

## MISCELLANY.

To the people of the State of North Carolina.

I AM one that has not only served all the time of our late war, but shared with those brave men who took an active part in support of our cause, in all their heavy losses, occasioned by the necessary expences to support our army. When the war was over, I returned to the country and renewed my occupation as a farmer, fully persuaded, that our established united government, when properly supported and attended to, would maintain us in the obtained liberty and blessed tranquility of our independency. But to my great surprize, I found that after a few years were elapsed, a general clamour was raised all over the continent, "that Congress had not power enough to enable them to fulfil the engagements on their part, to support the nation." To make the citizens sensible of this assertion, several runners, with verbal persuasions, and libeling writers, were let loose upon the public to create parties. This mode had the wished-for effect. A general meeting, called a convention, was agreed upon, and every state's members were hurried away to Philadelphia. That ten out of one hundred citizens in each state, did not know at that time of such a proceeding, or even had heard of the great and serious points which were to be decided by their members, could be easily proved. After a long and expensive session, their whole production came out, which must have convinced the public, that the convention had formed quite a new government, which, in point of their mission, was contrary in several articles to our first and still existing federal government. The object of their consideration, was "to invest Congress with more power to raise the necessary revenues effectually, &c. Since the appearance of the proposed plan, the public has been, and is still entertained from all quarters, with letters and pamphlets, holding out the great advantages and blessings which will be ours, after agreeing to the said plan, with all the new offices, &c. &c. However very few persons can be ignorant of the ill consequences which always have followed upon the establishment of such a government as the proposed one. And all the people of the ancient republics lost their liberty, by being too liberal in bestowing too much power to their chosen leaders, though ever so virtuous and disinterested in their private life and situations, but when once granted, it is not so easily to be altered or recalled. The Romans were aware of this, and therefore made choice of their rulers every six months.

The plan of the convention did not meet the approbation of all the delegates, however these in opposition were overpowered.

In several late petitions by respectable citizens, which have been presented against the new government, have been stated the great danger which could and perhaps might follow, in consequence of adopting the proposed plan. In Pennsylvania, several persons have complained, "that their active and great men had hurried them into a favourable opinion, and therefore would protest against the decision of their members, &c. &c.—The New-Jersey members did agree to the plan, but objected, that some alterations were essentially requisite, viz. That the president should not be elected for four years, but for one year only; nor should he have the power to keep a standing army or navy, neither the sole power to mint money for all the states, nor to establish that high and arbitrary court in law, nor the toleration act, by which every Jew or Infidel could come into an office.

The governor of Virginia has openly declared to his present assembly, by a message, his reasons why he could not sign the instrument, or proposed constitution, although he was a member of the convention which formed the plan. He thought it was too dangerous for the present and future generations.—The state convention of Massachusetts has accepted the plan; but have proposed amendments. New-Hampshire did meet, but could not agree, and were obliged to adjourn to the 17th of this month, hoping that by that time their constituents would give up their opposition. Rhode Island has not yet agreed to the system. Maryland has adopted it, but with some alterations. South-Carolina has tacitly agreed to it, though several learned objections were made.

The repetition of these proceedings, as also a true explanation from the beginning of this great affair, I thought absolutely necessary, to show to those who live too remote to hear all news, and to see all the political letters, how the present troubles and expensive elections and meetings were brought upon us. As every individual will be obliged to pay his share in taxes for the occasioned expences, he also ought to know the true state thereof. All the writers have hitherto flourished with studied arguments in favour of the plan, and their opponents have been run down in the most illiberal manner, solely because they would not allow it to be the best government for this extensive country. As our state members will have their meeting at Hillsborough in July, and have had time to hear the decision of all the other states, as also to take fully the sense of the constituents, it is to be hoped, that their acceding to the plan proposed, will be with such amendments as will prevent any encroachment on, but have our present established government for the foundation, to the future allowances, which expressly forbids to keep a standing army.

It is highly necessary that Congress should have more power, in being allowed to raise these sums of money which are wanted to fulfill their made engagements during the late war, abroad and at home; likewise to fix a standard for the solid coin for all the states; but the minting the sums wanting in each state, according to its strength in trade, ought to be solely left to each state, as the profits of the mint will greatly lessen the taxes and free the good citizens of such a burden, which by the management of a general mint, would be brought upon them.

