ference of Providence in the affairs of men ; for it opens a new fource of triumph to all who fhared in the toils of the revolution : it muft invigorate the hope of all who wifh to perpetuate the fabric of civil liberty on the bafis of the republican fyftem ; and all who are folicitous to promote the unembarraffed developement of the moral and phyfical character of our country, will here find an ample motive for confidence and perfeverance.

To the ftate of Pennfylvania, this acquifition will doubtlefs, be highly acceptable in confequence of her commercial intercourfe with the Miffiffippi, by the weftern waters and the lakes ; but, gentlemen, in the ftill more important point of view to which I have alluded, it merits from us peculiar attention. The geographical pofition and the political rank which we hold in the union, feem to affign to us the patriotic tafk of fetting an example of virtue and induftry, of public fpirit and focial harmony. Preferved therefore, from the calamities and the apprehenfions of war, by the late fuccefsful negociation, we are refponfible to our conftituents, nay to our fifter ftates, for a judicious and diligent profecution of the arts of peace. With, however, an excellent climate, a fertile foil, and an intelligent people ; with a well framed government, and equal laws enfuring to every citizen the enjoyment of civil and religious liberty ; little more can be requifite for the performance of our duty, than an adherence to thofe principles of legiflation which have been fanctified by experience, and which while they affimilate the wifdom of our anceftors, to the wants of their pofterity, will not permit us to miftake innovation for reform, nor to confider the mere circumftance of change as evidence of improvement.

Though Pennfylvania has, hitherto, commanded general admiration and refpect for the melioration of her penal code, for the good faith and punctuality of her fifcal tranfactions, for her benevolent and literary inftitutions, for her encouragement of public improvements in roads and inland navigation, and for the ardor and difcipline of her militia ; yet it is not to be difguifed, that the defective adminiftration of juftice (owing to the infufficient number of the judges of the fupreme court, and the too extenfive range of the diftricts of the courts of common pleas) remains a common topic of clamour and reproach. I befeech you, therefore, gentlemen, to deliberate upon this interefting fubject. Recollect, that near a century ago, there were as many judges as there are now, in the fupreme court, (now, when the population, agriculture and commerce of the ftate are incalculably advanced) and that in the fpace of twenty-two years the number of counties has increafed from eleven to thirty-two, which are actually organized. In fhort, the inevitable accumulation of the bufinefs of the courts, has fo obftructed the ftreams of juftice, that they can hardly be faid to flow.—The fpirit of litigation, the ruin of honeft fuitors, and the triumph of fraudulent debtors, and others equally culpable, can no longer be difingenuoufly afcribed to the machinations of a profeffion, nor be regarded as the mere incidents of the law's delay. The evil fprings from a different and a higher fource : And, permit me to repeat, with an equal folicitude for the honor of the government, and for the welfare of our conftituents, that as the evil could only have been prevented, fo it can only be removed, by an interpofition of legiflative power.

There are other public objects which will prefent themfelves, gentlemen, to your confideration, during the feffion ; but it is among the proofs of our profperity, that they are neither numerous nor difficult of arrangement. The fympathy which you feel for the recent diftreffes of the cities of Philadelphia and New-York, will naturally lead your attention, to the adoption of fuch amendments in our law for eftablifhing an health office, and to fecure the city and port of Philadelphia from the introduction of peftilential and contagious difeafes, as fhall be deemed requifite, more effectually to guard us againft every approach of peftilential difeafe. The regulations introduced by your predeceffors, being rigidly enforced at the lazaretto, by the board of health, have probably been the means of averting the danger of contagion from that quarter : And although there is reafon to believe, that the late difeafe was introduced from abroad, through another channel, we may juftly, in a great meafure, afcribe to the fame vigilance and care, the fhort duration (not exceeding fix weeks) and the fmall number of victims (not more than two hundred) compared with the continuance and ravages of a fimilar calamity in former years.

The provifions of the act of congrefs, paffed on the 2d of March, 1803, relative to the militia, will likewife claim your attention, as they prefcribe among other things, the appointment of ftaff officers and regimental chaplains, whofe appointments are not within the purview of the exifting act of affembly. And, permit me to recommend, that the opportunity be embraced to compel, by adequate fanctions, a regular and full return of thofe citizens, who are entitled to the indulgence of paying a pecuniary equivalent for perfonal fervice in the militia ; for on the authority of the conftitution, and the maxims of political juftice, the commutation ought to be ftrictly exacted.

