

## UNITED STATES.

SALEM, Feb. 25.

From the West Indies.

We have very disagreeable accounts.—Capt. Thos. Webb, arrived here last week from St. Eustatia, brings intelligence, that the British have adopted a policy towards the neutral powers, which affects the American commerce in a very serious manner; that in pursuance of a proclamation and instructions of the British court, bearing date the 6th of November, which Capt. Webb saw and read, the armed vessels of that nation take all neutrals trading to or from the French islands, and send them into port for adjudication.—Many vessels have been sent into the English ports in consequence of this order, and numbers have been condemned at Montserrat; among which is the brig Two Brothers, Endicot, of this port, and schooner Peacock, Blaney, of Marblehead. The brig Hind, Putnam, of this port, and the schooner Rachel, Lee, of Cape-Ann, were there, among others, waiting a trial.

The Swedes and Danes share the same fate with the Americans.

We are informed that the British admit the Americans freely into those French ports, which they have taken possession of in Hispaniola, upon the same footing on which the British themselves trade there. Their object is to reduce all the French islands this winter; and the preventing their receiving supplies from neutrals, they consider as one principal mean of effecting it. Hence proceed the orders for their depredations on neutral commerce.

\* We do not wish to doubt the veracity of Capt. W. but we shall not neglect to inform the public, that no such proclamation as he says he has seen, has ever been published in the London Gazette, from the 1st of Nov. to the 7th Dec. & that all the proclamations of the British court are invariably published in that Gazette. We cannot at the same time forbear mentioning, that many merchants in Salem give no credit whatever to the intelligence; but on the contrary, inform that letters were received by Capt. W. containing intelligence of a direct contrary nature.

BOSTON, Feb. 26.

### IMPORTANT MEETING!

The public have already been informed of the meeting of the inhabitants of this town, to take into consideration the embarrassments under which our commerce labours; and of the appointment of a committee of thirteen to report thereon.

On Monday last, at 10 o'clock, that committee made their report, in which they stated a number of embarrassments under which our commerce generally, and carrying trade in particular, now labours, and others which may be expected to arise upon the arrival of peace.

To effect a removal of those existing, and to guard those which may be apprehended in the event of peace among the European nations, the committee subjoined sundry resolutions for the town to adopt; the most of which were only declaratory of certain principles and opinions, upon which to bottom one, recommending a discrimination against Britain and Spain, by imposing new duties on their vessels and goods.

After the report was read, the debates were opened thereon, by Mr. Russell, Mr. Jones, Mr. Eustis, and Mr. Codman who were in the minority of the reporting committee; and who now opposed the report. On the other side it was supported by Dr. Jarvis, Mr. Morton, and Mr. Austin, who were in the majority of the same committee. This debate, in which, beside the above gentlemen, great numbers took a part, was continued until near 2 o'clock P. M. when the town adjourned to meet at the Old-South Meeting House, at 3 o'clock, (the inhabitants who attended being too numerous for Faneuil-Hall) when the debate was resumed, and continued until dark: the town then adjourned to ten o'clock, yesterday morning, when the debate was again resumed, and kept up with much spirit, until near one.

The question was then taken upon this motion:

"That the further consideration of the Report be referred without day"

And upon a division of the house, there appeared a very large majority in favour of the reference.

The meeting was then dissolved.

Never did we see a fuller meeting: and never were debates more fairly conducted. We cannot omit mentioning in a particular manner, Mr. Otis, who took a conspicuous part in the course of the debate, in opposition to the report; his fellow-citizens did justice to his abilities, and eloquence.

The arguments used by the gentlemen in opposition to the Report, displayed an extensive knowledge of our commerce, its natural and permanent advantages; as well as its present embarrassments; and they were so convincing, as to satisfy a large majority, that it was inexpedient for the town to declare any opinion as to the measures proper to remove these embarrassments; but rather to leave the whole business with Congress, where it ought constitutionally to reside.

"The People" of the United States, in the Constitution which they have adopted, have declared, that "Congress shall have the exclusive power of regulating Commerce with foreign nations"—and "the People" are determined to support the Constitution!

The late Meeting has done, and will do much good.—It will strengthen the opinions of our Delegates in Congress, and convince them, that as long as they are just and patriotic, their constituents will support them. It also shews, that when the mercantile and mechanic professions have time to deliberate, they see their best interests, and pursue them.

NEW-YORK, March 5.  
New-York Chamber of Commerce,  
March 4. 1794.

