the means whereby the United States were able to discharge their debts, and he thought the means were now within their power. Several branches of revenue have not been touched upon by the secretary. He alleged, that his colleague's reasons were contrary to the opinion and practice of the world. The legislature cannot act contrary to justice. Congress, when they granted these certificates, had a retrospect to every circumstance; they were granted long after the war. How is it possible to make any discrimination? The present constitution has no power to modify: We may attempt, but the consent of the parties must first be obtained. In England, the flourishing state of their commerce did not depend so much upon any support, as a paper credit, &c. He concluded by repeating his respect toward his colleagues; but observed, that they must differ in some things, for he would vote against the amendment.

The letter and memorial of Robert Morris was read a second time, and referred to Mr. Madison, Mr. Sedgwick, and Mr. Sherman; and was ordered to be entered at large on the journals of the house.—The following is a copy thereof:—

SIR,

I TAKE the liberty to trouble you with the enclosed memorial, and must pray you to lay it before the house of representatives. The request which is therein made, will be found so consonant with justice, that I cannot doubt of its being granted. Permit me, through you, Sir, to make another, which is, that the said memorial may be entered at large on the journals of the house. I have the honour to be, with great respect and esteem, Sir, your obedient humble servant,

ROBERT MORRIS.

New-York, February 8. 1790.

To the honourable the Speaker of the house of representatives of the United States.

To the PRESIDENT, the SENATE, and HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA.

The memorial of ROBERT MORRIS, late superintendent of the finances of the said United States,

Humbly sheweth,

THAT on the twentieth day of June, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-five, and subsequent to your memorialist's resignation of his office of superintendent, the congress passed a resolution in the words following: "Resolved, That three commissioners be appointed to inquire into the receipts and expenditures of public monies, during the administration of the late superintendent of finance, and to examine and adjust the accounts of the United States with that department, during his administration, and to report a state thereof to congress;" which resolution, to persons unacquainted with the nature of the office, and the mode of conducting the business of the department, gave occasion to the supposition, that your memorialist had accounts both difficult and important to settle with the United States, in respect to his official transactions. That though your memorialist foresaw the disagreeable consequences which might result to himself from the diffusion of such an opinion, he, notwithstanding, not only forebore any representation on the subject, but scrupulously avoided every species of interference direct or indirect, lest it should be imagined, either that he was actuated by the desire of obtaining from congress those marks of approbation, which had, in repeated instances, been bestowed on the servants of the public, or that he feared to meet the proposed investigation. Respect for the sovereignty of the United States, concurring with motives of delicacy, to forbid even the appearance of asking what, if merited, it was to be presumed, would be conferred (as being the proper reward of services, not of solicitation) and a firm confidence in the rectitude of his conduct, leaving your memorialist no inducement to evade any inquiry into it, which it might be thought fit to institute.

That your memorialist taking it for granted, that the reasons which has produced a determination to establish a mode of inquiry into the transactions of the most important office under the government, would have ensured a prosecution of the object till it had been carried into effect, long remained in silent expectation of the appointment of commissioners, according to the resolution which had been entered into for that purpose.—But it has so happened, from what cause your memorialist will not undertake to explain, that no further steps have ever been taken in regard to it; and your memorialist has remained exposed to the surmises which the appearance of an intention to inquire into his conduct had a tendency to excite, without having been afforded an opportunity of obviating them. That the unsettled condition of certain accounts of a commercial nature, between the United States and the late house of Willing, Morris, and Company, and your memorialist, prior to his appointment as superintendent of the finances, having been confounded with his transactions in that capacity, your memorialist has, in various ways, been subjected to injurious imputations on his official conduct, the only fruits of services which, at the time they were tendered, he trusts he may, without incurring the charge of presumption, affirm, were generally esteemed both important and meritorious, and were, at least, rendered with ardour and zeal, with unremitted attention, and unwearied application.

