

or changed by the popular breath, and is necessarily changed once in three years; a body, where power is restricted by specific limits prescribed by the people; a body, accountable to their constituents for all their conduct; that paltry unnatural jealousy of power in such a body, is pregnant with more mischief to the United States, than lessons of disciplined troops: Next to the jealous disposition, the selfishness of particular states may be ranked as the greatest inconvenience in our union. Should any individual state, from motives of local interest, refuse to comply with this equally just, equitable and salutary measure, such refusal must at any rate retard the fulfilment of our public engagements, and most probably end in the creation of some compulsory power on the continent, which shall oblige the states to act in concert, or, what is more to be dreaded, terminate in a total dissolution of our federal government.

N E W - Y O R K , May 26.

Extract of a letter from Scotland, dated March 24, 1784.
 "Every thing in this country is in a state of confusion, and patriots seem determined to clip the wings of the nobility, who, by means of the influence their large possessions give them, have directed for some time the fate of all the elections for members both for counties and boroughs. The gentlemen, taking their cue from the leader of the house of commons, have determined, that no man recommended or countenanced by any peer, shall be returned as a member of parliament. They have also resolved, at a very full meeting held some days ago at Edinburgh, that in a variety of instances, the articles of the union have been deviated from, and that it was the opinion of the meeting, that Scotland had not a sufficient number of representatives, and that a peremptory demand should be made to have two representatives for each county, one for Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen, and one for each of the boroughs; and that if those just requests were refused, such measures be followed, as may be necessary to support the dignity of the country in its original lustre."

June 2. Saturday morning last, John Way, Esq; of Newtown, Long-Island, put an end to his life. He was observed to be very cheerful all the morning, and not long before he perpetrated the horrid scene, went into the kitchen and said, "Girls, you must take care of yourselves, for I am done for," and immediately went away from them; soon after they heard a groaning noise, and much alarmed, went to see where it was, but supposing it to be in the cellar, could make no discovery of any thing; some time afterwards one of the girls having occasion to go into an adjacent room, found him dead, his throat being cut; no circumstances as yet have been heard of, that could induce him thus to destroy himself, and abandon ease and affluence. The confederate man, while he detests the depravity of human nature, in arrogating a power due to the just and Omnipotent Ruler of the universe, will veil this melancholy scene with pity, and bury in oblivion an act to be alone attributed to lunacy. He has left an only daughter, and it is said, that by a will which is since found, his whole estate is left to a distant relation, and his daughter made no other provision for, than that of being brought up genteelly.

P H I L A D E L P H I A , June 3.

Tuesday afternoon we had a severe thunder gust, in which the house of Samuel Wharton, Esq; opposite Almond-street, a wooden building near the house of employment, and the ship America, captain Keeler, lying at Suddell's wharf, were struck with lightning; as were two houses in Second-street, above Vine-street, in one of which a Mrs. Bock was killed: she had a child in her arms at the time, but it received no damage.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in London to his friend in this city, dated March 25, 1784.

"Probably you may expect a little political information. I am sorry in the extreme to acquaint you, as matters appear to me, that this so hitherto universally admired constitution approaches precipitately to its annihilation. The king, illegally, by his influence, prevented Mr. Fox's East-India bill passing the house of lords. The commons, tenacious of their privilege, took fire thereat. His majesty (or what shall I call him) immediately dismissed his ministry, and forced another on them, who had not their confidence. They repeatedly addressed the crown for a broad and efficient administration, and one that had their confidence. He refused their constitutional request, in a manner that can only be equalled by the insolence of the minister of the moment, Mr. Pitt; and this day, notwithstanding the urgency of public business, and the tottering state of public credit, there being more than thirty millions unfunded, the parliament of Great-Britain was dissolved, in hopes that a more subservient one will be chosen. Should that be the case, our government will be immediately changed to a monarchy in effect, though the appearance may be preserved. If otherwise (as the king has the virtue of perseverance in a most wonderful degree) a civil war, I think, must inevitably take place. As I have a horrid dislike to either, have prepared a sum of money to support myself and family in some other part of the world. I wish Philadelphia was not so remote—a spot and people I prefer to all others, except my own country on its usual terms.—The people at large are perfectly ignorant of the present dispute. They conceive it to be between Fox and Pitt, for power;—when the real contest is neither more or less, than the crown against the constitution. The people, from their ignorance of the subject, are nine out of ten for the king, and a great many addresses have been presented to the throne, thanking him for the late dismissal of his ministers; but when their eyes are open (and I think it will not be long before they are) a certain gentleman must alter his conduct, or he will be obliged to retire to a certain part of the continent of Europe, and finish a wretched life, which had it never been called into existence had been happy for millions of mankind."

A N N A P O L I S , June 17.

