The committee then rose, reported the bill with amendments—to which the house acceded—and ordered that the bill be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

Mr. Lee called the attention of the house to the petition of Mr. Dobbyn—and after some observations on the policy of encouraging the emigration of foreigners, and the population of the unappropriated territory of the United States, moved that the petition of Mr. Dobbyn be referred to the secretary of the treasury—that he may make provision in the plan which he is directed to report to the house, for cases similar to that of the petitioner—Mr. Madison and Mr. Page supported this motion.

Mr. Sherman moved that the latter part of the motion should be struck out, and that if the petition is referred to the secretary of the treasury, it should be by way of information.

It was said that there is an impropriety in restraining the secretary to any particularly object, in forming the plan in contemplation, as it must be calculated on general principles, the house having special reference to the subject of revenue in committing the business to him—It was further said that the propriety of the legislature of the United States holding out encouragement to individuals of foreign states, to emigrate to this country may be doubted.

Mr. Sherman's motion was adopted, and the petition referred to the secretary of the treasury for his information.

M. Sherman presented a petition from the president and fellows of Yale College, stating that they had imported a philosophical apparatus for that college, the impost duties of which they had paid; and suggested to congress whether, as books and scientific instruments for the use of seminaries of learning could not come under the denomination of negotiable articles of merchandise, it would not tend to encourage science, were such articles exempted from duties, and praying that the amount of the duties paid on such apparatus may be remitted for the use of the said college.

Mr Ames presented the petition of John Wait, praying relief under losses sustained by taking certificates for supplies from soldiers who afterwards deserted—Read and laid on the table.

The house took up the resolution laid on the table yesterday by Mr. Smith (S. C.) respecting the unfinished business at the end of a session.

Some debate ensued, but the house adjourned without coming to any decision on the motion.

BOSTON, *January* 21.

IT is with a great degree of satisfaction we announce to the public, the entire discharge of the *foreign debt* of this commonwealth—The treasurer having been enabled, during the recess of the general court, to pay the same in specie. One of the demands thus discharged we are told, amounted to more than 60,000 dollars.

ROCHESTER, *January* 7.

The night before last, one of the most melancholy accidents took place in this town, that has ever happened in this part of the country since its first settlement, and is scarcely exceeded by any which has ever taken place in America. The wife of lieutenant *Tisdale Windslow*, (whose husband was absent) was awakened about eleven o'clock, when she perceived that a fire had burned through the breast-work over the mantle-tree; she was then in bed with her oldest daughter about 15, and an infant, she sprang out of bed, as did her daughter, and supposing the fire to be extinguishable, ran to an entry door and opened it, in order to take a pail of water to put out the fire, she no sooner opened the door than she peceived the entry in one solid blaze, which burst into the room with such force that it was out of her power to shut the door; she ran then to a door which communicated with the kitchen, and opened it, which drew the flame with incredible force from the entry door to the kitchen door, cut off all communication between either door and the children, except the oldest who followed her mother out; two of them, however, a son about 12 years of age, and a daughter about eight, forced themselves through the flame and got out of the house, leaving two behind them, one of about five years of age and one of 18 months, who perished in the flames; the oldest who had followed her mother into the kitchen, instead of pushing out at the door through the porch, went into a buttery, where she perished likewise. The son who had run through the fire, as before related, was burnt in a shocking manner, his shirt was wholly consumed saving only the wristbands. In this situation he ran to the next neighbour, about 20 rods, leaving his footsteps in blood the whole of the way, losing the soles of both his feet before he arrived at the house; in this situation he lay, a heart-breaking spectacle of distress till the next morning about eight o'clock, when death put an end to his sufferings. The only surviving child is so exceedingly ill of her burns that her life is much dispaired of.——Mr. Gray, the nighest neighbour, arrived at the place of this scene of horror, just as the wife came out of the house, who turned about to re-enter it, which was then but little different from a solid column of fire, and so great was her anxiety to return, that his address was scarcely sufficient to deter her from it, in which case nothing within the compass of human abilities could have been capable of preventing her perishing in the conflagration.

The whole exhibited a spectacle of horror, which even the richest language, or the most bold imagination is totally incapable of depicting. A child of about eight, lying in anguish—a promising son of about 12, partly consumed, reduced to a lifeless corpse—a tender mother frantic of grief, her eyes swimming in tears, and her features distorted with anguish and unavailingly weeping over them—On the mouldering ruins of the house, lay the scattered bones of the three unfortunate victims, part of which had fallen into the cellar, the flesh entirely consumed, saving only in the place of the stomach and bowels, was a kind of a cinder adhering to the bones. A most distressed father, who, on his return home was recognised by his groans before his arrival, and on his coming to the fatal place, a number of times swooned, making in the whole as finished an exhibition of distress and grief as adversity itself is capable of producing.

