

was not mistaken nor unob- served. — To realize the vast hopes to which our revolution had given birth, a change of political system became indispensable.

How novel, how grand, the spectacle! Independent states stretched over an immense territory, and known only by common difficulty, clinging to their union as the rock of their safety, deciding by a frank comparison of their relative condition, to rear on that rock, under the guidance of reason, a common government through whose commanding protection, liberty and order, with their long train of blessings should be safe to themselves, and the sure inheritance of their posterity.

This arduous task devolved on citizens selected by the people, from knowledge of their wisdom and confidence in their virtue. In this august assembly of sages and of patriots, Washington of course was found—and, as if acknowledged to be most wise, where all were wise, with one voice he was declared their chief.—How well he merited this rare distinction, how faithful were the labors of himself and his compatriots, the work of their hands and our union, strength and prosperity, the fruits of that work, best attest.

But to have essentially aided in presenting to his country this consummation of her hopes, neither satisfied the claims of his fellow-citizens which the possession of those talents imposed.—Heaven had not infused into his mind such an uncommon share of its aetherial spirit to remain unemployed, nor bestowed on him his genius unaccompanied with the corresponding duty of devoting it to the common good. To have framed a constitution, was striving only, without realizing the general happiness. This great work remained to be done, and America, steadfast in her preference, with one voice summoned her beloved Washington, unperplexed as he was in the duties of civil administration, to execute this last act in the completion of the national felicity. Obedient to her call, he assumed the high office with that self-distrust peculiar to his innate modesty, the constant attendant of pre-eminent virtue. What was the burst of joy through our anxious land on this exhilarating event is known to us all.—The aged, the young, the brave, the fair, rivalled each other in demonstrations of their gratitude; and this high-wrought, delightful scene was heightened in its effect, by the singular contest between the zeal of the bestowers and the avoidance of the receiver of the honors bestowed. Commencing his administration, what heart is not charmed with the recollection of the pure and wise principles announced by himself, as the basis of his political life. He best understood the indissoluble union between virtue and happiness, between duty and advantage, between the genuine maxims of an honest and magnanimous policy, and the solid rewards of public prosperity and individual felicity; watching with an equal and comprehensive eye over this great assemblage of communities and interests, he laid the foundations of our national policy in the unerring, immutable principles of morality, based on religion, exemplifying the pre-eminence of free government, by all the attributes which win the affections of its citizens or command the respect of the world.

"O fortunatos nimium, sua si bona noverint!"

Leading through the complicated difficulties produced by previous obligations and conflicting interests, seconded by succeeding houses of Congress, enlightened and patriotic, he surmounted all original obstructions, and brightened the path of our national felicity.

The presidential term expiring, his solicitude to exchange exaltation for humility returned, with a force increased with increase of age, and he had prepared his farewell address to his countrymen, proclaiming his intention when the united interposition of all around him, enforced by the eventual prospects of the epoch, produced a farther sacrifice of inclination to duty.—The election of president followed, & Washington, by the unanimous vote of the nation, was called to resume the chief magistracy: what a wonderful illustration of Providence! Which attracts man-

our admiration, a people so correct, or a citizen so commanding an assemblage of talents for doing rivalry, and stilling even envy itself! Such a nation ought to be happy, such a chief ought to be forever revered.

War, long menaced by the Indian tribes, now broke out; and the terrible conflict deluging Europe with blood, began to shed its baneful influence over our happy land. To the first, outstretching his invincible arm, under the orders of the gallant Wayne, the American Eagle soared triumphant through distant forests. Peace followed victory, and the melioration of the condition of the enemy followed peace. Godlike virtue which uplifts even the subdued savage.

To the second he opposed himself. New and delicate was the conjuncture and great was the stake. Soon did his penetrating mind discern and seize the only course, contending to us all the felicity enjoyed. He issued his proclamation of neutrality. This index to his whole subsequent conduct, was sanctioned by the approbation of both houses of Congress, and by the approving voice of the people.

To this sublime policy he inviolably adhered, unmoved by foreign introlion, unshaken by domestic turbulence.

