cedents drawn from the practice of Great-Britain, he thought them of little weight; and was not at all disposed to look into the government of a country, that had no constitution, for precedents to be followed in the government of this country that enjoys a constitution the best defined in the universe. He noticed some reasons for depriving members of the British parliament of the power of resignation, which do not apply to the circumstances of the United States;—and observed, that as the federal constitution is silent as to the right of resignation, and that right exists under some of the state governments, the house cannot take away the privilege by implication. The constitution of Maryland recognises the right, and has expressly provided for it: the constitutions of some of the other states also, considering the absurdity of forcing a man to the performance of a duty, which ought to be voluntary on his part, have not taken away from the person elected this privilege, which is one of the greatest instances of his freedom. Reasons may be alleged, why military men should not be permitted to resign their appointments in particular cases; but those reasons do not apply to members of the legislature:—if the right of resignation was refused to them in cases of sickness, imprisonment, or even apprehension of imprisonment, the house would be deprived of the attendance of its members:—why then not establish at once a principle that would obviate all those difficulties?—As Mr. Pinkney had not undertaken a trust, and Mr. Mercer was duly elected, he hoped the report of the select committee would be adopted.

After further remarks by Messrs. Williamson, Gerry, Seney, Sedgwick, Lee and Vining, the committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again to-morrow.

The house again resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill apportioning the representation of the people of the United States, according to the first enumeration.

Some debate having taken place respecting the time when the additional members should be admitted into the house,

Mr. Madison proposed, and the committee adopted, the following amendment:

"That from and after the 3d day of March, 1793, and until the next enumeration of the people of the United States, the house of representatives shall be composed of members, who shall have been chosen in the proportion of one representative to every 30,000 persons, computed according to the rule prescibed by the constitution of the United States."

Sundry other amendments were made; after which the committee rose and reported the bill, as amended.

Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY *November* 23.

Mr. Speaker laid before the house a report from the secretary of the department of war, on the petitions of the widows, children and executors of sundry commissioned officers, who perished during the late war. Referred to the committee appointed to prepare a bill making compensation to the widows, orphans and representatives of deceased officers of the late army.

Mr. Madison presented a memorial from the quakers of the state of Virginia, praying immunity from militia duty. Referred to the committee of the whole on the militia bill.

The house then proceeded to the consideration of the amendments proposed by the committee of the whole house to the "bill apportioning the representation of the people of the United States according to the first enumeration."

Mr. Sedgwick moved an amendment, for settling the ratio at thirty-four thousand; and called for the yeas and nays.

The question was taken on this motion, and lost.

The yeas and nays were as follows:

Yeas.—Messrs. Ames, Ashe, Barnewell, Boudinot, B. Bourne, S. Bourne, Dayton, Gilman, Goodhue, Hillhouse, Kitchell, Livermore, Niles, Sedgwick, J. Smith, I. Smith, W. Smith, Steele, Sturges, Thatcher, Ward.———21.

Nays.—Messrs. Baldwin, Brown, Benson, Findley, Gerry, Giles, Gordon, Gregg, Griffin, Grove, Hartley, Heister, Huger, Jacobs, Kittera, Lawrence, Leanard, Lee, Macon, Madison, Moore, Muhlenberg, Murray, Page, Parker, Schoonmaker, Seney, Sheredine, Sumpter, Sylvester, Tredwell, Tucker, Venable, Wadsworth, Wayne, White, Williamson, Willis.———38.

The house having gone through the amendments, and further amended the bill, it was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole (Mr. Muhlenberg in the chair) and proceeded to the further consideration of the report of the committee of elections on the election of Mr. J. F. Mercer, as representative for the state of Maryland, in the room of Mr. Pinkney, who had resigned his appointment.

After a debate of some length, the committee rose, and reported the report of the standing committee of elections, with amendments; which being adopted by the house, Mr. Mercer is recognised as entitled to sit in the house, to represent the state of Maryland.

Adjourned.

PARIS, *September* 12.

Affairs of the Colonies.

