

of money for the raising and supporting of an army, shall be for a longer time than two years, 1st art. 8th sec. 12, a limitation in fact very strict, because, if ever a formidable enemy should invade the United States, he may not be expelled in that time; especially as the federal army must be supported some time before it can begin to act.

On every important affair, the national council ought to be nearly unanimous, because the want of wisdom or virtue is unpardonable; a minority of one fourth itself should not exist. But how far something more than a bare majority may be constitutionally required, is a delicate question. In all cases, when precipitancy is more dangerous than delay, it is prudent to fix a surplus of majority according to circumstances. The present case, I apprehend, is quite the reverse—If the country is not in a proper state of defence, it will the sooner invite an enemy, open its bosom to him, and may receive a dangerous wound before the arms can ward off the stroke; but all the disadvantage of collecting an army of perhaps ten or fifteen thousand men without eminent necessity, is to impose some new taxes, which can never be oppressive, as the greatest part of the money is directly laid out in the country. As to any danger to liberty from such an army, it is altogether visionary; and it is needless to repeat what has been so often said on that subject. While the people have property, arms in their hands, and only a spark of noble spirit, the most corrupt Congress must be mad to form any project of tyranny.

This fair statement of the matter might dispense me from answering the question, why should not two-thirds of the Congress agree in raising regular troops, if it is really necessary? Why do you surmise that a bare majority of Congress would form the wicked, absurd scheme of enslaving the country? Is not this much more improbable? But as the subject will bear a full examination, I shall take it up with a candid freedom. Two-thirds of both houses may not agree in timely measures of defence, for these reasons—

First. The natural indolence of individuals and public bodies is averse from any troublesome enterprise while it possibly can be avoided. The national character of America is also rather too easy than harsh, and besides, much influenced by the peaceable spirit of a republic, intent on agriculture and trade. The apparent security of local situation, the plausible reasonings of the minority, and the fear of displeasing a part of the people by a demand of supplies, will co-operate with this indolence in many well-disposed minds.

Secondly. As property and pecuniary interest are rather over valued by too many, perhaps even some delegates in Congress may not consider, that gold must be defended by steel; that honour and humanity forbid a true American to expose his country to disgrace and his fellow-citizens to danger; that a single drop of patriotic blood should not be sold to keep a dollar more in all the pockets through the United States.

Thirdly. A numerous, and in many respects estimable denomination is religiously prejudiced against even defensive war; some of these may be mem-

bers of Congress, or influence its decisions in critical times.

Fourthly. If corruption should ever taint any members of the federal council, it will be most dangerous under the venerable form of public spirit.—The man, who in flaming colours, paints a small American army as the execrable tools of traitorous tyrants, may be the very person who lets loose an host of enemies on the vitals of his native land. A time may come when some hostile power will pay a vote against raising an army with ten thousand pounds.

Fifthly. As by the advantage of local situation and domestic resources, some of the states may suffer less from the eventual calamities of war, they may be less affected by the real magnitude of danger. Such a selfish disposition of only one or two may prevent the consent of two-thirds in both houses, and is more probable than treason in more than one half of the Congress.

[To be continued.]

EXTRACT from the ANARCHIAD, on PAPER MONEY.

NUMBER II.

THE subject of paper money forms so beautiful an episode in the Anarchiad, that it would be unpardonable not to make extracts from it. All the episodes ought to have some reference to the promotion of the principal action, as the underplots, in a regular drama, should conspire to the development of the main plot. Such is the superlative advantage of this very poetical digression. For it will scarcely be denied, in any part of the United States, that paper money, in an unfunded and depreciating condition, is happily calculated to introduce the long expected scenes of misrule, dishonesty, and perdition. On this point, the citizens of the Union must be considered as competent judges, because they are inhabitants of the only country under heaven, where paper (of that predicament) is, by compulsory laws, made of equal value with gold and silver.

The society of critics and antiquarians who have spared neither expense nor trouble, in recovering those valuable remains of antiquity from oblivion, cannot help flattering themselves that their disinterested labours will be rewarded with the plaudits of a grateful public. They only think it necessary to engage, on their part, that nothing shall appear, sanctioned by them, unfavourable to freedom, literature, or morality.

It is to be remarked, that the following speech is addressed, by the old Anarch, to a council of war, consisting of his compeers, his general officers and counsellors of state.

Hail, fav'rite state! whose nursing fathers prove  
Their fairest claim to my paternal love!  
Call'd from the deck, with pop'lar votes elates,  
The mighty \* jacktar guides the helm of state:

NOTE.

\* Governor Collins.

Nurs'd on the waves, in blust'ring tempests bred,

His heart of marble and his brains of lead;

My foes subdued, while knav'ry wins the day,

He rules the senate with inglorious sway,

Proud, for one year, my orders to perform,

Sails in the whirlwind, and enjoys the storm.

Yet not alone the per'ulous watch he keeps;

His mate, great O—n\* bustles while he sleeps;

There G—d—n† stands, his head with quibbles fill'd,

His tongue in lies, his hand in forg'ry skill'd;

To him, my darling knave, my lore I teach,

Which he to C—s lends in many a pompous speech.

Oh roguery! their being's end and aim,

Fraud, tendry, paper bills, whate'er they name;

That medium still, which prompts th' eternal sigh,

By which great villains flourish, small ones die.

Plant of infernal seed, without hell's heat,

Say in what mortal soil thou deign'st to cheat?

Fair from the general court's unpardon'd sin,

Ap'st thou the gold, Peruvian mines within?

Wak'd to new life, by my creative power,

The press thy mint, and dunghill rags thy ore.

Where grow'st thou not? if vain the villain's toil,

We ought to blame the culture, not the soil;

Fix'd to that isle, it no where passes free,

But, fled from Congress, C—s dwells with thee.

Hail realm of rogues, renown'd for fraud and guile,

All hail, ye knav'ries of yon little isle,

There prowls the rascal, cloth'd with legal pow'r,

To snare the orphan, and the poor devour;

The crafty knave his creditor besets,

And, advertising paper, pays his debts,

Bankrupts their creditors with rage pursue,

No stop, no mercy, from the debtor crew.

Arm'd with new tests, the licens'd villain, bold,

Presents his bills, and robs them of their gold;

Their ears though rogues and counterfeiters lose,

No legal robber fears the gollows-noose.

Look thro' the state, th' unhallow'd ground appears

A den of dragons, and a cave of bears,

A nest of vipers mix'd with adders foul,

The screeching night-bird and the greater owl.

NOTE.

\* Lieutenant-governor Owen.

† Goodwin.