

ated, as hereafter directed, on the river Potomack, at some place between the mouths of the eastern branch and Conococheque, be, and the same is hereby accepted for the permanent seat of the government of the United States: Provided nevertheless, That the operations of the laws of the states, within such district, shall not be affected by this acceptance, until the time fixed for the removal of the government thereto, and until Congress shall otherwise by law provide.

"Sect. 2d.—And be it further enacted, That the President of the United States be authorized to appoint, and by supplying vacancies, happening from refusal to act, or other causes, to keep in appointment, as long as may be necessary, three commissioners, who, or any two of whom, shall, under the direction of the President, survey, and by proper metes and bounds, define and limit a district of territory, under the limitations above-mentioned; and the district, so defined, limited and located, shall be deemed the district accepted by this act for the permanent seat of the government of the United States.

"Sect. 3d.—And be it enacted, That the said commissioners, or any two of them, shall have power to purchase or accept such quantity of land, on the eastern side of the said river, within the said district, as the President shall deem proper for the use of the United States, and according to such plans as the President shall approve, the said Commissioners; or any two of them, shall, prior to the first Monday in December, in the year one thousand eight hundred, provide suitable buildings for the accommodation of Congress, and of the President, and for the Public Offices of the Government of the United States.

"Sect. 4th. And be it enacted, That for defraying the expence of such purchases and buildings, the President of the United States be authorized and requested to accept grants of money.

"Sect. 5th.—And be it enacted, That prior to the first Monday in December next, all offices attached to the seat of the Government of the United States shall be removed to, and until the said first Monday in December, one thousand eight hundred, shall remain at the city of Philadelphia, in the state of Pennsylvania, at which place the session of Congress next ensuing the present shall be held.

"Sect. 6th.—And be it enacted, That the year one thousand eight hundred, the Seat of the Government of the United States shall, by virtue of this act, be transferred to the district and place aforesaid. And all offices, attached to the Seat of Government, shall accordingly be removed thereto by their respective holders, and shall, after the said day, cease to be exercised elsewhere; and that the necessary expence of such removal shall be defrayed out of the duties on import and tonnage, of which a sufficient sum is hereby appropriated."

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

#### LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

##### House of Representatives.

Tuesday, December 31.

Mr. Forrest brought in a report on the subject of that part of the Governor's communication, which relates to the opening roads in the district of Southwark, of Moyamensing Township, with a resolution that a bill should be passed.

Mr. Morgan reported a bill from the committee on the subject of enlarging the library of the commonwealth, which was taken the first time and ordered that it be taken up for a 2d reading this day week.

Mr. Evans reported on the subject of intestate Estates.

Whereas by the existing laws of this commonwealth for settling intestate's estates, the distribution thereof is unequal and unjust, and made upon principles incompatible with the spirit of the constitution of this state—therefore

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to bring in a bill for amending the laws of this state relative to the settling and making distribution of intestate's estates, so that the estate of any person within this commonwealth, dying intestate, leaving lawful issue, shall be equally divided among such issue; reserving to the widow her full right of dower, according to the existing laws of this commonwealth. And that the real estate of any person who is arrived at the age of twenty-one years, and shall die intestate, unmarried and without issue, shall be equally divided between the surviving brothers and sisters, or their representatives. And that the personal es-

tate of any person of the latter description, who leaves no parents, shall be equally divided between the surviving brothers and sisters, or their representatives.

The report of a committee made yesterday respecting amendments to the constitution of the United States, was read a 2d time and made the order for next Thursday week.

Mr. Morgan called up the petition of the judges of the courts, for a law to erect a chamber contiguous to the State-House for a law library, it was read and ordered to lie on the table.

The house next proceeded to the order of the day, viz. the report of a committee on the petition of Archibald Magrew, praying that he may be enabled to sell the estate of Thomas Bracken deceased, said Magrew being the only surviving executor. The report of the committee was in favor of the petition, and recommends a law may be passed agreeably thereto.

The question being stated by the Speaker, "will the house agree to the report?" a debate ensued, and Mr. Kelly moved to commit it to a special committee of three members, to prepare and report a bill, provided they shall, upon due enquiry, judge it necessary.

