j[illegible], with a view to their amendment. These refpected the education of our youth, the difcipline of our militia, and the improvement of our public highways. The latter object is connected with the commercial intereft, the convenience and comfort of our citizens, and the ornament of our country. The other two are pillars on which felf-government refts, and fhould therefore always be kept before us with a view to their greater perfection. As I entertain the fame opinion on thofe fubjects that I then did, I confider it my duty to invite your attention to fuch parts of that communication as refpect them.

*[To be Concluded in our next.]*


JUST PUBLISHED,

*And now selling at* WILLIAM DUANE'S *Book-store, between the Capitol and the President's House, Pennsylvania Avenue,*

A LETTER

FROM

THOMAS PAINE

TO

GENERAL WASHINGTON,

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

Several curious and important papers, explanatory of Mr. Paine's conduct and writings.

Jan. 5 3t.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY

*Of extracting pure, wholesome, and fresh water from the salt water of the Ocean, by means of evaporation and condensation—*

WITH a new and ufeful improvement in the carbofe of a veffel for working faid machine without any additional expence for fuel, and fupplies at fea a fufficiency of frefh water for the fhip's ufe. Invented by SIMEON ROUSE, and by him affigned to JOHN LAMB, who has obtained a PATENT from the United States, figned by the Prefident the firft day of January 1803.

Many gentlemen have examined the drawing and defcription of the faid machine, and are firmly of opinion that it is of the utmoft importance, and will be highly beneficial to all nations forever hereafter. It is underftood the Patentee will fhortly prepare the machine (complete) on board one of our National fhips (or fome other) for fatisfactory experiment, when the terms of Vending will be made known and publifhed in the feveral fea ports in the United States.

The Inventor and Patentee are citizens of the ftate of New York.

Printers (friendly to the public good) will publifh the above if they pleafe.

Jan. 6 6t.

The Dey of Algiers.

*This beautiful native Arabian Horse,*

IS NOW FOR SALE.

THe proof of lineage and origin may be infpected, and the noble animal himfelf may be feen, by applying to Charles C. Jones at his farm, feven miles from this town: he is young, healthy and in fine fpirits, and condition, and the trial of laft feafon, (the only one he has ftood in this part of the world) proves him a fure foal getter. As to his form, let thofe judge who are inclined to purchafe.

The beft judges have pronounced him perfect; his color is white; he is of full ftature for his fize, meafuring exactly 14 hands 2 and an half inches.

As, if not fold, he will be advertifed to cover on the 1ft February. I cannot receive propofitions later than that day.

JOHN MASON.

George-Town December 22, 1802. eotf

City Repofitory and Auction Room.

*Household Furniture, and goods of every description, received for public and private sale, by* JOHN GARDINER, *Auctioneer, Pennsylvania Avenue, 4th house west of President's square.*

GARDINER will have an Auction every Thurfday at 11 A. M. and fell by private fale other days. This arrangement he trufts will accommodate all who are defirous to fell cheap for cafh; and all who are defirous to buy cheap. Thofe who have goods they wifh to part with, can exhibit them at this repofitory, and thofe who wifh to purchafe, by calling, will probably find what they want on eafy terms.

Variety of Houfe Furniture—fome dry Goods—Books—Earthenware—Ironmongery—Carpenters Tools—A Franklin ftove &c. &c. now for fale Cheap.

J. GARDINER.

4th Jan. 1803. 1wtf.

On Thurfday next the 6th

inftant, at 11 o'clock before noon—if fair, otherwife the next fair day—will be fold at public venue at the Navy Yard—A fmall quantity of SLOP CLOTHING, fomewhat damaged, and fome damaged BREAD.

THOs. TINGEY,

*Superintendant.*

Jan. 5. 1t.

Henry Caffaway, & Co.

*Bridge street, a few doors above the Union Tavern, George Town, has just received an extensive assortment of* DRY GOODS, *consisting of—*

| | |
|---|---|
| Superfine cloths and caffimeres, | Chintzes and callicoes, |
| Second do. do. | Cotton taffels fringes, |
| Fafhionable fancy cords and velveteens, | Cotton worfted and milled hofiery, |
| Coatings & half thicks, | Muffs and tippets—fhoes, |
| Fafhionable Lace clock filk hofe, | Fafhionable tambour'd muflins, |
| Fine fhirting flannel, | Cambrick muflin, |
| Diaper table cloths and Towelling, | Linen cambricks, |
| | Federal bed ticking, |
| Irifh, German, Flanders and Ruffia fhirtings, | Flandrous, ditto, |
| | Shawls, waiftcoates of rofe and ftriped blanketts, |
| Fafhionable lace clock cotton hofe, | Hatts, |
| Itoppilies and plattillen, | Bed Lace. |

And a number of other articles too tedious to mention, all of which will be fold very low for cafh.

