ry defect, and we always have the power of impeachment in our hands; but as it is a doubtful clause, as observed by the gentleman from Connecticut, we ought not to meddle with it: this is a bad sentiment in no question; the great division of the committee proves it is a doubtful question! We then are the disinterested branch: the president and senate are the parties: It rests with us to decide: the senate will receive with pleasure our decision on this question: we are fellow-labourers: we are all trying to raise a noble structure upon the same foundation. I do not wish we should leave this question. I wish this bill may go up with our full determination—the senate will receive it with candour. The judiciary is the constitutional judge of our laws, and they will decide upon this, and I think they will consider themselves obliged by our decision. It would be a criminal pusillanimity to retreat from this decision.

Mr. Sylvester—In yesterday's debate, Sir, we had the sublime, the marvellous and the pathetic—monsters with heads, and monsters without heads. It has been said, that we have no right to give a construction of the constitution; if to decide this question is contrary to the constitution, and can be made to appear so, I shall be against it; but if it is doubtful, it is our duty to give an opinion: if there is nothing contrary to the constitution, the question is, how we shall decide.

By virtue of the constitution the executive power is vested in the president—the constitution is explicit as to appointments, and by that the power of the president is eclipsed—We have a right to create such officers by the constitution—If we have this right, we certainly have a right to modify the laws for their removal; and have a right consequently to delegate that power, and where can it be deposited with greater security? But it is said that the senate must concur in the removal—this is matter of opinion as to the expediency of the power residing in the president; it is to be considered, that this is an high officer; it may be necessary for an immediate discharge, but in order to an impeachment, the vote of this house must be obtained; this would require time, and if officers are not to be removed but by impeachment, they have an inheritance in their office.

The present is the time for us to decide this important question; we are free and unbiassed; any errors may be rectified by the judges; that the president should have the power to appoint, and not to displace, would, in my opinion, defeat his power to carry the constitution, so far as lays with him, into operation.

ALBANY, *July* 20.

A GENTLEMAN from Coeyman's (12 miles below this city) informs us, that Mr. Abraham Springstead, of that place, lately died there of the HYDROPHOBIA. He adds, that it is generally believed, Mr. Springstead became infected with the said disorder by skinning a cow, in April last, which had become mad, and was shot to prevent any accident which might otherwise happen—That on the 3d instant, upwards of three months from the time he became infected, he was taken with a pain in one of his hands and arms, which increasing, the day following his whole frame was affected—his senses gradually became disordered, till he was seized with fits of ravings and madness, which generally lasted for the space of about a minute, but often returned. In this state he continued until Monday, between one and two o'clock in the afternoon, when, having disengaged himself from the cords with which he had been tied, he went out of the house about ten or fifteen paces, where he fell down and expired immediately.—During his illness, he often complained of being very thirsty, but could not bear even the sight of water.—He has left a wife and two children to lament his untimely end.

NEW-YORK, *July* 27.

Extract of a letter from Lancaster, in Pennsylvania, dated the 19th instant.

"We have a most plentiful harvest this year, and very fine weather for it. I have but eleven and an half acres of ground, and have cut ten tun of good clover hay, and reaped upwards of 200 dozen of excellent sheaves of wheat, which at least will produce 150 bushels when thrashed;—and so it is throughout our neighbourhood."

From Gloucester county in New-Jersey, we learn that the crops appear favourable this season.—Spring rye sowed late in April produced in that county 45 shocks (13 sheaves to a shock) on two acres. This is nearly twenty bushels per acre.

Extract of a letter from a correspondent, dated Seneca, South-Carolina, June 4, 1789.

"About three days ago, three men were killed and scalped by the Creeks, at a place called the Mulberry, on the frontiers of Georgia: it is also reported here, that a large number of Creeks are on their way for Tugalu, in consequence of which guards are posted there, in order to protect the inhabitants. Yesterday I heard that 400 were seen on their march towards that place: God only knows what the event will be."

PHILADELPHIA, *July* 28.

Extract of a letter from Northumberland county, dated July 2.