"Hustum et tenacem propolium virum,
"Non civium ardor prava jubentium,
"Non vultus instantis tyranni,
"Mente quatit solida."

Maintaining his pacific system at the expense of no duty, America faithful to herself and unstained in her honor, continued to enjoy the delights of peace, while afflicted Europe mourns in every quarter, under the accumulated miseries of an unexampled war; miseries in which our happy country must have shared, had not our pre-eminent Washington been as firm in council, as he was brave in the field.

Pursuing steadily his course, he held fast the public happiness, preventing foreign war, and quelling internal discords till the revolving period of a third election approached, when he resigned his office, but inextinguishable desire of returning to the humble walks of private life.

The promulgation of his fixed resolution, stopped the anxious wishes of an affectionate people, from adding a third unanimous testimonial of their unabated confidence in the man so long enthroned in their hearts. When, before, was affection like this exhibited, on earth?—Turn over the record of ancient Greece—Review the annals of mighty Rome—Examine the volumes of modern Europe: your search in vain. America and her Washington only afford the dignified exemplification.

The illustrious personage called by the national voice in succession to the arduous office of guiding a free people, had new difficulties to encounter: the arduous effort of settling our difficulties with France, begun by Washington, and pursued by his successor in virtue as in station, proving abortive, America took measures of self-defence. No sooner was the public mind roused by prospect of danger, than every eye was turned to the friend of all, though secluded from public view, and grey in public service: the virtuous veteran, following his plough, received the unexpected summons with mingled emotions of indignation at the unwarranted ill treatment of his country, and of a determination, once more to risk his all in her defence.

The announcement of these feelings in his address to the President accepting the command of the army, concludes his official conduct.

First in war—first in peace—and first in the hearts of his countrymen, he was second to none in the humble and endearing scenes of private life. A plain, just, humane, temperate and sincere; uniform, dignified and commanding, his example was as edifying to all around him, as were the effects of that example lasting.

To his equal his life was conterminous, to his interests and to the dear object of his affections exemplarily tender: correct through his life—bordered in his private, and true always felt his ordering hand: the purity of his private character gave solace to his public virtues.

His last scene co-terminated with the whole tenor of his life.—Although

Gen. Washington, though eminent, gave much of his time and attention to practical agriculture.

by extreme pain, not a sigh, nor a groan escaped him; and with undisturbed serenity he closed his well spent life.—Such was the man America has lost.—Such was the man for whom our nation mourns.

Methodists I see his august image, and hear falling from his venerable lips these deep-sinking words:

"Ye Sons of America, Inventing our separation: go on, and confirm by your wisdom the fruits of our joint councils, joint efforts, and common dangers! Reverence religion, diffuse knowledge throughout your land, patronize the arts and sciences; let Liberty and Order be inseparable companions, control party spirit, the base of a government; observe good faith to, and cultivate peace with all nations, shut up every avenue to foreign influence, contract rather than extend national connexion, rely on yourselves only: be American in thought and deed.— Thus will you give immortality to that union, which was the constant object of my terrestrial labors; and will you preserve undimmed to the latest posterity, the felicity of a people to me most dear, and thus will you supply (if my happiness is now sought to you) the only vacancy in the round of pure bliss high Heaven bestows."

Pennsylvania Legislature.

House of Representatives, January 3.

To Thomas M'Kean, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

SIR, The obligations of honor, gratitude, and interest, are strong ties; and when to these are added the solemn pledge of an oath to support the constitution of the Commonwealth of the U. States, which the members of the House of Representatives as well as yourself have taken, not a shadow of doubt ought to remain of your having their constant co-operation in all objects which may contribute to the happiness and prosperity of our constituents.