That your memorialist, desirous of rescuing his reputation from the aspersions thrown upon it, came, in the month of October, 1788, to the city of New-York, as well for the purpose of urging the appointment of commissioners to inspect his official transactions, as for that of procuring an adjustment of the accounts which existed previous to his administration.—But the first object was frustrated by the want of a sufficient number of members to make a congress, and the last was unavoidably delayed by the preliminary investigations requisite on the part of the commissioner named by the late board of treasury, towards a competent knowledge of the business. That in the month of February, 1789, your memorialist returned to New-York, for the same purposes; but the obstacles which he had before experienced, still operated to put it out of his power to [illegible] memorial which had been prepared by him in October, praying for an appointment of commissioners. That he was therefore obliged to confine himself to measures for the settlement of his accounts respecting the transactions antecedent to his appointment as superintendent, which he entered upon accordingly with the commissioner appointed by the board of treasury; and in which as much progress as time and circumstances would permit, was made, until the fourth of March last, when that commissioner, conceiving his authority, by the organization of the new government, to have ceased, declined further proceedings, and, of course, your memorialist was obliged to wait the establishment of the new treasury department, for the further prosecution of that settlement, which has been accordingly resumed, and he hopes will speedily be accomplished. But, inasmuch as no mode of inquiry into his official conduct has hitherto been put into operation, and as doubts of its propriety have been raised by an act of the government, your memorialist conceives himself to have a claim upon the public justice for some method of vindicating himself, which will be unequivocal and definitive. Wherefore, and encouraged by a consciousness of the integrity of his administration, your memorialist is desirous that a strict examination should be had into his conduct while in office, in order that, if he has been guilty of maladministration, it may be detected and punished; if otherwise, that his innocence may be manifested and acknowledged. Unwilling, from this motive, that longer delay should attend the object of the resolution which has been recited, your memorialist humbly prays that an appointment of commissioners may take place, to carry the said resolution into effect. And your memorialist, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

ROBERT MORRIS.

New-York, February 8, 1790.

LONDON, *December 3.*

THE affairs of Europe never wore so singular and even whimsical an aspect as at present:

The head of the house of Austria oppressing the catholic church; and the catholic church offering the riches of the Sacred Temples at the shrine of liberty! The patriots of Holland refugees in Brabant, and the patriots of Brabant refugees in Holland! Prussia the restraint of Dutch, and the hope of Flemish freedom! The great protestant alliance of England, Prussia, and Holland, considered as the shield of the most zealous catholics in the world.

The campaign is now entirely finished in the north. The Swedish fleet is returned to Charlscroon, and the Russian to Revel. The troops too, of both the powers, in Finland, are put into winter quarters.

A very extraordinary circumstance occurred on Wednesday night; at the entrance of Covent-Garden theatre. A gentleman, who made an unsuccessful attempt to gain admission, was returning home, and on putting his hand into his pocket for his handkerchief, discovered a purse with eight guineas and some silver. This must have happened through the mistake of one of the light fingered gentry, who, in the pressure of the crowd, mistook the gentleman's pocket for his own.

STOCKBRIDGE, (N. E.) *February 9.*

From our correspondents at New-York, February 2.

"Since I wrote you last, I have seen Mr. Ellicott, the geographer of the United States, who is lately returned from his survey of the western boundary of the cessions of New York and Massachusetts. To effect the business he was obliged to go into the British territory. There are some facts ascertained by him, which are interesting to the people of America, and I therefore communicate them. He says, it is evident that the intention of the British is manifest not at present to relinquish the post which they hold within the United States. This, I presume, will not be a foundation for war, for that nation will not, in my opinion, be so frantic as to attempt to put their possessions in America on the event of a war with this country. At present our government is unsettled, and whether it will furnish duration or the contrary, will depend on the result of the present session of congress. Should the measures adopted be such as are directed by wisdom and sound policy, prudence will dictate to the minister of Great-Britain the necessity of abandoning her stations within the limits of this government.

"Mr. Ellicott relates another fact, for which I do not feel any pain. It is, that the settlers on the west side of the Lakes (a great proportion of whom are emigrants from the United States) experience every species of misery that can be conceived; that he was for many days incapable of procuring a single mouthful of meat or bread, and was obliged to subsist on potatoes alone.

"All letters from Rhode-Island, announce, that the adoption of the American constitution by that state has now become certain, and that all ideas of serious opposition are abandoned. Governor Collins has written the president a letter highly federal, which has been communicated to congress, the probable result of which will be a further indulgence to Rhode-Island, till the convention of that state may have time for deliberation.

"The advocates for a discrimination between the original holders and purchasers of public securities, will, I trust, be very few. In fact, every principle, if not of justice, of sound policy, is against it. The great question is, shall the debts of the individual states be assumed? This measure is so indispensable to the beneficial operations of the government, so essential to the welfare of the people, and so inseparable from the execution of justice, that, independent of it, I would never consent to any system of funding whatever.