The army, navy, and a general mint, are the three greatest and most powerful objects which will enforce obedience against all resistance. Troops when once in pay and service, make no distinction, if employed against a foreign enemy or their own relations, when led on by their officers, though kept up by our taxes. We have no neighbours who can come and make war upon us, without our being informed in time, and then our militia is strong enough to oppose them, when properly trained and officered, which is an object that requires our attention.

H O N E S T U S.



The following important observations are extracted from the *Gazette d'Agriculture*, one of the best periodical publications in Europe. We hope that our readers will peruse them with attention and pleasure.

THE arrest of the 29th of December last, whilst it gives the world a new and convincing proof of the disposition of government to strengthen our connections with the

United States of America, and to facilitate a commercial intercourse between the two countries, is evidently calculated to open a new and extensive market to the produce of our allies. The whole amount of the population of Great-Britain, Spain, and Portugal, with whom the United States have had hitherto the greatest intercourse, can hardly be compared to that of France only, so that this kingdom alone might double the resources and industry of those states, if its commerce was well understood by their citizens. Experience has evinced, that in common years France produces hardly wheat enough for the consumption of fifteen millions of inhabitants, so that ten millions at least must depend upon the importation of that article from foreign countries; an importation the more indispensable, as bread is considered by every Frenchman as the most essential food. Vast quantities of wheat are imported annually from Poland, by the way of Dantzic, and particularly by the industrious Dutchmen; the Southern Provinces are provided from Sicilly and Africa through Marseilles, which city serves as an universal entrepot for the Mediterranean, but as every country strives to regain by the labour of men what the soil seems to refuse, so the provinces, which are in want of provisions, take a particular attention to manufacture the flour themselves, though they import the wheat. Therefore, an American merchant, who wishes to avail himself of the arrest of the 29th December, would probably find an easier market in France, by importing grain instead of flour. It might be objected, that the great bulk of the cargoes would lower the profits, but for this even the arrest offers a remedy. Let us suppose, that the same capital instead of employing two cargoes of flour, would employ three vessels laden with grain. American ships being wanted in France, and entirely duty free, one or two of them might be sold to great advantage, and the third return to America with a cargo of dry goods, wine, oil, sugar, coffee, &c. The cities of Bordeaux and Nantz might, in this manner, become the principal entrepots of the produce of the United States, which as it pays no duty unless it is actually sold, cannot even be disadvantageous if the market should be overstocked. Cod fish, oil, naval stores, spermaceti candles, rice, tar, pitch, and turpentine, tobacco, salt beef, particularly if the Irish method of curing it was well understood and imitated; pot ash and pearl ash; in general, every article of American produce, though very bulky, must increase the profits arising from them by the sale of the vessel which carried them to France, and instead of cherishing the uncertain and dangerous contraband trade of the West-Indies, it seems that with a little more moderation, greater and more lasting benefits might be obtained by exporting the West-India produce from France. It is for this reason particularly that we consider Bordeaux as the most important entrepot for American produce; we have even every reason to think that in consequence of a successive intercourse, American wheat would be manufactured there for the West-India market. Besides, the extensive commerce of that city is constantly in want of ships, and as the American citizens have now the reputation of building them cheaper, and perhaps with better materials, than any other nation, the profits arising from them would compensate the smaller benefits reaped from their cargoes.

Though these observations may not perfectly agree with the interested views of some of our merchants, whose particular branches of commerce have been injured by the said arrest, and though we have every reason to believe that our public wealth will be very little increased by our intercourse with the United States, we partake of the sentiment which is common to every patriot Frenchman, that a people whose independence and elevation to the dignity of a sovereign power has cost us so much blood and so many millions, may support its station, and daily increase its resources; and that the annual expence of the nation for provisions of all kinds, naval stores and other articles, instead of supporting some powers whose very existence is indifferent to us, may serve to supply the wants of an infant country, which we have always cherished, and where we flatter ourselves we have many friends. If after all, she rejects the hand of benevolence stretched out to support her, if she does not know how to improve her own lot, we can only lament her blindness.