We believe, sir, as you in your communication to us have expressed, that the present crisis in human affairs demands the exercise of wisdom, moderation and fortitude from all who are employed in the business of government. A conduct uniformly regulated by such principles, would be rewarded in its happy effects—wise in the choice of officers, moderate in administration and strong in the pursuit of measures which will contribute to our country's good, we might have a reasonable ground of hope, that the approbation of our constituents and the blessing of Heaven would ensue. We think it, however, due to our constituents, to express our further belief, that distinguishing the state by parties and applying the epithets of traitors, Tories, refugees, French aristocrats, British agents, apostate whigs, &c. to nearly one half of the freemen of the commonwealth, is far from being a testimony of such wisdom, moderation and fortitude, and will not in the remotest degree, contribute to consolidate the opinions of the people generally.

We had accepted your communication to the Legislature as an earnest, that although your mind might have been previously disturbed by the opposition of some, you had from that moment discarded the impression of being the Governor of part of the people only. We have been obliged however, to acknowledge the fallacy of our hope, inasmuch as we have seen that many of the old soldiers and officers in our revolutionary war are to be dismissed from their present employments without even an imputation of mal-conduct.

We lament the occasion which calls for this language, but animated by a spirit of republicanism, and desiring the fervency of a courtly adjustment, we are compelled to use it.

It would give us sincere pleasure if, from this day, the Legislature and executive branches of our government should be found to unite for the common welfare; and that our constituents should harmonize and convince the world that party animosity is merged in universal regard to our constitutional rights, and the dignity of our independence.

The above was on Tuesday delivered in the House of Representatives as a substitute to the answer to the Governor's address, which had been reported by a committee. To day it

was fully debated, and on the question to postpone the reported answer to adopt the substitute, the yeas and nays were called, and appeared as follows, viz.

Yeas 33. Nays 20.

POSTSCRIPT.

Just as our paper was going to press, Capt. Foulton, of the brig Antelope, arrived in town from Liverpool, which he left on the 18th. November. By him we learn, that the day before he sailed, accounts had arrived at Liverpool, that Buonaparte had gained over the greater part of the army in the neighbourhood of Paris, had deposed the Directory and Council of Five Hundred—and had taken the management of the Government into his own hands—that there was prodigious rejoicing in consequence, at Paris—Moreau was appointed second in command.

NEW-YORK, Jan. 3. Yesterday arrived here, Four Sisters, Steam boat, 11 days from Cape Nicholas Mole.

Capt. S. informs that the U. S. frigate Constitution, capt. Talbot was cruising off Cape Francois for a large French merchantman, and brig with valuable cargoes on board. CAPE FRANCOIS.

Extract of the register of Deliberations at St. Domingo.

The agency of the executive conferring that by the first article of the 14th Decree, 7th year, to facilitate the commerce of St. Domingo, different objects of importance were summarily mentioned as free, and that by the 12th article all other merchandise were obliged to pay 12 1/2 per centum.

That the American Consul General having demanded of the agency a diminution of the duties as being too burthenous, and the agency having examined the affair, it has decreed as follows:

Art. 1. The duties on importations by neutral, is reduced to 1 per cent payable in money on the departure of the vessel.

2. In other respects, that nothing be altered from the further decree.

The present decree shall be addressed to the executive, for its approbation, and shall be executed in the colony in each department from the date of its publication.

It shall be printed, read and published, addressed to the civil and military authorities and transcribed on the registers of the administrative and judiciary bodies.

Done at Cape Francois, the 3d Frimaire, 8th year of the French republic one and indivisible.

Signed by the particular agent of the executive directory, Klume, and by the secretary general of the agency L. Blanchard.

A true copy. L. BLANCHARD.

From the Newburyport Herald.

REMARKABLE PHENOMENON.

The following account of a most uncommon appearance, seen by Capt. Woodman of the brig Nymph, at this port, and obligingly communicated by him—will probably excite much attention, and it may be proper to state that if it would not be substantiated by the attestation of his crew and several others, Capt. Woodman's established character for veracity would not admit a doubt of its truth in the minds of those acquainted with him.

MR. MARCH,

Being requested to communicate the following remarks, to the public, I send them to you, to be inserted in your paper, if you think proper.