PHILADELPHIA, *January* 30.

Extract of a letter from captain James Orr, to a gentleman in Boston, dated St. Pierre, Martinique, December 5, 1789.

"I sailed from Boston, October 10, in the brig Active, owned by Joseph Ruggles, Esq; and others, of Roxsbury, with provision and 130 sheep on deck. In lat. 33, 30, long. 60, October 19th, the wind veering from N. W. to S. E. at 8, A. M. it began to blow, accompanied at 11 o'clock with rain. I hove too, under a doubled reefed main-sail; and it blowing so furiously at 12 o'clock, I got the fore-yard on deck—Before we had got secured, it blew so strong, that no man could go aloft, and I lay under bare poles until 2 o'clock, when like a raging tornado, the gale still increased.—I got the brig before the wind, and the gale was so strong as to blow her head under water—and would not steer. I went to heave the hay and sheep overboard immediately—and from the blowing of the sea, rain, &c. it was so dark that we could not see the jib-boom end, at times—the sea running mountains high. At half past 2, P. M. the tornado died away to a breath—and soon after came on from the opposite point with redoubled fury—nothing could stand it, and we scudded before it against the old sea from S. E. until a mast high sea filled the waist, carried all clean before it, hove me on my beam ends, and I broached too with my head to N. E.—In that condition, with the main-yard nearly in the water, I lay 15 minutes almost covered up with the sea—at length the main-mast went overboard, and all belonging to it, breaking about two feet from the deck—I instantly righted, nothing standing but the fore-mast—It blew my fore-top-sail-yard to the mast head—parted cluelines and buntlines, all new, with the braces, bowline, tackling, &c. and blew it away, with the top-mast, short off at the fore cap—at 4, P. M. fine weather, but great sea.

"On the 20th in lat. 32, 24, long. 50, 59, spoke sloop Ranger, Joshua Merril, master, from Casco-Bay dismasted—he told me the wind, was so strong that it blew away his mast as if it had been made of paste—and that he and all his hands were washed overboard, and washed in again.—The captain was much bruised and they had no boat. As I also had no boat, I could not help him to water, which he wanted. I arrived here November 22, since which time six vessels have arrived—the crews of which went on board of several wrecks at sea. A captain Swain, of Hudson, arrived here yesterday under jury masts, bound a whaling."

Extract of a letter from a house of respectability in Bourdeaux, dated November 17, 1789, to a gentleman in this city.

"Matters are now perfectly quiet and peaceable at Paris, and the national assembly daily adopting measures to render this one of the most respectable and flourishing countries in Europe—There is not the shadow of danger of a national bankruptcy, and private property is as secure as in any part of the world."

Extract of a letter from Bourdeaux, November 19.

"No doubt you have heard before this of the commotions of some parts of this kingdom, but this province has been exempted from the like, and we have every prospect of peace continuing here. We think it necessary to inform you of this circumstance, lest you should apprehend your property not being safe here."

WINCHESTER, *(Virginia) January* 13.

Emigrants to Kentucky, passed by Muskingum from 1st of August, 1786, to 15th of May, 1789, 19,889 souls, 1067 boats, 8884 horses, 2297 cattle, 1926 sheep, 627 waggons, besides those which passed in the night unnoticed.

Some travellers from Kentucky report, that as they passed through the wilderness, about the 23d of last month, they counted 14 human bodies lying dead, at no great distance from each other. Our informants also add, that these unfortunate persons were all scalped, doubtless by the savages, but that such was their hurry, to avoid a similar fate, they did not stop to enter into a very minute examination of them.

Annapolis, Feb. 11.

On Monday last, about three o'clock in the afternoon, the government house unfortunately took fire; it is supposed to have been communicated through a breach in one of the chimnies, and after having burnt a considerable time in the upper story, was happily extinguished through the great exertion and activity of the citizens, and of all others who were present, without more damage to the house than what was in a great measure unavoidable to it's preservation. And we cannot here help in justice to remark, that the extinguishment of the fire was greatly owing to the very uncommon exertions of Messrs. Andrew Brown, Alexander Thompson, James M'Fadon, Dennis Dunning, John Sulivan, Patrick Dunn, Cornelius West, Thomas Clark and Charles Caton, and a few others, who early in the commencement of the fire got on the roof of the house, and cut it away in such a manner as to admit a free communication of the water buckets, and that their conduct could not but be highly pleasing and interesting to every spectator, and particularly to the other citizens of Annapolis, to observe the well-timed exertions of those active men, and that it cannot but claim from them and the public in general the warmest acknowledgments of gratitude and esteem.