The laws, for the education and maintenance of the poor; will admit of fome beneficial alterations and additions.

The general law; for repairing and fuperintending the roads and highways, may be made more efficient : And upon the whole, I am confident that you will affiduoufly cherifh and encourage, the laudable fpirit of public improvement which animates our fellow-citizens, and at once difclofes and augments the opulence of the ftate.

The duties, hitherto devolved upon the executive department by law. have either been performed, or are in a regular courfe of performance. Of thefe, perhaps the moft prominent is, the tafk of concluding the compromife relative to the feventeen townfhips in Luzerne county. By the diligence, fidelity and talents of the commiffioners, however, the principal obftacles have been furmounted ; the caufes of perfonal irritation and animofity have been removed ; the indications of a turbulent difpofition have diminifhed ; many of the deluded claimants, under the fpurious title of Connecticut, have purchafed tracts of land from the Pennfylvania proprietors ; and I entertain a ftrong hope that, in a fhort time, I fhall be able to announce the perfect reftoration of law and order ; particularly, if an additon to the bench of the fupreme court, fhould render it practicable for the judges to co-operate in that quarter, with their advice and authority. But, whatever may be the iffue of the Wyoming controverfy, let me entreat you, gentlemen, to confider it as a warning, feafonably to refift and diffipate thofe appearances of territorial feuds, which in other diftricts, menace the future tranquility of the ftate.

Gentlemen of the House
of Representatives:

During the recefs of the legiflature, I have repaid to the bank of Pennfylvania, the ftate debt of fifty thoufand dollars, with intereft, by the operation of another loan from the fame inftitution, to the amount of fixty thoufand dollars, made in purfuance of the authority given by an act of affembly. The accounts, which I have directed the proper officers to lay before you, will fhew, that to difcharge this new engagement ; to provide an adequate fund to fatisfy the claims of the Pennfylvania patentees, who have conveyed to the commonwealth their eftates in the feventeen townfhips of Luzerne county, and to defray the other neceffary expences of the government, it will be incumbent upon you to rife, by tax, a confiderable addition to the product of our ordinary revenue.—We may be affured, however, that our conftituents will concur in the opinion, that whatever pecuniary fupplies the public faith, or the public exigencies may require, they ought rather to be furnifhed by an immediate application to the people, than indirectly, by a conftant and unlimited recourfe to the credit of the ftate : And you will doubtlefs, felect fuch ways and means as will be moft productive while they are the leaft inconvenient and oppreffive.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and
Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

The fituation, in which we are placed by our country, is at once honorable and arduous. It demands from us an impartial, an undeviating attention to the peace and well being of the community : It forbids the indulgence of prejudice : and it invites to the exercife of benevolence. Let us then inculcate by official acts as well as by private example, the leffons of political truth, and the virtues of focial life. If we are fortunate in our efforts, our fellow-citizens will difmifs the jealoufy and the rancour of party ; an adherence to principle will be found compatible with the univerfal toleration of opinion ; and men having all the rational inducements of a common intereft to be friends, will wonder at the folly or the artifice, which has ever made them foes.

THOMAS M'KEAN.

Lancafter, Dec. 9, 1803.

CALAMITY AT MADEIRA.

This extraordinary event, which we briefly noticed in our paper of yefterday, happened on Sunday the 9th of October, at eight in the evening. The day had been previoufly very cloudy and a continual rain had fallen, accompanied by fqualls, which were not violent, until the fun had funk beneath the horizon, when the fea appeared to be unufually agitated, and fuch a darknefs prevailed, that an object was not difcernable at a yard's diftance. During this progrefs, every perfon remained within their houfes, in feeming fecurity, and wholly unconfcious of that approaching horror which was deftined fo fhortly to fweep them from off the earth!