On my late passage home, from the island of St. Domingo, being in lat. 20, long. 71, on the 12th Nov. 99. half past one o'clock in the morning, the weather being very clear and pleasant, the wind to the eastward, the moon near the full, and shining very bright, observed the stars to shoot in great numbers from every point of the compass, and at twelve o'clock, the whole atmosphere appeared to be full of stars; I may say thousands of thousands, shooting and blazing in every direction, in a most extraordinary and alarming manner, and so continued till day light, the day following the wind came round with the sun, till it got to the north, and the whole atmosphere was filled with smoke, attended with a strong smell, like the burning of woods, and so continued for several days, till I

got into lat. 35 N. and further, on my arrival at the vineyard, I met with three several masters of vessels, who were on their passages at the same time; and said that the stars made the same appearance to them on the night above mentioned, though they were several degrees to the northward of me.

JOSEPH H. WOODMAN. Newburyport, Dec. 20, '99.

NORFOLK, January 13.

Arrived yesterday the brig Maria, capt. Lovington, 23 days from Kingston, Jamaica. The day before capt. L. sailed martial law was proclaimed through the island, in consequence of the apprehension of some spies, from whom information was obtained of an attack being premeditated. One man had been condemned to death as a spy. The Governor had ordered 400 French negroes off, and shipping were chartered to carry them to Martinique and Trinidad. Prisoners of war on parole at Kingston were ordered to be confined in Fort Augusta, those with families excepted, who were, however to find good security for their peaceable conduct.

By the arrival yesterday of the brig Success from Martinique we are enabled to present our readers with some interesting paragraphs of

European News,

which are taken from a London paper (the Public Ledger) of the 9th November, the only one received by us here.

LONDON, November 9.

We have already stated that the Russian troops from Holland were to be stationed in the islands of Guernsey and Jersey, from whence it has been reported an expedition will be fitted out against some part of the coast of France, intended to operate immediately in support of the royalists in Normandy and Brittany, who are understood to be again in greater numbers than at any time since the suppression of the war of La Vendee, and more remotely, as a diversion in favor of the allied armies approaching the opposite frontier of France. What appears to confirm this is, the fact we have now to announce, namely, that nearly a thousand chests, each containing twenty hundred small arms, have been sent off from the Tower to Portsmouth, and orders were yesterday also issued for ammunition and ordnance stores to follow.

We learn from very respectable sources of information, that Courts Martial are to be held upon more than one individual in the commissary department, attached to the army in North Holland. Our readers will perceive the propriety of obtaining from a statement of the circumstances, which are thus about to be brought under enquiry; but we cannot suppress our satisfaction in general, at the prospect thus held up to the country, of being made acquainted with the real causes of the miscarriage of the expedition.

The French government have already acted upon their decree respecting the detention of Napper Tandy, by the capture of several Hamburgese ships. Private letters from Hamburg, however, state, that notwithstanding the sensation caused by these proceedings, every hope is entertained that the mercantile credit of that city is on the eve of being completely re-established. No new failures of any consequence have lately taken place, either there or at Amsterdam.

It has been stated, that Mons. Nieu is now at Portofino, selecting the prisoners to be sent to France in consequence of the convention signed by his Royal highness the Duke of York, and that the French agent chooses out the prisoners in preference to others. It is, however, understood, that this right of choice is no part of the convention, but given by virtue of a compact between the commissioners for the care and custody of prisoners under the French government executed a few months ago, which gives to the respective agents of both nations the right of choosing from among the prisoners such as they wish to be preferentially exchanged.

By a late regulation adopted in the Council of Five Hundred, France is to have four grand ports, viz. Br. S. Ro. Br. S. T. and L. Or. Br. S. and six secondary ones, viz. Antwerp, Dunkirk, Overburg, Havre, Nantes, and Bordeaux.

The Jesuits form now to be patronized on the continent, and are likely to be referred to their former importance. It is a good that they will form a powerful check upon the Jacobins on the principle, perhaps, that one prison may be the antidote against another.

Treaty between SPAIN and MADRID.

R. C. T. O. A Treaty of Peace Commerce, Fishery, and Navigation, has been