

root, and continued to grow. For two or three years it was entirely neglected; and it has, by its seed falling off, and being carried down the stream, spread extensively through the meadow, producing yearly a large crop of excellent hay. The stripes of this grass has nearly disappeared, and the whole blade has become of a rich dark green colour. This grass grows to the height of three or four feet, and very thick, and, if cut a few days earlier than common meadow grass, makes a fodder of which cattle are very fond.

NEW-YORK.

The legislature of New-York commenced its session at Albany on the 7th instant. From the speech of governor Clinton we have made such extracts as appear to be of general interest, or which relate to points to which our attention should also be directed. The first article in these extracts in particular, deserves the attention of our legislature. The great defects in our present mode of choosing electors for president and vice president were, at our late election, too apparent to escape the observation even of the most inconsiderate. Many declined voting entirely, and some voted for only two or three out of the fifteen electors to be chosen, merely from the circumstance of having no knowledge of the persons to be voted for. The caucus which originally nominated the candidates, might as well have had the power to appoint them conclusively. The people had but the name of doing what was before done for them. And thus it will be, so long as the electors are chosen by a general ticket. If the state were divided into districts, the candidates would be generally known to the freemen who were to vote for them; and an election would then, as well in fact as in name, exhibit the choice, not of a legislative caucus, but of the people. We hope the subject will excite attention equal to its importance; and that (to use the words of governor Clinton in a subsequent paragraph) "the choice of the principal magistrate of the nation will be placed where it ought to be: more completely within the control of the sovereign authority."

He has also, in his speech, touched upon a subject which is beginning to excite considerable interest in this state; we mean a CONVENTION: and in conformity to his recommendation, a bill will be introduced into the legislature to call a convention for altering the constitution of the state. It will be mortifying indeed if North-Carolina, conscious as she is of the defects which mar the beauty of her constitution, should be the last to improve her political condition; a humiliation which we hope the good sense and correct feeling of our legislature will spare the people.

We are much gratified with his statement of the progress making in the great canals of that state; with his picture of the advancing prospects of agriculture; and with his account of the flourishing condition of their seminaries.

Extracts from the Speech of Governor Clinton.

"In advertent to the object of this anticipated meeting, it will readily occur to you, how much better calculated it would be to promote economy and to preserve the purity of republican government, and how much more consonant with the representative principle, if the choice of electors were brought nearer home to the people. Indeed, it must be considered a striking imperfection in the national constitution, that no uniform rule has been prescribed on this subject. In some states, electors are chosen by the people by districts; in others, by a general ticket; and in a few, by the legislature; the last mode is certainly the most objectionable. A body, not numerous, and elected for several months previous to the period of action is exposed to the operations of intrigue, and is not so safe a depository of this great trust as the community at large. In some cases a minority of the people may choose a majority of the legislature. The election of that body in time of public tranquility may be made without much reflection to this object, and there is such a considerable intervening time before the choice of electors, that a full and fair expression of the public sentiment may not take place, or may be defeated. The people are certainly less liable to improper influence than any other body of men, and in their purity, discernment, and public spirit, we must rely for the stability and permanence of our republican institutions."

"In the course of your proceedings you will also be called upon to elect a senator of the United States. The posi-

tion of our national concerns will undoubtedly demand the utmost circumspection, as well on this subject, as on the more immediate object of your meeting. In order to meet the deficiencies of the national revenue, great retrenchments must be made in our expenditures, and wise plans of finance must be adopted. Our resources may be cherished, and the evils of heavy taxation or increasing debt, may be averted by the abolition of useless offices, by the diminution of expensive establishments, and by the cultivation of that economy which is most congenial with the simplicity of republican government, and which is required by the great pressure on the nation; keeping, however, always steadily in view the public defence, and the general safety. In order to resuscitate the property of the community, it is also necessary to cherish the interests of productive industry, and to promote the internal improvements of the country.

"It is to be regretted that the collision which took place at the last session of congress, relative to the prohibition of slavery in new states, should have been attended with so much irritation, and that it should be considered as an attempt to violate the rights of property. In states where slavery has been established by law, it is not in the power of the national government to interfere; and all regulations on this subject must proceed from the local governments; but in the admission of new states into the union, it is the duty of congress to protect the great obligations of morality, to enforce the principles of the American revolution, and to consult the paramount and permanent interests of the empire.