"The people of the Genasee and Niagara country are crouding in upon us every day, owing to the great scarcity of provisions: the most of them who have gone there lately, are starving to death; and it is shocking to humanity to hear of the number of families that are dying daily for want of sustenance. Since I wrote the above, I have heard from the Genasee and Niagara country, that the scarcity of provisions has increased since the last accounts so much, that flour was sold for 4l. 10s. per hundred; and it is a fact, that a cow valued at 7l. 10s. was given by a man for a bushel of rye, to keep a wife and children from the jaws of death. The wild roots and herbs that the country affords, boiled, and without salt, constitute the whole food of most of the unhappy people who have been decoyed there through the flattering accounts of the quality of the lands. You have my permission to publish this, in order to deter others from going; and it is thought, that unless they get supplies from this and the neighbouring counties, they will be compelled to quit that place, as the crops have universally failed. Several boat-loads of flour that were carried from here, have been seized by force by the people."

From the Virginia Independent Chronicle, &c.
[*Published by authority.*]

The public are advertised, that the French packet-boats, which had been suspended by order of government, are lately re-established—and that from the 15th of March, 1789, a packet-boat will sail from the port of Bourdeaux, the 15th March, 15th May, 15th July, 15th September, 15th November, and 15th January, in every year, which will take charge of the letters and packets intended to be sent to the United States of America. These vessels will arrive alternately at New-York and at Norfolk, where they will deposit the mails they bring, and take those intended for France, which they will convey directly to Bourdeaux.

On their departure from France, there will be made out two lists, the one addressed to the director of the French posts at New-York, comprehending all the letters directed to the states of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware; the other addressed to the vice-consul of France in Virginia, containing the letters for Maryland, Virginia, North and South-Carolina, and Georgia.

The superintendance of the packet-boats at Norfolk being confided to Mr. Oster, vice-consul of his most christian majesty, letters for France, England, Germany, Holland, &c. &c. will be received at his office, on payment of the postage to Bourdeaux.

N. B. All letters sent by land, which are not franked, will remain in the post-office.

ANNAPOLIS, August 6.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES.

WEDNESDAY, *July* 22.

The house went into a committee on the resolution respecting the western territory, and having gone through it, ordered that a committee be appointed to bring in a bill in pursuance of the same.—Committee, Mr. Scott, Mr. Sylvester and Mr. Moore.

Mr. Carroll moved, that the house now take up the report of the committee on the subject of the enrollment, attestation, publication and preservation, of the acts of congress.

This was however postponed, on Mr. Vining giving notice that this day he should move for leave to bring in a bill to establish a domestic department. This subject was connected with one immediately preceding, as this establishment would provide a proper repository for the public records of the legislature, and many objects of the report might be comprehended in this provision.

Mr. Vining moved a resolution, that the president of the United States be authorised and requested to provide a great and lesser seal, with proper devices, for the use of the United States.

After some conversation, in which it was observed, that such a provision respecting the great seal was needless and improper, as one already existed, and some doubts were expressed as to the necessity of a privy seal, it was agreed that the motion should lie on the table.

Mr. Benson moved a resolution, that a committee should be appointed to bring in a bill to prescribe the form of commissions to be granted to the officers of the United States.

Ordered to lie on the table.

THURSDAY, *July* 23.

The bill establishing the compensation to be made to the president, &c. was reported by the committee appointed for that purpose, and ordered to be engrossed.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the state of the union.

Mr. Vining moved his resolution respecting the establishment of a home department—comprehending and detailing a variety of domestic duties, which he said were not included and provided for in any establishment which had been already made.

The general principle of these resolutions met with earnest opposition from Mr. White, Mr. Sedgwick, Mr. Gerry and others. It was contended that such a department was unnecessary, because the functions to be executed in it would be properly distributed among the officers already created; that it was impolitic, because it was expensive, and because an increase of great officers would alarm the people. It was said that many of the duties proposed to be annexed to the office were unimportant in themselves; others might be performed by the chief magistrate; some might be executed by the minister of foreign affairs, and others again by the secretary of the senate, or the clerk of this house.

Mr. Vining replied at large to the arguments which were urged; and defended each clause of the resolution.

The question was at length taken on the first clause, which provided generally for the establishment of the department, and was negatived.

