

The Door-keepers 730 dollars pr. ann. and their Assistants, Two dollars pr. day, during the sessions.

A message was received from the Senate, by their Secretary, informing, that they insisted on their amendment to the Treasury-Bill, respecting the removability of the Secretary by the President. Also that they had agreed to the resolution of the House for appointing a committee to report what business ought to be finished previous to the adjournment, and appointed Mr. Strong, Mr. Elsworth, and Mr. Carrol, on their part. Adjourned.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7.

Mr. Seney presented a memorial from John White, continental commissioner of accounts for the States of Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland, appointed by the late Congress, praying that compensation may be allowed to him and his assistants for services performed, for special reasons, after the expiration of his commission: This memorial with accompanying papers were read, and on motion, referred to a committee, consisting of Mr. Seney, Mr. Vining, and Mr. Heister.

Mr. Gerry introduced a motion, that a committee be appointed to prepare and report a bill for the further encouragement of the navigation and commerce of the United States. This motion was adopted, and a committee, consisting of Mr. Gerry, Mr. Trumbull, and Mr. Burke appointed.

A message from the President of the United States, by the Hon. Gen. Knox, was received, respecting the present posture of Indian affairs, suggesting the propriety of appointing commissioners to investigate and report their actual situation. The message also noticed the subject of the militia throughout the United States—referred to a committee of the whole house upon the state of the Union.

Another message was received from the President, by Mr. Secretary Lear, with three acts of Congress, to which the President has affixed his approbation and signature, viz. The bill for establishing Light-Houses, Beacons, Buoys, and public Piers, the bill for establishing the government of the Western Territory, and the bill for establishing the War Department.

The engrossed bill for allowing compensations to the members and officers of the two Houses was read—a motion was then made by Mr. Sedgwick, that the same should be recommitted, this motion was seconded by several members, which brought on a debate.—In favor of the motion it was observed, that if the bill should become a law in its present form, there was danger of its having an inauspicious influence upon the reputation of the government, that the salaries of the most respectable officers in some of the States, and particularly in Massachusetts, where the Governor receives but 800l. a year, and the Judges of the Superior Courts but 300l. and where the public business is executed by men of the first abilities, and no difficulty exists in procuring the most competent talents for every department—would lead to enquiries upon these allowances, which it would be difficult to answer—that the compensations proposed to be given to some of the officers of Congress, will be considered as a profuse and thoughtless application of the public money, and as greatly overrating the services for which such compensations are allowed—that in particular the sum of 730 dollars to the door-keeper, was so out of proportion to other compensations as to render the bill inconsistent with itself—that it was contrary to the rule adopted by the House, with respect to other appointments, especially the clerks in several departments, to some of which it was with difficulty that the House consented to allow 600 dollars, where talents and great responsibility were expected.

On the other hand it was said that the bill had received repeated discussions, that it was now in the third stage of its progress, and if gentlemen had seriously thought of making so strenuous an opposition, they ought to have come forward at an earlier day—that it would but ill comport with the principles of economy which some gentlemen appeared to advocate, to spend any more time in a tedious discussion of a bill which has so long been before the house: That if the bill was not so perfectly accurate as some gentlemen wished, yet it would be more eligible to pass it, than to sacrifice the time of the House in going over the ground again, especially as every part of it had received the sanction of a respectable majority.—That the motion was entirely out of order, and if the rules of the House were thus to be broken through, it was in the power of the disappointed, forever to impede the public business—that as to the small salaries given in particular States, the circumstances did not apply, as gentlemen were in such instances at home, and under no necessity of incurring any extra-expences, but that the members of Congress came from the extreme parts of the continent, and were supposed to make temporary sacrifices when they took their seats in the House—that with respect to the public opinion, however proper it may be to pay attention to it, if the House under that influence was afraid to decide upon such measures as the majority thought to be right, the constitution was but a name.

