

representatives; and a general election, instead of being an exertion of the national virtue, a signal for the introduction of bribery, perjury, drunkenness, riot, and every vice that can taint the morals of the people. The long duration of parliaments is matter, too, of serious complaint; but, unless the manner of electing be amended, the frequency of elections would only be to curf the nation with a more frequent repetition of the most horrid and flagitious practices. These things, and many more that might be mentioned, must undergo a reformation, if we would avoid the very lowest depth of public degeneracy, and its unavoidable consequences, impending ruin and destruction.

It requires no uncommon degree of foresight to perceive that the revolution now accomplished in France will force us into a reform, from motives of the most cogent and convincing kind, and which will come home to the feelings of every individual, namely, those of interest—the interest, not of a few, but of all. The French have the honesty and courage to call into actual exercise those excellent principles, which our constitution does, indeed, present to us in theory, but of which our domestic politics, as long as it continues, will prevent the practice. They have extended the right of election to its utmost possible limits—their representatives are to sit no longer than two years—they have endeavored to check ambition in its career, and to cut up every species of undue influence by the roots—they have cancelled all invidious distinctions on account of religion; and there scarcely can exist a doubt that they will, in a very short time, annihilate that enormous load of debt in which the pride and extravagance of former kings and ministers had involved them.

Let us carry our view forward to what will probably be the comparative situation of France and England in the course of a few years.—The former eased of her taxes, enabling her merchants and manufacturers to carry the produce of their industry and ingenuity to every foreign market on the cheapest terms—holding sacred the rights of conscience as well as property—admitting to the privileges of citizens all men of all nations and religions—opening her fostering bosom as a nursery for genius, and a refuge from every species of oppression. In a word, holding out every possible inducement to the people of other countries to come and participate in the blessings of peace and plenty—liberty and virtue.

Shall we contrast the actual situation of England with that of France—we cannot—the picture is too gloomy to be realized—we too must have a revolution, not in the principles but in the practice of our constitution.—Although we shall be the first to feel the beneficial effects of the reform in France, they will not be confined to this country. Connected as the world now is, by the ties of commercial intercourse, they may be considered as one society, and united in one universal interest, so that whatever promotes the benefit of a part will necessarily extend to the whole; and the measures which one nation finds by experience to be conducive to its welfare, will of course be adopted by the rest. What a pleasing prospect here opens upon the mind—Go on generous and enlightened people, and if your new charter of government should in any instance be found erroneous, you have ability and wisdom to correct the error. *Natural enemies!* detestable idea! Natural neighbors ought to be natural friends—With you may we speedily associate for preserving the peace and freedom of all mankind; and may one nation and another be continually added to the compact, and create a vortex of love and concord, which shall attract and involve all God's rational offspring!

Sept. 26. Strange as it may seem, Mr. Burke's book against the revolution in France is likely to operate considerably in favor of *Warren Hastings*; late governor of Bengal, now under impeachment for mal-conduct in India. A gentleman who has passed about two years in France, and is just returned from that country, having read Mr. Burke's book at his return, declared that matters were so exaggerated and misrepresented in it, that he must for the future abate considerably of his for-

mer wonted confidence in what Mr. Burke had, some time since, so forcibly urged respecting the unparalleled enormities perpetrated by Mr. Hastings in the East-Indies. Another gentleman, who was present when this observation was made, said, that from a long residence in India, to his knowledge, all that Mr. Burke had brought forward in parliament, in the impeachment of Mr. Hastings, was so heightened and overcharged, that he could not help suspecting, that the "Reflections on the Revolution in France" must appear to competent judges to be no better than a political romance.

EUROPEAN STATE OF POLITICS.

The emperor and the king of Prussia are said to have met about something, but no one can clearly tell what; they may, or may not have conversed concerning France; but whatever they may intend, it is to be trusted that little mischief to the cause of liberty, in an age like the present, can ensue, against the energy of an unanimous people, which as advocates for a different form of government from that which they lately experienced, the French nation certainly are—for if absolute monarchs be permitted to suggest by what form a neighboring kingdom shall be governed, little in favor of the people can be expected. Imperfect as the new constitution at present may be, the people of France have now sufficient materials with which to work out their own happiness, without the interference of surrounding nations; and we will hope there is too much virtue in Europe, to suffer such an officious assistance.

The PAPAL STATES OF ITALY. Have lately discovered strong symptoms of discontent; and the mischief of it is, his holiness has no power to oppose against any advances that may be made upon his ancient prerogatives, but the artillery of anathema, which of late years has been discovered to be very harmless in its effects.

