

the house in committee of the whole, proceeded to the consideration of the bill for making compensation to widows, orphans, and invalids, in certain cases—Mr. Muhlenberg in the chair.

After some debate on this subject, the committee rose; reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

The house then resolved to go again into committee of the whole house on the said bill to-morrow.

TUESDAY, NOV. 29.

A petition of Nicholas Rieb, praying compensation for services, &c. during the late war—and that he may receive the pay due to his son, Peter Rieb, a soldier in the same corps, taken prisoner by the enemy, and never since heard of.

A petition of Jacob Paulus, praying to be placed on the list of pensioners, in consideration of disability incurred in the army; and,

A petition of Thomas Wishart, praying settlement of his account for services as captain in the army, during the war; were referred to the Secretary at War.

Mr. Livermore, from the committee, reported a bill for the establishment of the post-office and post-roads—Read a first and second time, and referred to a committee of the whole house on Monday next.

A petition was read from several Canadian refugees, praying to be compensated for sufferings, &c. in the service of the United States—Referred to a select committee.

According to the order of the day, the house, in committee of the whole, Mr. Muhlenberg in the chair, proceeded to consider the bill for the relief of widows, orphans, and invalids, in certain cases.

In debating on this subject, Mr. Fitzsimons expressed his doubts of the propriety of proceeding in the bill before the committee; and proposed a general law to be enacted to satisfy the claims of such widows and orphans, as had not been provided for by the particular states, notwithstanding the act of limitation. He saw no necessity of examining into every particular case intended to be provided for by the bill, which he thought might be done full as well by a general law, and therefore made a motion that the committee should rise.

Mr. Hartley thought a general law could not provide for every particular case mentioned in the bill—and Mr. Wadsworth conceived, that a general law would open too wide a door to applications. He thought it better to finish with the bill, and make the several individual provisions, than lay the treasury department open to endless applications, which would certainly be the effect of a general law; and after all, in case of the enactment of a general law, it was plain that many special cases in the bill would remain wholly unprovided for.

Mr. Sedgwick wished justice to be done to every individual claimant, but thought that house was not the place to examine into the minute particulars of private claims. He expressed his wish that, in the present instance, certain principles might be established by the house, the execution of which should be left to the treasury officers—Should this prove ineffectual, the house might then, and not till then, undertake the examination of private claims.

Mr. Goodhue, thought it would be sufficient to declare, that the claims of widows and orphans should not be affected by the act of limitation; and therefore was in favor of general regulations.

Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Hillhouse, gave it as their opinions, that the committee should proceed in the bill before them.—The several claims of the applicants had been stated, and their papers examined—all that remained, then, was to decide thereupon. The persons that had applied for relief, were indigent, and lay under heavy necessities.—In regard to them, therefore, they wished the bill should be gone through with, that the persons concerned might know what they had to expect. As to application of this kind in future, it might be prevented by general regulations, hereafter to be made—if the bill was passed into a law, it would establish precedents equal in their effects to the operation of a general law, and would

direct the public offices in settling claims made after passing general regulations.

After some further observations on this subject, the motion for proceeding no further in the bill was withdrawn, and the committee proceeded to the further consideration thereof.

The report of the Secretary at War on the particular applications was then read, considered, and decided on—when the bill was reported with several amendments.

A message was received from the Senate, by Mr. Otis, communicating a bill passed by that house, entitled, *An act concerning Consuls and Vice-Consuls.* Adjourned.

FOR THE NATIONAL GAZETTE.

IN Mr. Fenno's paper of the 23d inst. I read a proposal for dividing the whole territory of the United States into districts of 30,000 inhabitants each, for the purpose of a more full representation of the people in Congress.

I will say nothing of the inconveniences and difficulties that must attend the execution of such a project in the present fluctuating state of population in this country, which is every day so visibly affected both by emigration and immigration. I will suppose all these objections surmounted, the members elected, seated on the federal floor, and just breathing after a warm debate, while the clerk of the house of representatives calls the yeas and nays on some important, national question.—Let us then see what effect our amendment will produce in the political balance.

By the representation bill, without the writer's amendment, the whole number of representatives will be 112, allowing for South-Carolina 140,000 free inhabitants, and 110,000 slaves, which is well known to be pretty near the truth, and will give that state 6 members. Of those 112, Vermont, N. Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, R. Island, and Connecticut, will furnish 30; New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland, 40; and Virginia, Kentucky, N. Carolina, S. Carolina and Georgia, 42. But by the proposed division of the United States into districts, the New-England states would furnish 34 members, the middle states 42; and the southern states 44.