THE Committee appointed by this Chamber, to receive complaints of 'unjustifiable vexation and spoliation committed on our merchant vessels by the powers at war,' beg leave to report that they have repeatedly met for the purpose of their appointment, and no "evidence of spoliation" hath yet appeared to warrant an application to the government, and but one instance of "vexation" in the case of Capt. Harvey, which hath been transmitted to the Executive Department of the United States.

W. NEILSON, Chairman.  
A true extract from the minutes,  
W. LAIGHT, Sec'y.

For the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES.

REFORM IN PENAL LAWS.  
Extract from a Return made by the Grand Jury to the Court of General Quarter Sessions, held in March 1794, in and for the County of Philadelphia.

"Among the various duties which the Grand Jury have found it incumbent on them to discharge, the visiting of the prisons forms a very important one. The polity of our prisons for offenders, and our penal laws being new, and essentially different from those of other places, we have been the more attentive to their effects; and it affords us much satisfaction in being able to say, that we have found order, decency, economy, and industry, prevailing throughout the house—strict attention to the moral conduct of the prisoners, and divine worship frequently performed. The number of prisoners has greatly decreased—there are few or none of them who are not engaged in some useful and productive employment, which not only begets habits of industry and order in the house, but qualifies them for usefulness when returned to society—at which time the balance procured by their labour is delivered to them, either in clothing or money, at the discretion of the inspectors of the prison. While we contemplate this agreeable change, it is with no less pleasure we find the benefits to society, many and important. The attention of the inspectors who have the direction of the prison, merits our approbation.

The exertions of Captain Weed, the late keeper (who fell a victim to his benevolent exertions as a father and a friend during the late afflicting calamity) in promoting the order and security of this place, also demands our grateful acknowledgments: And whilst we mention his services, we feel it a duty to notice the good order and management which is still preserved under the superintendance of his Widow, who from the decease of her husband until the present time, has had the charge of this place—and we cannot but recommend her as a person well qualified under the present order of that place, to perform the duties annexed to it.

Signed on behalf of the Grand Jury,  
DANIEL THOMAS, Foreman.

A correspondent takes the liberty of observing, that from the above statement may

be seen the happy tendency of the penal code now adopted and carried into operation in Pennsylvania.

By just statements of the moral obligations and duties of man, good principles are impressed on the minds of those unfortunate persons who for their offences against the laws of their country are sentenced to confinement at hard labor in the prison at Philadelphia.—By a rigid exclusion of spirituous liquors, intoxication is there prevented—by a total separation of the sexes, corruption of manners is avoided—by the provision of proper materials, and a strict attention to the manufacture of them, habits of industry are induced; and by the surplus proceeds of the convicts labor being carried to their credit, and delivered to them at their dismissal from the prison, either in clothes or money (deducting only the moderate charges that accrue from their safe keeping, and the costs of their prosecution) they are not turned penniless and sans culottes on society, and compelled to resume their felonious practices in order to avoid starvation.

The foregoing statement further evinces the ease with which convicts are kept in confinement under a mild system of punishment, when a woman is equal to the place of keeper of a gaol, in which are grouped the most corrupt and hardened offenders of the whole state of Pennsylvania.

How much does this fact unsettle the opinion so long and so generally entertained, that no one was properly qualified for the office of Gaol-keeper, but a Man of desperate courage and a callous heart.

## PHILADELPHIA, MARCH 8.

A letter from Boston dated February 25, says, That at the late Town meeting there, it was judged there were 1800 persons present.—That on the question for referring without day, the consideration of the business before them, the numbers in the affirmative, were estimated at twelve hundred—those in the negative at six hundred.

Yesterday afternoon arrived in town, from the army of the United States, Capt. Eaton, with dispatches from Major-General Wayne, to the Secretary of War. Capt. Eaton left Head-Quarters the 22d of January.

Extract of a letter from an officer in the army, to his friend in this city.

Grenville, Jan. 21, 1794.

"Peace, which has been the great wish of the Union, and which we have solicited so often without success, and been rejected by the belligerent tribes of Savages in the most contemptuous manner, is now offered to us, by one of those tribes, and will, I have no doubt, be joined by all.