"As a member of the American confederacy, it is not only our duty but our interest, to sustain the respectability, and to promote the authority of the national government, by a patriotic and enlightened exercise of our suffrages, and by contributing all our energies to establish a wise and public administration. But in attending to measures so important, we ought not to overlook the duties which we owe to ourselves. Our government is complex in its organization, and it is essentially necessary to preserve the state governments in their purity and energy. A free government could never exist in a country so extensive as the United States, without a judicious combination of the federal and representative principles.—The apprehensions which some of our wisest statesmen entertained at the formation of the constitution, that the state governments would constantly encroach on the powers of the national government, appear not to have been realized.—The practical tendency has been in the opposite direction. The power of the general administration has increased with the extension of its patronage. And if the officers under its appointment shall see fit, as an organized and disciplined corps, to interfere in the state elections, I trust that there will be found a becoming disposition in the people, to resist these alarming attempts upon the purity and independence of their local governments: for whenever the pillars which support the edifice of the general government are undermined and prostrated, the whole fabric of national freedom and prosperity will be crushed in ruin. I have considered it my solemn duty to protest against these unwarrantable intrusions of extraneous influence, and I hope that the national legislature will not be regardless of its duty on this occasion.

"If the ingenuity of man had been exercised to organize the appointing power in such a way as to produce continued intrigue and corruption in the state none could have been advised with more effect than the present arrangement. We have seen its pernicious influence in the constant commotions which agitate us; and we can never expect that the community will be tranquil or that the state will maintain its due weight in the confederacy, until a radical remedy is applied.—Under this impression, I have heretofore proposed the calling of a convention. The constitution contains no provision for its amendment. In 1801 the legislature submitted two specific points to a convention of delegates chosen by the people, which met and agreed to certain amendments.

"Attempts have been made at various times to follow up this precedent, which have been unsuccessful, not only on account of a collision of opinion about the general policy of the measure, but also respecting the objects to be proposed to the convention. These difficulties may be probably surmounted, either by submitting the subject of amendments generally to a convention, and thereby avoiding controversy about the purposes for which it is called; or by submitting the question to the people in the first instance, to determine whether one ought to be convened; and in either case, to provide for the ratification by the people in their primary assemblies, of the proceedings of the convention. This double check will be admirably calculated to carry into effect the sovereign authority of the people; to guard against dangerous interpolations in our fundamental charter; to check a spirit of pernicious innovation, and empirical prescription; and to ally the apprehensions of some of our best and wisest fellow citizens, who, already satisfied with the

signal prosperity and high destinies of the state, are unwilling, for the sake of some improvements, to encounter the risk of changing materially the features of a constitution, which, in its general conformation, is admirably calculated to promote the happiness, to elevate the prosperity, and to protect the freedom of the community.

"It affords me the highest satisfaction to renew my congratulations on the successful progress of our internal improvements. Upwards of fifty-one miles of the canal between the Genesee river and Montezuma, including fifteen locks, are under contract, and the whole distance of sixty miles and a quarter, with two additional locks, can be easily completed by the first day of September next. The contracts made during the last session, were on better terms for the state than those on the middle section; and during the present year, they are from thirty to forty per cent. lower, including the mason work. Thirty miles of the section east from Utica, are also under contract, including twelve locks, and will be completed the next season.

"In the progress of these operations, rocks have been excavated at the Little Falls in seventy or eighty days, which it was originally supposed would have taken two years. The improvements in the Hudson river, and by canals, to the distance of twenty-eight miles south from fort Edward, will be effected the next season; and it is hoped that the remaining ten miles to Waterford, which will finish the whole operation of the inland navigation of the north, can also be accomplished within that period. There will then remain about one hundred miles on the western, and about sixty-eight on the eastern section, in order to realize our whole system of internal navigation. The limitation of the annual expenditure has had a tendency to procrastinate the completion of this great work; and under a full persuasion that the whole can not only be accomplished, but well accomplished in three years at the utmost, from the present period, I earnestly recommend the adoption of plenary and effectual measures for this purpose. The advantages to be gained by this course will be great and striking. The faculties of the state are fully adequate to the operation, and all controversy about the order of completion will be avoided. The civilized world is now in a state of peace; but the symptoms of great and extensive convulsions begin to appear in Europe, and if wars shall unfortunately afflict that portion of the globe, we will perhaps be compelled to assume a defensive attitude against the aggressions on the rights of neutrality, which may finally plunge us into hostilities. Now that we are free from great national calamities, and the prices of money, of labour, and of commodities, are uncommonly low, we ought to avail ourselves of the favourable opportunity. The public sentiment is now united in favour of the measure, and the progress of time may create opposition from chimerical apprehensions, from selfish views, from jarring interests, and from local competitions. The increased accommodation and easy communication will immediately create a vast inland trade; and if we only suppose that one hundred thousand tons are annually transported on the western canal, the revenue, at the rate of five dollars a ton for the whole distance, will defray all the expenses of repairs and superintendance, and extinguish in a short time the whole debt.

