

bank bills, belonging to Messrs. Sylvanus Drew and sons, of Duxbury, got on fire, and were consumed, on Wednesday night last. Having two casks of powder in her cabin, it was deemed too hazardous to attempt extinguishing the flames until after the explosion.

The Washington, of 16, and the Mercury, of 14 guns, both belonging to this port, arrived at Holmes's Hole, on Saturday last, in 90 days from Leghorn.

January 29.

We have reason to believe St. Martin's is the object of the expedition preparing at Martinique, under general Knox. It has been the depot of much property stolen from the Americans.

Extract of a letter from a respectable clergyman in England, to his friend near Boston, dated September 14, 1798.

"We have been blest, as a nation, with a remarkable fruitful and fine harvest; the wheat particularly good, and got in well. The barley not so good."

January 30.

Captain Charles Russell, we learn, is appointed to the command of the United States' ship of war Herald, now lying in our harbour.

NEW-YORK, February 1.

Extract of a letter per the Chesfield packet, from a gentleman in London to his friend in this place, November 28, 1798.

"Our West-India fleets arrived safe, and it is astonishing the price produce sells for—never was cotton, coffee and sugar so high, as is also tobacco and rum—foreign produce never brought the price it does at present, and there is no immediate appearance of a fall. Linens of all kinds, particularly bleached, have risen fully 1-2 per yard, since I last wrote you—brown calicoes have got up at Blackburn from 12-1-2 to 15, and printed goods, as might naturally be expected, have advanced considerably; and I can safely say, the nation was never in a more flourishing situation, being at present the centre of commerce for Europe, and the depot of the specie."

February 2.

The ship Three Sisters, captain White, sailed yesterday for the Havanna, with several vessels under her convoy. We wish them a safe and advantageous voyage.

The Three Sisters belongs to Messrs. Hugh Pollock and Co. of this city—she is one of the finest private armed ships that sails out of the United States, is coppered, mounts 22 guns, 6 and 9 pounders, and is manned with 54 men, exclusive of about 20 passengers, who are under articles to give their assistance in case of need. Messrs. Pollock and Co. merit the thanks of their fellow-citizens, for their spirited conduct, which aids the measures of government, secures their own property, and affords to commerce a protection which it has long wanted.

At her departure, she complimented the city with a federal salute.

We are informed, by a gentleman of this city, that the governor of Teneriffe has declared to the French consul at that port, that he will not suffer prizes to be brought in there and condemned. There were at the time, two French privateers in port, one of which was laid up, the other went out, in defiance of the governor's intimation, and came across an English ship of war, which blew her up.

PHILADELPHIA, February 7.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in London to his friend in this city, dated November 26th, 1798.

"The United States are upon better terms here now than they have been before at any period since our unfortunate revolution, an event truly disastrous to both countries and to the whole civilized world. If the councils of the two countries can be induced to act in concert, they can render each other very essential services—nature made them to go together.

"The assistance which the English navy has had from the services of the American seamen on board for two or three years has saved the nation; had your country taken measures to prevent it at that time, what would now have been the situation of Europe? the work is now done, and as you want your sailors for your own ships of war it is not reasonable that we should expect their services any longer, orders are already issued for their general release.

"Could your people have been induced to have tolerated the expedition of governor Blount to Louisiana and Mexico, it would have settled the affair of the West-Indies and the Spanish Main, and united our interest for ever, it is hoped that part of this will yet be accomplished in the support of which it is understood to be given by you and by us, to the revolt of the French West-Indies.

"The government has been busily engaged in forming another coalition against France, you will soon hear their success by movements from all quarters; from the respectable military and naval preparations which are making, and the great internal resources of your country which you are calling into operation, we are induced to believe that the United States have not been overlooked in forming the present coalition. It is a subject of the highest general concern to all countries, and ought to be made a subject of the greatest general exertions.

"If we are not misinformed here, a liberal, treaty, offensive and defensive, providing for an indissoluble union of our interests has already been agreed on, and will be brought into operation as soon as the temper of the times will bear it."

