Mr. Sherman then moved, that a ſtatement of facts reported to this houſe in the laſt ſeſſion, relative to the ſale of lands in the weſtern territory, be referred to the ſecretary of the treaſury, which was carried.

The report of the committee, to whom that part of the preſident's meſſage was referred, reſpecting a treaty with certain Indian tribes, was preſented to the ſpeaker; but the buſineſs being confidential, the gallery doors were ſhut for about half an hour; after which a meſſage was received from the ſenate, requeſting the houſe to appoint a committee to confer with a committee of three, appointed by the ſenate, reſpecting the practice to be obſerved in taking up the unfiniſhed buſineſs of the laſt ſeſſion, "whether it ſhould be now taken up as if this was only an adjourned meeting of the firſt ſeſſion, or as if there was no adjournment."

Mr. Page and Mr. Sedgwick ſpoke ſome time on this queſtion, and were for appointing a committee for the purpoſes mentioned, but were oppoſed by Mr. Smith (S. C.) and Mr. R. B. Lee.

Mr. Lee ſaid, the houſe had already decided upon this buſineſs, by a reſolution which had paſſed a few days ago, to take up the arrear of the buſineſs of the laſt ſeſſion *de novo*. He did not believe the ſenate meant to diſagree with the repreſentatives, but only to conform and harmoniſe the practice of both houſes.

Mr. ——— ſaid the houſe would not be able to get forward without finally conferring, and therefore he wiſhed a committee to be appointed.

Mr. Smith, (S. C.) ſuppoſed the meſſage of the ſenate had been miſapprehended, if it was imagined that they confined it merely to the form of taking up any particular buſineſs which had been left unfiniſhed in the laſt ſeſſion: he rather believed they meant it generally. He ſaid, however, that the ſenate had no right to interfere with the practice of this houſe, and with reſpect to the particular buſineſs alluded to, it had already been determined.

Mr. Stone and Mr. Boudinot ſpoke. Mr. Boudinot oppoſed Mr. Smith, by reverting to the practice of the houſe on the ſubject of conferring a title on the preſident of the United States; for, after they had determined to give no other ſtyle or title but that of "The Preſident of the United States," the ſenate did apply to them to appoint a committee of conference, which was complied with, and both committees agreed that no other ſtyle or title ſhould be conferred for the preſent but "The Preſident of the United States."

Mr. Sherman thought this a ſubject not of ſuch importance as to occaſion ſo much delay, and wiſhed it to be ſettled.

Mr. R. B. Lee moved that the ſenſe of the houſe be taken, whether the deciſion of taking up the unfiniſhed buſineſs of the laſt ſeſſion, *de novo*, ſhould be abided by or rejected.

Mr. White was aware that ſome contention might ariſe, from refuſing to appoint a committee in this inſtance.

Mr. Jackſon thought it right to appoint a committee to confer with a committee of the ſenate, and ſaw no danger from ſuch a procedure.

Mr Clymer ſpoke ſo low as not to be heard diſtinctly.

It was at length carried to appoint a committee of five, and Mr. Sherman, Mr. Thatcher, Mr. White, Mr. Hartley, and Mr. Jackſon, were appointed.

Mr. R. B. Lee then moved, that the ſaid committee be inſtructed by the houſe to inform the committee of the ſenate, that this houſe had already decided upon the practice of taking up the unfiniſhed buſineſs of the laſt ſeſſion *de novo*.

Mr. White thought theſe inſtructions would be unneceſſary, as the ſenate muſt have known already of this deciſion.

Mr. Livermore was againſt inſtructing the committee; if the committees were reſtricted, perhaps they would not meet upon equal ground. The buſineſs of committees was to inveſtigate, and therefore ſhould not be reſtricted,

The houſe then adjourned till eleven o'clock to-morrow.

THURSDAY, *January* 21.

A meſſage from the preſident of the United States was received by the ſecretary of the department of war, accompanied by a plan prepared by the ſecretary for the arrangement of the militia of the United States.