POLAND. Has yet met with no interruption in its happy revolution; the new wheels which have been inserted into the machinery of its constitution, have been put in motion, and found to work well and harmoniously with the whole.—Neighboring despotism affects to frown, but its frowns are despised; though much remains at some future time to be done for the Poles. The people at large are certainly much happier circumstanced than they were, and the nobility not less so. Comparative liberty has been given, without licentiousness having been encouraged.

RUSSIA. Has begun to fulfil her terms with the Porte, and the peace, at length, established between these violent foes, promises to be one of some continuation.

TURKEY. Having temporarily disengaged itself from its unsuccessful conflict in Europe, finds its Asiatic possessions in a great ferment; but having now leisure to attend to them, it is not supposed from the sanguinary mode in which the court of Constantinople proceeds in cases of rebellion, that any loss of territory on that quarter will be the consequence.

PHILADELPHIA. CONGRESS. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, December 5. Petitions were read from Joseph Bird, Ebenezer Brooks, Burr Gilbert, and Jonathan Houghton, respectively praying compensation for wounds received or injuries sustained, during the late war.

A petition of Sarah Parker, of Massachusetts, praying relief for the support of herself and a large family of children; being the widow and orphans of lieutenant colonel Moses Parker, wounded in the battle of Charlestown, in June 1775, and afterwards died of his wounds in Boston jail.—The above were all referred to the Secretary at War.

A memorial was read from the distillers of spirits in New-Port, Rhode-Island, complaining of the operation of an act passed at the last session of Congress, imposing a duty on spirits distilled within the United States, and praying a revision and amendment of

the said law.—Referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

A petition from John D. Mercier, late a Canadian resident, praying compensation for losses sustained in consequence of his adherence to the American cause, during the war.—Referred to the committee to whom was referred the petitions of certain Canadian refugees on a similar occasion.

According to the order of the day, the house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill making appropriations for the support of government for the year 1792, Mr. Muhlenberg in the chair—after some time spent in considering the bill, Mr. Muhlenberg reported the same with amendments, which were twice read, agreed to, and the bill with the amendments re-committed to Mr. Laurance, Mr. Baldwin, and Mr. Althe.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, accompanying his report on the subject of manufactures, made in obedience to an order of the House, of January 15, 1790.—Read and ordered to lie on the table.

The Speaker likewise laid before the House a letter from the Treasurer of the United States, with his account of receipts and expenditures of public money from July 1st to September 30, 1791.—Read and ordered to lie on the table. Adjourned.

TUESDAY, Dec. 6.

Petitions of John Willson, of Benjamin Keefe, and of Samuel Gibbs, were read, praying compensation for services, &c. rendered in the late war.—The first referred to the Secretary of the Treasury, the two latter to the Secretary at War.

Mr. Benson called up the motion which he had laid on the table yesterday; and after some debate, the following resolution was agreed to.

Resolved, That Mr. Benson, Mr. Gerry, and Mr. Smith (S. C.) be appointed a committee on the part of this house, jointly with such committee as shall be appointed on the part of the Senate, to consider and report to Congress the most eligible manner for carrying into effect the resolution of the United States in Congress assembled of the 7th of August, 1783, directing that an equestrian statue of General Washington should be erected.

Ordered, That the clerk of the house do acquaint the Senate therewith.

The three following motions being severally made and seconded, to wit:

First—That a committee be appointed to examine and report upon the state of the treasury department; and that such committee be appointed on the second Monday after the meeting of Congress in every session.

Second—That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to report to this house, on the third Monday of every annual session of Congress, a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money for the preceding year, as far as the same can be then ascertained, and as soon thereafter, as circumstances will permit, of such receipts and expenditures as cannot be specified in the first statement.

Third—That within the month of January in each year, if Congress shall be then in session, or if not then in session, within the first week of each succeeding session, the Secretary of the Treasury shall lay before the House of Representatives an accurate statement of receipts and expenditures down to the last day of the month of December immediately preceding, including the said day, in which statement shall be distinguished the expenditures which fall under each head of appropriation, and shall be shewn the sums, if any, which remain unexpended of such appropriations. And that a committee be thereupon forthwith appointed to examine the said statement and report concerning the same to the house, and that this be considered as a standing order.