SAVANNA, January 22.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in St. Domingo, to his friend in this city, dated December 6th, 1798.

"Affairs in this island seem to bear a very serious aspect at present. The brigands are determined to massacre all the whites, and have offered a free and unobscured commerce on their part, to all nations that will trade with them. Provisions very scarce here, and likely to continue so.—Flour 24 dollars—Beef ditto—Pork 26."

A gentleman who came passenger in the brig Two Sisters, captain Smith, from Lymington, says, that he read in a London paper, of the 18th or 19th of November (under the Dublin-head) that Holt had come in, and given himself up, and was confined in Dublin Castle.

The following intelligence is taken from the (Sun) a London paper, received by captain Smith:—

LONDON, November 15.

After our paper had been put to press, we received Paris Journals, by express, to the 12th instant.

Letters from Cephalonia and Messina state, that after having sustained several checks, Buonaparte had gained a complete victory over the pacha Achmet near St. Jean d'Aire, and that he was in possession of that place, of Aleppo, and of the principal cities of Syria.

The king of Prussia has forbid the exportation of grain from his kingdom.

It is certain that the foreign minister has received dispatches from Buonaparte, stating that that general was master of all Egypt, Jerusalem, Aleppo, and of the whole of the Holy Land; and that he was marching towards Bussora, to take the rout for Hindoulan.—(L'Echo.)

From Cieves it is stated that the whole division of Hauppoult would pass into Brabant, to subdue the rebels. Two regiments were already on their march. The extraordinary couriers do not now pass by Brabant, but by Treves.

The courier sent by the Prussian government to the Executive Directory, to demand if it would respect the line of neutrality, is on his return to Berlin. The answer appears satisfactory.

It is not true, that the Directory has sent an agent to America.

They state from Leghorn, of the 5th Brumaire, (October 26) that letters from Aleppo announce, that Buonaparte had levied at Cairo a contribution of 600,000 piasters.

The English are equipping light vessels and gunboats at Gasta. It is believed that their project is to make a descent on the coasts of Liguria.

There has arrived from Toulon, at St. Pierre d'Arena, a vast quantity of warlike stores. Some troops of the new requisition have likewise arrived.

It is reported in Switzerland, that Basse and Shaffhausen will be declared in a state of siege by the French; and that with consent of the Helvetic directory, the cordon as far as Constance will be considerably augmented.

BALTIMORE, February 8.

Information for merchants and seamen of the United States.

In December last by order of the President of the United States, letters, under date of December 15th, 1798, were dispatched to Fulwar Skipwith, then our consul-general in France; Joseph Fenwick, consul at Bourdeaux; Nathaniel Cutting, at Havre, and William Vans, at Morlaix; directing them severally no longer to exercise their respective functions for and in behalf of the United States.

The whole consular authority for the United States in France, is now rested in the three gentlemen whose names follow, viz.

Stephen Cathalan at Marseilles, who will attend to the American affairs respecting seamen, &c. in the French ports on the Mediterranean.

Isaac Cox Barzet is removed from Brest to Bourdeaux.

And P. F. Dobre is continued at Nantes. These two gentlemen will superintend all proper cases of seamen, &c. occurring in French ports on the Atlantic. Feb. 4th, 1799.

Annapolis, February 14.

Fifth congress of the United States.

At the third session, begun and held at the city of Philadelphia, in the state of Pennsylvania, on Monday, the third of December, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight.

An ACT for the punishment of certain crimes therein specified.

BE it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, That if any person, being a citizen of the United States, whether he be actually resident, or abiding within the United States, or in any foreign country, shall without the permission or authority of the government of the United States, directly or indirectly, communicate or carry on, any verbal or written correspondence or intercourse with any foreign government, or any officer or agent thereof, with an intent to influence the measures, or conduct of any foreign government, or of any officer or agent thereof, in relation to any disputes or controversies with the United States, or defeat the measures of the government of the United States; or if any person, being a citizen of or resident within the United States, and not duly authorized, shall counsel, advise, aid, or assist, in any such correspondence, with intent, as aforesaid, he or they shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and on conviction before any court of the United States having jurisdic-

tion thereof, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars; and by imprisonment during a term not less than six months nor exceeding three years: Provided always, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to abridge the right of individual citizens of the United States to apply, by themselves, or their lawful agents, to any foreign government, or the agents thereof, for the redress of any injuries in relation to person or property, which such individuals may have sustained from such government, or any of its agents, citizens or subjects.

