

Gazette of the United States.

[No. LV.]

W E D N E S D A Y, OCTOBER 21, 1789.

[Published on Wednesday and Saturday.]

PLAN Of the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES.

(A NATIONAL PAPER.)

Published at the SEAT of the NATIONAL GOVERNMENT,
CONTAINING;

I. EARLY and authentic Accounts of the PROCEEDINGS of CONGRESS—its LAWS, ACTS, and RESOLUTIONS, communicated so as to form an HISTORY of the TRANSACTIONS of the NATIONAL LEGISLATURE.

II. IMPARTIAL SKETCHES of the DEBATES of CONGRESS.

III. ESSAYS on the great Subjects of Government; also upon the national and local Rights of the AMERICAN CITIZENS, as founded upon the National or State Constitutions; also upon every other Subject, which may appear suitable for newspaper discussion.

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X. The STATE of the FUNDS—Courses of Exchange—Prices Current, &c.

CONDITIONS.

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The price to Subscribers (exclusive of postage) THREE DOLLARS pr. annum.

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Will be received in all the capital towns upon the Continent; also at No. 9, Maiden-Lane, near the Oldway-Market, New-York.

To the PUBLIC.

AT this important Crisis, the ideas that fill the mind, are pregnant with Events of the greatest magnitude—to strengthen and complete the UNION of the States—to extend and protect their COMMERCE, under equal Treaties yet to be formed—to explore and arrange the NATIONAL FUNDS—to restore and establish the PUBLIC CREDIT—and ALL under the auspices of an untried System of Government, will require the ENERGIES of the Patriots and Sages of our Country—Hence the propriety of encreasing the Mediums of Knowledge and Information.

AMERICA, from this period, begins a new Era in her national existence—“THE WORLD IS ALL BEFORE HER”—The wisdom and folly—the misery and prosperity of the EMPIRES, STATES, and KINGDOMS, which have had their day upon the great Theatre of Time, and are now no more, suggest the most important Mementos—These, with the rapid series of Events, in which our own Country has been so deeply interested, have taught the enlightened Citizens of the United States, that FREEDOM and GOVERNMENT—LIBERTY and LAWS, are inseparable.

This Conviction has led to the adoption of the New Constitution; for however, VARIOUS the Sentiments, respecting the MERITS of this System, all GOOD MEN are agreed in the necessity that exists, of an EFFICIENT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

A paper, therefore, established upon NATIONAL, INDEPENDENT, and IMPARTIAL PRINCIPLES—which shall take up the premised Articles, upon a COMPETENT PLAN, it is presumed, will be highly interesting, and meet with public approbation and patronage.

The Editor of this Publication is determined to leave no avenue of information unexplored:—He solicits the assistance of Persons of leisure and abilities—which, united with his own assiduity, he flatters himself will render the Gazette of the United States not unworthy general encouragement—and is, with due respect, the public's humble servant,
THE EDITOR.

POSTSCRIPT.

SIX Months have now elapsed since this paper was ushered into existence—how far the spirit of the plan has been exhibited, and adhered to, is not for the Editor to say.—A generous and candid public has awarded its approbation, by a subscription which is said to be more extensive than usual on similar occasions.—An acknowledgement of the favor is therefore due from the publisher.—The expense attending an undertaking of this kind is always great: in the present instance, it has not been counterbalanced by any of the customary receipts on account of advertisements—the object being an extensive circulation, the Editor conceiving that their insertion would have counteracted that part of his plan, has never admitted any. This consideration if it was necessary to be suggested, would point out the importance of punctuality on the part of the subscribers—it appears to have been very generally attended to, as the payments have been unusually prompt.

It is necessary to observe that the number of names which have honored the subscription, is not sufficient to defray the expense of the publication, and to afford the Editor a competent support, on a subscription that the whole should be collected.—Additional subscriptions are therefore solicited; and when it is considered, that the paper is new in its construction; contains intelligence of the most interesting nature; abounds with more originality than any other periodical publication; and, viewed as a miscellany, is cheaper than any magazine, register, &c. it can not be doubted but that it will receive an adequate patronage.

