday last the Chief Justice, accompanied by Judges Atlee, Rush, and Bryan, with the Attorney-General and Prothonotary, waited upon the President of the State, in Council; and severally took the oath to support the Constitution of the United States, which was administered to them by his Excellency.

An account of the produce of different kinds of grain planted in the beginning of September, 1788, by Jacob Hiltzheimer, Esq.—Winter barley; one grain produced 65 heads, which contained 3900 grains:—Cape wheat; one grain produced 64 heads, which contained 2816 grains:—White wheat; one grain produced 40 heads, which contained 2240 grains:—Yellow-bearded wheat; one grain produced 58 heads, which contained 3016 grains: Speltz; two grains together produced 104 heads, which contained 4368 grains.

AGRICULTURAL.

WILMINGTON, JULY 18.

It may be of service to our readers, to be informed of the following facts relative to farming.

When I leased Prospect Hill estate, I found two thirds of the land sown with wheat, rye and barley, so that there was only left for pasture about 21 acres, with some meadow ground, and 14 acres which was miserably poor, sandy and gravelly. These 14 acres I planted with Indian corn, and manured it in every hill, so far as the manure would go (there being but little on the farm) from which I received a tolerable crop—I worked the ground well, giving it 4 ploughings and 2 harrowings, with the last I put my wheat in the ground—the following season my wheat was only knee high. I reaped it as near the ground as possible, and immediately ploughed in the stubble, and late in September I sowed it with rye, which, at the following harvest, was generally five feet high, and in some places much higher, and from which I threshed about 10 bushels to the acre. This rye stubble I ploughed in likewise, and sowed the ground with wheat. Under this culture this ground has been managed for six successive years, without any manure except about ten common cart loads; and I now have the pleasure of seeing as fine a crop of red bearded wheat on it as the neighbourhood can produce; I think I shall not reap less than 12 or 15 bushels from the acre. From this and many other experiments I have made, I am well convinced of the utility of a succession of crops."

"In turning over an old magazine for Jan. 1760, page 7, I find the following observation, which I think should be particularly attended to by the gentlemen of this country. "I can not help joining with the author of the new system of agriculture, in his severe censure of our country gentlemen.

"It is to me," says he, "a surprising proof of our gentlemen's inaptitude to this noble art (agriculture) to see so many hundred thousand acres pestered, and corrupted by common dung, the bowels of which very land is loaded with inexhaustible quantities of real and wholesome physic for its own diseases.

"Dung is not only prejudicial to some soils, but inferior to the worst of any composts upon any. One would wonder to see how people put themselves to extraordinary charges, and the inconvenience of sending to great distances for horse dung, to manure those very lands which never fail of being verged or bottomed by a substance of one kind or other, by far more proper for the end they aim at; and therefore I lay it down as a rule, almost without exception, that every soil, of what nature, situation or condition soever, abounds with natural and sufficient helps for its own peculiar imperfections."

WILLIAM GEDDES.

SALEM, JULY 14.

In 1772, the county of Essex contained 11,457 males above 16 years of age; in 1784, only 11,023: So that in a period of 12 years, there was a decrease in this county, of 434 rateable polls.

The county of Lincoln, in the same period, encreased its rateable polls from 1354 to 5071.

NEW-YORK, JULY 22, 1789.

The settlement of the Western territory is considered by many persons as an event inauspicious to the interest of those States situated upon the Atlantic. Time was when the migration of the inhabitants from the sea ports, only 40 or 50 miles into the country, was considered as pregnant with fatal consequences to such sea-ports; but now those interior settlements are found necessary to the existence of the trade and manufactures of our populous maritime towns.—In proportion as we advance to empire our ideas will expand, and the period is fast approaching when those extensive regions will prove a boundless source of wealth to the Union—they will extend the domestic and internal trade of the Union in such manner as will convince us of our ability to support the Independence of the United States, beyond any other circumstance to be named.

Extract of a letter from Massachusetts, dated July 13.

"With respect to the mode of transmitting messages, bills, &c. from either house, I cannot say that it pleases me: Independent of its being improper that the Secretary or Clerk should be absent from their respective stations, they are not members, and this being a necessary step in the progress of a legislative act, it should most certainly be performed by a member or members.

