

HAGUE, October 25.

At present the basis of the constitution of our republic has been unanimously agreed upon by the committee of constitution (except only one dissent of citizen Kalkreuth of Haarlem.) The unity of the Seven Provinces in regard of their exterior political concerns, is therein admitted, but not unity respecting finances and the consolidation of debts, since some Provinces as Holland and Zealand are heavily in debt, and other Provinces not. The legislative body is divided into two councils, the one of which consists of 30 and the other of 60 members. The Directory or Council of state or Executive will consist of 7 members (like in the former government) representing the 7 Provinces.

This plan of our new constitution will be read in the convention on the 1st Nov. and the members will be allowed 14 days for its consideration. Then they will have to accept or reject it in a mass. If rejected 10 new members will be added to the 21 who have hitherto sat on this commission. These will have to make another report within 4 weeks, and the discussion will then commence and last perhaps 3 or 4 months. The final sanction of the people in their primary assemblies is then to ensue.

Very animated debates are expected between the parties of Federalists and Unitaries, as now called.

HAMBURGH, Nov. 4.

The following is the letter which the King of Naples sent to the Marquis del Vasto, who thereupon departed to Rome as an extraordinary messenger, and concluded there a treaty offensive and defensive, between Naples and the Pope:

In a letter from your holiness I am informed that you are resolved to reject the unjust and impious conditions of the French—Therefore you desire of me speedy assistance. Although this is against my first plan, yet I have had no objection to give my consent to it, because it has a connection with the holy religion to which I was always with my whole heart devoted. As you desire of me a person of whom you can take counsel respecting our common affairs, I have appointed the Marquis del Vasto; to depart immediately to take great care for the honor of God and the Holy Church, and the best means of the states for the quietness of my subjects, who daily give such new proofs of their faithfulness and devotion.

From the Camp of Germano.
FERDINAND, King.

LONDON, November 14.

Dispatches have been received by government from Gibraltar, which state, that on the evening of the 17th of October, the Spanish batteries, consisting of 350 pieces of heavy artillery, were expected to commence playing against the fortress, which, however was in so excellent a state of defence, that not the smallest apprehension was entertained for its safety.

The garrison at Gibraltar, according to the report lately made, consists of near 7000 effective men.

The Island of Minorco is reported to be taken by Sir John Jervis's fleet, assisted by the troops from Corsica.

An army of 18,000 Spaniards will it is said, co-operate with Buonaparte in Italy.

BOSTON, January 14.

We are informed, and from an authority which we rely on, that Mr. Jefferson has written to Mr. Madison on the subject of the late election; and given it as his opinion, that Mr. Adams was the only person who ought to have been elected President, and further, that he is the only person under whom he would accept the Vice-Presidency. If our information is accurate, the acceptance of Mr. J. will be unquestionable.—The event, we hope, will
"Unite the roses, red and white, together.
That on one kind and friendly stalk,
They both may flourish."

January 18.

Since our last Capt. Atwood has arrived here from Cape-Francois, whither he had gone on a trading voyage, in the schooner Jane of this port; but where his cargo, adventure, and every thing valuable, had been seized by the administration of the place, and no compensation allowed. The only palliation given for the pillage, was imperious necessity, and orders from the Executive Directory of France. Twelve other American vessels were in a similar predicament; and all complaints and petitions were treated with contempt. Proper representations of these spoliations have been made to the President, and we have no doubt but an end will speedily be put to them.

NEW-YORK, January 20.

A letter received by a member of Congress from Baltimore, states, that the Spanish in conjunction with the French cruizers, have taken and carried into Cuba, and condemned 30 American vessels.

A letter from Philadelphia, dated Wednesday, says, "It is said Mr. Madison is appointed Envoy Extraordinary to France, and is soon to depart."

This is important, if true, as great confidence would be reposed in that gentleman. Extract of a letter from a merchant in Baltimore, dated January 12.

"In answer to your enquiry relative to insurance, I have to inform you, that in consequence of the unfavorable aspect of trade, the offices have for the present declined business."

Milan accounts of October 8, gives the following: "The new republican constitution of the dukedom of Bologna is now finished—The people, though it tends to the introduction of equality—abolishes all titles of nobility and substitutes that of Citizen, are not entirely satisfied with it, and threatens commotions: The senate have been obliged to issue a severe decree inflicting a deprivation of live, goods and chattels on those who shall oppose said constitution, or commit riots or excesses."

The state congregation (or convention) of Milan have offered a premium of 200 ducats (in a gold medal) to be adjudged to the most approved answer to the following question:—Which of all the free republican constitutions is best calculated for Italy?