"A step of so decided and energetic a character will also encourage the patriotic state of Ohio, to pursue its noble attempt to unite the waters of Lake Erie and the Ohio river. And surely there can be no hesitation in devoting the resources of the state, to the speedy and effectual accomplishment of a measure which, in the language of the act of 1817 "will promote agriculture, manufactures and commerce; mitigate the calamities of war, enhance the blessings of peace, consolidate the union, advance the prosperity, and elevate the character of the United States."

"The final and complete establishment of an able and respectable board to superintend the general interests of agriculture, is an event of the highest importance; and the exhibitions which have taken place in different counties under the auspices of the local societies, evince increasing improvement in the quality and quantity of the fruits of the earth. Notwithstanding the present indifferent market for the products of husbandry, yet it is pleasing to perceive the general and rising estimation in which this pursuit is held, the zeal with which it is cultivated, and the prosperity which it has attained. In course of time the natural correspondence between the wages of labour, the price of commodities, and the value of money, will be restored. And as the evils now felt arise from arrangements heretofore made on the existence of high prices, all prospective operations will be accommodated to the reduced state of the market, and the country will emerge slowly from the evils with which it is now environed."

"The flourishing condition of our seminaries of education, furnishes additional inducements to continue and to extend the patronage of the state. In six thousand common schools, organized under the act for their establishment, three hundred thousand children are

taught, and 160,000 dollars are annually appropriated to the compensation of the teachers. I am informed by the useful and able officer who presides over this department, that the number of pupils at present taught in our schools, is equal to nine tenths of the whole number of children between the ages of five and fifteen years, and approximates to one fourth of our whole population. There are probably twenty schools in this state, conducted on the Lancasterian system exclusively, and several others which follow it partially, but not so far as to assume a distinctive character. In some of these establishments, several young men have been recently instructed as Lancasterian teachers; and it is to be hoped that this system will be carried into the most extensive operation. There are now upon an average about fifty scholars for every school master under the present plan of common schools; and whether the number be great, or be small, the introduction of the Lancasterian method is of importance: for admitting in all cases the competency of the teacher to attend to all his pupils, yet when we consider the rapidity of acquiring instruction under that system, and reflect on the useful habits which it forms, and the favourable impressions which it makes on the minds and the morals of those who participate in its benefits, we cannot hesitate to give it a decided preference. The education of youth is an important trust, and an honorable vocation, but it is too often committed to unskilful hands. Liberal encouragement ought unquestionably to be dispensed for increasing the number of competent teachers.

"In thirty of the forty incorporated academies, there were the last year two thousand two hundred and eighteen students, of which six hundred and eighty-eight were engaged in learning Latin and Greek. The fund appropriated for the benefit of these institutions, is about 320,000 dollars.

"In Columbia, Union and Hamilton colleges, there are five hundred and twenty-two students, and in the two medical colleges, one hundred and ninety-six. The grants to these establishments amount to upwards of 720,000 dollars; and perhaps the whole appropriation for the promotion of education, may be estimated at two millions and a half of dollars. Although this sum may appear highly liberal, yet when we look to the resources, population and extent of the state, and consider that knowledge is essential to the happiness and dignity of man—to the existence of republican government, and to national power and glory—we must feel persuaded that more munificent dispensations ought to be afforded for its encouragement and diffusion. And I would particularly recommend the education, at the public expense, of youth distinguished and selected for moral superiority, or pre-eminence of talents and character. A measure of this nature is strictly in unison with the genius of our government, and would have a tendency to restore the equilibrium of society—to mitigate those prejudices which spring up in the freest communities—to develop intellectual resources, which would otherwise be lost to the world, and to excite a spirit of emulation propitious to the interests of knowledge, and promotive of the fame and prosperity of our country. When I contemplate the vast resources of the state, and particularly the immense revenue which will accrue from the completion of its great plans of internal improvement, I entertain a confident expectation that the rising, and all future generations will experience the continued and increased munificence of government, exercised in different ways and through various channels, for the promotion of instruction, and the propagation of knowledge."

"I conceive it an indispensable duty to call your attention once more to the state of our penitentiary system. In corroboration of the observations which I have heretofore communicated, permit me to state, that the increased expense, and partial failure of this system, may be principally ascribed to an injudicious organization of its government, and to an inexpedient arrangement of the buildings."