Summary view of the report of the secretary of the treasury, submitted to the honourable house of representatives of the United States, on Thursday the 21st inst.

THE report of the secretary of the treasury, after premising, in a forcible manner, the importance of public credit to the character and prosperity of a nation; the impolicy as well as the impracticability of making a distinction between the various classes of public creditors; the obligation which the public is under, either of discharging the interest due on the debt, or of funding it on the same terms with the principal; and the propriety of assuming the state debts, not only the principles of justice, but in order to facilitate a fair and equitable settlement of accounts between the states and the union, and of preventing that competition in the raising of revenue, which would prove either injurious to both, or oppressive to the people—proposes,

That a loan shall be opened for the full amount of the debts, as well of the particular states as of the union, upon the following terms, viz.

1st. That for every hundred dollars subscribed, payable in the debt (as well interest as principal) the subscriber should be entitled to have two thirds funded at a yearly interest of six per cent. (the capital redeemable at the pleasure of the government, by payment of the principal) and to receive the other third in lands of the western territory, at the rate of twenty cents per acre—Or,

2d. To have the whole sum funded at a yearly interest of four per cent. irredeemable by any payment exceeding five dollars per annum, on account both of principal and interest, and to receive, as a compensation for the reduction of interest, fifteen dollars and eighty cents, payable in lands, as in the preceding case—Or,

3d. To have sixty-six and two thirds dollars funded at a yearly interest of six per cent. irredeemable also by any payment exceeding four and two thirds dollars per annum, an account both of principal and interest—and to have, at the end of ten years, twenty-six dollars and eighty-eight cents funded at the like interest and rate of redemption—Or,

4thly. To have an annuity for the remainder of life, upon the contingency of living to a given age, not less distant than ten years, computing interest at four per cent.—Or,

5thly. To have an annuity for the remainder of life, on the contingency of the survivorship of the younger of two persons, computing interest in this case also at four per cent.

6thly. In addition to the foregoing loans, the secretary proposes a loan of ten millions dollars, payable one half in specie, and the other half in the debt (as well principal as interest) bearing an interest of five per cent. irredeemable by any payment exceeding six dollars per annum, both of principal and interest.

And also (by way of experiment) a tontine, upon the following principles, viz.

That the classes should be six, composed respectively of persons of the following ages:—

1st. class of those of 20 years and under.
2d. do. of those above 20, and not exceeding 30.
3d. do. of those above 30, and not exceeding 40.
4th. do. of those above 40, and not exceeding 50.
5th. do. of those above 50, and not exceeding 60.
6th. do. of those above 60.

Each share to be two hundred dollars. The number of shares in each class to be indefinite. Persons to be at liberty to subscribe on their own lives, or those of others, nominated by them.

	Dollars.	Cent.
The annuity upon a share in the first class, to be	8	40
Upon a share in the second,	8	65
Upon a share in the third,	9	
Upon a share in the fourth,	9	65
Upon a share in the fifth,	10	70
Upon a share in the sixth,	12	80

The annuities of those who die, to be equally divided among the survivors, until four-fifths shall be dead, when the principal of survivorship shall cease, and each annuitant thenceforth enjoy his dividend as a several annuity, during the life upon which it shall depend.

On the loans where interest is payable, it is proposed that the payment of the same should be quarterly, not only for the benefit of the creditors, but in order to promote a more rapid circulation of money.

In proposing the foregoing terms, the secretary appears to have been governed by the following principles:

THAT no change ought to be attempted in the rights of the creditors, but what is sanctioned by their voluntary consent, and founded on the basis of a fair equivalent.

That the nature of the public debt (being a capitable redeemable at the pleasure of the government, which may avail itself of any fall of interest) is favourable to the public—unfavourable to the creditors; and may therefore facilitate an arrangement for the reduction of the present rate of interest on the basis of a fair equivalent.

That, from the increase of money arising from the low rate of interest in Europe, that of the monied capital of the nation, by funding seventy millions of dollars, the further establishment of public credit, and other causes, it is presumable, that the government rate of interest in the United States will, at the expiration of five years, fall to five per cent. and in a period not exceeding twenty years, to four per cent.

How far the calculations on these various modes of loan conform to the above principles, it is at present impossible to determine; but from the general accuracy of the report, and the well known disposition of the secretary to support the rights of the creditors, and the character of the nation, there can be no doubt but proper attention has been paid to this point.