To prove this, we need but look into the schedule of the census, in which we will find, that New-England (calculating the slaves according to the ratio prescribed by the constitution) contains 1,007,963 inhabitants; and will therefore, after electing 33 members, have a surplus of 17,963 inhabitants, who coming to vote against 12,037 inhabitants of the state of New-York, will create a decided majority, and thus give New-England an additional member, making her number, as already stated, 34. In calculating the freemen and slaves in the other states, after the same manner, the representation will be found as I have apportioned it; and there will remain in Georgia some thousands of inhabitants who will have no vote at all.

To shew at one view the increase of power and consequence, which the New-England states would gain by this division into districts, and how great a diminution the rest of the union would suffer, we have only to use a very simple arithmetical process, and reduce the different portions of representation to fractions with one common denominator. By this it will appear, that, of 840 equal parts, into which we will suppose the whole power and influence of the United States to be divided, the portions will be thus differently allotted by the representation bill, and by the amendment above mentioned:

	Bill.	Amendment.
New-England	225	238
Middle States	300	294
Southern States	315	308
Total	840	840

Philadelph. Nov. 29. A. B.

NEW-YORK, Nov. 28.

Friday last being the eighth anniversary of the evacuation of this city by the British troops, was celebrated with unusual splendor and rejoicing. The day was ushered in by the firing of cannon; the regiment of artillery, grenadiers, light-infantry, and light-horse, paraded; and a feu-de-joy was fired.

PHILADELPHIA,

DECEMBER 1.

Extract of a letter from Lisbon, Aug. 31.

"In one of the English papers, which I enclose you, you will see an account under the London head of English ships laden with fish lately arrived at this port. I am authorized to say the whole is a fiction, not one vessel with new fish having yet arrived."

By AUTHORITY.

Extract of a Letter from JAMES MAURY, Consul of the United States at Liverpool, to the SECRETARY OF STATE, dated September 14th, 1791.

THE ports of Great-Britain are shut against foreign wheat.

Many of our vessels within my district have been under difficulties this year; and although, as yet, they have been released (except in three cases not finally decided on) without any great expence, yet the delay has been extremely injurious to, and been very hard on the owners. The causes have been informality in manifests, irregularity in crews, trading to Guernsey, as before-mentioned, but principally excess of spirits. The Brig Betsey, Capt. Salter of Portsmouth New-Hampshire was refused entry in the Clyde, six weeks, for the tonnage and where built being omitted in the manifest, and the affidavit thereto being made before a justice of the peace instead of the British deputy Consul, although it was afterwards certified by said Deputy Consul.

I submit to you the propriety of making public these particulars, that similar inconveniences may be guarded against in future.

A notice from the Board of Customs to the Collector and Comptroller of Liverpool.

Whereas it has been stated to have been the practice for American Ships and vessels to land at Guernsey, cargoes of tobacco, the produce of the United States of America, contrary to the 12th. Charles 2d. chap. 18th.

We direct you to make it known to all owners and masters of American vessels which may trade to and from your part, that two American vessels have been on that account lately seized there, and that the said act which not only prohibits the before-mentioned article, but all other species of goods the produce of America from being imported into the aforesaid Island, or the Island of Jersey in foreign ships, will be strictly enforced in future.

APPOINTMENT.

The President of the United States has, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appointed RICHARD HARRISON, Esq. (formerly the American Consul at Cadiz) Auditor of the Treasury of the United States.

Last Monday, we are informed, the election of Directors to the Institution for promoting American manufactures was made at Trenton—seven from New-York, and six of New-Jersey. The situation for this establishment was not yet fixed upon; but it is conjectured, the falls of Passaic will be the spot, as there is, probably, no place on the continent more happily situated for mill seats—a never failing stream of water, with a fall of sixty or seventy feet—no apprehensions from freshes, and within two or three miles of navigable water—Indeed boats, were a small sum expended in clearing out the river, might load and unload at the mills and factories—Add to this the beauty, population, and healthiness of the country; which all conspire to render this the most eligible situation in Jersey.

Accounts from Cooper's town, in Otsego county, State of New-York, report the potato manufactory in those parts to be in a flourishing condition. The pearl ash made in the county just mentioned, is asserted, to be a more beneficial remittance, to the planter, than wheat, as the demand is great, the price high, and the ashes procured at a cheap rate, from the burning of timber for the purpose of clearing lands. The climate is said to be peculiarly favorable to the propagation of sheep, and the wolves, the great numbers of which were heretofore a discouraging circumstance to the Planter, are almost extirpated from these settlements. Falling mills are erected, and home made linen has already become an article of no inconsiderable sale among the farmers, so that it is expected, in two or three years, none need be brought from abroad. Manufactures of woolen and hemp are also in contemplation at Cooper's town, which has made a rapid progress towards becoming a very considerable manufacturing and trading place. All these improvements, we may say, this new creation, in the northern parts of the State of New-York, are but of four years standing. Vast quantities of excellent maple sugar are annually produced from these parts, which, in time, and with

proper attention to the preservation of the trees, may supersede the importation of this necessary article from the islands, where it is extorted from the hand of misery and the unfeeling lash of avarice and tyranny.