THE sitting of the national assembly of the 5th in the evening, was one of the most tumultuous of the present session. The affairs of the colonies, and the decree of the 15th of May, in favour of the people of colour, gave rise to the tumult. The two opposite parties are more violent than ever. The debate was opened by the reading of an address of the city of Brest, very different from that by which the citizens of Nantes desired the repeal of the decree in question, by a formal prediction of the total loss of the colonies, if the assembly should not determine to take that step. That petition read at the sitting of the 25th of August, was referred to the colonial committee. That of Brest, on the contrary demands the execution of the decree of the 15th of May, and violently charges the committee. Messrs. Alexander Lameth and Barnave, have answered these charges with great force, and have not concealed that the assembly would be at last compelled to repeal its decree. M. Robespiere, giving a loose to his violent temper, openly declared the two above named members to be traitors to their country, and he prayed a day to be appointed to prove the truth of his charge, formally accusing M. Barnave with having employed the most iniquitous means to prevent the execution of the decree in the colonies. M. Barnave has accepted the challenge, and likewise required a special sitting for the discussion of the affair. A dreadful agitation succeeded this challenge. At last, in order to put an end to this scandalous scene, the assembly passed on to the order of the day, and separated without taking this subject into consideration.

The discussion began again on Wednesday the 7th in the forenoon; when M. Rewbell, persuaded, as well as several other members, that the whole truth is not yet known respecting this matter, moved that it should be adjourned to the next legislature; but M. Barnave opposed this motion out of concern for the colonies, and moved that a new report be ordered on the subject, to be made in ten days, which was decreed.

A thick veil still seems to cloud this subject, and prevent us as yet from forming a judgment on the question. The whole commercial interest appears to wish for the repeal of this humane decree. As to the news which come daily from the colonies, they all contradict each other, and each bears the stamp of the spirit of party which dictated it. It appears, however, that there is a large majority against the adoption of the contested decree.

ST. EUSTATIUS, *October* 28.

In the night of the 24th instant, we had a heavy gale from the S. W. accompanied with a heavy swell of the sea, and great fall of rain; there were about 24 sail of vessels in the road when it began, several of which in striving to get under weigh run foul of each other, by which some damage was sustained. On Tuesday morning an affecting scene was presented to the view of the sympathetic spectators on shore; the sea continuing to run very high and the wind increasing, the perilous state of those on board gave great anxiety to the feeling mind. Two vessels only held by their anchors; many cleared the land and got to sea—a sloop and schooner belonging to this island, and the sloop Jersey, of Jersey, captain Hampton, were driven on shore. This sloop had but a few days before anchored in the road under a jury mast, after escaping the fury of a violent gale, and had just got in a new mast, which the master and crew were all night laboriously employed to secure, with tackels, for the reception of sail to get her to sea, but at four o'clock in the morning, their laudable view was disappointed, her best bower cable gave out and she was driven from her small anchor on shore. About 11 o'clock on Tuesday morning the gale abated, since then most of the above-mentioned vessels have returned to their moorings. Happily no lives were lost; and we do not hear of any vessel now remaining unaccounted for.

Letters from St. Martin's state the consequences of this gale to have been more fatal there; a new ship belonging to New-London, with 1800 barrels salt on board, three other American vessels, and a sloop and schooner belonging to that island, were driven on shore, and some parts of the island the planters have suffered considerably. In the town of Great-Bay it gives us pleasure to add, the effects of it were trifling, as the blowing down of fences, &c.

BOSTON, *November* 10.

Yesterday the inhabitants met at Faneuil-Hall pursuant to adjournment.

The committee appointed to draught instructions to our representatives, relative to the repeal of a law passed in 1750, prohibiting theatrical exhibitions, reported the same, which, after some debate, were accepted.

SALEM, *November* 8.

Captain Henry Clarke arrived here since our last from Cape François, which he left on the 8th of October, in no happier situation than our former accounts represented.

A letter from James Perkins, Esq; resident at the Cape, dated the 7th of October, says, "The blacks have made proposals to surrender; yet there is so little faith to be put in these people, we know not if their repentance is sincere. This eve, or to-morrow, will determine it. The late rains have prevented our troops going into the country. Every thing has therefore remained quiet since my last."

NEW-YORK, *November* 12.

By an examination of the European accounts, we have reason to conclude, that the mighty combinations, and formidable preparations, to effect a counter-revolution in France, exist only in the distracted brains of the fugitive votaries of despotism. The pompous declarations and letters of surrounding sovereigns, which have been published, are supposed to be all fictions. But were all the crowned robbers of Europe to unkennel their slaves, and set them upon France, she would, with the wonderful unanimity which now pervades her, be able to cope with the whole. But liberty is now the watch-word of half the inhabitants of Europe; and for any monarch to engage in a war against it, would be to put one half of his subjects in arms against the other. France (taught by America) and all Europe will eventually be free.

