Legislature of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, June 8.

A Committee of both Houses, was this day appointed, to consider at what time the General Court may have a recess, and report.

The House proceeded according to assignment to the choice of a Major General, for the first Division of Militia, of this Commonwealth, by ballot, and EBENEZER THAYER, jun. Esq. was chosen.

Sent up for concurrence.

A Bill to repeal certain laws of this Commonwealth, respecting duties on licences, on wheel carriages, and duties on certain papers, commissions, instruments, and processes, was read a third time.—Negatived.

ORDERED, That Mr. Wedgery, Mr. Bigelow, Mr. Jarvis, Mr. Flagg and Mr. Gardiner, be a Committee to ascertain the amount of the Excise duty—to consider the mode of collecting the same, and what alterations may be necessary therein; also to consider whether there are any other articles on which duties may be laid, and report a Bill, if necessary.

THURSDAY, July 9.

An Act providing remedy for Bankrupts and their Creditors to be read a third time, was the order of the day.

Mr. Mason, jun. confessed himself perfectly satisfied with the principles on which the Bankrupt Act was predicated—but had many objections to the present act, for the insufficiency of its provisions. He tho't the present session would be too short to get through both branches, and therefore moved it should be deferred to the next Session.

This motion was warmly opposed in many very powerful and argumentative speeches, in which the principles of the bill were very thoroughly canvassed. We should very readily give a comprehensive sketch of this debate, but the late hour at which the House adjourned, precludes our wishes.

Mr. Gardiner who was in favor of the reference wished the bill might be printed.

The speakers on the subject were Messrs. *Jarvis, Parsons, Sewall, Jones (B) Thompson, Sloman, Thatcher, Fessenden, Hichborn, Clarke, Tudor, Shurtliff, Wedgery, Austin*, and others.

The Bill was recommitted for amendment.

The Bill for erecting a College in the District of Maine, was read a second time and committed for amendments.

FRIDAY, June 11.

Mr. Gardiner moved for a committee to consider the propriety and justice of granting a tract of unlocated land in the Eastern part of the Commonwealth, to such persons as were officers and soldiers of this State for three years, or more, during the war, in the continental army.

Mr. Sloeum opposed the rising such a committee at this late hour of the session. The motion, however, prevailed, and Messrs. Raymond, Austin & Gardiner, were appointed a committee.

Mr. Gardiner, member from *Pownalborough*, arose, and announced to the House, that "on Tuesday next at Ten o'clock, A. M. he intended to move to call up the Petition of the Portland Convention, now upon the Files of the House, and to request the consent of the House and the other Branch of the Legislature of MASSACHUSETTS, that the District of MAINE, may be permitted to seperate from this Commonwealth, and become a distinct, sovereign, and independent State."

An engross'd bill for the preservation and encouragement of the Fur Trade within this Commonwealth, Read and pass'd to be enacted.

The Petition, for the town of Concord to be established as the Shire Town for the County of Middlesex, Read and committed to Mr. Foster, Mr. Bigelow, and Mr. Thatcher.

SATURDAY, June 11.

The House proceeded to the consideration of the report of the committee appointed to ascertain the amount of the Excise Duties, and to consider the mode of collecting the same, &c. and after debate the question was put, Whether the House would accept of the report?—Which was determined in the negative. The said Report was then recommited, and the committee instructed to bring in a bill providing a proper mode for collecting the present duties.

The committee on the Petition of the Clerks of the Supreme Judicial Court, reported,——That it was their opinion, that a bill should be brought in for granting a Salary to said Clerks.

Adjourned.—

LONDON, April 15.