JONATHAN DAYTON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
TH: JEFFERSON,
Vice-President of the United States,
and President of the Senate.

Approved, January 30, 1799.

JOHN ADAMS,
President of the United States.
Deposited among the rolls in the office of the department of state.

TIMOTHY PICKERING,
Secretary of State.

MR. GREEN,
YOU will oblige the author of the following articles on the constitution by giving them a place in your paper of this week.

ANXIOUS that the constitution of Maryland should be made as perfect as possible, I cannot refrain from submitting to the consideration of the people a few reflections upon that part of it which prevents the senate from originating or proposing amendments to money bills. The article alluded to is the twenty-second, and runs in these words, "That the senate may originate any other except money bills, to which their assent or dissent only shall be given, and may receive any other bills from the house of delegates, and assent, dissent, or propose amendments."

When I observe the great political characters who composed the convention which framed our constitution, and view the many bulwarks erected in it for the preservation of liberty, it is with much reluctance I venture to question the policy of this provision. My diffidence is increased when I behold a similar clause engrafted into the constitution of every state in the union. But having been long convinced that it is improper and that it ought to be abolished; I cannot withhold from the view of the people those reasons which have produced this conviction.

The legislature of Maryland consists of two distinct branches, a senate and house of delegates, each independent of the other, and armed with a negative upon the proceedings of the other. Whilst this, then, continues to be the case, I cannot possibly conceive any particular subject of legislation, the origination of which ought to be solely and exclusively confined to either branch. In conferring this privilege upon the house of delegates, it appears to me that they were reflected on, for it is in fact supposing that they could not, or could not retain that freedom and independence of sentiment, when they were to act upon a money bill, if suffered to originate in the senate, as they would in other cases. Suppose this restriction taken away, it would not follow that the house of delegates would pass any money bill which the senate might think proper to originate. They certainly would not whilst they retained the spirit of freemen, and that independence which the constitution of the state of Maryland has conferred on them. The restriction, therefore, when considered in this point of view, appears to me highly improper.

I do not know that any very heavy grievances have been experienced from the operation of this article, and I am well satisfied that none would result if it should be repealed. The following inconveniences, however, have arisen from it. The hands of the senate are so tied up that I am sure that is one great cause of the length of our sessions. Any man who is acquainted with the acts of assembly will see what a vast quantity of business the senate are prohibited from originating in consequence of this article. I have heard some of the present senate complain of the inconveniences to which their body is subjected by this article of the constitution. It is moreover destructive of that harmony and good understanding, which ought to prevail between the two branches of the legislature. For their proceedings will furnish instances of long and disagreeable altercation upon this subject, and as men are fond of power, and do not wish their privileges to be encroached upon, disputes of this sort are generally conducted with much warmth and acrimony. If this article were repealed the sessions would be considerably shortened, and we should hear no more of such disputes in future. I submit to the people whether these inconveniences, if they cannot be called grievances, do not require a remedy?

If the senate were exempt from taxation, it might then perhaps be improper to intrust them with this power. But that is not the case. All property is liable to be taxed for the support of government. The property required by the constitution to qualify a senator to hold a seat in that body is greater than that required of a delegate. As the senate, then, bear their proportion of the public taxes, it is not natural to suppose that, if they had the power to originate money bills, they would consent to tax themselves unnecessarily, or profusely.

This, among many other principles of our constitution, is borrowed from the British government. It is a fundamental principle of that government that all money bills shall originate in the house of commons. This privilege the house of commons have always been anxiously tenacious of, and will not suffer to be infringed under any pretext whatever. It cannot be too highly valued by the people of this country, for the very existence of the house of com-