their politics—her own at present demand a monopoly of her attention and ingenuity; but as far as she can make her commerce with foreign nations subservient to her interest, sound policy prompts the connection.

The present government of the United States, deservedly possesses an extensive share of the confidence of the people—it remains now for those who are to administer it, to complete that confidence, by the pursuit of those measures, which shall tend to establish the best interests of the nation, on a permanent basis: and here let me indulge the wish, that they would divest themselves of those local prejudices, and partial or state views, which have already brought this country to the verge of ruin; and fondly cherish national ideas, and national principles—which will alone lead to the great objects for which they were constituted.—No one will pretend to deny, that on a firm and complete union, the future happiness of America is suspended: a fear to exercise, in a full constitutional latitude, the powers vested in the general government, may be attended with unfavorable consequences; and perhaps it were better those powers had never been deputed, than that they should not be exercised when necessary—as the community will be proportionably disappointed, in not realizing those advantages, to obtain which they have expressly delegated the beforementioned authorities, and those defects which result from the administration, will be supposed to exist in the principles of the system.—The first impressions are commonly the most pervious and lasting, and if timidity should characterise the early proceedings of the national government, it will be difficult to determine, at what future period the proper energy and necessary decision, appertaining to all good governments, will commence, and it would evidently bespeak a diffidence in our rulers of the rectitude and propriety of that institution, which we have looked to as our ark of safety; tenacious of the opportunity; faction would be likely again to rear its hydra head, and once more hope for a riotous display of its power. These are among the many evils which might arise to destroy our promised happiness at home—but here they do not end.—Will not our boasted hope of respectability and importance, with the rest of the world, vanish? and will not foreign nations be yet fearful of entering into any negociations with us; necessarily distrusting our responsibility, while they find us incompetent to our internal government? A wish to disclose the evils which must result from an inefficient administration—rather than the expectation of seeing them realized, has led to the foregoing observations. AMERICANUS.

*(To be continued.)*

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*EXTRACT FROM "AMERICAN ESSAYS."*

On COMMERCE.——[*Continuation.*]

AN extensive and flourishing Commerce, will also, sooner or later, beget *colonization*, and therefore naturally induces some observations on that subject, in which, from its intimate and important connection with commerce, the United States cannot but consider themselves deeply interested.

*The Colonies* of several of the now flourishing European kingdoms, may be fairly allowed at this day, to be the almost sole support of their commerce, and the most certain, and most fruitful, if not the only source, of their riches and strength: Some of them are so largely indebted to their foreign dominions, for their present power, riches, and consequence, that no other satisfactory cause, or reason, can be assigned, or conceived, why they have not long ere now, become the most insignificant provinces of their more powerful neighbours. The whole amount of the customs in England, even so late as in the beginning of the reign of Elizabeth, did not exceed the sum of 40,000l. *per annum*, sterling—Germany, France, Spain, and Portugal, supplied the English with every luxury, and with almost every necessary manufacture; and the Venetians and Genoese, with East-India goods, at an immense price; the legal interest of money was 10 *per cent.*—and when compared with some other European States, whom they now hold in contempt, the English may be said, with respect to many improvements, to have been at that era, in a state of infancy or barbarity; but as soon as they became sensible of the importance of Colonies, and wisely turned their attention to establish and encourage them, they began, from that period, to emerge from obscurity, and rapidly to increase in riches and power, till they rivalled every nation on the globe, in maritime strength, extent of commerce, and variety and perfection of manufactures; and *London* is now justly considered, *the world's great mart*; and though some of the British Colonies owe their origin to the folly, or frenzy, and were peopled against the will of the mother country, yet they were no sooner established, than they became a constant source of her riches, and increase of power: If it should be asked, why the English have so soon rivalled those nations, who were not only possessed of, but greatly enriched by their Colonies, before those of the British were planted; I answer—that one probable, and perhaps principal cause, that may be assigned, appears to me to be the prevailing religion of that country, which circumstance alone, indisputably gives them many temporal advantages over those countries professing the Roman Catholic religion, where religious duties engross a larger share of the people's time: it has even been observed, by the liberal professors of that religion, that frequent avocations, and *holy-days*, naturally lead to idle habits, and an aversion to labour, very perceptible in all Roman Catholic countries. In some of the Cantons of Switzerland, nature has been rather sparing of her favors to the soil; yet where the inhabitants are principally Calvinists, it has been observed, that trade, agriculture, and manufactures, flourish much more than in those that are chiefly inhabited by Roman Catholics, even where nature *has been far more bountiful.*—Various are the chronological accounts of ancient times and nations; and though it is here of no great importance to be very accurate with respect to dates, yet it may be fairly allowed, that nine hundred years at least have rolled away, since Scotland was united under one Monarch; which long period had produced no material commercial improvements, or increase of wealth, or power, in that country, till a few years since, not far exceeding half a century, when the Scotch wisely began to profit of their union with England, by a participation in the commerce with the British Colonies: From this memorable epoch, the increase of their trade and manufactures has been so astonishingly great and rapid, that they are now become of vast importance to the commercial world, and have excited such a national spirit of agricultural improvements, that vast tracts of barren country, which for time immemorial had remained totally useless, being deemed incapable of cultivation, have, by the help of art, industry, and increase of wealth, *the fruits of commerce*, been transformed into fruitful fields; and where,

> "Far as the eye could reach, no tree was seen;
> "Earth, clad in russet, scorn'd the lively green."

Villa's, and villages, and Groves, are spread; and rosy health, and jocund plenty reign, where meagre famine, for ages, held her solitary court, and seemed to claim a natural and exclusive right.

