

rent paintings which were designed in celebration of the general peace, and were to have been shown on the evening of the 22d of January last, but prevented by an unfortunate accident; being revived by subscription, and executed by the ingenious Mr. Peale, were exhibited, and afforded great satisfaction to many thousands of spectators. It is, perhaps, needless here to enter into a description, as a particular account of them has been already published.

We are informed that Mr. Hallam purposes to deliver this evening a lecture upon heads, entirely new, in which he has cautiously guarded against every thing that might be deemed exceptionable.—The MONODY in honour of the officers who have nobly fallen in the cause of American liberty, will be accompanied with two emblematic pillars, rising from a base, and terminating in an urn from which issue transparent flames.—On the base of one is expressed, "Sacred to honour," and winding round the pillars appear the names of Warren, Montgomery, Mercer, &c.—On the base of the other is expressed—"Sacred to Union;" and winding round the pillar appear—"The United States, France, &c." The characters on the bases and winding round the pillars, will be made transparent, as well as the flames issuing from the urns, and the whole ornamented with variegated foliage.

Capt. Caldwell, in the brig Favourite, from London, on his passage the 13th ult. in lat. 44. long. 47. spoke with the ship Congress, captain Knox, from this port, bound to Londonderry, all well.

On Thursday last arrived here the ship Providence, captain French, from Cork, with 150 servants and passengers.

The brig Olive Branch, captain Davis, is arrived at Boston in 26 days from London.

The General Gates, capt. —, is arrived at Glasgow from Virginia, loaded with tobacco.

ANNAPOLIS, May 20.

On Tuesday last the jockey club purse of sixty guineas was won by Benjamin Ogle, Esquire's horse Badger; and the day following the subscription purse was won by Mr. Dennis Griffith's horse Gimcrack.

His most christian majesty's packet boat the Warwick, commanded by Monsieur de Siouville, arrived at New-York, on the third of this instant, after a passage of 76 days; the mail is left at the post office.

Don Diego Gardoque, has been lately appointed consul of Spain in the kingdom of Great-Britain. This is the gentleman who was long talked of as coming to America in quality of Plenipotentiary from his court to the United States.

Wyoming, March 24, 1784.

The late breaking up of the river Susquehanna, on the 15th instant, has been the most uncommon, and attended with the most extraordinary effects, beyond the memory of any man now living in this country. The uncommon severity of the cold in the winter, congealed the river to such an inconceivable thickness, and the vast depth of snow in the open ground and woods, together with the sudden thaw and rain, contributed to the late amazing inundation, and swell of the streams, the which upon the breaking up came down in huge bodies, even mountains of ice, which being wedged up in the straits and narrows, caused a most extraordinary swell above and below us in the day-time; and about eleven o'clock at night, all the waters, confined by the amazing bodies of ice, gave way in an instant, with the most alarming omens of destruction, devastation, and an entire depopulation of this country, and caused such an overflowing, as might fitly be termed a deluge of waters and ice, which covered the earth almost from mountain to mountain, to a most surprising breadth and depth, and the whole country became like the frozen seas of Greenland; the rushing in of the waters, and enormous loads of ice, were so sudden, rapacious, and unexpected, that few could make their escape, which threw the inhabitants into the utmost consternation, amazement, and anxiety of soul, for their preservation; such of them as could, fled to the mountains and hills in a most confused and hasty manner, before the flood had surrounded them; but O! alas for the greatest part of the inhabitants, their retreat was cut off, and nothing but immediate death and watery graves before their eyes, occasioned by the rapidity and unexpected rise of the waters which were all around them, ere they were aware of their danger; so that the distressed and almost despairing inhabitants had no other alternative, but to implore the interposition of Almighty God, for their deliverance and salvation; for they could make no escape, either on foot, by horse, or boat, and were therefore under the fatal necessity to abide the consequence of the awful catastrophe, be it what it might.

Such a night never was known here; O! the cries and shrieks of mothers and children, together with the hoarse groaning and bellowing, yea, every creature crying out with fear; while the peoples houses, and all their substance, were enveloped with mountains of ice, and a deluge of waters, all in motion and convulsion, sweeping all before them like a second Noah's flood. Some were in their houses, racking and tumbling in pieces around them; others in their houses and on the roofs, hurrying along the impetuous torrent; some in boats and canoes, wedged up and driving with the ice; some climbing and hanging on the limbs of trees, in utmost jeopardy; others on islands of ice, driving in hideous commotion. In short, keen despair brooded upon every brow; for all human assistance was denied the people, and nothing but immediate death appeared to be their portion. In this, in this important crisis, it pleased God to rebuke and stay the proud waters, in almost the twinkling of an eye; the whole body of ice stopped, and removed no more, which finally proved the salvation of many hundreds of the people; for had the waters and ice made a second movement, the people must have all perished; this great salvation, we trust, God was pleased to grant in answer to the prayers and cries of the distressed, otherwise, to all appearance, every soul must have perished, excepting those who had made their escape to the mountains in season. But O! who is able to delineate, to point out the horrors of that never to be forgotten night, or even realize them, though present, much less such as were absent, or believe one half when told them; God was pleased in the midst of wrath to remember mercy, for ever blessed be his name. We expected that the greatest part, if not

all, who had not made their escape in season, had perished; but to our great surprize and joy, there was but one person lost, who is since found dead; but the situation of hundreds was indeed tremendous. Some were taken from their houses all in ruins; numbers of families were taken from their houses, after being driven and hurried along the impetuous torrent, some one and others two miles, and their houses all broken in pieces; some from limbs of trees, others off islands of ice, and some the Lord knows how. Some were 24 and others 48 hours in the wrecks of houses (wedged up in the ice and water) before they could be relieved, and were almost perished. But to behold the desolation made; houses and effects mostly swept off and destroyed; cattle, hories, sheep and swine, mostly drowned; cloathing, household furniture, provisions, flax, farming utensils, and other necessaries of life, mostly driven down the torrent, and for ever lost; our fences all gone, our fields of winter grain and grass loaded with mountains of ice, from ten to thirty feet thick, which threaten the loss of our former harvest, it not even forbid the latter. Upon the whole, at a moderate computation, there are not half the necessaries of life to support the inhabitants. However we trust in the mercies of God, that he who hath in a wonderful, if not even in a miraculous manner, saved so many lives from such apparent awful death, will still in mercy provide for them.

P. S. The inhabitants were settled in several small districts up and down the river, extending in the whole about 15 miles in length, and had built houses on the low lands near the river, and in compact bodies, for better defence against the savages; the uppermost district is Lackawanack, and consisted of about 20 families; their houses all swept off and destroyed, except four, the principal part of their cattle, hories, and other effects, lost. The settlement known by the name of Winter-oots-fort, consisted of about 20 houses, and contained upwards of 20 families; every house gone, their goods, provisions, and other effects, almost totally lost, except cattle and hories, a considerable number of which were driven to the hills when the flood was coming on. In the neighbourhood of Jacob's Plains were about 30 families, every house gone and destroyed, except three, and them much damaged, the greatest part of their cattle, hories, and other effects, lost and destroyed. In the lower part of Kingdon were 27 houses and upwards of 30 families, every house carried off, and laid in ruins, their cattle, hories, and other beasts, totally drowned, even to a single creature (except the cattle and hories belonging to three families) all other of their effects almost totally lost. At Shawanese district were upwards of 40 families, living in 30 houses, on the low lands, 20 of which houses were swept off and destroyed, and the others much damaged, cattle and hories almost totally drowned, and the greatest part of their other effects lost and destroyed. Wilkbarne district is the largest neighbourhood, and is built on high lands, was about five feet under water, several houses damaged, and some cattle and hories, and other effects, drowned and lost. A number of houses in other parts of the settlement were swept off and torn in pieces, cattle, hories, goods, provisions, and other effects lost. The greatest part of the sheep and swine, in all our settlements, are drowned. In the whole settlements there are at least 150 dwelling houses swept off, and rendered unfit to live in, besides all other buildings, numbers of houses driven a mile, others seven miles, and there left in ruins, others lying in pieces all over the low lands, and some not heard of yet. The distresses of the war obliged us to build on our low lands, yet few or none were ever exposed to danger before this time, the water and ice having risen 12 or 15 feet higher than ever was known in our days, and in some turns of the river 25 feet higher than what it usually raised in former seasons, and was so sudden, that after the banks were overflowed, and the water had begun to be in the houses, it raised 10 feet perpendicular in 15 minutes, and almost from mountain to mountain.

This is the distressed and unhappy situation of the unfortunate inhabitants of Wyoming, who have suffered every danger this side death, during the distresses of the war, many of their most near and tender connections having bled and fallen, and their whole country laid waste by the relentless fury of the savages.

Extracts from the journal of congress.

April 5. Congress took into consideration the report of a grand committee, appointed to prepare and report to congress, the arrears of interest on the national debt, together with the interest and expences of the year 1784, from the first to the last day thereof inclusive, and a requisition of money on the states for discharging the same.

The report of the grand committee being as follows:

Resolved, That there will be wanting for arrears of interest, and for the interest and services of the present year 1784, from the first to the last day thereof inclusive, the following sums, expressed in dollars, tenths and hundredths of dollars.