The clock of the cathedral was ftriking eight, when an inftantaneous ftorm of terrible lightning and thunder began, and the rain fell in fuch torrents, that all the crofs ftreets of the eaftern part of the city of Funchall, were fuddenly filled with mud and water above the firft floors of the houfes, which was occafioned by its being impeded, in fome meafure, from its furious defcent from the ravines of the mountains into the fea. At this fhocking period the ftouteft heart felt appalled ;—nothing was to be heard but the din of ruin working in every direction : hundreds of huge ftones, that had been torn from their quarries on the hills three miles above the town, were tumbling over each other in ftupendous concuffion, carrying with them, in conjunction with the deluge, churches, convents, ftreets, trees, bridges, battlements and eight hundred human beings into the bottom of the deep. Whenever a flafh of lightning penetrated the gloom, were feen mothers wading through the ftreets, up to their chins in water, holding their infants on their heads with one hand, and endeavoring to catch fecurity with the other ; while thofe who attempted to affift them, were frequently maimed or killed, by the beams of timber or wine-pipes which floated around them ; and the fea, prefented a fcene not lefs awful, though lefs ruinous : moft of the veffels loft their cables, anchors, and boats, and many of the feamen were wafhed overboard. The fhips rolled, in fome part or another, feveral feet beneath the water continually, and all the failors who were there on that difmal night, whether Americans, Englifh, or Portuguefe, gave themfelves up as loft men.

Thus, in fo fhort a fpace of time as a few minutes, were many hundred individuals carried to their eternal home, in the very plenitude of an apparent fecurity : and feveral thoufands reduced from affluence to poverty : and many of them, it is probable, in the indulgence of thofe imperfections, which conftitute our criminality or our folly, and fent to their account, " unblanched, unannointed, unannealed." Ten thoufand pipes of wine and brandy were deftroyed, and the fea-fhore was fkirted on the enfuing morning with millions of fragments, among which the mourning furvivors of the calamity were eagerly feeking for the dead remains of their relations or friends. Several days after, the air of Funchall became fo putrefcent, from the rotting of the bodies that were buried beneath the congregated mud and filth, that a peftilence was apprehended : but in confequence of burning tar and pitch and other neutralizing combuftibles, that fcourge was providentially avoided.

It was remarkable that this deluge, in its courfe, fwept away twenty-nine vineyards that were fituated on the fouth weft fide of the city ; and fo decifive was the ruin, that it tore up all the trees by the roots, and bore away not only them, but all the cottages, with their inhabitants, the ground, cattle and appurtenances, and left the rocky bafis, as bare of vegetation as the cliffs of Norway. All this affemblage of objects, were whirled into the *Ribeira Brava*, or mad river, and ingulphed nearly the whole of the fmall town which bears that name.

In this wreck of matter, there was but one human creature faved, and that was an infant in a wooden cradle, which was lodged among fome reeds on the fide of the declivity, and when difcovered, on the enfuing day, was in a profound fleep :—This unconfcious infant was faved from its ignorance of fear, as it is in the nature of fear, to counteract its own defires.

All the veffels that arrived at Funchall, for feveral weeks after this miferable occurrence, gave an account of the dead bodies, cafks, and boxes which they had feen floating many leagues off at fea ; and it is believed that fome of the crews were confiderably enriched by the contents of many of the trunks.

The fmall town of Machico, was likewife ruined by this fingular tempeft, and many lives were loft there alfo ; which leads to a fuppofition, that the lamented event was occafioned by a water-fpout, that had burft againft the fide of the mountain, and difcharging itfelf adown the gullies, produced thofe afflictive and fudden difafters, that all feeling perfons muft deplore : and which, when recollected, fhould operate to remind us of our frailty and our refponfibility, and make us live well that we may die happily.

This is admitted to have been the greateft civic evil, that has happened fince the earthquake of Lifbon in 1754, and was the moft tragical, of its nature that ever happened. Had the younger Pliny been on the fpot, it would have been adequately detailed.

The property deftroyed has been eftimated at upwards of a million of pounds fterling.

LEXINGTON, (Ken.) Nov. 22.

The following Circular, by order of the Governor has been sent by the Secretary of State, to the officers intended to command on the expedition.

(CIRCULAR.)

Secretary's office, Frankfort, November 16, 1803.

SIR,

The governor of the Commonwealth repofing full confidence in your courage, activity and zeal to defend your country ; has thought proper to defignate you as captain in a detachment of volunteers from the Kentucky militia, intended for a four months expedition to Louifiana.