The schooner John, captain Daniel Darby, of Philadelphia, we hear, is arrived at Dominica, with a cargo of slaves from the coast of Africa.
 Captain Cranston, from Antigua, on the 22d ult. 60 leagues east of Cape Henry, spoke the ship Hamburg,

captain Paul, from Baltimore for Hamburg, out two days, all well.

By the UNITED STATES in CONGRESS assembled, December 21, 1783.

ON the report of the superintendent of finance, to whom was referred a report of a committee on a letter of the 2d of August from the said superintendent,

Resolved, That the commissioner for settling accounts according to the act of the 20th of February last, do receive lottery tickets as vouchers for the prizes which may have been drawn to such tickets, and certify the same as debts of the United States, at and after the rate of one dollar in specie for every forty dollars of such prizes.

Extracts from the journal of congress.

April 27. The report of the grand committee appointed to prepare and report to congress, the arrears of interest on the national debt, together with the expenses for the year 1784, and a requisition of money on the states for discharging the same, being amended to read as follows,

Resolved, That there will be wanting for arrears of interest on the national debt to the end of the year 1783, and for the interest of the foreign debt 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 the Indian rights of soil, and the incidental expenses,	-	60,000
Contingencies,	-	60,000
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		457,525.33

Debts contracted and still unpaid for services of 1782 and 1783, - - - - - 1,000,000

Interest on the national debt as follows.

1782. FOREIGN DEBT.

Dec. 31. Three years interest on the Spanish loan of 150,000 dollars, at five per cent.	22,500
Dec. 31. Spanish loan, one year, To the farmers general of France,	7,500
1784. livres 846,710.5,	7,840
June 1. Dutch loan of 1,800,000 florins, at 5 per cent.	35,000
Sept 3. French loan of 24 million livres, at ditto	222,000
Nov. 5. Dutch loan of 10 million livres, guaranteed by France,	74,074
Dec. 31. Spanish loan, Farmers general of France,	7,500
	7,840
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	384,254

1783. DOMESTIC DEBT.

Dec. 31. Loan-office debt, 11,473,802.26, at 6 per cent.	1,184,176
Liquidated debt, 701,404, at ditto,	21,042
Ar. debt, 5,635,618, at ditto,	676,272
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	1,881,490
Deduct the requisition of Sept. 4, 1782,	- 1,200,000
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	681,490
1783. Dec. 31. Loan-office debt, 749,050	
Liquidated debt, 42,084	
Unliquidated debt, estimated at 8 million dollars, suppose one third now liquidated,	160,000
Army debt,	338,136
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	1,289,270
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Total,	3,812,539.33

The committee were apprised, that the resolutions of congress of April the 18th, 1783, had recommended to the several states the raising an annual revenue, for the purpose of discharging the principal and interest of the national debt, by the establishment of certain imposts, and providing supplementary funds for a given term of years, to be raised in such a way as they might judge most convenient; but it occurred to them, that those recommendations were still under suspense with several of the legislatures, some of them having as yet acceded to the impost only, and others decided neither on the impost nor supplementary funds; 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 hoped, 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 lessened by 1,000,000 dollars, required and appropriated 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 payments 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 required to revise and reform their proceedings herein, and to extend the benefits both past and future of this provision equally and impartially to all persons within its description.

Your committee then came 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 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 clothing, 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 funds proposed to be raised by way of impost; so that though 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 the anticipations thereof still unaccomplished. They found that 1,486,511.71 only of the eight millions of dollars had been received at the treasury at the close of the year 1783; that these had been applied to the services of the years 1782 and 1783, and that for other services of the same years, debts were contracted to the amount of about one million of dollars more, which depend for their discharge on further receipts under this requisition; a statement of the expenditures of which sums should be made out and forwarded to the legislatures of the several states. Your committee, then, are of opinion, that a surplus of 5,513,483.28 dollars will remain of this requisition, after answering all the demands which actually arose against it, which were not answered by other means, nor transferred to other funds; and that this surplus ought to be applied, so far as it will go, to the common purposes of the United States, so as to prevent new requisitions on them till the old shall have been exhausted, and to shew to those who may have paid their whole quota of any requisition, that they will not be called on anew, till all the other states shall in like manner have paid up their quotas.

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 necessaries 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. Congress, intrusted with the dispensation of justice between the public and its creditors, 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 a proportion 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 one half of their original quota thereof: And that these payments be appropriated 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 denial nor delay, and the punctual compliance of every state is expected, to enable the federal administration with certainty to satisfy these demands, it is earnestly and warmly recommended to the ablest states to go as far beyond this proportion in specie, as their happier situation will admit, under an assurance that such further contributions will be applied towards discharging the public debt agreeably to the preceding statement, and will be placed to their credit in the next requisitions, with interest thereon from the time of payment: and also that before any further demand is made upon the states, under the requisition for two millions of dollars, or the requisition for eight millions of