"The state prison at Auburn is, by a late arrangement, modelled on the plan of solitary cells. In London a prison has been recently erected containing seven hundred cells; at Pittsburg, in Pennsylvania, one is now building, of six hundred cells, each six by eight feet. A building on this plan will not be so expensive as the old one. It will not be necessary to make it so strong: the prisoners will have no chance of forming conspiracies, and hence all escapes will be prevented. The expense of a military guard would be saved; the duration of punishment might be usefully abridged; and above all, we might be certainly assured, if not of a reformation that will prevent, of a punishment that will deter, from a repetition of crimes. I am happy to state, that the New-York Society for the prevention of Pauperism, have instituted an inquiry on the subject of the penitentiary system, which will be attended with favourable results; and that improvements are absolutely necessary, may be inferred from the facts, that in all probability there is one convict incarcerated for crime in every thousand persons composing the population of the state."

AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE, AND MANUFACTURES.

At a Convention of Delegates from the principal Atlantic states, representing the merchants and others interested in commerce, assembled at Philadelphia, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted—and ordered to be published.

1. Resolved, As the opinion of this convention, that a system of commercial restrictions is unfavorable to industry, and that sound policy dictates the least practicable restraint upon individual enterprise and exertion.

2. Resolved, That the greatest possible revenue, required by the national interests, should be collected from commerce, on account of the ease, economy and certainty of its collection; but that this cannot be effected but by the imposition of such a rate of duties as will not be a restraint upon importations, nor furnish an inducement to smuggling.

3. Resolved, That by every important change of the tariff the nation sustains an immense loss of productive labour: A well digested tariff therefore should never be changed, except for the purpose of equal protection to the different interests of the country, or to provide for the public wants.

4. Resolved, That we consider the production of public revenues, the legitimate object of legislation on the subject of duties.

5. Resolved, That the operation of the proposed tariff would be greatly to diminish our exports of agricultural products;—greatly to reduce the value of those remaining in the country;—greatly to lessen importations by reducing our means of purchasing both at home and abroad;—almost to destroy the revenue arising from commerce; to lower the price of labor, and to increase the profits of the rich manufacturer. While it lessens the profits and wages of every other individual in the community.

6. Resolved, That the adoption of the proposed tariff would produce very extensive smuggling, and the consequent necessary imposition of internal duties, and heavy direct taxes, which would eventually cause a re-action throughout the whole community; and involve, in one common ruin, all the manufactures in the country.

7. Resolved, That the abolition of drawbacks would destroy the carrying trade in foreign commodities, hitherto a source of great enterprize and wealth to our citizens; occasion immense losses to the commercial, manufacturing, and agricultural interests; and deeply affect the public revenue.

8. Resolved, That a law requiring cash payments of duties would materially affect the enterprise of our citizens, by limiting the operations of the active merchants, increasing the price of foreign commodities to the consumer, and favouring a monopoly to the rich, contrary to the best interests of the country.

9. Resolved, That if congress should not consider it expedient to repeal the duties heretofore laid for any other purpose than the production of public revenue, it cannot either be politic or just, to impose other and higher duties, the probable effects of which would be to benefit the manufacturers at the expense of every other class of the citizens.

10. Resolved, That the project of rendering ourselves independent of foreign nations, is founded in mistaken views of national independence. Manufacturing nations must always be more dependent on their customers, than those cultivating the soil on the purchasers of their produce.

The convention also unanimously adopted a memorial to congress, which memorial was decided as a matter of decorum, should not be published until it has been presented.

Philadelphia, 4th November, 1820.

WILLIAM BAYARD,
President of the Convention.
JOHN VAUGHAN, Secretary.

New York, Nov. 7.

The New York County Agricultural Society have agreed to memorialize congress in favour of extending further protection to the productive industry of the nation; and at a late meeting of the board of managers, the following resolutions were offered and referred to a committee, who have recommended their adoption:

Resolved, That we consider the prosperity, power, and wealth of the American nation, as dependent on the extent of her productive industry.

Resolved, That we consider agriculture and domestic manufactures, to be materially connected in their prosperity; and that the latter branch of industry directly tends to promote the prosperity of the former, inasmuch as it opens a home market for the raw materials produces an inland exchange mutually beneficial, and enables a nation to rely upon her own resources.

Resolved, That we deem it to be the duty of the congress of the U. States, to protect the Productive Industry of the country, and to pass such laws, and to adopt such regulations, as will prevent that competition from the introduction of foreign fabrics in our own markets, which goes to break down and destroy it.