Jan. 5. 1m


## *Congrefs of the United States.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

*Friday, Dec. 31.*

A confidential Meffage was received from the Prefident, inclofing a letter from the governor of the Miffiffippi Territory, with an accompanying letter received by him from the Governor of Louifiana.

The Galleries were cleared, and the doors remained fhut until paft 2 o'clock.

Mr. Dennis prefented a petition of fundry inhabitants of Wafhington and George Town, praying that Congrefs will pafs an Act for incorporating, an Infurance Company, to be ftyled "the Columbia General Infurance Company."

Referred to Meffrs. Dennis, Van Nefs, and Taliaferro.

Mr. Gray called up his refolution, laid fome time fince on the table as follows:

Refolved, that a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of paffing a law rendering all perfons forever incapable of holding any office under the government of the United States, who fhall, at any time hereafter, be concerned in any duel, either in fending, carrying or accepting any written or verbal challenge; and that they report by bill or otherwife.

*Mr. Davis* oppofed the refolution. He faid if the Houfe could be made fenfible that the refolution embraced a fubject on which it could not conftitutionally act, they would reject it. To him it was plain that if the Houfe purfued the object of the refolution it led them on forbidden ground. In the firft place it took from the citizens a right which, by their conftitution, they had fecured to themfelves, to wit: the right of free elections—do what the refolution contemplates, and no man can hold a feat here who ever fought a duel, or gave or carried a challenge, although he may be the choice of the people. No fuch thing is faid in the conftitution. The people in that inftrument has already defined the difqualification to office—that charter of their rights declares that no perfon who has been impeached and found guilty "fhall hold an office," and I contend that Congrefs cannot impeach a perfon for any offence done by him as an individual; two things are requifite to ground an impeachment. Firft, the perfon muft be an officer of the United States. Secondly, he muft have been guilty of fome malfeafance in the difcharge of the duties impofed on him by that office. If an individual who does not hold an office under the United States commits murder, I deny the right of Congrefs to impeach him—he is made amenable to the ftate laws; while we were bufy in impeaching him, he might be executed by the ftatute law of the ftate. Let it not be underftood that I advocate this practice. My obfervations difclaim the right we have to act on it.

The refolution was negatived.

MONDAY, Jan. 3, 1803.

Mr. Leib prefented a petition from John Miles, and others, gun makers of the City of Philadelphia, praying that additional duties may be impofed on mufkets, piftols, and other fire or fmall arms imported from foreign countries.

Mr. Van Nefs, prefented a memorial from the Wafhington Building Company, praying for an act of incorporation.

Referred to a felect committee of three.

Mr. Leib obferved that during the laft feffion, a propofition had been made, and had paffed this Houfe to amend the Conftitution refpecting the election of Prefident and Vice Prefident, but which had been rejected in the Senate. Mr. Leib faid that the citizens he reprefented were extremely anxious on this fubject. He, therefore, confidered it his duty to fubmit a fimilar propofition, in order to determine whether it would not fhare a better fate. He then propofed an amendment, fubftantially, that in all future elections of Prefident and Vice Prefident, the perfons voted for fhall be particularly defignated by declaring which are voted for as Prefident, and which as Vice Prefident.

Referred to the committee of the whole on the ftate of the union.

Mr. Randolph, chairman of the committee of ways and means, reported a bill making partial appropriations for the naval fervice during the year 1803.

The bill appropriates 100,000 dollars.

Referred to a committee of the whole Houfe to-morrow.

The Houfe refolved itfelf into a committee of the whole on the report of the committee of claims on the petition of Charles Hyde——*Mr. Varnum* in the Chair.

After making a few amendments, not affecting the principle of the report, the committee rofe, and the Houfe immediately took up their report and concurred therein.

The report directs the proper accounting officer to liquidate and fettle the claims of the petitioner, allowing him, as Judge Advocate from Dec. 2, 1792, to July 15, 1794, fuch pay and emoluments for his fervices, as were allowed at that time to officers acting in a like capacity.

Mr. John Cotton Smith, chairman of the committee of claims, foon after reported a bill to this effect, which was referred to a committee of the whole, into which the Houfe immediately refolved itfelf, reported without amendment, and ordered to be engroffed for a third reading to morrow.

Mr. Randolph, chairman of the committee of ways and means, reported a bill making appropriations for the military eftablifhment of the United States for the year 1803.

Referred to a committee of the whole to-morrow.

Mr. Euftis prefented a petition from Samuel Blodget, praying relief, in the cafe of a judgment recovered againft him in the fupreme court of Pennfylvania, for property in the city of Wafhington, at the fuit of the poffeffors of a prize ticket in a lottery authorifed to be drawn for the improvement of the faid city in the year 1793, and of which the petitioner was appointed an acting manager and fuperintendant.

The Speaker prefented to the Houfe a report of the Secretary of State on the petition of C. L' Enfant.

Referred to a committee of the whole Houfe.

On motion of Mr. Nicholfon, the houfe refolved itfelf into a committee of the whole.—*Mr. John C. Smith* in the chair—on the bill "*For the relief of Infolvent Debtors within the District of Columbia.*"

The blank in the 4th line of the 1ft. Sect. fixes the period of refidence in the diftrict required to entitle a debtor to the benefit of the act. This, on motion of Mr. Nicholfon, was filled with "one year."

Several other amendments were made in the different fections, on the motion of Mr. Nicholfon.—The moft material of which provided for the liberation of a confined debtor during the vacation of the court by two or more juftices.

The committee proceeded to the 3d Section, which is as follows:

Sec. 3. *And be it enacted,* That upon the petitioning debtor's executing a deed to the faid truftee conveying all his property, real, perfonal and mixed, and all his claims, rights and credits agreeably to the oath or affirmation of the faid debtor, and on the delivery of all his faid property which he fhall have in his poffeffion, and his books, papers and evidence of debts of every kind to the faid truftee, and upon the faid truftee's certifying the fame to the court in writing, it fhall be lawful for the court to order that the faid petitioning debtor fhall be difcharged *from all debts, covenants, contracts, promises, and agreements, due from or owing or contracted by him prior to the date of the said deed,* and by virtue of fuch order the faid debtor fhall be difcharged as aforefaid: *Provided* that no perfon who has been guilty of a breach of the laws, and who has been fined or imprifoned for fuch breach fhall be difcharged from the payment of fuch fine, or from his imprifonment; *and provided likewise,* that any property which the debtor may afterwards acquire by gift, defcent, or in his own right by bequeft, devife or in any courfe of diftribution, fhall be liable to the payment of the faid debts, any thing herein to the contrary notwithftanding.

Which being read,

*Mr. Randolph* obferved that by the provifions of this Section, the Bankrupt fyftem was put in force not only as to merchants, but as to every defcription of citizens. It extended to all perfons who might migrate to this fanctuary. It operated in the nature of a repealing law to the laws of all the ftates. It would alfo have the operation of an *ex post facto law.* If thefe objections fhould not be anfwered, he would be compelled to give his vote againft the bill.

*Mr. Davis,* thought the 3d Section liable to the objections of the gentleman from Virginia. It extended the benefit of the Bankrupt fyftem to the people of this territory in a manner different from that which was extended to the citizens of the States. As however the fubject did not appear to have been much reflected on, he moved that the committee fhould rife, and afk leave to fit again.

*Mr. Nicholson* faid he fhould make at that time but little comment on the remarks of gentlemen oppofed to the provifions of the 3d Section. The principle involved in the 3d Section, was certainly a very important one. It would be well, he thought, for the committee to exprefs their fenfe of it before they rofe; to decide whether it fhould be retained or not. If not retained, the bill would require confiderable modification. He would, therefore, make a few obfervations on the principle of the Section, in the hope that the gentleman from Kentucky would vary his motion, and move in lieu thereof to ftrike out the 3d Section, in order to try the fenfe of the Houfe.

Gentlemen were miftaken, when they confidered this Section as extending to the citizens of this territory the benefits of the Bankrupt fyftem. If they had been fo extended, he could not fee any folid objection to it. But the provifions were very different. By the Bankrupt law, when the certificate is granted, the Bankrupt is difcharged from all his debts. By this Section he is not difcharged; becaufe it is provided that any property afterwards acquired "by gift, defcent, or in his own right by bequeft, devife or in any courfe of diftribution," fhall be liable for his debts. Under the infolvent laws of Virginia and Kentucky, an infolvent debtor's property is anfwerable after his liberation. In other ftates, a different principle prevails.

Mr. N. faid, in his opinion, the principle of the bill was an equitable principle. For if after an infolvent debtor fhall be liberated from confinement, and fhall affign over all his exifting property, property afterwards acquired by his own perfonal induftry fhall be anfwerable for his debts, you deftroy all ftimulus to exertion and labour. The evil too is not merely perfonal to him, but is felt by fociety at large; becaufe his induftry not only continues to his own perfonal benefit, but to that alfo of fociety. You lofe, therefore, a valuable member of fociety. This is not the only lofs. You likewife inflict an effential injury on his family that are under his fpecial protection.

[Mr. Nicholfon here inftanced the unhappy effects of this rigor on two defcriptions of citizens in this place; thofe who kept boarding-houfes and ftore-keepers.]

He concluded by obferving that, in his opinion, the bankrupt law went too far, while the laws of Virginia and Kentucky did not go far enough. While, property acquired by the perfonal labour of a debtor ought not to be anfwerable for his previous debts, he was of opinion, that property, otherwife acquired, fhould be anfwerable.

Mr. *Davis* withdrew his motion for the rifing of the committee, and moved to ftrike out the words "*all debts, covenants, promises and agreements, due for or owing, or contracted by him prior to the date of the said deed,*" and to infert in lieu thereof, "imprifonment."

*Mr. Davis* begged leave to offer a few remarks on what had fallen from the gentleman from Maryland. That gentleman had remarked, that to make property afterwards acquired by the perfonal exertion of the debtor anfwerable, would deftroy a great ftimulus to induftry, while he confidered it perfectly right that property acquired by defcent or gift fhould be made anfwerable. Now, is any thing more eafy than to evade this provifion? If an individual is known to be bankrupt; he prefumed none of his friends would give him any thing, becaufe it would be applied to the payment of his debts. They will be fure to veft it in fome friends for his ufe, and thus preclude the ability of the creditor to touch it. The argument of the gentleman, therefore, was not correct. Mr. Davis faid, if this fection fhould be ftruck out, the fame provifions would apply to this diftrict, as applied to the ftates.

*Mr. Randolph* was againft the fection. He was not, however, furprifed at the fupport it received from his friend (Mr. Nicholfon) from his known humanity, and from the partiality, which it was natural he fhould entertain, for the municipal regulations of his own ftate. But he would, on further reflection, find that by extending thus far the meafure of his humanity to the debtor, he will effentially injure the creditor. Mr. Randolph knew how eafy it was to work on the paffions of a deliberative body by pourtraying the miferies of the unfortunate. For himfelf, he abhorred the incarceration of the body for debt. But he was for taking a middle courfe between the extreme rigor of our anceftors, and the unjuft clemency to the debtor propofed by this fection. He would afk by what defcription of perfons the greateft injury had been inflicted on fociety in this country; whether by debtors under the iron grafp of their creditors, or by debtors whom the miftaken clemency of the law had permitted to ruin their creditors? He believed that a more extenfive fcene of injury had been inflicted on the country by the villainy (he could call it by no other name) of men who had fported with the property of others, than had been inflicted by the moft mercilefs rigor of creditors.

By denying to the creditor the power of incarcerating the body of his debtor, you proceed as far as juftice will warrant. Farther you cannot go; becaufe the obligation to comply with contracts is eternal, and not fubject to your regulations. He would fay, that if the debtor were an honeft man, he would make good his engagements, whatever the law might fay to the contrary. With regard to a want of ftimulus to induftry, which the gentleman from Maryland had affigned as a reafon for retaining the fection, he would afk if there was no danger to be apprehended from a law which put it in the power of any man, by twelve months refidence here, to elude all claims againft him? Which moft conduced to the public benefit, the exertions of an honeft and laborious man, or thofe you may expect from an infolvent debtor? It is right to refpect the miferies of the unfortunate. But thefe diftreffes are in more inftances the effects of crime than of misfortune.