"Two facts I have ascertained since I came here, in which the interests of the United States in general, and the eastern in particular, are interested—1st, That the coarse woollen and linen clothes which have this year been exported from Connecticut to the southern states have there a decided preference given to them, both on account of the quality and price, to European manufactures of the same kind—and 2dly, That the quantities exported have been considerable. It is however, true, that the want of great capitals in our dealers, will, in a considerable degree, balance what would be otherwise the natural effect of that preference."

Extract of a letter from Boston, to the printer of this paper dated January 31.

"Early on Saturday morning a young whale was discovered in Charlestown bay.—It appears that the night preceding, he by some means or other crowded under the bridge, and the tide ebbing, left him so far aground, that he could not return, though he several times attempted it. He is now ranging with great ferocity in Cambridge river, to the no small diversion of many. It is expected he will shortly be taken, as he has been twice struck with a harpoon, and there are no less than eight whale-boats at this moment in pursuit of him."

NEW-YORK, *February 15.*

Friday last, a party of the Oneida Indians arrived in this city, on a visit to their brothers, Washington, Clinton, and the great Fire of the United States.

Extract of a letter from Charleston (South-Carolina) dated January 26, 1790.

"On Thursday last, the sum of 450 dollars in specie, was sold at public auction, by Messrs. Marshall and Doggett, vendue-masters, at 4s. 10d. each, of the paper medium of this state. This circumstance is not only remarkable on account of its singularity, but is also demonstrative of the established credit of the paper currency of this state."

Extract of a letter from an American in London, December 2.

"The prohibition laid last year on the importation of American wheat, from an apprehension that the Hessian fly or weavel might be propagated from it in this country, has within a few days been taken off: it being now acknowledged that there were no grounds for such an opinion. They have been further induced to this measure from the prospect of a scarcity the ensuing spring."

PHILADELPHIA, *February 23.*

Extract of a letter from Sunbury, (Georgia) dated January 25, 1790.

"The Indians are at present tolerably quiet in respect to scalping and murdering the inhabitants westward. They do, however, frequently steal away young negroes from the plantations, for the purpose of planting corn in their settlements.—Small parties of them have several times been within a dozen miles of this town, but consider themselves perfectly safe as soon as they have crossed the Altamahaw with their plunder. It is the Creeks we are chiefly in dread of, and if a solid peace is not speedily concluded with them it will put these states at least ten years behind hand in their cultivation, improvements and peopling. Foreign settlers are continually arriving among us, but have imbibed such terrible ideas of the savages, that most of them soon remove into Carolina. Indeed, independent of the Indians, there are other circumstances sufficiently disagreeable to foreigners, particularly the unhealthiness of the new lands near the rivers, and the swarms of reptiles with which they abound, but which are, in general, more hideous to the eye than really dangerous.—We had a hearty laugh lately at a newly imported Irishman, who being out in the woods a gunning, mistook a grey squirrel for a rattle snake, and thought himself happy in making an escape.

"I wish I could say the Indians are the aggressors in every respect; mildness and civilization is not the characteristic of our frontier people, but rather a ferocity of disposition which was never exceeded by savages themselves. I am credibly informed that several Indians that have been killed last year, were hung up a small distance from the ground and left for dogs and wolves to devour.—Such conduct can only tend to irritate, and not a little impedes the approach of a pacification."

Extract of a letter from Savanna, January 28.

"A large ship has lately arrived in our river from Bourdeaux, in France, for a supply of masts and spars of the first dimensions. She has now proceeded for St. Mary's river, where she it to take in her load. If this species of export should succeed, it will be no small advantage to this state, as our forests may be almost called inexhaustible, and abounding with the best of pine for the purpose. St. Mary's river has an excellent bay of 23 feet at high water, and in the river itself no less than 18 feet for a great distance up the country; the landing places are numerous, and timber of every kind may be rafted down with very little expence or inconveniency; the lands are in general excellent, the climate, without dispute, the finest in the world; the air being pure and healthy and will probably ever continue so, unless the swamps should hereafter be overflowed for the sake of watering the rice fields in the summer season. I do not know a more eligible situation for your industrious northern men, who are scant of hands and have growing families."

Extract of a letter from Charleston, January 28.

"A more abundant crop of rice was never known in this state, than that of the present year. Indigo has not succeeded quite so well on account of an unusual frost, about the latter end of September last, as the