## WILMINGTON.

On Sunday last arrived in this port, the Schooner General Washington, Capt. William Meads, after a passage of 9 days from New-York; by this vessel we have received papers as late as the 6th instant, from which we have extracted the following

## Foreign Intelligence.

### VIENNA, February 27.

OUR last advices confirm the intelligence, that after our assaults, in which we lost a thousand men, our army subdued the fortress of New-Gradiska; and that the whole garrison, which had been reinforced by troops from Banialuka, were either put to the sword or taken prisoners.

### Frontiers of TURKEY, Feb. 27.

Letters from Constantinople inform us, that orders have been sent into Asia to raise an army of 60,000 men, who are to join the armies assembled in Bessarabia and Moldavia.

### FRANKFORD, March 8.

The Turks have taken six transports from the Austrians, and the Brigadier Brentaro lost his life in endeavouring to make reprisals.

### HAGUE, March 11.

We learn that M. Caillard, Charge des Affaires from the court of France, has demanded from the States-General, on behalf of that court, the sum of 150,000 livres, being the estimated value of the Semillante frigate, which had been entrusted to the commander of a Dutch fleet, and was burnt the 24th January 1788.

## LONDON, April 2.

Mr. Adams, Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States of America to their High Mightinesses, took leave on Thursday last, in a memorial which was presented to them for that purpose.

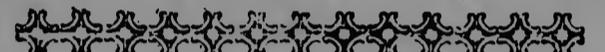
The treaty between the United States and Prussia is concluded. That which impeded the treaty between Great-Britain and the United States, was the very important but very complicated business of the India commerce and settlements. And it is, we understand, at length agreed, that a convention should be signed, to arrange and finally adjust the India system, within six months of the conclusion of the treaty of alliance.

Saturday orders were sent from the admiralty to Portsmouth, for the Hawke sloop of war to be got ready for sea immediately, to sail with dispatches for the governor of Gibraltar, with orders to stop all communications with Barbary for the present.

Monday a cabinet council was held at Lord Carmarthen's office, which Mr. Pitt came to town from Holwood on purpose to attend, as did most of the other cabinet ministers. The council sat near four hours, and broke up at three o'clock.

The business which engrossed the attention of the cabinet on Monday, we are informed, was the increased and increasing state of the Spanish navy, which it has been reported, is fitted out with an intention of opposing the Russian fleet in the Mediterranean. This pretext will no doubt be carefully sifted and circumspectly attended to, by the present ruling powers.

Fresh advices from Spain confirm our former accounts, of the very great naval preparations that are making in every part of that kingdom. They add, that his Catholic majesty is firmly determined to oppose the entrance of the Russians into the Mediterranean, and that a manifesto will shortly appear, containing the motives that have induced his Majesty to take these measures.



## Domestic Intelligence.

### NEW-YORK, May 23.

ON Wednesday last arrived here the British Packet Thyne, Wolf, from Falmouth, in 6 weeks and 4 days.

Col. Smith, secretary and son-in-law to his Excellency John Adams, Esq. with his lady, arrived in the Thyne.

Lord Viscount Mountmorris also took passage in the Thyne, and was landed at Halifax, the packet having touched in there.

A letter from Newry mentions a report, that the ship Empress of China was on the shore on the Saltees near Waterford.

Capt. Ripley, from St. Helena, says, that the ship Lafcelles came in there the 21st of March from Canton, which she left the 10th of January; the Purser of laid ship informed Capt. Ripley, that the ship Alliance, from Philadelphia had arrived at Canton the 1st of January, and that ginsang was in no demand.

### CHARLESTON, June 12.

Yesterday were executed for the murder of Mr. Nicholas John White-man, pursuant to their sentence on Saturday last, the following persons. Robert Stacey, Josiah Jordan, John George, Thomas Smith, Ann Connolly, and Edward Hatcher.

Tuesday the court having adjourned till yesterday afternoon at two o'clock, they passed sentence of death on Rogers, Masters, and Pendergras, for the murder of Mr. Nathan; also upon Cain and Williams, for the murder of Capt. Webb and Mr. McClode. They are to be executed on Monday next, between the hours of Ten and Two.

Dr. Gordon, we hear, has published his first volume of the "American Revolution" in England!