The project of driving the Turks out of Europe, which has often been abandoned by the several potentates of the North, is now most undoubtedly resolved upon by the Imperial Catharine. Her late success have removed the small bounds which political prudence had formerly objected to her ambition. That establishment of a great naval force, which can alone give Russia her due influence in the state of European politicks, and on which the Empress during the whole of her reign has from this consideration been so anxiously bent, can only be brought about by her being possessed of a total command of the Black Sea, and of those straights which lead through the sea of Marmara and the Dardanelles into the Archipelago and the Mediterranean. As long therefore, as Constantinople and the adjacent country continue in the hands of their present masters, so long will Russia be debarred from forming that naval establishment, on which her future greatness may in a great measure be said to depend. Now the injury to which Great-Britain will be liable from so extensive an Empire as Russia embracing as it were, the whole globe with its fleets and commerce, is obvious. We shall have already to combat, in that element, the dominion of which it has for many ages been the pride of England to arrogate to itself. Boundless in its resources, particularly in those which are necessary to naval affairs. Russia, if once she obtains a sure footing, will in a short time take the lead of all the European powers. Even supposing that by long attained superiority, we should at first be able to copy with a newly established and unexperienced, navy, like the Hydra, fleet after fleet will issue from the various ports of that vast Empire, and eventually overwhelm the exhausted force of its inferior adventaries. Like an immense whirlpool, Russia will by degrees swallow up every neighbouring state, till it becomes, what in fact the present Empress aims at rendering it, the sole independent maritime state in Europe.

DUBLIN, April 14.

The people of this city are much alarmed, in consequence of the epidemic fever which rages in the county of Wexford, we will not call it plague, though there are some circumstances related which make us fear it is of that horrid description.

One is, that it was communicated to this part of the country, Poulke's-mill, a seaport, where it first appeared; by a vessel which was drove in there a wreck, a short time ago, without a soul on board, which vessel the people seized and made a property of her cargo. It was amongst these particular people the contagion first appeared, and as the vessel was supposed to come from Smyrna, we fear it is the dreadful infection so peculiar to the Eastern countries.

By several people who arrived from Wexford, within these two days, we hear it is increasing, and that almost in every house in the barony of Forth, to which it is as yet confined, the melancholy spectacle of four or five dead bodies may be seen at one time.

A Mr. Hore is come up to Dublin from that part of the country, who lost five of his servants by this direful contagion.

A WELCH CURATE.

Was preaching a sermon, when intelligence was brought in, that a wreck had happened, and it was in those days when a general plunder was thought right. He heard different parts of the Congregation whispering to each other, and all appeared ready to run out of the Church, while those who were nearest the door were stealing out, one by one.

"Brethren—my dear Brethren!" cried the Curate, "One thing only have I to recommend to your serious attention—and I beg you will treasure it up in your hearts! Keep the Holy Scripture ever in your mind, & now—*let us start fair!*" On which he whipt down from the pulpit, and set off with the rest of the Congregation.

The alarm of war, and its expensive preparation, may sound sweet to ministerial ears, as they afford ample scope for the extention of influence, and for widespread speculation not easily detected.—But far differently do they vibrate on the ear of the merchant and the trader, whose property they shake and render insecure, and on that of the People, who are to be loaded with accumulated taxes for the fantasies of statesmen who call themselves politicians, and for the preservation of an ideal balance, less operative than the constellation of that name in the skies. A spirited people will indeed brave every danger and encounter all difficulties, when the rights of the country are invaded, its honours insulted, or its possessions attacked; and in such a cause they will have but one heart and hand. Yet to expect such an effect, from the pursuit of problematical plans and questionable measures, surely exceeds even the credulity of superstition. The minister who looks for it, however vaunting, will be deceived; and however daring will be disappointed.

By the preparations which are now making for war, we may hope for the same happy consequences which arose out of the spirited exertions that England made in the late dispute with Spain, when the nation's dignity was supported by the humiliation of our enemies, without the sacrifice of British subjects. It is alledged, by Hollow politicians, that England's treaty with Prussia is but defensive: Were the facts admitted, and Prussia engaged, without the assistance of Great-Britain, could the war proceed without Prussia being at the same time on the defensive—And it is more expedient for the allies of Prussia, to intimidate her enemies from entering into a war, than be obliged to give assistance, perhaps, at an unsuccessful period of it.

WINCHESTER, May 28.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at the Falls of the Ohio, to his relation in this town, dated April, 13, 1791.