The civil department,	107,525.33	
The military department,	200,000	
The marine department,	30,000	
Purchases of Indian rights of soil, and the incidental expences,	60,000	
Contingencies,	60,000	
		457,525.33
Debts contracted and still unpaid for the services of 1782 and 1783,		1,000,000
Interest on the national debt as follows.		
FOREIGN DEBT.		
1782.		
Dec. 31. Three years interest on the Spanish loan of 250,000 dollars, at 5 per cent.	22,500	22,500
1783.		
Dec. 31. Spanish loan,	7,500	
Private French loans of 4 million livres, at 5 per cent.	37,037	44,537
1784.		
June 1. Dutch loan of 1,800,000 florins, at 5 per cent.	35,000	

Sept. 3. Public French loan of 24 million livres, at 5 per cent.	222,000
Nov. 5. Dutch loan of 10 million livres, guaranteed by France,	74,074
Dec 31. Spanish loan,	7,500
Private French loans,	37,037
	375,611

DOMESTIC DEBT.

1782.		
Dec. 31. Loan-office debt,	11,473,802.26 at 6 per cent,	1,184,176
Liquidated debt,	701,404 at 6 per cent	21,042
Army debt 5,635 618 at 6 per cent.		676,272
		1,881,490
Deduct the requisition of Sept. 2, 1782,	1,200,000	681,490
1783.		
Dec. 31. Loan-office debt,	749,050	
Liquidated debt,	42,084	
Unliquidated debt of 8 million dollars, suppose one third now liquidated, at 6 per cent.		160,000
Army debt,	338,136	1,289,270
1784.		
Dec. 31. Loan-office debt,	749,050	
Liquidated debt,	42,084	
Unliquidated debt, suppose the whole now liquidated,		480,000
Army debt,	338,136	1,609,270
Total		5,480,203.31

The committee were apprized that the resolutions of congress of April the 18th, 1783, had recommended to the several states the raising an annual revenue, by the establishment of certain imposts, for the purpose of discharging the national debt, principal and interest; but it occurred to them, that those recommendations were still before several of the legislatures; that however desirable a compliance therewith is for the preservation of our faith, and establishment of a national credit, yet as time has already elapsed, and more must elapse before their final confirmation can be had, as, after it shall be obtained, time will also be requisite to advance the plan to the term of actual collection, good faith requires, that in the mean while other measures should be resorted to for the purpose of discharging the growing interest.

In the statement of the interest due at the close of the year 1782, the committee have supposed its amount to be 1,200,000 dollars, required and apportioned by the resolutions of congress of september the 4th and 10th, 1782, and appropriated to the sole purpose of paying the interest of the public debt. This requisition gave licence to the states to apply so much as should be necessary of their respective quotas of it to the payment of interest due on certificates issued from the loan-office of their own states, and other liquidated debts of the United States contracted therein. Hence they suppose it has happened, that the actual payment of these quotas have been uncommunicated to the office of finance for the United States. The committee are of opinion, that the states should be desired to communicate to the superintendent of finance, the payments they have made under this requisition and where they have been incomplete, to hasten their completion, as the means still relied on by congress for the discharge of that part of the interest of the public debt. And while on this subject, they beg leave to add, that from the representation to congress by the minister of France, referred to this committee, they learn, that in some of the states, a discrimination has taken place between the citizens of their own, and subjects or citizens of other countries, which was not authorized by the said resolution: they are of opinion, that such states should be requested to revise and reform their proceedings herein, and to extend the benefits of this provision equally and impartially to all persons within its description.

Your committee came then to consider in what way it would be best to call for the sums requisite for the services before stated: and they thought it their duty in the first place to enquire, whether no surpluses might remain on former requisitions of Congress, after the purposes were effected to which they were originally appropriated; under an assurance that it would be both the duty and the sense of Congress to apply such surpluses, in every instance, towards lessening the next requisitions on the states. They found in fact that such a surplus would remain on the requisition of October 30, 1781, for eight millions of dollars for the services of the ensuing year; and that this surplus would be great from the following circumstances: That requisition was estimated on supposition, that the continental army would be completed by the states, to its full establishment; and that cloathing, subsistence and other necessaries for such an army, must of course be provided. The states were far short of producing such an army. Hence the calls for money were proportionally abridged. It was estimated too on the further supposition that we might be disappointed in the endeavours we were then exerting to borrow money both at home and abroad, and of course that the whole must be supplied by taxes. Loans however were obtained, and the surplus increased by this second cause. A third circumstance has further enlarged it. The payments on this requisition have been small and slow. Hence, instead of money, those who served and supplied the United States have received certificates only that money is due to them, and these debts have been transferred to the fund proposed to be raised by way of impost: so that tho' the debts exist, they are removed from this to another fund. To know then the amount of this surplus, the committee extended their enquiries to the sums actually received under this requisition, the purposes to which they have been applied, and anticipations thereof still unfulfilled. They found that 1,486,511.72