"A few days since, a white man, and an Indian, appeared in the vicinity of this cantonment, bearing a white flag. They were received, by order of the Commander in Chief, and conducted to his quarters; where they opened their business, and informed that they came from the Delaware nation, with proposals of peace—that they were sanctioned by the Shawanese and other hostile tribes, in their propositions, and wished to be informed if the General would meet them upon those terms, and shut the bloody path. An answer was deferred till the next day; and in the meantime, a gentleman was sent with the Indian for two others, who had continued in the woods about two miles from this place, and returned with them in the evening.

"A Council was held the next day, and after the Indians had laid before the Commander in Chief the purport of their visit, and had declared it to be the sincere wish of their brethren, to live in friendship with their white brothers, and to close the road to the further effusion of blood; the council ended with an answer from his Excellency, purporting that it was his wish to enter upon a treaty of peace.—That the Indians had too often deceived us, it was impossible to believe they were now sincere—that if they were so, they would have no objection to his proceeding, and establishing forts upon the banks of the Lakes, for their security and his own, where, whilst drinking the waters, he would be better enabled to meet them in council, and conclude the good work—and farther to testify the sincerity of their wishes, he insisted that the white prisoners now in their nations should be brought, accompanied by the head chiefs, to this cantonment, in one month from the time of the departure of the said Indians, to which they conceded."

From a Correspondent

What is the cause of the fall of Stocks? enquires a correspondent—surely not a diminution in the quantity of specie, for

it may safely be asserted, that there never was so great a quantity in the country before, as at the present time—not to the increasing quantity of paper for sale—for it may fairly be presumed, that the public securities are constantly receding from the market, by being more and more concentrated in the hands of those who prefer a steady income to the uncertainties and fluctuations of commercial or other speculations—not to the diminution of the public revenue, and a lessening of the means to support the public credit—for the revenue encreases annually—and notwithstanding all the vexations and spoliations of our commerce, it is probably at this moment progressing.—The variations, therefore in the prices of stocks are founded on no better basis than the breath of rumor—but baseless as it is—the bulls and bears have no other data for their calculations.—*Sat verbum sapienti.*

From a London Paper.

FRENCH REGULATION respecting BURIALS.

In the name of the French nation.

"THE Representatives of the People with the Departments of the Centre and the West, considering that the French can acknowledge no other privileged signs except the Law, Justice, and Liberty; no other Worship except that of Universal Morality; no other Doctrine except that of National Sovereignty and Omnipotence; considering that, if at the moment when the Republic solemnly declares that she allows an equal protection to the exercise of the worship of every religion, it was lawful for every sectary to establish on the public squares, on the roads, in the streets, the tokens of their respective sects, to celebrate there their religious ceremonies, confusion and disorders would ensue therefrom in society, resolve as follows:

1. All the worships of the different religions cannot be exercised but in their respective temples.

2. The Republic not acknowledging any general or privileged worship, all the religious tokens upon the roads, squares, and all public places in general, shall be destroyed.

3. It is forbidden, under pain of imprisonment, to all Ministers and Priests, to appear clad any where else but in their temples.

4. In every Municipality, all the deceased citizens, of what sect soever, shall be carried, twenty-four hours after their decease, or forty-eight hours in case of sudden death, to the place of common burial, covered with a pall, on which shall be depicted Sleep; accompanied by a public officer, surrounded by their friends clad in mourning, and by a detachment of their brothers in arms.

5. The common place where the ashes shall repose, shall be remote from every dwelling, planted with trees; under the shade of which, a statue shall be raised, representing Sleep. All other signs or tokens shall be destroyed.

6. On the gate of this field, consecrated by a religious respect to the manes of the dead, shall be read this inscription—"Death is an everlasting sleep."

7. All those who, after their death, shall be judged by the Citizens of their Commonalties to have well merited of their country, shall have on their tomb a stone, with garlands of oak.

8. The present resolution shall be printed, and stuck up in all the extent of the Department, addressed to all the districts, which shall transmit it to all the Council-General of the Commons, and to the Rectors, who shall be responsible in case of non-execution.

(Signed) "FOUCHE."

Nevers, October 19.

The above resolution needs no observations. It is a death-blow aimed by reptiles at revealed religion, and as such its consequences can be hurtful only to themselves.

The Editor hereof acknowledges with grateful sensations, the favors of his advertising friends. Six hundred of the Gazette are now struck off daily. Their extensive, and distant, as well as local circulation, in addition to the increasing number, embolden the Editor to solicit a continuation of advertising patronage.

The Eastern mail due yesterday, and the Southern and Eastern mails due this day, are not arrived.

"EXAMINER" is necessarily postponed till Monday.