E. C.

*(To be continued.)*

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*SCANDAL——FROM HAYLEY.*

SCANDAL, a restless fiend, who never know,
The balmy blessing of an hour's repose,
Worn, yet unfated with her daily toil,
In her base work consumes the midnight oil.
O'er fiercer fiends when heavy slumbers creep,
When wearied avarice and ambition sleep,
Scandal is vigilant, and keen to spread
The plagues that spring from her prolific head.
On Truth's fair basis she her falsehood builds,
With tinsel sentiment its surface gilds;
To nightly labour from their dark abodes
The demons of the groaning press she goads,
And smiles to see their rapid art supply
Ten thousand wings to every infant lie.

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*SKETCH of PROCEEDINGS of CONGRESS.*

*In the* HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES *of the* UNITED STATES.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 1789.

AGREEABLY to the order of the day, the House went into a committee of the whole on the tonnage bill.

It was moved by Mr. THATCHER, that the enacting clause, "The Congress of the United States" should be struck out—and "The Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled" substituted.—This motion after some discussion was lost.

A message was received from the Senate, informing, that they had appointed a committee to join with a committee of the House, to determine and report a mode of receiving messages from THE PRESIDENT.

A motion was made to insert in the Tonnage Bill a clause, by which all vessels, not built in the United States, which may become the property of the citizens thereof, shall be subject to an impost of 50 cents:—This passed in the affirmative.

A motion was made to limit the duration of this bill, which was debated and finally lost.

A clause was added, providing for its commencement the 15th of June, next.

Mr. FITZSIMONS, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill for the *collection* of the Revenue, reported a draught, which was read for the first time. *Adjourned.*

THURSDAY, May 28.

Mr. SCOTT moved, that the House now resolve itself into a committee of the whole on the state of the Union—to take into consideration the subject of the Land Office—when, he observed, he should submit certain resolutions to the consideration of the committee.

Several members observing that this motion would interfere with the Order of the day, and might, in its discussion, supercede other important business immediately before the House—the Order of the day was called for, and taken up, by reading the Tonnage Bill, with the several amendments and alterations agreed to in committee; these alterations were adopted by the House, and the bill ordered to be engrossed, for a third reading.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the motion of Mr. Scott.

Mr. SCOTT observed, that the state of the Federal Treasury was such, as made it necessary, that something should speedily be done with respect to disposing of the Western Territory: The state of a certain contract for a very large sale, through the incompleteness of the surveys, and other causes, by which payment had been delayed of a million of dollars into the public chest, while the interest on so much of the debt was accumulating, was another reason for some immediate steps being taken with regard to that property.—It was rendered necessary by the nature of the plans which had been adopted in the sales heretofore made—Those lands had been disposed of in too large quantities—to the greatly impeding their settlement:—This had operated to discourage great numbers who had moved off, towards the Western Waters—Upwards of 7000 souls, except relieved by some favorable regulations, which should prevent the engrossing such immense tracts by individuals, would shortly be lost to the United States—They will either throw themselves into the Spanish government, and become their subjects—or they will combine, and give themselves possession of that territory (which they are now willing to purchase) and defend themselves in it against the power of the union.

Mr. SCOTT further informed the House, that overtures had been made to these people by other powers, to his certain knowledge, and great encouragement promised, provided they would put themselves under their jurisdiction: This, he conceived, would be a very unhappy circumstance for the United States: Such enemies in the heart of our country, would be more dangerous than any foreign power:—All these embarrasments and difficulties arise from their not being able to purchase lands in small quantities: It never could be the intention of Congress, that this should be the case: Million-acre purchasers are but few—and the present mode, if adhered to, will be attended with fatal consequences: Congress now has it in their power to obviate every difficulty: These people ask their protection: They will, if protected and encouraged, be obedient and loyal subjects—they wish for a Constitution, Laws, and Government; but if neglected, they will be lost to the States.—These things plainly point out the necessity of a new arrangement, and of establishing a Land Office in that country—for it will be impossible for the people in those remote regions to travel a great distance to transact their business.

Mr. SCOTT then read a resolution to this effect, That it is the sense of this committee that an act of Congress ought to pass, establishing and regulating a LAND OFFICE, for the sale of vacant and unappropriated lands in the Western Territory, This was followed by several others, exhibiting the outlines of a Bill for the purpose.

Mr. BOUDINOT objected to the resolve, so far as it confined the idea to the institution of a Land-Office—he moved therefore, that the words "Land-Office" be struck out—that the committee might take up the business upon the most extensive scale:—He observed, that limiting them to this simple idea, might interfere with former arrangements, which it would be extremely difficult to alter;—the establishment also of such an office, may be rendered entirely superfluous, in as much as the conducting of this business, might with the utmost propriety come under the cognizance of one of the three great departments, already established.

Mr. VINING supported the idea of a Land-Office; and adverting to the observations which had fallen from Mr. Scott, said, that it appeared to him, that the exigencies of the case were such as would admit of no delay: That such an institution was highly necessary—and the only one that held out a prospect of seasonable and adequate relief.

Mr. CLYMER observed, that the subject before the committee was very intricate and extensive—that it would require a very elaborate discussion to form a competent system—much more so, than the committee was then prepared to investigate—He queried the propriety of taking measures to dispose of the lands in small quantities, as it would interfere with the sales already made under the ordinances of Congress.—He moved, therefore, that the committee should rise.—The motion for rising was seconded.

Mr. MADISON observed, that he was not opposed to the rising of the committee, but rather in favor of it, that time might be given to obtain more accurate information; but as Mr. Scott had given the committee very important intelligence, which no doubt respected facts, and of a very serious import, he suggested the propriety of paying the earliest attention to the business.

The committee then rose—and the Speaker resumed the chair.