UNITED STATES, January 1, 1790.

Gentlemen of the Senate,
and Houſe of Repreſentatives,

THE ſecretary of the department of war, has ſubmitted to me certain principles to ſerve as a plan for general arrangement of the militia of the United States.

Conceiving the ſubject to be of the higheſt importance to the welfare of our country, and liable to be placed in various points of view, I have directed him to lay the plan before congreſs for their information, in order that they may make ſuch uſe thereof as they may judge proper.

G. WASHINGTON.

REPORT of the SECRETARY at WAR.

WAR-OFFICE, January 18, 1790.

SIR,

HAVING ſubmitted to your conſideration a plan for the arrangement of the militia of the United States, which I have preſented to the late congreſs, and you have approved the general principles thereof, with certain exceptions, I now reſpectfully lay the ſame before you, modified according to the alterations you were pleaſed to ſuggeſt.

It has been my anxious deſire to deviſe a national ſyſtem of defence, adequate to the probable exigencies of the United States, whether ariſing from internal or external cauſes; and at the ſame time to erect a ſtandard of republican magnanimity, independent of and ſuperior to the powerful influences of wealth.

The convulſive events, generated by the inordinate purſuit of riches or ambition, require that the government ſhould poſſeſs a ſtrong corrective arm.

The idea is therefore ſubmitted, whether an efficient military branch of the government can be invented, with ſafety to the great principles of liberty, unleſs the ſame ſhall be formed of the people themſelves, and ſupported by their habits and manners. I have the honour to be, Sir, with the moſt perfect reſpect, your obedient ſervant,

H. KNOX, Secretary for the war department.

The Preſident of the United States.

The plan was then read.

Mr. Lawrence moved that the petition of the inhabitants of Weſt-Cheſter, read yeſterday, ſhould be referred to the ſecretary of the treaſury.

Mr. Jackſon objected to a partial reference of a buſineſs of this kind to the ſecretary of the treaſury—he ſhould make no objection to referring the whole ſubject of loſſes of a ſimilar nature, in the ſeveral ſtates, to that department, on the principle of doing equal juſtice to all. The motion for referring it to the ſecretary was adopted.

On motion, The report of the ſecretary of the department of war was referred to a committee of the whole houſe on the ſtate of the union.

Voted, That 300 copies of this report be printed.

Mr. Sedgwick of the committee appointed to bring in a bill to make proviſion for perſons employed in the intercourſe between the United States and foreign nations, introduced a report which was read the firſt time.

Mr. Wadſworth moved for the order of the day, which was that the houſe ſhould reſolve itſelf into a committee of the whole on the report of the committee on the ſtate of the ſouth-weſtern frontiers, and Indian affairs, which motion being adopted, the galleries were ſhut, and not opened again during the day.

FRIDAY, *January* 22.

From the journal of yeſterday's proceedings it appeared, that the report of the committee on that part of the preſident's ſpeech reſpecting the ſouth-weſtern frontiers, and Indian affairs, was diſcuſſed in a committee of the whole houſe, who accepted the ſame without any amendments. The chairman reported the determination of the committee to the houſe, but an adjournment being called for, the buſineſs was not completed yeſterday.

The ſecretary of the treaſury, agreeable to notice given in his report on Thurſday of laſt week, laid before the houſe this day, a report reſpecting the poſt-office, received from the poſt-maſter-general, which being read, was referred to a ſelect committee conſiſting of Mr. Fitzſimons, Mr. Gerry, Mr. Sinnickſon, Mr. Parker and Mr. Stone.

Mr. Sherman of the committee of conference on the part of the houſe, brought in a report, which is in ſubſtance as follows—that the committee of the houſe and ſenate have agreed that the unfiniſhed buſineſs of the laſt ſeſſion, which has paſſed from one houſe to the other, ſhall be conſidered as if it had not been acted upon. This report was laid on the table.