In the present number, the publication of the Journals of the Senate is commenced. As there is no gallery in the Senate Chamber, all that can be known of the proceedings of that Most Honorable branch of the National Legislature, is from their Journals; in this view of the subject, it is supposed they will be interesting to the public. The price of the Laws and the Journals of the two Houses only, which will be given in the course of one year, amounts to more than the subscription.

The Editor is determined to prosecute the publication, upon its original principles: He hopes to make it more interesting, by the communications of his ingenious correspondents: He solicits the aid of every friend to science, freedom and government: And such speculations as bear a friendly aspect to the peace, honor and prosperity of our rising nation, will be received with gratitude: by the public's humble servant
JOHN FENNO.

NEW-YORK, October 14, 1789.

THE TABLET.—No. LV.

“When human creatures once submit to government, and are used to live under the restraint of laws, it is incredible how many useful cautions and self-denials they will learn to practise by experience and imitation.”

THERE prevails an opinion, even among sensible politicians, that men are only obedient to government from compulsion. If fear of punishment, say they, is removed, there will no longer be any obedience to the laws. Whether this consequence would follow to such a degree, that, upon the removal of penal laws, government would be dissolved, need not be brought into discussion. Certain however it is, that many useful, virtuous citizens pass through life, without ever feeling any emotions of such a fear. Their obedience therefore is to be ascribed to other causes. Perhaps habit constitutes the most powerful one. Men are accustomed to perform duties without a repetition of the motives which first stimulated them; and they learn to sustain burdens and sacrifices without opposition or complaint. Obedience resulting from such causes has a preference over that, which is produced by penalties. It costs the government less, and is a demonstration that the people love and regard the laws.

In a well regulated community it will be found that the orderly conduct of the citizens becomes a matter of general consent. It is understood and expected among the inhabitants that certain rules of decorum with respect to behaviour, and a steady, peaceable observance of the laws should be deemed requisite in obtaining weight and popularity of character. When a government has been long established, such regulations will introduce themselves as a matter of course, and will contribute to relieve the magistrate from many painful acts of duty. But in the first organization of government, the friends of good order and virtue should discover a peculiar degree of care and vigilance. Otherwise the people will early form habits of disobedience to the laws, and disrespect for the magistrates. I have before discussed points something like these, in the 13th and 14th numbers of my speculations, which were principally confined to the subject of smuggling. In those essays I dwelt largely upon the advantage of associations, and pointed out how far they would prove efficacious in giving the revenue laws a favorable introduction.

I am inclined to imagine that the people are now so opposed to the fraudulent practice of smuggling, that few individuals will dare risque the attempt. Indeed I should feel a strong degree of security that the revenue would be honestly collected, were not the ports of entry so numerous and scattered as to increase the temptation to the practice, by lessening the difficulty and hazard. Those persons who live in the vicinity of the little ports will do well to reflect that they hold their advantages only in a state of probation. If they discover an honest indignation against every attempt to defraud the revenue, and give equal demonstrations of integrity with the inhabitants of larger ports, it is not improbable they may be long indulged with the present accommodating arrangements. These people would likewise do well to reflect that, it was with difficulty, Congress were prevailed on to consent to the establishment of such various ports of entry, as it was predicted that the product of the revenue would be endangered by the indulgence. If therefore the anticipations of those members, who objected to the plan, should prove true, it will no doubt induce Congress to make alterations in the system less adapted to the general convenience of the citizens. In whatever light the subject is viewed, there results the strongest arguments in favor of watching carefully over the revenue, that it may prove so productive as not to defeat the purpose of the present lenient regulations.