"I wrote to you from Fort Pitt, which place we left the 3d inst. in company with two other boats, and proceeded to Limestone, without meeting or apprehending danger—at that place we were informed of several disasters which had befallen boats going down the river, and one to a boat going up to a French station loaded with butter, bacon, &c.—The particulars relative to the latter are as follows—The boat was attacked by about 60 or 70 Indians, and the flankers that were on shore as a guard were fired on by them—immediately after firing, they gave the Indian whoop, and, rushed on the flankers, scalped them every one (about 22)—they then fired at the boat, but did no damage, as it required some time to make their way into the river. After the savages had executed this terrible act of barbarity, they continued on the river watching for other boats. In the course of about 6 days, five or six boats happened down the river—the savages attacked the foremost of them, in which were two young ladies of the name of Macdonald; a young gentleman, and some others passengers, and took it; elevated with this easy conquest, they imagined themselves capable of taking every boat they might fall in with—In a little time a second boat drove in sight, which they attacked with great fury—they were in three canoes, each canoe contained about twenty—they moved towards the boat, as it came down, and commenced firing; after discharging their guns, they retreated, loaded and came on a second time, fired and retreated as before—this mode of fighting they repeated nine different times, as often as they came on there was a brisk firing kept up from the boat, which contained nine fighting men—during the conflict two were killed, and five wounded; two only remained to protect the boat, and prevent the Indians from boarding it, which every appearance of their conduct plainly indicated—these two brave fellows exerted themselves in a peculiar manner—on near approach of the enemy, they threw billets of wood at them, and one of them took up an ax, as a weapon of defence, should they persist in boarding, which the Indians perceiving, and, as is supposed, their ammunition being expended, they retreated, without accomplishing their object. These inhuman monsters, previous to their attacking the last mentioned boat, placed the two young ladies in the front of their canoes, in which situation they were both killed. A few days after this transaction, they fired at another boat, and killed one young man—in short, every boat that has gone down the river lately, has been fired at, exceptours; we saw no Indians—the places where the above depredations happened we passed in the night."

Two gentlemen arrived here from Kentucky, relate, that General Scott, with 1500 chosen militia, had marched from Fort-Washington, previous to their departure.

Recent accounts from Monongahela county, state, a small party of Marauding Indians have lately murdered one or two persons, and committed some other depredations in a settlement called Buchanon, in that county.

SHEPHERD'S-TOWN, May 31.

Copy of a letter from Racoon Creek, of a late date to the Printer hereof.

"We have met with a most severe stroke from the savages. A great number of our friends and connections are murdered, and their property carried off—We who are yet alive, are crouded into small forts, uncomfortably lodged in wet and dirt, and there is not clear ground around the fort sufficient to raise bread for our children—for this reason many are moving to the old settlements, over the mountains—and several hundreds have it in contemplation, as soon as they can safely pass down the river, to move to the Spanish territory, where they will live in peace, and have their interest more attended to.

"When the general government has displayed abilities sufficient to settle the grand object of finance, and establish the credit of the United States, to the admiration of nations, and to the universal approbation of the people of the United States, it is astonishing that they should have failed in that early part of government, *the protection of the frontiers.*

"The country is rendered desolate by taking the government out of the hands of the people.—The people of Kentucky protected the country and defended themselves against the British, joined by the Canadians and Indians—now we are pestered with *peace societies* which damp the spirits of the people.—It would be well if the Gentlemen who live 500 miles out of danger would consider that protection and allegiance are mutuable."

ELIZABETH-TOWN, (M.) June 1.

Last Sunday was discovered, trespassing on the meadows and gardens in and about this town, innumerable and inconceivable numbers of caterpillars; who have totally destroyed some grass lots. They march in legions from place to place, devouring all before them. Any person who can devise some means either of destroying or checking the progress of these insects, will be entitled to public thanks.

RICHMOND, May 25.

A Gentleman just from Kentucky, informs us, that Gen. Scott was about to march against the Indians. His army consisted of 13 companies of 73 rank and file each, and an equal or greater number of volunteers; among whom are Gen. Wilkinson, Col. Harding, and many other respectable characters. The general ardor which prevails among the inhabitants, and the care which has been taken in the appointment of the troops, gives room to hope, that the operation of the army will contribute much to suppress the predatory inroads of the Indians.

We also hear, that an army will march from Fort-Burgh and Muskingum about the same time; a considerable part of which have been inlisted in the back counties of this state.

The Indians shew a greater disposition for hostility this summer, than for several years past.

PHILADELPHIA, June 7.