Number of representatives, according to the return of the census now made from the several states, if the ratio of representation established be of

No. of representatives from	1 for 30000	if 1 for 33000	if 1 for 34000	if 1 for 40000
Vermont	2	2	2	2
New-Hampshire	4	4	4	3
Massachusetts	15	14	14	11
Rhode-Island	2	2	2	1
Connecticut	7	7	6	5
New-York	11	10	9	8
New-Jersey	5	5	5	4
Pensylvania	14	13	12	10
Delaware	1	1	1	1
Maryland	9	8	8	6
Virginia	20	19	18	15
Kentucky	2	2	2	1
North-Carolina	11	10	10	8
Georgia	2	2	2	1
And allowing South Carolina, which state has made no return, upon a supposition, 5 members, in each case, would then be	110	104	100	82

PITTSBURG, *November* 5.

About ten or twelve days ago, two men were killed on the Kiskimenitas river which empties into the Allegany river some distance from this place, by the Indians. It is not known what tribe they were of, but generally supposed to be Munsees. This has alarmed that neighbourhood a good deal, and several families have removed into the settlement, for fear there should be other parties out, which they have reason to suppose from accounts they received from Reed's Station, to that effect.

PHILADELPHIA, *November* 21.

By the latest accounts from Port-au-Prince, we are informed, that the mulattoes have made peace with the whites, which has enabled them to repel every possible incursion near the town; the mulattoes being very strong in number, and better adapted to the service of fighting against the negroes. But all this is not sufficient to put a period to the disturbances in that beautiful island. A force is expected from old France to effect this; on the arrival of which, there can be little doubt but that the insurgents will not only disperse, but be intimidated into peace, and a submission to the laws.

Nov. 22. Late advices from France say, that after the first day of October, 1791, no American ships, laden with tobacco were to be admitted to entry in the French ports, except upon condition of coming directly from America with clearances for France.

Extract of a letter from Leyden, September 20.

"The French king's acceptation of the constitution, has thrown a universal damp upon the spirits of such anti-revolutional Frenchmen as reside among us, and in our neighbourhood. All Germany would have been in motion long before this time, to have restored the old tyrannical government, could the pulse of the people have been brought to beat in concert with the wishes of the courts; but at present, we as much expect the emperor of China here as a counter-revolution in France. The two (exiled) French princes Artois and Conde, not long since solicited a loan of three millions of florins at Amsterdam, but did not succeed. All they could procure was about 275 thousand livres, for which the diamonds and jewels of the Conde family were mortgaged, valued at a million sterling, and which now he pawned at a public broker's for redemption. The Diet of Ratisbon have drawn up a petition to the emperor, to persuade him, if possible to reinstate certain German princes in possession of Alsace; but the answer, it is said, has not yet been received."

Nov. 24. By the brig Commerce, captain Jones, arrived yesterday from Cape François, which place he left the 3d instant, we learn that the situation of the white people in Hispaniola was very distressing when he came away—that the blacks had lost no ground, and in every engagement seemed to act with astonishing intrepedity. The frigates and troops which left the Cape the 23d of October, to attack Port-Margot, had captured the fort, after some resistance, and shortly after marched to attack English Hill, a strong post in possession of the insurgents, commanding a pass through the mountains. The troops were advancing with their arms supported, when they were suddenly fired on by a considerable body of the blacks in ambuscade. The whites upon this were obliged to retreat with precipitation, having suffered a considerable loss in killed and wounded. Two vessels had arrived at the Cape with the wounded on this expedition.

That a few days before he sailed, a vessel had arrived in a short passage from Bourdeaux, which brought an account of the appointment of count Dillon to the government of Hispaniola—and, that he was to have embarked for his government on the 12th of October, with four thousand troops!

By extracts of a letter from Aux-Cayes, to a merchant in this city, we learn, that there is almost a total stagnation of business; that flour was selling at five dollars, and most other things in proportion. That in consequence of the continuation of the disturbances and the loss of revenue by the destruction of so many sugar plantations, the duty on sugar was doubled. The writer, in order to give a striking idea of the disagreeableness of his situation, mentions, that he would be willing to put up with any thing, however disagreeable, to be once safe returned from amongst them. All sorts of produce are very scarce and dear.

Some accounts from England recently published, inform that Mr. Burke is become so unpopular, that both his friends and the world are deserting him—and even the ministers treat him with coldness.