The inhabitants of populous towns are more readily formed into habits of punctuality and honor, than those in smaller places, where credit and character are less essential to prosperity. It therefore happens, that the mean, dishonorable practice of smuggling finds more countenance in small than large ports. But the inhabitants in general, who derive no benefit from the illicit gains, should contemplate well the inconvenience to which they will be exposed, by acquiescing in so pernicious and disgraceful a practice. It promotes the interests of a few unworthy individuals at the expense of the honest, industrious part of the community. For, if the government finds the sources of the revenue, already in operation, inadequate to the public expenditure, new channels of supply must be opened. The people, by conniving at frauds in the collection of the im-

posts, are giving themselves no relief, but are in fact encreasing their own burdens.

Some men have such a false taste in morals as to feel no remorse at practising knavery against the government. There is a seducing kind of fallacy in this idea. The reason it is not generally exploded, and public knaves treated with the same contempt and abhorrence as private, proceeds from the injury not being so striking and apparent. Men do not so readily discern the inconvenience as to complain of the injustice. All kinds of knavery however are a public dishonor and detriment; and all good men should make a common cause in preventing and punishing it in all shapes and degrees.

In the present state of our government, we cannot depend on the penal force of the laws alone. Virtuous citizens should have an understanding with each other, and make it a point of honor and ambition to establish a fair collection of the revenue.

When a just and honorable practice has been a few months or years observed, men will annex ideas of infamy to every act of fraud committed against the public treasury. The prosperity of society depends more than is usually imagined on the honest habits of the people. There is such a connection between different virtues that when one prevails it cherishes and promotes many others. Honesty will prove favorable to economy; and by paying punctually what is demanded, there is less reason to expect an accumulation of demands. Virtuous and discerning men must therefore rejoice to find a spirit of honor and punctuality existing in all transactions relative to the public treasury. Nothing will more effectually contribute to this object, than good examples and a general sentiment of disapprobation against every species of fraud or collusion that is discovered.

LETTERS,

Written in Holland, in the Year M,DCC,LXXX,

By His Excellency

THE VICE-PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES.

LETTER III.

AMSTERDAM, OCT. 6, 1780.

SIR,

YOUR third proposition is “to show that America, notwithstanding the war, daily increases in strength and force.”

It is an undoubted fact, that America daily increases in strength and force; but it may not be so easy to prove this to the satisfaction of an European, who has never been across the Atlantic; however, some things may be brought into consideration, which may convince if properly attended to.

1. It may be argued from experience of former wars, during all which, the population of that country was so far from being diminished, or even kept at a stand, that it was always found, at the end of a war, that the numbers of people had increased, during the course of it, nearly in the same ratio as in time of peace. Even in the last French war, which lasted from 1755 to 1763 (during which time the American colonies made as great exertions, had in the field as great a number of men, and put themselves to as great an expense, in proportion to the numbers of people, as the United States have done during this war) it was found that the population had increased nearly as fast as in times of peace.

2. If you make enquiry into the circumstances of the different parts of America, at this day, you find all the States pushing their settlements out into the wilderness, upon the frontiers, cutting down the woods, and subduing new lands, with as much eagerness and rapidity as they used to do in former times of war or peace. This spreading of the people, into the wilderness, is a decisive proof of the increasing population.

3. The only certain way of determining the ratio of the increase of population, is by authentic numerations of the people, and regular official returns. This has, I believe, never been done generally in former wars, and has been generally omitted in this. Yet some States have made these returns: The Massachusetts Bay, for example, had a valuation about the year 1773 or 1774, and again the last year, 1779, they had another. In this period of 5 years, that State was found to have increased, both in number of people and value of property, more than it had ever grown before in the same period of time. Now the Massachusetts Bay had a greater number of men employed in the war, both by land and sea, in proportion to the number of her inhabitants, than any other State in the thirteen. She has had more men killed, taken prisoners, and died of sickness, than any other State; yet her growth has been as rapid as ever: From whence it may be fairly argued, that all the other States have grown in the same or a greater proportion.