A motion was then made by Mr. Sedgwick, that a committee should be appointed to bring in a bill supplementary to the act establishing a department of foreign affairs, providing that the department should in future be denominated the department of state, and that certain domestic duties, which he enumerated, should be annexed to the department, such as the keeping the seals, making out commissions, and affixing to them the seal of the United States, &c.

This motion was negatived, and the committee rose without coming to a decision.———Adjourned.

FRIDAY, *July* 24.

Mr. Gerry, of the committee appointed for that purpose, brought in a bill to provide for the registering and clearing of vessels—for regulating their tunnage, and the coasting trade, which was read—voted, that 100 copies be printed for the house.

The engrossed bill for allowing compensations to the president and vice-president, for their respective services, was read a third time—this bill provides, that the vice-president shall, in case the powers and duties of the president devolve upon him, receive the compensation allowed to the president, and his allowance as vice-president is then to cease.

Upon motion, it was voted, that this bill be recommitted, and that the house will this day resolve itself into a committee of the whole for the purpose of taking the same into consideration.

The committee to whom was recommitted the bill to provide for the settlement of accounts between the United States and individual states, reported an amendment to said bill, which empowers the president of the United States to nominate and appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, proper persons to fill such vacancies as have taken place, or may happen, in the board of commissioners on accounts, appointed under the ordinance of the late congress, also authorising said board to appoint a chief clerk, and such other clerks as the service may require.

This amendment, after some debate, was adopted, and the bill ordered to be engrossed for a third reading on Monday next.

IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.
Mr. Boudinot in the chair.

The engrossed bill for allowing compensations to the president and vice-president was then read and amended, by more particularly specifying the time when the compensation shall commence, viz. "At the time when they shall enter on the duties of their respective stations."

The clause respecting the vice-president's receiving the compensation of president, in case the powers and duties of that office should devolve upon him, was voted to be struck out.

The committee then rose—and it was ordered that the bill lie on the table.

Upon motion of Mr. Fitzsimons the estimate of supplies for 1789 was read, and taken into consideration.

It was then moved, that a committee of ways and means be appointed, to which the said estimate was referred.

Upon motion, it was voted, that this committee consist of eleven—the ballots being collected, the following gentlemen were chosen, viz. Messrs. Livermore, Gerry, Wadsworth, Lawrence, Cadwalader, Fitzsimons, Vining, Smith (Maryland) Madison, Smith (S. C.) Jackson.———Adjourned.

Congress of the United States.

An ACT *for establishing an* EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, *to be denominated The Department of Foreign Affairs.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be an executive department, to be denominated The Department of Foreign Affairs, and that there shall be a principal officer therein, to be called The Secretary for the Department of Foreign Affairs, who shall perform and execute such duties as shall, from time to time, be enjoined on or intrusted to him by the president of the United States, agreeably to the constitution, relative to correspondences, commissions, or instructions, to or with public ministers or consuls, from the United States, or to negotiations with public ministers from foreign states or princes, or to memorials or other applications from foreign public ministers, or other foreigners, or to such other matters respecting foreign affairs, as the president of the United States shall assign to the said department: And furthermore, that the said principal officer shall conduct the business of the said department in such a manner as the president of the United States shall, from time to time, order or instruct.

And be it further enacted, That there shall be, in the said department, an inferior officer, to be appointed by the said principal officer, and to be employed therein as he shall deem proper, and to be called The Chief Clerk in the Department of Foreign Affairs, and who, whenever the said principal officer shall be removed from office by the president of the United States, or in any other case of vacancy, shall, during such vacancy, have the charge and custody of all records, books and papers, appertaining to the said department.

And be it further enacted, That the said principal officer, and every other person to be appointed or employed in the said department, shall, before he enters on the execution of his office or employment, take an oath or affirmation, well and faithfully to execute the trust committed to him.

And be it further enacted, That the secretary for the department of foreign affairs, to be appointed in consequence of this act, shall forthwith after his appointment be entitled to have the custody and charge of all records, books and papers, in the office of secretary for the department of foreign affairs, heretofore established by the United States in Congress assembled.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS MUHLENBERG, *Speaker of the house of representatives.*

JOHN ADAMS, *Vice-president of the United States, and president of the senate.*

Approved—July 27, 1789.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES.