

PHILADELPHIA, May 15.

Between 9 and 10 o'clock on Thursday evening the 6th instant, a young man passing along Fifth-street, near Walnut-street, in this city, was met by five persons unknown dressed like seamen, who stopped him, and one of them presenting a pistol, demanded his watch, which he delivered, it two dollars in silver; notwithstanding which, one of the villains struck him most violently with a club, and another stabbed him through the cheek with a bayonet. Upon the cry of murder raised by the sufferers, they made off.

Friday evening arrived here from London, in 35 days, the ship Olive-branch, John Willert, commander, in which came passengers the reverend Mr. Campbell and lady, captain James Campbell of the Pennsylvania line, Mr. Andrew Clow, and Mr. John Gilliat.

May 19. A correspondent says, that in his opinion the most prudent method to make the government of the United States perpetual, happy and independent of every power but heaven, is that they should act with justice and with mercy;—that they should support the national honour, by giving satisfaction to the public creditors;—that they should not violate public treaties;—that with a glorious magnanimity they should disdain to triumph over the vanquished, and admit upon reasonable stipulations the expelled loyalists;—that they should repeal all persecuting and impolitic test acts;—that they should give a free and uncircumscribed toleration to the Jews, and manifest themselves to be in some degree real christians (as our saviour said his kingdom was not for this world) by allowing the Jews the same temporal advantages with themselves;—that they should promote a gradual abolition of slavery;—and that they should not deprive the Indians, who are the original proprietors of the country, of their possessions, without giving them a proper compensation. He says, that with a singular and auspicious boldness we should dare to be honest, in which situation we should make our cause the cause of God, from whence we might laugh at all that the malice of Britain or of hell could do against us. This is a plan that is worth more than all the secrets of intriguing politicians. This is the way to make the government of the United States as fixed as the Appalachian mountains. In such a case the Almighty himself would be our champion and our bulwark, for we are nobly and beautifully told, by those who do not lie, that "the eyes of God run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in behalf of them whose heart is perfect towards him."

RICHMOND, May 15.

ARRIVALS IN JAMES RIVER.

Brigantine Washington, Elliston, from Liverpool; Brigantine Recovery, Junkins, from Belfast; sloop Cato; sloop Industry, Snow; and schooner Experiment, Timmghall; from Philadelphia. Ship Virginia Hero, Nicoiton, from London; brigantine Ranger, White; and schooner Eagle, Smith; from New-York.

ALEXANDRIA, April 1.

Yesterday sailed for London the ship Two Friends, capt. Street, in which went passengers Mr. John Muir of this town, merchant, his sister, and several gentlemen.

NAVAL-OFFICE.

Inward entries. Ship Proteus, S. Hill, and brig Joseph, I. Davis, from Boston; brig Dolphin, S. Bablon, Gloucester; brig Fortitude, E. Gardner, Demarara; schooner Hope, G. Slacom, Philadelphia; schooner Two Friends, —Whiting, and sloop Dolphin, W. Wilton, Norfolk.

Cleared outwards. Schooner Peggy, R. Quirk, for Maryland; ship Two Friends, J. Street, London; sloop Rebecca, S. Brown, Baltimore; schooner Virginia, S. Davis, Philadelphia.

ANNAPOLIS, May 27.

Last Friday morning his Excellency General Washington arrived here from Philadelphia, and the next day set off for his seat at Mount Vernon.

Extracts from the journal of congress.

Report of the committee on the national debt, &c. concluded.
Your committee found also that there was a requisition of Congress of October 16, 1782, for two millions of dollars for the services of the year 1783 on which some small payments had been tendered. But that the superintendent of finance had found it better to receive and credit them as part of the eight millions. They are accordingly comprehended in the sum before stated to have been paid in under that head.

Having thus stated the demands existing against the states, the committee would have performed but half their duty, had they passed over unnoticed their condition to pay them. Their abilities must be measured in weighing their burthens. Their creditors themselves will view them just relieved from the ravages of predatory armies, returning from an attendance on camps, to the culture of their fields—beginning to sow, but not yet having reaped—exhausted of necessities and habitual comforts; and therefore needing new supplies out of the first proceeds of their labour. Forbearance then, to a certain degree, will suggest itself to them. Those entrusted with the dispensation of justice between them, will suppose both parties desirous that their mutual situations should be considered and accommodated. Your committee are of opinion that if the whole balances of the two requisitions of eight and of two millions, should be rigorously called into payment within the course of the present year, a compliance with such call would produce much distress; and that some terms short of this should be fixed on, within the reach of the least as well as of the most able states. They propose therefore that the states be required to furnish within the course of the present year, such part of their deficiencies under the requisition of eight millions, as, with their payments to the close of the last year, will make up three-fourths of their original quota thereof. And that these payments be appropriated to the services of the present year 1784, in conformity with the statement in the first part of this report, giving generally, where accommodation cannot be effected among the several objects, a preference according to the order in which they are arranged in the said statement.

But while this proportion of former deficiencies is of necessity called for, under the pressure of demands

which will admit neither delay, the committee must acknowledge that even the punctual compliance expected from all the states will not effect completely all the purposes of their preceding statement. To accomplish these perfectly, to enable the federal administration to fulfil the whole of those just and desirable objects, they wish earnestly and warmly to encourage the several states to go as far beyond this proportion as their happier situation will admit, under an assurance that their further contributions will be applied towards reducing the interest and principal of the public debt, and will be placed to their credit in the next requisitions, with interest thereon from the time of payment.

Individual states have at times thought it hard that while, in their own opinion, they were in a balance for the United States on accounts existing and unsettled between them, they should yet be called on to furnish actual contributions of money. The committee observe in answer to this, first, that almost every state thinks itself in advance: And secondly, that it has been the constant wish of congress that these accounts should be settled, and the contributions of each be known and credited. They have accordingly put it in the power of the states to effect the settlements: And as a further encouragement to hasten this desirable work, the committee are of opinion Congress should declare, that so soon as these accounts shall be all settled, and it shall appear in favour of what states balance shall arise, such states shall have credit for the same in the requisitions next ensuing.

But it will be necessary also to remind the states that no materials have yet been furnished to enable congress to adjust the ultimate ratio in which the expenditures of the late war shall be apportioned on the states. The confederation directs that this shall be regulated by the value of the lands in the several states, with the buildings and improvements thereon. Experiments made however since the date of that instrument, for the purposes of ordinary taxation, had induced doubts as to the practicability of this rule of apportionment; yet congress thought it their duty to give it fair trial, and recommended to the several states on the 17th of February 1783, to furnish an account of their lands, buildings and number of inhabitants, whereon they might proceed to estimate their respective quotas: but apprehending that the incompetence of the rule would immediately shew itself, and desirous that a time should be unnecessarily lost, they followed it with another recommendation of the 18th of April 1783, to substitute in lieu of that article in the confederation another, which should make the number of inhabitants, under certain modifications, the measure of contribution for each state. Both these propositions are still under reference to the several legislatures; the latter accompanied by the earnest wishes and preference of congress, under full conviction that it will be found in event as equal, more satisfactory, and more easy of execution: The former only pressed if the other should be rejected. The committee are informed that the states of Connecticut, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania and South Carolina, have acceded to the alteration proposed; but have no evidence that the other states have as yet decided thereon. As it is necessary that the one or the other measure should be immediately resorted to, they are of opinion it should be recommended to the legislatures which have not yet decided between them, to come to decision at their next meeting.

In order to present to the eye a general view of the several existing requisitions, and of the payments made under them, the committee has subjoined them in the form of a table, wherein the 1st column enumerates the rates; the 2d the apportionment of the 1,200,000 dollars; the 3d that of the 8 millions; the 4th that of the 2 millions; the 5th the sums paid by the several states in part of their respective quotas to the last day of the year 1783; and the 6th the sums now required to make up three-fourths of their respective quotas of the 8 millions—expressed in dollars, tenths and hundredths of dollars.

A TABLE of the several existing requisitions, and of the payments made under them.

State	Appropriation of 1,200,000 dol.	Appropriation of 8 mill.	Appropriation of 2 mill.	Paid of the 8 m. by States now required here Dec 31, 1783.	Sum now required to make 3/4 of the 8 m.
New Hampshire	48,000	373,928	80,000	3,000	370,928
Massachusetts	192,000	1,307,596	300,000	247,676.66	1,060,000
Connecticut	38,000	286,684	48,000	67,847.95	218,836.05
Rhode-Island	133,200	747,196	231,000	131,577.83	615,618.17
New York	44,000	339,664	90,000	39,064.1	300,600
New-Jersey	66,000	485,679	110,000	103,004.95	382,674.05
Pennsylvania	180,000	1,120,794	300,000	346,632.98	774,161.02
Delaware	16,800	112,085	28,000	89,103.11	23,000
Maryland	131,000	933,996	230,000	115,103.53	818,892.47
Virginia	174,000	1,307,594	300,000	115,103.53	1,192,490.47
North-Carolina	88,800	622,677	148,000	344,101.57	278,575.43
South-Carolina	72,000	537,995	120,000	18,678.75	519,316.25
Georgia	14,400	24,905	24,000	18,678.75	6,226.25
	1,200,000	8,000,000	2,000,000	1,486,517.71	6,513,482.29

It remained lastly to consider, whether no facilities might be given to the payment of these sums by the several States. The committee observed, that of the purposes for which money is wanting, about a moiety can be answered by nothing but money itself; but that the other moiety consisting of interest on our domestic debt, may be effected by procuring a discount of the demand in the hands of the holders; an operation which will be shorter, and less impoverishing to the state. And however, in times of greater plenty, the accuracy of fiscal administration might require all transactions to be in actual money, at the treasury itself; yet, till our constituents shall have had some respite from their late difficulties, it behoves us to prefer their ease. The committee are therefore of opinion, that the several legislatures may be admitted so to model the collection of the sums now called for, as that, the one half being paid in actual money, the other may be discharged by procuring discounts of interest with our domestic creditors; only taking care that the collection of money shall proceed at least in equal pace with the operations of discount. And to ascertain the evidence of discount which shall be receivable in lieu of money, the holders of loan-office certificates shall be at liberty to carry them to the office from which they issued; and the holders of certificates and of other liquidated debts of the United States, to carry the same to the loan office of that state wherein the debt was contracted, and to have the interest due thereon settled and certified to the last day of the year 1783; for which interest the loan-office shall give a certificate in such form, and under such cautions and instructions, as the superintendent of finance shall transmit to him; which certificates of interest being parted with by the holder of the principal, shall be deemed evidence that he has received satisfaction for the same, and therefore shall be receivable from the bearer, within the same state, in lieu of money, in the proportion before stated. And where loan-office certificates issued after the first day of March 1778, shall be presented to the loan office, they shall be reduced to their specie value, according to the resolutions of congress of June 28, 1780, that specie value expressed on some part of the certificate, and the interest thereon settled and certified as in other cases.

The report of a committee on the subject of western territory, having been referred to the grand committee, they have had the same under their consideration, and agreed to the following report:

Congress, by their resolution of September 6, 1780, having thought it advisable to press upon the states having claims to the western country, a liberal surrender of a portion of their territorial claims; by that of the 10th of October, in the same year, having fixed conditions to which the union should be bound, on receiving such cessions; and having again proposed the same subject to those states, in their address of April 18, 1783, wherein, stating the national debt, and expressing their reliance for its discharge, on the prospect of vacant territory, in aid of other resources, they, for that purpose, as well as to obviate disagreeable controversies and contentions, included in the same recommendations, a renewal of those of September the 6th, and of October the 10th, 1780; which several recommendations have not yet been finally complied with;

Resolved, That the same subject be again presented to the attention of the said states; that they be urged to consider, that the war being now brought to a happy termination by the personal services of our soldiers, the supplies of property by our citizens, and loans of money from them as well as from foreigners; these several creditors have a right to expect, that funds shall be provided, on which they may rely for indemnification; that congress still consider vacant territory as a capital resource; that this too is the time when our confederacy, with all the territory included within its limits, should assume its ultimate and permanent form; and that therefore the said states be earnestly pressed, by immediate and liberal cessions to forward these necessary ends, and to remove those obstacles which disturb the harmony of the union, which embarrass its councils, and obstruct its operations.

On the question to refer the said report to the superintendent of finance to report thereon, it passed in the negative.

A motion was made and seconded, That the first part of the report, from the word "*Resolved,*" to the word and figures, total, 5,480,203.33, inclusive, together with the paragraphs beginning with the words, "In order to present to the eye," down to the words, "and certified as in other cases," inclusive, be referred to the superintendent of finance to report; and on this the question was lost.

April 6. On motion, *Resolved,* That another commissioner be appointed in addition to those appointed by the act of congress of the 4th of March last, to negotiate with the Indians; and that to morrow be assigned for that purpose.

On the report of a committee, to whom was referred a letter of November 4, 1783, from major-general Greene, *Resolved,* That in consideration of the high price of all the necessaries of life in the southern states, while major-general Greene commanded in that department, his account be credited with the sum of four thousand and forty-five dollars and sixteen ninetieths of a dollar, together with the sum of thirty-eight thousand five hundred and ninety-one dollars and sixty ninth parts of a dollar of the old paper emissions, as an allowance for extra expences, above the sum to which he was entitled as a major-general commanding in a separate department.

That the comptroller of accounts do place to the credit of major-general Greene, lately commanding the army of the United States in the southern department, the sum of three hundred and twenty nine pounds six shillings and three pence Virginia currency, which appears by the affidavit of major William Pierce, late aid de camp to general Greene, to have been stolen from the trunk of major Pierce, while the public money was in his custody.

April 7. Congress proceeded to the election of another commissioner, in addition to those appointed on the 4th of March last, to negotiate with the Indians; and the ballots being taken, Mr. Philip Schuyler was elected.

April 23. Congress resumed the consideration of the report of the committee appointed to prepare and report to congress the arrears of interest on the national debt,