Holland is about preventing the importation of teas, but by their own East-India Company, in consequence of, it is thought, importations of that article from the United States to Amsterdam.—Spain excludes our ships and people from all her colonies and lays heavy duties on our flour imported to them.—France will shut up her colonies to us the moment her harvest shall be certain, as a social creature, and observes that the States of America, and the people of France, will now become attached to each other, not only by their close and intimate alliance, but by the sympathy of their respective governments."

A London paper of April 19, Contains the following paragraph:—"This morning, at 1 o'clock, died, at his house at Newington-green, the Rev. Doctor PRICE, celebrated as a Divine—a Philosopher—and a Politician."

STOCKBRIDGE, June 7.

Sheffield, May 31, 1791.

"Last evening, about eight o'clock, Mr. Ebenezer Ensign was instantaneously killed by a shock of lightning. He was a son to Lieut. Elisha Ensign of this town, & in the 17th year of his age. The house in which Mr. E. was, appears to have been struck in two places at the same time, viz. the chimney, and the gable end—That portion of the fluid which struck the chimney, seems to have divided; one part went down the inside of the chimney, raised a considerable piece of the hearth, moved a flat iron to the distance of several yards, and scattered the foot and ashes about the room—the other part took its way down the outside of the chimney, until it arrived at the top of a rafter, which was contiguous; this it splintered very fine, scattering the pieces about the chamber, and followed until it was attracted by a quantity of old iron lying in the chamber immediately under it; from this it ran along the boards of the floor until it came directly over Mr. Ensign's head, who was then walking the room below: It is probable his body attracted the whole of the fluid, as there appears to be several fractures of the floor immediately over where he stood, and no mark of its progress to be discovered further on. That portion of the fluid which struck the gable end of the house, went down one of the rafters, which it very much splintered; and from thence, between the corner post and the outside casing, which it separated from the post, to the ground—The house was not materially damaged—two or three other persons who were in the house, were slightly shocked, but the effects were inconsiderable.—It is worthy of remark that two young men in bed, whose heads were within 18 inches of the rafters through which the fluid passed, received no injury—their security was probably owing to the circumstance of their lying on a feather bed, feathers being and electrick *per se*."

NORTHAMPTON, June 22.

Mr. Pitt, in the debate in the British House of Commons on the subject of the King's message, requesting supplies for augmenting his naval force, observes—that by uncommon strides of power and achievements the Russian Empire was not only spreading its vast boundaries throughout half Europe, but was actually endeavouring to extirpate a whole nation, and to extend its conquests over the richest and most fertile country of Asia. The Ottoman States, he said, were falling fast under the rod of its prowess, and unlimited sway appeared to be the only objects of its all conquering arms and all subdating machinations.—In answer to the question, whether the Russians or ottomans were the aggressors when the war began, he said, "Admitting that the ottomans were the aggressors, he did not think that was an argument now to be used. It was only now to be considered how we should check the arms and ardor of Russia; and he could not help remarking, that had the Ottomans been proportionably victorious, it would equally behove Europe, and consequently Britain, to check their wild career, in order to support a due balance of power."

Late European accounts state, that England and Prussia had determined to exert their whole force in compelling Russia to make peace with the Turks, and that the States General had thought themselves bound to co-operate with these powers to effect the same end—That Sweden had entered into a treaty with the Empress of Russia by which the king is to supply her Imperial Majesty, in case of a rupture with England and Prussia, with 12 ships of the line and 16,000 troops.—That Russia has 50 ships of the line ready for sea and an inexhaustible supply of men.—That Prince Potemkin's army, after detaching 30 regiments into Livonia, consists of 138,000 men besides artillery, engineers, and light troops.—That M. Mirabeau died at Paris the 2d of April—that all the powers of the North are arming, and that the Baltic is menaced as the seence of war.—

The answer of the Empress of Russia, to a memorial presented by the British Ministers, requiring, *only for cause arising for another Campaign*, "was delivered in these words, "I, as the Sovereign of an independent State, give NO account of my actions."

WAR DEPARTMENT,
MAY 30, 1791.

INFORMATION is hereby given to all the military invalids of the United States, that the sums to which they are entitled for six months of their annual pension from the 4th day of March 1791, and which will become due on the 4th day of September coming, will be paid on the said day by the Commissioners of Loans within the States respectively, under the usual regulations, viz.

Every application for payment must be accompanied by the following vouchers.

1st. The certificate given by the State, specifying that the person possessing the same is in fact an invalid, and ascertaining the sum to which as such he is annually intitled.

2d. An affidavit, agreeably to the following form:

A. B. come before me, one of the Justices of the court in the State of and *made oath that he is the same A. B. to whom the original certificate in his possession was given, of which the following is a copy (the certificate given by the state to be recited) That he served* (regiments, corps or navy) *at the time he was disabled, and that he now resides in the* and county of and has resided there for the last years, previous to which he resided in

In case an invalid should apply for payment by an attorney, the said attorney, besides the certificate and oath before recited, must produce a special letter of attorney agreeably to the following form.

I, A. B. of county of state of do hereby constitute and appoint C. D. of my lawful attorney, to receive in my behalf of any pension due six months, as an invalid of the United States, from the fourth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one, and ending the fourth day of September of the same year.

Signed and sealed in the presence of } *Witnesses.*

Acknowledged before me,

Applications of executors and administrators must be accompanied with legal evidence of their respective offices, and also of the time the invalids died, whose pension they may claim.

By command of the President of the United States,

H. KNOX, *Secretary of WAR.*

Notice to Manufacturers of Pot and Pearl Ashes.

State of New-York, 1790.

BY a Law, passed at the last Session of the Legislature, it is required, from and after the first day of October, 1790, that all casks, containing Pot and Pearl Ashes, shall be of the following dimensions, &c. viz.—29 inches in length, 19 inches in diameter at each head, be trimmed with at least eighteen Hoops, be made of White-Oak Staves and Heading, and to be found and tight.—

It is also further required by the said Law, that all Manufacturers of Pot and Pearl Ashes, after the first day of October, 1790, do brand each Cask with the Initial of the Christian Name, the Sir Name at full length.

Spring Goods!

ROBERT BRECK & SON,

HEREBY Inform their customers and others, that they have just received an elegant assortment of SPRING & SUMMER GOODS, which they are determined to sell exceedingly low for CASH. They are in want of a quantity of FLAX, BUTTER, and yard wide whitned and brown TOW-CLOTH, for which good pay will be made.

Northampton, June 15, 1791.

Seth Wright,

HEREBY informs the Public, that he has just received a large supply of ENGLISH & INDIA GOODS, suitable for most seasons of the year, which he is now selling low for Cash, he also continues to take in most kinds of Country produce in payment for the above Goods.

Northampton, June 13, 1791.

A LARGE, NEW, GOOD

CARPET,

for sale,——Enquire of the Printer.

June 22, 1791.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following lots of Land for sale, in that part of the town of Granby, called the Bank, & an unquestionable title given, by applying to LEVI SHEPHARD, of Northampton, viz.

Lots No. 7, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, 47, 49.

Also, the following Lots, in Blanford.

Lot No. 41,	containing 500 acres.
29,	500
14,	500
23,	500
26,	375
30,	300

N. B. If there are any Legal taxes, that are unpaid, upon either of the above lots, in Granby or Blanford, said Shephard will discharge the same upon the first notice.

Northampton, June 15, 1791.

THE Subscriber hereby informs his customers, that No 252 concludes 6 months, since he succeeded Mr. Pinkin in riding with News-Papers; and he hopes those who are indebted to him for the Papers, will be ready to settle with him for the same, by the bal week in the present month without fail.

JOSEPH BASCOM.

N. B. This is not to interfere with any contract that he may have heretofore made.

June 22, 1791.

TAKEN by the subscriber, on the first inst. a dark forrel MARE, seven or eight years old, trot and pace, a star in her forehead, carries her head fairly, pretty high life, no artificial mark, that I know, the owner is desired to prove his property, pay charges, and take her away.

LEMUEL LYON.

Grafton, June 16, 1791.

WANTED,

TWO JOURNEYMEN MASONS, for four Months, to whom good pay will be made.—Enquire of SHUBAEL WILDER.

N. B. Wanted also an Apprentice to the above business.

Northampton, June 15, 1791.

WANTED,

A QUANTITY of WHITE and RED OAK BARK, for which part CASH will be paid, if delivered soon, and of a good quality.

W. EDWARDS.

Northampton, June 8, 1791.