It is stated by the petitioner, that he is surviving executor of the last will and testament of Thomas Bracken, late of the county of York, deceased, who died possessed of a tract of land of 130 acres, situate in Manallen township, in the said county, and by his said will devised the same to his widow during the term of her natural life; and after his decease, authorizes his executors to sell and convey the said tract of land, and to apply the monies arising therefrom, to the uses in the said will expressed; and stating, that one of the executors in the said will named, is since deceased, and doubts having arisen whether the petitioner is enabled in law to make a good title to the purchaser, without the aid of the legislature; therefore praying that an act may be passed to enable the petitioner to sell.

Mr. Swanwick moved a postponement of Mr. Kelly's motion for the purpose of considering a substitute which he proposed, viz. that a committee of three be appointed to consult with the attorney-general, and provided he judges it proper and essential that the legislature should pass a law in favor of the petitioner, then, &c.

This motion was opposed by Mr. Kelly, who did not think it consistent with the dignity of the house that they should entirely depend upon the opinion of any one person, without exercising their own judgments. He stated some items of the will, of sums being left to sundry persons, which were to be paid out of the sale of the lands, but that the surviving executor was prevented from paying those legacies until the said lands could be sold, and that therefore a law might be passed to enable him to sell, notwithstanding the general objection, that all the executors of a will must join in a sale, &c.

Mr. Evans was in favor of Mr. Swanwick's motion. Mr. Morgan proposed another substitute which came nearly up to the idea of that offered by Mr. Kelly. This was to add two members to the committee, who would be appointed to prepare a bill, and that they should be instructed to consult the attorney-general, (not to be altogether tied down to his opinion) and to report the bill if they judge it proper.

Mr. Stokely quoted a law which authorizes a jury to explain the intention of a testator in cases of difficulty, without troubling the legislature.

Mr. McLene seconded Mr. Morgan's motion, which was adopted, and a committee appointed.

From the London Morning Chronicle of September 3.

JEAN P. BRISSOT, A SES COMMETTANS, &c. 8vo. P. P. 128. BRISSOT to his CONSTITUENTS, &c.

PUBLIC curiosity must be in no small degree interested about a pamphlet which Mr. Burke has declared to be "one of the most able and rascally productions that ever appeared." There are only two copies of it in England, and having procured a reading of one, we subjoin such extracts as the short time allowed for a hasty perusal would permit us to make. It appeared on the 23d of May, eight days before the final defeat of the Girondist party of whom it may be considered as the

concluding manifesto. It is written with great force of reason and eloquence. Its object is to prove, that all the misfortunes of the Republic are to be ascribed to the anarchic faction at Paris.

He begins with an avowal of some importance to the future historians of the revolution.

"The whole truth, says he, has never been spoken at any time since the commencement of the revolution; we were afraid by expressing it of injuring and dishonouring the cause of liberty, of discouraging the people, and of impeding the progress of public business. This circumspection is right and even necessary, when nations are to be saved by individuals or bodies of men; but it is destructive when the nation alone can save herself. To dissemble her situation, is to prolong her lethargy, no great popular efforts can be produced or well directed without informing the people of their situation. Such is our position, and such are the motives which induce me to tear asunder the veil that hides from us the source of our misfortunes."

He proceeds to establish three positions.

"1st. That the party of anarchists has governed and does govern all the deliberations of the Convention, and all the operations of the Executive Council.

"2d. That that party has been and is still the sole cause of all the evils, internal and external, which afflict France.

"3d. That the Republic cannot be saved, without a rigorous measure which shall rescue the representatives of the people from the despotism of the faction."

He afterwards presents us with a description of anarchy, contrasted with the creed of the genuine republicans.

"I believe, says he, that the people will now regret the lethargic tranquillity of its ancient servitude, if we do not procure it a republican tranquillity; because the people desire to be happy; because they must desire it still more after such great and continued sacrifices; because their happiness does not consist in the eternal repetition of violent convulsions; because if ruffians live by sedition, the people live by repose. I believe that the establishment of order is a truly revolutionary measure; because it strengthens the revolution within; because it furnishes resources against our enemies without; and because it will conciliate the respect and confidence of the nations of Europe. I believe this doctrine as salutary to the non-proprietor as the proprietor, because he can only subsist by constant labor and there can be no constant labour for the poor where there is no constant security for the lives and properties of the rich. I believe that this doctrine of eternal insurrection, will produce pillage and massacre, which must disgust & fatigue the nation as to a republican form of government—Such are the opinions of those courageous patriots, who have been devoted to ignominy, and to the daggers of assassins; by the names of Girondins, Rolandins, Brissotins, &c."