Mr. Randolph confidered the ideas of the gentleman from Kentucky as going as far as they fhould go. They fay, you fhall not torture the perfon of a debtor; but you fhall not [illegible] ple oath, from his [illegible] difpenfe a [illegible] ments? What are Cong[illegible] to fay? They [illegible] difpenfing power, [illegible] cates, has proved [illegible] pope of old, free [illegible] ments as ftrong as the [illegible] and other obligations. [illegible] the fame right to do the [illegible] Is it not as cruel to [illegible] ney of the creditor as that [illegible] Is it not known that cred[illegible] ments amount are ftarving[illegible] lieved their fufferings we[illegible] thofe of debtors. What [illegible] the millions fponged by [illegible] fyftem? They had gone [illegible] fyftems and projects to [illegible] given rife. As to the [illegible] performed a complete [illegible] ftands where he ftood befo[illegible] with nothing, and with n[illegible] ed.

Suppofe there fhould be [illegible] fore your act and that of [illegible] der each of which there fh[illegible] ment; which is to give wa[illegible] dolph concluded by faying [illegible] important confideration to [illegible] might be important to othe[illegible] in cafe this fection was [illegible] place would become the re[illegible] of all defcriptions. It wo[illegible] temple of Mecca.

*Mr. Nicholson,* faid he [illegible] tial to this provifion, inaf[illegible] exifted in the ftate he re[illegible] fince the year 1774. He [illegible] notwithftanding, that the [illegible] land had been turned in[illegible] Mecca, nor were people i[illegible] flocking to it. Why th[illegible] rather than to Maryland [illegible] requires twelve months re[illegible] a debtor fhall be entitled [illegible] of the provifion. If that [illegible] ficient, increafe it. Say, [illegible] extend to two or three yea[illegible] er period. To this he n[illegible] objection. But he facrific[illegible] ple, becaufe he deemed it [illegible]

What are the objections [illegible] it? It is faid that its i[illegible] be evaded. This is tru[illegible] evaded. But he would a[illegible] be fo changed as to preve[illegible] Suppofe all the property [illegible] fhall be made anfwerable [illegible] Will not a fraudulent deb[illegible] perfon difpofed to leave hi[illegible] veft it in my children, [illegible] friends, and will not that be [illegible] fraud upon the creditors [illegible] gentlemen have defcribed. [illegible] prevented by no law whate[illegible]

Mr. Nicholfon faid he w[illegible] would be the effect upon a [illegible] a family of children dependi[illegible] Would he exert himfelf to [illegible] perty when he did not [illegible] could retain it an hour afte[illegible] tion. He afked if this was [illegible] of man? As far as his o[illegible] tended it was not. Al[illegible] were fome lenient creditors[illegible] others that were relentlefs, [illegible] lay their talons on the firf[illegible] labours. Will not this deft[illegible] But gentlemen fay this pro[illegible] fect a moral injury to the [illegible] True—But what do they [illegible] fects of the contrary pro[illegible] debtor? They will libera[illegible] jail, that he may becom[illegible] without any inducement to [illegible] to employ with effect the [illegible] mind. He would afk if t[illegible] injury was not the greater i[illegible] he believed this provifion [illegible] great and good effect. It w[illegible] the injurious extenfion o[illegible] would in this place repref[illegible] in lots, by reducing proper[illegible] value, which would cont[illegible] improvement of the city, [illegible] perfons, by obtaining gro[illegible] rate terms, to come here to[illegible]

A fimilar provifion has e[illegible] ryland for twenty fix year[illegible] there extends to all debtors [illegible] owe more than 200 pounds [illegible] other cafes it is ufual for t[illegible] to pafs an annual law on th[illegible] debtors. If they purfue a fi[illegible] all their time would be occ[illegible] neglect of bufinefs of infini[illegible] importance. It became t[illegible] ceffary to pafs a general [illegible] fubject; in doing which no [illegible] jury could be done the cre[illegible] an effential fervice would b[illegible] on the debtor.

*Mr. Goddard* was oppofe[illegible] tion for reafons additional t[illegible] ed by the gentlemen from V[illegible] Kentucky. This provifion [illegible] him to extend much farther [illegible] of the Bankrupt law. By [illegible] debtor is to prefent to [illegible] lift of his creditors, who are [illegible] Truftee to whom all his prop[illegible] affigned, and he is to be [illegible] doing this, without their co[illegible] was not the principle of [illegible] act, under which a Bankrup[illegible] be difcharged but by the con[illegible] two thirds of the creditors bo[illegible] and number. How eafy w[illegible] der this bill for a debtor to [illegible] of his friends only, and by ge[illegible] to appoint an affignee accordi[illegible] wifhes, fraudulently to rob his [illegible] This bill was of fuch a nature [illegible] rate not alone in the diftrict o[illegible]