"I observe by the papers that THE PRESIDENT of the United States has returned the Impost-Bill to the House after receiving his approbation, by his SECRETARY. It was expected that this part of Legislation would have been marked with some striking characteristic feature: More particularly would there not be great propriety in the PRESIDENT's going to the FEDERAL HALL, and there, in the presence of both Houses of the Legislature give his assent, publicly, to the bills? It appears to me that this would be proper—would impress upon the public mind an idea of the importance and solemnity of the laws—and hold up the several branches of the Government to the view of the people, in a conspicuous and dignified point of light: It has been supposed that the President's late indisposition prevented the adoption of this plan. Some persons may perhaps object to this, for however astonishing the fact, it seems to be a point with many to prevent the people from thinking too favorably or respectfully of the government, or the administration."

The subject of amendments is at length put in proper train—had the Constitution been launched upon the waves of speculation and indefinite theories, we might well have been alarmed for its safety and future fate, among the shallows and whirlpools which are found in those seas.

It has been said that the Constitution of the United States is as well established at the present moment as if it had been in operation a century: If this is the case, and it will be difficult to prove the contrary, it is very problematical whether attempts to strengthen its foundation will not tend rather to weaken than confirm it.

A correspondent observes that the confusion, and consequent distress occasioned by the sudden stoppage to the circulation of the copper coin, are subjects that call for the immediate attention of authority: The poorer class of citizens are peculiarly affected by this circumstance, many of whom had their little all invested in this most uncertain of all human possessions; a fluctuating medium: Many of the retail shops are shut: The cries are suspended in the streets, and it is with difficulty the poor can purchase bread of the bakers, or vegetables in the market: This evil has been long foreseen, and yet the base trumpety call-doppers (greatly inferior to Woods' infamous brass money) has been pouring in upon us like a flood for many months past: Many of the merchants and shop keepers, it is said, have large sums by them of this coin, by which they will be great sufferers.

We are informed that on Saturday last, Mr. HARBROUGH laid the models of his new-invented machines before the PRESIDENT of the United States, who, after a critical examination, approved of them much; and was pleased to say, that he hoped the public would reward the inventor in a manner adequate to the great merits of his mechanical genius.

Nothing can tend more to the public welfare than such inventions as promote the interest of the farmer and merchant, which the machines above mentioned will effectually do. The machine for clearing docks will be of infinite service in cutting and deepening canals, for draining marshes and water ponds, and even to those farmers who live near rivers and creeks which contain black mud, well known to be the best manure.

The reaping machine is certainly a very great invention, being on a plan both simple and cheap, and may be used by a person who never saw reaping before: It may be so constructed as to cut the straw or the heads only. The work will be clean, and such grains as scatter out will all be received in a container. It may either be worked by man or horse.

The threshing machine is superior to every thing of the kind ever yet invented.

The inventor's plan for working boats by a horse, against the strongest stream, or raising great quantities of water to any height, must be allowed, by every mechanical genius, to be entirely new, and of the greatest utility.

The inventor of the above machines is recommended by gentlemen of the greatest respectability in Baltimore: we have no reason therefore to doubt his abilities.

Mr. Harbrough is the person who turned an arch under a court-house (a very spacious brick edifice in Baltimore) many years after it was built, a similar instance to which we never have heard of before.

A few days since died, at Elizabeth-Town, very much regretted, the LADY of His Excellency WILLIAM LIVINGSTON, Esq. Governor of the State of New-Jersey.

ERRATUM.

In the Estimate of Supplies, published in our last, for "arrangement" under third and fourth head, read ARREARAGES.

ARRIVALS.

Saturday. Brig Industry, Clow, Gaudaloupe, 14 days. Sloop Aurora, Caboon, Rhode Island, 3 days. Schooner Edward, Smith, Shelburne, 12 days. Schooner Donald, Lilley, Richmond, 5 days. Sunday. Schooner Catharine, Aitken, Shelburne, 9 days. Sloop Triumvirate, Sheldon, Aux Cayes, 26 days. Sloop Adventure, Allen, Port au Prince, 18 days. Tuesday. Sloop Lady Hayley, Tillinghast, Charleston, 9 days. Sloop Minerva, Parker, Bay of Honduras, Schooner Nancy, Clark, Richmond, 3 days. Schooner Polly & Betsey, Butler, Baltimore 15 days.

PRICE CURRENT.—NEW-YORK.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Items include Jamaica Spirits, Antigua Rum, St. Croix, do., Country, do., Molasses, Brandy, Geneva, Do. in casks, Muscovado Sugar, Loaf, do., Lump, do., Pepper, Pimento, Chocolate, Cocoa, Coffee, Indigo, (Carolina), Rice, Superfine Flour, Common do., Rye do., Indian Meal, Rye, Corn, (Southern), Do. (Northern), Beef, first quality, Second quality, Pork, first quality, Second quality, Hams, Carolina Tobacco, Virginia.