Sufpicions exifting that the Spanifh government means to conteft our taking poffeffion of New Orleans, and of the country weft of the Miffiffippi, though it has folemnly ceded the fame to France, and had directed a formal invefture of the province to be made in the name of his Catholic majefty, and though France has transferred the fame to the United States by a fair and honorable treaty, which has been ratified by the Prefident, and with the advice and confent of the Senate ; it has been deemed expedient by the federal government to direct that eight regiments, comprehending 4,000 men, felected out of the Kentucky Militia, fhould with all poffible expedition be organized and embodied, and ready to march at the fhorteft notice.—Whether there will be actual occafion for the fervices of thefe troops, is at prefent uncertain—the embodying of them being adopted as a precautionary meafure. Your commiffion fhall be tranfmitted to you, whenever orders fhall be fent to you to join your regiment, provided that it fhould appear that the number of men, whom you may be fo fortunate as to engage will be proportioned to the rank which you hold in the fervice.

Little doubt indeed, can be entertained that this would be the cafe : for it would difcover an ignorance of the principles and fpirit well known to prevail univerfally in our country, were it to be imagined that the brave militiamen of Kentucky would not with eager footfteps prefs on, at the fummons of patriotifm and military glory.

They feek not wealth by war ; they are not a body of mercenaries who fight only for pay.

Their country knows it and accepts their fervices, as a gratuitous pledge of their patriotifm ; but unwilling that they fhould fuffer by their zeal fhe offers them the fame pay as fhe gives to the regular troops of the United States.

They feek not blood and plunder. Though treaties were violated—though their rights were infringed—though their commerce was at an end ; they fought not to redrefs by violence—they relied on their government ; it did them juftice and they were fatisfied. But if treaties cannot ftill be maintained without force—if their government, after trying in vain the influence of truth, and relying in vain on the power of juftice—fummon them to arms ; they are ready. they envy not the tranquility of their neighbors—they aim not to enrich themfelves with their fpoils but they will fight for their own ; they will affert the honor of their nation—they will fupport the dignity of their government and the claims of juftice.

Thefe, fir, are the fentiments which pervade the militia men of Kentucky, and are fo truly congenial to the minds of citizen foldiers. You will find no difficulty in raifing your quota of volunteers. The governor has directed the colonel of your regiment to order an immediate regimental mufter, for the purpofe of facilitating the raifing of the neceffary proportion of troops. You will no doubt, avail yourfelf of the opportunity to make up your compliment of men ; and it is the governor's requeft that a return of your company, including the names, numbers and accoutrements of the men, may be tranfmitted to this office, on or before the 10th day December next.

Your company having been muftered and embodied, they may return to their refpective homes ; but muft hold themfelves in readinefs to march at the fhorteft notice.

It is expected that the riflemen comprehended in the propofed detachment, fhould be provided with good rifles, adapted to the fervice, together with the neceffary accoutrements ; but the infantry will be furnifhed with mufkets at fort Adams, on the Miffiffippi.

I am, Sir,
Your moft obedient fervant,
HARRY TOULMIN,
Secretary of State.

FRANCIS PIC

RESPECTFULLY informs the ladies and gentlemen of George Town and the city of Wafhington, that he fhall open at his ftore in George Town, on Monday next, an extenfive affortment of Millenery and Fancy goods, Perfumery, &c. purchafed fince the laft arrivals from Europe, by Madame Pic—who will arrive here on Saturday. This affortment is the moft elegant, rich and fafhionable ever exhibited in the diftrict of Columbia, and will be fold on the loweft terms poffible.

Dec. 16—3t

GEORGE BRUORTON

FROM LONDON.

THE only china, glafs, and earthen ware Enameller and Guilder in America, begs leave to inform the ladies and gentlemen in the United States that they may have, china, glafs, and earthen ware, gilded and enamelled with their arms, crefts, ciphers, borders, or any other devifes in the neateft and moft fafhionable manner with the beft burnifh'd gold, warranted to ftand, and the brighteft of enamelled colours.