The majority of the Convention, are, according to him, pure and uncorrupt, but feeble and domineered over by a handful of anarchists, who rule by terror. If they unanimously agree to protect their independence by a departmental guard, if they decree the punishment of death against the instigators of murder, if they hear accusations against Robespierre, and order the prosecution of the assassins of September, they are speedily forced by the clamours and the menaces of anarchists to revoke all these salutary measures. Barrere, Le Pelletier, and Danton, had all privately declared their opinion for the appeal to the people, in the case of the King. Danton had repeatedly said, that the imprisonment of Louis was the only measure dictated by justice and policy; and these very men now direct the vengeance of the populace against the Girondists for supporting what they themselves had contended for.

The following confession is so remarkable that we must recommend it to the notice of our readers:

"One word composes the greater part of the history of the three assemblies, and that word is fear!"

A very able account follows of the address with which the anarchists governed the neutral and independent party in the Convention, sometimes by the terror of their mobs, and sometimes by inspiring them with jealousy of the Girondists. To those who refused to petition for the expulsion of that party, the commune of Paris refused certificates of patriotism,

which in the then circumstances, were safeguards of life. By such means was prepared that revolution of the 31st of May, which Brissot seems clearly to have foreseen, and which he justly compares to Col. Pride's Purge.

A dreadful picture is presented of the revolutionary tribunal, in which a body of men, whom in defiance of common sense they called a jury (though it be permanent, and the accused has no right to challenge), deliver their suffrages openly, under the menaces of galleries filled with hired ruffians.

"A tribunal, adapted indeed to make us regret monarchy and her battles. A tribunal in which two directors of the massacres of the 2d of September, sit as judges!—The triumphal acquittal of Marat, does it not prove that the Convention and the tribunals are the instruments of assassins. That wretch, whose soul is made up of filth and gore,

"*Homulus ex cruste et luto factus.*" Cre.

"The opprobrium of the Revolution and of humanity." Two days before his trial, Rouillon one of his jurors, said in the club of the Cordeliers, "Fear nothing for his head! They speak of arresting him; I invite you to poignard the man who should dare to lay his sacrilegious hands on the friend of the people to arrest him. Let the people send us the Girondists, you will see who will preserve their heads on their shoulders."

The despotism of this anarchic faction was not less conspicuous over the Ministers than over the Convention. It appeared in the horrible persecution of the virtuous Roland; it appeared in the tame and pusillanimous submission of Garat to men whom he must detest; it appeared in the impunity with which Pache plundered the treasures and disorganized the armies, with no other protection than his Jacobinism; it appeared in the protection given by the same faction to Monge convicted of the most scandalous incapacity and negligence in the administration of the marine.

To the same execrable faction ought in some measure to be ascribed the defection of Dumourier.

"I know," says Brissot, "his ambition, his immorality, and his indifference for liberty. He never sincerely wished a Republic. He desired a monarchy tempered by democratic forms. That form of government but suits men who join great talents to violent passions. But I will venture to say that the calumny which pursued even the triumphs of Dumourier, has precipitated his treachery, and by consequence our misfortunes."

The same faction has exercised its despotism over the departments by those execrable commissaries with which they have deluged France.

"Leonard Bourdon, one of them, produces a tumult at Orleans, which until his arrival had, during the whole revolution, been tranquil.

"He fills the prisons of that unfortunate city with his victims, and when the wives and children of the prisoners come to him to expostulate, he compels them at the point of the bayonet, to dance and drink, as if displaying savage triumph at the miseries of their husbands and fathers. A few are provoked to give this Bourdon a drubbing. This is called the assassination of a deputy, and they have expiated their offence on the scaffold."

To the same faction he ascribes the war with Spain, England and Holland.

"Hostilities with Austria were inevitable; insult and injury had been too long and too tamely endured from that power. She meditated attack, and only waited a favorable moment. It was the policy of France not to permit her to chuse her own time of attack, and France declared war.

"But the war with the maritime powers may be ascribed to three causes: The decree of fraternity of the 19th of Nov. extorted from the Convention by the clamours of the anarchists; the useless and impolitic death of Louis, which afforded to the ministers of those countries the means of fanaticizing the people against France; and the general horror against the unpunished massacres of September.

"Of the last, Thomas Paine, in a work about to be published, speaks thus; "I was in England at the massacres of September. Before that fatal event the principles of the French Revolution had made rapid progress; scarce had the news of those massacres arrived, when a general change took place in the public mind;—all the friends of France mourned; they shunned each other; they dreaded the melancholy of each other's aspect; they