Ordered, That the said motions be referred to Mr. Gerry, Mr. Dayton, and Mr. Barnwell; that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their opinion thereupon, to the house.

Agreeable to the order of the day the house resolved itself into a committee

of the whole on the bill for establishing the post-office and post-roads within the United States, and after some time spent thereon, the committee rose, and asked leave to sit again to-morrow.

Mr. Laurance, from the committee to whom was re-committed the bill making appropriations for the support of government for the year 1792, reported an amendatory bill, which was read the first time. Adjourned.

PHILADELPHIA, DECEMBER 8.

Extract of a letter from New-Jersey, Dec. 5. "Too much cannot be said in favour of that policy which is beginning to turn the attention of this state towards manufactures. We shall not only, by an adherence to this principle, add to the wealth of new Jersey, but shall work a reform in the morals of a very great part of our citizens. Poverty is generally attended with a propensity to vicious practices, but if we take away the cause of vice there can be little doubt that the usual effects will of themselves soon cease. A life of industry is generally a life of virtue, but so great a proportion of the soil of Jersey is barren and unfruitful that even industry is but partially rewarded; and it is well known the greater part of the net produce of our labour has ever centered in New York and Pennsylvania, as having no foreign trade of our own. It therefore becomes the duty of those two opulent sister states to take us by the hand, in the infancy of our great undertaking, and as they have ever rendered abortive all our attempts to become a mercantile people, now is the time for them to exert their influence in constituting us a manufacturing people. No situation can be better calculated by nature for this purpose than New-Jersey. The distances from any spot whatever within the state to the several landings are short, and we abound in rivers, which, tho' not navigable at present, may at a moderate expence be cleared of obstructions, so as to convey the produce of our manufactories to the commercial cities of other states, without the expence incident to land carriage. The inhabitants are naturally hardy and laborious, and when they find themselves relieved from paying a considerable part of the taxes of New-York and Pennsylvania, and have some mode of turning the product of their industry to account, in lieu of commerce, there can be little doubt but they will exhibit a more respectable figure than ever in the great family of the United States. Perhaps there are few parts of the world that can equal New-Jersey in the quality of its iron-ore; and the quantities of this mineral are absolutely inexhaustible. Immense parcels of it are sold every day to New-England people at about half a dollar per ton; the purchase being made with hollow ware, nails, spades, axes &c which are previously wrought out of this very ore. This is a proof of the necessity of establishing more iron works amongst us; one great step to which would be the encouragement of canal navigation thro' the State. Perhaps it is a truth little known that a few thousand pounds would open a navigation for boats of 15 tons burthen from the Delaware, near Trenton, to Brunswick, on the Raritan."

A vessel arrived a few days ago in Hampton road, Virginia, from Lisbon, which place she left the latter end of September, and brings accounts that all ships bound to Lisbon, having passengers on board, if the bill of health does not describe them, and what business they have come on, the ship will be refused entry, and must lay quarantine, and afterwards undergo an examination.—And that there will be one of the worst vintages in Portugal this season that ever was known, owing to the great drought, there having been no rain for upwards of six months, and the warmest summer ever remembered by people of an old age.

Extract of a letter from Nantz, September 8.

"I send you a small packet of newspapers by which you will see among other things, that the complete establishment of the new French government will be attended with a reform of the Catholic church in Italy, or, in other words with an entire loss of what little influence the prejudices of people had left it; so that the Holy Father has a prospect of retaining only his *spiritualities*, without those more pleasing *temporal* emoluments, for possessing of which the other branch of *business* has always been made the pretext.—The present Pope Pius the sixth is in a very awkward situation. His subjects see plainly that his politics are ruinous, the church is in a tottering condition, and his prerogatives every day more and more abridged: and our accounts say, that the people in Rome are beginning to recollect the ancient prophecy, that under the Popes of the surname of *Sextus*, [the sixth] the city should always suffer some unfortunate revolution.

*Semper sub Sextis pericula Roma fuit.* A remarkable paper was some time ago published upon the statue of *Pasquin* in the center of Rome, of which the following is a translation:

HOLY FATHER, In your late lying edict, styled the Royal Manifesto, you have the effrontery to call those persons traitors, who have dared to abet the cause of the friends of liberty. How can you clear yourself of this charge?—You would not have presumed to excommunicate the French nation had you not vainly imagined that they would soon be laid prostrate at your feet, in chains—but it is to no purpose that superstition and perjury are brought in to the aid of tyranny. The edifice of liberty is established on a sure foundation, and