The bill for making proviſion for perſons employed in the intercourſe between the United States, and foreign nations, was read the ſecond time, and made the order of the day for Monday next, then to be taken into conſideration by the committee of the whole houſe.

The attention of the houſe was then called to the report on the Indian buſineſs and ſouth-weſtern frontiers, which occaſioned an order for clearing the galleries.

LONDON, *November* 4.

THE following murder was lately committed in the pariſh of Gwinep, in the county of Cornwall. A farmer who lived there, having in family only himſelf, wife, one child, and a ſervant maid, being from home on ſome buſineſs, on his return at night overtook a ſoldier, who aſked how far it was till he could get to any quarters, for he was very much tired, and ſo foundered in his feet that he knew not how to walk. The farmer told him, if he would go with him, he ſhould have meat, drink and lodging at his houſe; the ſoldier accordingly went with him, and when they came to the farmer's houſe, they ſaw a light in every room; being alarmed, the farmer was for ruſhing in, but the ſoldier ſaid, no; for he had two rounds in his box, and he would provide himſelf firſt: he loaded his piece, and fixing his bayonet, they went in together; when a man met them, whom the ſoldier fired at and killed; he then loaded his piece again, when another man coming forth, he fired at and killed him alſo; the third man they took, who is now in Bodmin gaol. The farmer's wife and the ſervant maid were both murdered; and they had put fuel in every room, with intent, when they had plundered the houſe, to ſet it on fire.

Nov. 5. Some years ago there was a ſign before a public houſe, not far from the metropolis, on one ſide of which was painted a naked man, with this motto, "I am the man who went to law, and loſt my cauſe." On the other ſide there was a man in rags, with the following motto, "I am the man who went to law, and gained my cauſe."

Extract of a letter from Madraſs, dated March 26, 1789, received by the Dublin, from a mate belonging to a country ſhip.

"Our ſhip being ſhort of water, I went on ſhore to a deſart iſland, near Queda, on the coaſt of Malay; and ſoon found a fine rivulet, but was obſtructed by a very large ſnake on the oppoſite ſide of it; upon which I immediately armed myſelf with a fuſee, piſtols, and hanger, and advanced (for water I was reſolved to have) to the ſnake, which ſprung from the bank towards me; when the Laſcars who came wi[th] me, ran away and left me. Fortunately, upon fir[ing] one of the piſtols, I wounded the ſnake, but ſo ſligh[tly] that it ſoon recovered, and grew more fierce. I [ac]cordingly fired the other, which miſſed; and as [my] laſt reſource, having kept the fuſee in reſerve, [and] waiting till the ſnake came within eight yards of [me] I lodged the contents in its body; and fearful leſ[t it] ſhould recover, I cut it with my hanger till it [was] totally deprived of life; after which I took the ſn[ake] on board the ſhip: it meaſured thirty-two feet an[d a] half in length, bulk in proportion, and had three r[ows] of teeth. It is of the ſpecies called buffalo ſnak[es] from their attacking and killing the buffalo by the [fol]lowing means: They ſpring upon the buffalo, [and] continue twiſting themſelves by degrees round [his] body, that in a couple of days the buffalo becom[es], as it were, ſcrewed up ſo tight that he dies, and [is] an eaſy prey to the ſnake. I made a preſent of [the] ſkin to the lady of Sir William Jones, in Calcut[ta] and think I had a very providential eſcape from [ſo] tremendous an animal."

Nov. 13. Should the emperor make his exit, fr[om] the grand theatre of action on which he now ſta[nds] ſo ſoon as it is expected, his ſucceſſor and the B[ra]bantines may yet ſettle matters, without any app[eal] to the ſword.

It is very remarkable that ſo far back as 1769, (V[ol.] No. 9. of the Critical Memoirs of the times for t[hat] year) the preſent plan of reformation in France, [was] determined on in the cabinet of Verſailles, and [the] author of this intelligence mentions, at the ſame ti[me] with a prophetic certainty, the horrible exceſſes of t[he] populace, and the ſhocking national convulſion whi[ch] would take place, in conſequence of the revolutio[n] which that plan would produce.