Thofe ladies and gentlemen who wifh to encourage the above art may apply at his manufactory, No. 13, Brannon ftreet oppofite the New Market in Greenwich, where the orders will be received and executed on the fhorteft notice.

New York, July 28—Dec. 16—3t

WASHINGTON CITY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16.

DIED—On the 12th inftant, Mrs. ELIZABETH DAVIDSON, wife of JAMES DAVIDSON, Sen. Efq. Cafhier of the Office of Difcount and Depofit, of this City.

IN SENATE, December 12, 1803.

The bill to repeal the act entitled " An act to eftablifh an uniform fyftem of Bankruptcy throughout the United States", was read the third time. It was fupported by Meffrs. Breckinridge, Cocke, Logan, Venable and Butler ; and oppofed by Meffrs. S. Smith and Wright.—It paffed in the affirmative, Yeas 17—Nays 12.

The Yeas and Nays were as follows :

YEAS—Meffrs. Anderfon, Breckinridge, Butler, Cocke, Dayton, Ellery, Franklin, Hillhoufe, Logan, Maclay, Olcot, Pickering, Plumer, Potter, J. Smith, Venable, and Worthington.

NAYS—Meffrs. Adams, Armftrong, Baily, Baldwin, Bradly, Brown, Condit, I. Smith, S. Smith, Tracy, White, and Wright.

The above bill only requires the fignature of the Prefident to be a law.

House of Representatives.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 14, 1803.

The Houfe took up the report of the committee of the whole on the report of the committee of ways and means on the expediency of *difcontinuing* the office of COMMISSIONER OF LOANS in the different ftates.

The report of the committee of the whole was a difagreement to the report of the committee of ways and means, and a recommendation to the Houfe to adopt a refolution that it is expedient to difcontinue the office.

After a debate of confiderable length, the report of the committee of the whole was agreed to by Yeas and Nays —Yeas 58—Nays 55.

THURSDAY, Dec. 15, 1803.

The Houfe went into a committee of the whole—Mr. Dawfon in the chair—on the bill giving effect to the laws of the United States, within the territory ceded by France to the United States.

Dr. Latimore moved an amendment, the object of which was to preferve the Miffiffippi diftrict, as it has been heretofore, in relation to the entry and delivery of merchandife, inftead of making, as the bill provides, New-Orleans the only port of entry for the Miffiffippi territory, and to give time for information, moved that the committee fhould rife.

Agreed to, and leave given to the committee to fit again.

New York, Dec. 10.

The fhip Favorite, Mackie, arrived at this port laft evening in 35 days from Liverpool. She left there on the 3d November, but brings no loofe papers.

No declaration of war had been iffued againft Spain or Portugal, as was expected, nor had an embargo been laid on the veffels in the port of Liverpool though fuch an event was talked of as likely to take place fhortly. Bufinefs was very dull, and the people waited with much anxiety for the expected vifit from the French.

The blockade of Martinique by the Britifh continued on the 20th ult.

NOTICE.

WHEREAS fome time about the middle of November laft, a draft was drawn by me in favor of a certain Jofiah Fofter, of Matthews county in the ftate of Virginia, on a certain Houlder Hudgins of faid county & ftate—payable 60 days after date : And as faid draft was fraudulently obtained from me, I am determined not to pay it unlefs compelled by law.

I do therefore, hereby forwarn all perfons from taking an affignment of the fame.

LAMBERT SCOTT

George Town, Dec. 16—3t

FOR SALE

By LEWIS CLEPHAN East of the Branch bank on F. street City of Washington.

PAINTERS COLORS OF ALL SORTS.

White Lead in kegs and dry,	Red Lead,
Stone Ocher of fuperior quality,	Spruce Ocher,
	Patent Yellow,
	Gold Litrage,
Turkey Umber,	Pruffian Blue, 1ft and 2nd quality,
Vermilion,	
Beft Carmin drop lack,	Kings Yellow,
Painters Brufhes of all forts,	Linfeed oil and fpirits of turpentine,

Window glafs 10 by 12—8 by 10, and 7 by 9.
Gold and filver leaf by the pack or book,
Large fheet glafs cut to any fize.

Gentlemen fending their Safhes will have them neatly glazed and on moderate terms. All orders from the country will be carefully attended to.

August 5. eawtf