January 23.

It is reported that three English frigates are arrived in the Chesapeake.

We understand the sales of land by the United States, have produced about 60,000 dollars.

January 25.

A letter received by a gentleman in Baltimore, from Norfolk, makes mention of the arrival in that port of the Harmony, a French ship of 50 guns, from Cape-Francois, her business not mentioned. The same account says, that Admiral Murray has dispatched three frigates from Halifax, to cruise off our Capes, in order to intercept Commodore Barney's Squadron now lying at Norfolk, should he attempt to go out.

NORFOLK, January 26.

Yesterday arrived here the brig Betsey, Captain T. Baker, 21 days from St. Martins. The Captain informs, that 10 sail of American vessels had been carried into that port previous to his sailing; some of which were condemned, and others waiting for trial—among whom we are enabled to state the following:

Ship Sally of New-York, Capt. J. Bayne, from Demarara bound home—vessel and cargo condemned. Brig Mary of New-York, Capt. Beattie, from Barbadoes to Turk's Island—waiting for trial. Brig —, of Sheepskut (Mass.) Captain Crawford, from St. Bartholomews to Georgia—waiting for trial. Schooner —, of Newbern, Capt. Tinker, had cleared out from St. Martins to St. Bartholomews—brought back by a privateer and waiting for trial. Schooner Elizabeth, of Norwich, Captain Brown, from Demarara bound to New-York; Captain Brown detained in irons on

board the privateer, and the sch'r waiting the privateer's arrival.

The above brig Betsey was taken by a French cruizer, on her passage from Wells (Mass.) to Cape-Francois, carried into St. Martins, and vessel and cargo condemned; the captain and crew were plundered of their ventures and clothes; the brig was bought in by the captain on account of the owners.

Came passenger in the brig Betsey, Capt. John Hall, of the sch'r Rebecca of Baltimore, (captured and carried into St. Martins) who also informs, that he was plundered of every thing he had, by the prize master and crew, put on board his vessel, and part of his crew put on board a prison ship, who were obliged to work in the day time, and at night were put in irons.

Yesterday arrived the brig Bell, Captain Jeffray, 21 days from Cape Nicholas Mole—informs, that the brig Peggy, Captain Kilby, of and bound to Philadelphia, from Port-au-Prince, was taken by a French privateer of 12 guns, in Caucus passage; afterwards retaken by a British man of war, and is now in Mole St. Nicholas. Captain Kilby was detained on board the privateer.

Also, that a ship from Salem was taken by a French privateer, to windward Turk's Island passage—a British sloop of war heaving in sight, the Frenchman quitted her, and rounding to under her stern, poured in several broadsides, which wounded four of her men. The sloop of war carried her into the Mole.

FEDERAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Thursday, January 19.

The following communication was received from the President of the United States; together with very voluminous documents therein referred to, which after some debate on the propriety of the measure, were ordered to be printed, without being read:

Gentlemen of the Senate,

and House of Representatives,

At the opening of the present session of Congress, I mentioned that some circumstances of an unwelcome nature had lately occurred in relation to France; that our trade had suffered and was suffering extensive injuries in the West-Indies from the cruizers and agents of the French Republic; and that communications had been received from its minister here, which indicated danger of a further disturbance of our commerce by its authority, and that were in other respects far from agreeable: but that I reserved for a special message, a more particular communication on this interesting subject.—This communication I now make.

The complaints of the French minister embraced most of the transactions of our government in relation to France, from an early period of the present war; which therefore it was necessary carefully to review. A collection has been formed of letters and papers relating to those transactions, which I now lay before you, with a letter to Mr. Pinckney, our minister at Paris, containing an examination of the notes of the French minister, and such information as I thought might be useful to Mr. Pinckney in any further representations he might find necessary to be made to the French government. The immediate object of this mission was to make to the government such explanations of the principles and conduct of our own, as by manifesting our good faith might remove all jealousies and discontent, and maintain that harmony and good understanding with the French Republic, which it has been my constant solicitude to preserve. A government which required only a knowledge of the truth to justify its measures, could not but be anxious to have this fully and frankly displayed.

George Washington.

United States, January 19, 1797.

The house went into a committee of the whole on the subject of further revenue, Mr. Dent in the chair, when a long, but somewhat irregular debate took place, in the course of which two or three different amendments were proposed and negatived. At length the question on the resolution for laying a tax on land was put and carried by a considerable majority, there being 56 in favour of it, and 54 in favour of that for laying a tax on slaves. The committee rose,