The Algerines continue to make depredations o[n] the foreign ſhipping in the Mediterranean. Th[ey] have taken ſeveral Neapolitan and Genoeſe veſſels [off] Catalonia.

French nobility in London who have been indu[ced] to fly to this country, on account of the troubles [in] France:

Le Duc et la Ducheſſe de Luxembourg.
La Ducheſſe de Laval.
La Ducheſſe de Biron.
La Comteſſe de Cambiſe.
La Comteſſe de Balbi.
La Marquiſe de Menard.
Le Marquiſe de Jaucourt.
La Comteſſe de Bonfflers.
La Comteſſe Amelie de Bonfflers.

The above perſonages are the moſt diſtinguiſ[hed] French families in London, and all of them, exce[pt] the Ducheſſe de Biron had the pleaſure to be at Mon[ſieur] de Calonne's breakfaſt yeſterday at Wimbledon, where they were very nobly entertained.

The fame of this pretty ſpot had reached France and every foreigner who comes to this country wiſhe[s] to ſee it. M. de Calonne was therefore induced t[o] give a public breakfaſt at his Villa yeſterday, and th[e] fineneſs of the day added not a little to the pleaſures [of] it.

Beſides theſe nobles were the counteſs of Holderneſſe, lady Lucan, Mrs. Howe, and ſeveral other Engliſh ladies of diſtinction, who did not return from Wimbledon till near five o'clock, regretting even then to leave ſo charming a place, and ſuch an hoſpitable hou[ſe].

General D'Alton, who commands the Imperia[l] forces in Brabant, is from Ireland. He has never yet ſhewn any ſignal ſervices either of bravery or conduct.

If the king of Pruſſia interferes in the emancipation of the Low Countries from what is called Auſtrian Yoke, the emperor will in return moſt undoubtedly direct his utmoſt ſtrength to the recovery of Sileſia from the Pruſſian dominion.

The French criminal code, as propoſed in the national aſſembly, ſeems to be well calculated to obtain the ends of ſtrict juſtice, and muſt tend to guard the ſubject more ſtrictly than at any former period, from the caprice of power or the wantonneſs of oppreſſion. Theſe new arrangements, as all human laws ſhould certainly do, will lean to the ſide of mercy, and the priſoner be even allowed counſel, though not able to procure one at his own expence. To the people of this country the plan muſt appear defective in one very important particular; viz. the want of trial by jury. According to the idea ſome time ſince held out, there muſt be at leaſt two thirds of the judges for the condemnation of the priſoner before ſentence may paſs, which muſt add to the ſecurity of life, liberty and property; and, along with this, putting the queſtion, or in other words the torture, is, for the honour of humanity, aboliſhed in that kingdom.

A certain northern well fed divine, pretending to greater knowledge of good eating than his neighbours and particularly in his taſte and flavour of game—Dining with a neighbouring ſquire, who was determined to try the parſon's palate—in the ſecond courſe two common wood pigeons were introduced, to which the cook had affixed the feet of moor-game—The parſon expecting game, reſerved his fire till they were introduced; when he ſet to work, and eat the greater part of the birds; no notice was taken of the parſon's miſtake.—At ſupper a brace of moor-game were ſerved up, with the wood-pigeons feet; the parſon was prevailed on to taſte a ſlice of the drioat, he quickly exchanged plates, exclaiming loudly that wood-pigeons were unwholeſome, and ought never to be introduced before gentlemen—The ſquire made the affair public, which chagrined the parſon ſo much, he has ſince laid aſide all pretentions to a refined palate.

The biſhop of Antwerp has imitated the example of the archbiſhop of Malines, in eſcaping from the cuſtody of his guards, and has repaired to the patriot camp.