The question for the re-commitment was determined in the affirmative; and the House immediately went into a committee of the whole.—The several clauses of the bill were then discussed, and the following amendments agreed to, viz. Instead of two days pay as an allowance for every twenty miles distance from the seat of government—six dollars for every twenty-five miles, was adopted—by which the Speaker is in this respect, put on an equality with the other members

The allowance of 730 dollars to the door-keepers was struck out, and 3 dollars a day, during the session, for himself, and such laborers as he may find it necessary to employ, was voted. The other articles stand as agreed to yesterday: the discussion being finished, the committee rose, and the chairman reported the amendments, which were acceded to by the House, and the bill was again ordered to be engrossed for a third reading on Monday next. The house then adjourned till to-morrow, 10 o'clock.

PHILADELPHIA, AUGUST 5.

A vessel arrived here on Saturday last from the Streights, which brings a report of the assassination of the celebrated PAUL JONES, by a British officer in the Russian naval service: But we can collect no particulars of the horrid transaction. It seems, however, that he acquired great applause at the Court of Petersburg, in projecting and effecting the demolition of the Turkish fleet, under the command of the famous old Captain Pacha, the last campaign. That brilliant action, added to former grudges, and resentments which the ungenerous English officers bore towards him, probably determined them, at all events, to rid themselves of so formidable a rival.

We are happy in informing our readers, that in the memory of the oldest man among us, a more plentiful year has not been known than the present. Neither mildew nor fly has affected the wheat; the grain is heavy and full, and in large quantities. The other grains are likewise plentiful, and of an excellent quality. Such distinguished favors call for the gratitude of the inhabitants of the United States, to the great Author of Nature; especially when these blessings of nature are connected in the same year with deliverance from anarchy, and with the establishment of a wise, free and just government.

Wednesday last, William Cole was executed on the commons of this city, for robbing on the Washickon road, two country men coming to market.—He had two accomplices in that business, who are not yet taken, and all of them had but a few days escaped from the jail in this city, being sentenced to hard labor for some years as a punishment for sundry depredations on the inhabitants in and near this city. Cole had proved himself incorrigible by repeated robberies. It is said that from his sentence to his execution, his behavior was suitable to his deplorable situation.

BOSTON, JULY 31.

Capt. Selman, of Marblehead, returning from the Banks of Newfoundland, on the first of July, had his vessel struck by a whale, which foundered in nine minutes after—the Captain and his crew immediately took to their boat, and after experiencing a variety of distresses, and singular instances of providential interpositions in their favor, arrived home in safety.

The building of the Indianan, at Braintree, goes on with rapidity—and, it is said, will be launched about the 20th October. This vessel is about 850 tons burthen—and is pronounced by judges to be an excellent piece of workmanship.

Information having been received at the Custom House in Portland, Casco Bay, that a Sloop of 30 tons had anchored at Cape Cove, Cape Elizabeth, from the coast of Guinea, the Naval Officer immediately repaired thither.—On examination it was found by the confession of one Hans Hanson, that the sloop sailed from London about a year last March, that she was commanded and chiefly owned by one John Connor—that they proceeded to the coast of Guinea, and purchased the cargo of ivory, pepper, &c. which they now have on board—that a plan was concerted to kill Capt. Connor, which was executed in December last, and that one Jackson was appointed Captain in his stead—the said sloop was taken possession of and carried into Portland.

AUGUST 1. Of the murder of Capt. Connor, in the sloop lately seized at Portland, we further learn: That the persons on board at the time of the murder, were named Haddy, Jackson, Bird, and Hanson;—That in November last, Bird and Haddy, agreed to kill the Captain, and run-away with the vessel, and executed their purpose, by discharging two small arms upon him, down the companion door, and a scuttle on the quarter-deck, while he was asleep; they then threw him overboard, and Haddy took the command, and some time after sailed for the Spanish Main, where he intended to sell her; but not being able to reach the coast, he gave the command to Jackson, told him to carry her whither he pleased, and died not long afterwards.—That Jackson declared his design was to carry the vessel to Boston.—Jackson says he is a native of Newton, in this State, and, as Hanson says, was asleep in the fore

part of the vessel when the murder was committed, and knew nothing of it.—That the account Hanson gives of himself, is, that he is a native of Norway, an apprentice to Cap. Connor, aged 19—and that the extreme cruelty of Cap. Connor, was the pretended reason for the murder. The Sheriff of Cumberland has taken an inventory of the cargo, &c. to keep in possession for the owners.