These more remote parts of the state of New-York have gained much by the American revolution, in favor of the people. Formerly this vast extent of territory was parcelled out into manors, lordships, and patroon-ships, the property of the well-born, who were making rapid strides towards enslaving an honest and laborious peasantry, in the same manner as in Germany and some other countries of Europe. This was the cause of so valuable a territory being retained so long in a state of nature; few people, before the revolution, having been willing to hold lands under a species of tenure, little short of the feudal, and, therefore, settled in Pennsylvania and other provinces, where lands could be purchased at an easy rate, and possessed in fee.

Upon looking through European history for a century or two past, it is really astonishing to observe how mankind have suffered themselves to be led quietly in ecclesiastical trammels, without once conceiving themselves at liberty to think agreeably to the powers of reason within them. Owing to these slavish systems, the vigor of the human mind has been lost, and the noblest flights of genius into the regions of science and wisdom, prevented. How often must every reader of history have regretted to see in some of the first writers of Europe, a forced submission to the national creed, which checked them in the happiest attempts of extending sound judgment and understanding, and probably induced them to conceal what might have done honor to the cause of truth and humanity. Boileau was, perhaps, one of the most elegant writers, undoubtedly the correctest critic of the French nation; but it is humiliating to observe what pains he was at to satisfy the clergy, respecting one of his pieces, and by way of apologizing for some little matters he had advanced, in a spirit rather free, and of a gayer turn—naming this, and the other archbishop, or bishop, who, on perusing his manuscripts, had found no fault, nor seen in them any dogma, contrary to the established religion.—Every man, of but very limited reading, must have discerned the same circumstances, in almost numberless instances.

Extract of a letter from London, Sept. 16.

"The rumours of negro insurrection in some of the French colonies, have given no small degree of uneasiness to the National Assembly; and the nation itself does not fail to reproach the British Parliament for having listened to such enthusiasts as Clarkson, and his brethren, who are sticklers for Negro emancipation.—Their writers even go so far as to style Mr. Clarkson 'A Fire-Ship,' turned loose upon the colonial Negroes for their destruction."—Sir William Young very pertinently observed, in his speech in Parliament, "When my vote is solicited for an abolition of the African trade, as far as relates to Great-Britain only, I would wish at least to be previously convinced, that while Britain loses, Africa will gain."—Because, as he afterwards as justly observed, "Great-Britain may abandon her share of this trade, but cannot abolish it."—In fact, the general question of abolition of the trade for slaves is not before England. Our parliament is not an assembly of Delegates from France, from Spain, from Holland, and other powers now engaged in that base commerce; it is the mere legislation of a single nation, whose dereliction of the trade, on their part, cannot any ways suppress, but will eventually aggravate the miseries incident to a system of traffic which every enlightened man must acknowledge, and every good man must deplore."

Extract of a letter from Paris, Sept. 18.

"The chief Secretary of the order of St. Francis has just published an estimate of the number of Monks, that went to constitute this particular order, previous to the revolution; and has fixed it to three hundred thousand, in Europe. Besides these, there were four hundred thousand Mendicant Monks, exclusive of those with gifted habits. Each of these drones of society were maintained, by the lowest estimation, at the rate of three hundred livres a year; so that according to this estimate, which is certainly moderate, the public of Europe paid an annual tax for the support of the Mendicants only, of about one hundred and twenty millions. A tenth part of these Monks had fallen to the share of France, and consequently a tenth part of this enormous and superfluous expence: But, such were the aids necessary for the support of despotism,—as Milton said,

"White, black, and grey, with all their trumpery."

The people in this capital regard the abolition of the Monkish orders as one of the great blessings of the revolution. To keep them from starving, however, they have hitherto received a sort of indirect maintenance from the sale of the effects of the high clergy. Things are now put upon such a footing, that, it is computed, in fifteen years France will be entirely rid of these vermin; and one may foretell without a supernatural gift of prophecy, that within the same period, there will not be a country in Europe but shall have followed the example of France in this particular.

Translated Extract of a letter from Havre, [France] Sept. 16.

"It is easy to see that altho' the monarchical system of government is likely to be retained in this country, it will only be the lion without claws. The burning glass of power will be drawn