NEW YORK, AUGUST 8.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

Those who contemplate the true springs and principles of human nature, anticipate advantages from the liberal compensation that is to be allowed to our National Legislators and the officers who attend them. Had a less rate of pay been affixed, it probably might have produced the approbation and applause of those persons, who are more distinguished for zeal and economy, than for knowledge and discernment. He must have slightly observed the character of man, who has not found out, that indolence is one of his predominant qualities. Unless some powerful stimulus is suggested languid will be his exertions, and inefficacious his pursuits. Ambition and avarice are two operative springs of the human mind. The force of the former will be rendered weak in the breasts of our legislators by the outcry that has been injudiciously raised against titles of distinction.—We must therefore have recourse to the former; for we go upon the presumption, that man can only be roused into active exertions by strong incentives. The business of the United States must not be suffered to stand still; and the public welfare will be far more endangered by too small, than by too liberal an allowance to public officers.

The establishment of a NATIONAL BANK appears to be an object of very general expectation: Such a plan would give a spring to trade and commerce through the States, by introducing a competent circulating medium—by enabling Congress and the several States to realize to the public creditors some part at least of their just demands, and by restoring a confidence in the national faith—it would unlock the iron repositories of many a thousand rusty dollars, which have long been confined by the wary proprietors, lest they should on being released, make to themselves wings of paper and fly away.—This plan will also conduce to strengthen the national government, and to remove jealousies respecting particular States accumulating more, while they pay less than their proportion of the public revenue.—For the bills of the national bank being unlimited in their circulation through the States, superior industry alone, will add to the aggregate amount in any particular State.

The confidence which is already created in the new government, bids fair to excite a rivalry among monied men, in the terms on which they propose to make their loans for the immediate exigencies of the Union—and if this is the case, as it must be undoubtedly, except we suppose that mankind are blind to their own interest—a competition on this subject may more reasonably be expected among the several banking companies in the United States.

By the arrival of a vessel at New-London from Port-au-Prince, we learn, that a 74 gun ship, and 5 or 7 frigates were to sail in a few days for New-York or Boston, to pass the hurricane months.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Philadelphia, to his friend in this city.

“I have read, with attention, the report of the committee of the House on the fifth article of the constitution: Should the proposed amendments be adopted, I have no doubt they will give general satisfaction, and quiet the minds of many well disposed citizens. I observe a bill has passed the lower house, organizing the general board of commissioners; that business is very important, as the harmony and peace of the different States, in a great measure, depend on a final adjustment of their accounts. From the loose manner the accounts have been kept in, in most of the states, the business must be complicated; and it would require men of experience and abilities to investigate these accounts. For the small salaries allowed by Congress, I am persuaded the commissioners will find it difficult to procure persons qualified to execute this business; and an embarrassment of this nature would certainly be very injurious to the public. An allowance of 1000 dollars to the chief clerk, and a discretionary power vested in the commissioners to appoint as many assistants as the business might require, at a salary not exceeding 600 dollars per ann. would not, in my opinion (with submission to the honorable house) be deemed an extravagant compensation; the public might then expect to have the business well executed, as persons of abilities, I presume, might be engaged on these terms.”

ARRIVALS. NEW-YORK.

Wednesday Schooner Two Friends, Hathaway, Edenton,  
Thursday Sloop Nelly, Thompson, Virginia, 5 days.  
Sloop Betty, Royle, Richmond, 3 days.  
Schooner William, Casson, Montego Bay, 22 days.  
Sloop Polly, Newell, Savanna, 6 days.

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