

Federal Legislature.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Thursday, Dec. 5.

A letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, was read, including a report from the Commissioners appointed to superintend the public buildings in the City of Washington.

Ordered to be printed. On motion of Mr. Livingston, the House ordered the appointment of the following Standing Committees, viz:

- Committee of Election.
Committee of Claims.
Committee of Commerce.
Committee of Revival and Unfinished business.

A message was received from the President of the United States, read in the words following words, to wit:

Gentlemen of the Senate, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, I herewith transmit to Congress certain documents, which relate to the late insurrection in Northampton, the opening of trade and intercourse with the island of St. Domingo, and the mission to the French Republic: Promised in my address to both Houses of Congress, on Tuesday last.

JOHN ADAMS.

United States, Dec. 5, 1799. The following are the documents which accompanied the above message:

- 1st. Insurrection in Northampton, &c.
A letter from the Hon. Richard Peters, to the Secretary of State, including a declaration of William Nicholas, Esq. Marshal of the County of Pennsylvania; a deposition of Valentine; and the deposition of James Fyfe, Esq.
A proclamation of the President relative to the Northampton insurrection.
A letter from the Secretary of War to the Governor of Pennsylvania, designating the different companies of troops required from that State upon the expedition.
Instructions from the Secretary of War to Brig. Gen. Macpherson, commanding the expedition.
2d. St. Domingo.

- A proclamation of the President of the United States, for opening trade and intercourse with the island of St. Domingo.
A Mission to the French Republic.
A letter from Patrick Henry, Esq. to the Secretary of State, declining the appointment of Envoy, owing to his indisposition, and the distance of the scene at which the negotiation were contemplated to take place.
Copy of a letter from Citizen Talleyrand dated Paris, 11th Fructidor to the Citizen Pickens, Secretary of the French Legation, at the Hague, approving the conduct of that agent, in communicating to Mr. Murray the pacific disposition of the French Republic towards the United States.
Another letter from Talleyrand to Pickens, dated Paris, 23rd Sept. 1799, authorizing him to communicate the pacific sentiments contained in the preceding, to Mr. Murray; and of the sincere disposition of the Directory to accelerate an amicable adjustment of all existing differences; and the respect with which an American Envoy would be received.
A letter from the Secretary of State to Mr. Murray, including his appointment as Envoy to the French Republic, in conjunction with Mr. Ellsworth, Chief Justice of the United States; and P. Henry, Esq. of Virginia; and the conditions to be expressed to the Directory on which the Envoys would repair to Paris; or, if more agreeable to the Directory, a Minister from the French Republic, would be received at Philadelphia.

- A letter from Mr. Murray, to the Secretary of State, accepting the appointment of Envoy to the French Republic.
A letter from Mr. Murray to the Minister of Foreign Relations, dated at the Hague, acquainting him with the nomination of the Envoys, and the stipulations expressed in the letter from the Secretary of State to Mr. Murray.
A letter from the Minister of Foreign Relations, in answer to the above, dated, 12th May 1799, containing assurances that they shall enjoy all the prerogatives attached to the mission, by the laws of nations, and a Minister of equal quality be appointed to treat with them; and that passports would be granted for their safe conveyance to Paris.

On motion of Mr. Bayard, the following resolution was agreed to by the House. Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to prepare and bring in a bill for the establishment of a uniform system of Bankruptcy throughout the United States.

A message was received from the Senate, informing the House, that the Right Rev. Bishop White had been chosen on their part, as chaplain to Congress.

Mr. Otis moved the following resolution, which was agreed to by the House.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to consider whether it be expedient to make any, and if any, what provision, for persons confined for debt, and that they report by bill or otherwise. Adjourned.

Mr. Harrison moved the following resolution, which was ordered to lie on the table, to wit:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire, and report by bill or otherwise, whether any, and what alterations, are necessary to be made in the judicial establishment of the territory of the United States, which is situated on the river Ohio.

Mr. Livingston, from the committee to which was referred the letter of Mr. Pickens, reported the following resolution, which was adopted by the House:

Resolved, That the two elegant prints offered by Mr. Trumbull, be accepted; and that the Speaker be authorized to write an answer, expressive of the pleasure with which this House has received his genius and talents exerted in the patriotic task of celebrating the events which led to his country's independence, and dedicated to the memory of those heroes who fell in its defence.

On motion of Mr. Bayard, the President's speech was referred to a committee of the whole on the state of the Union.

PAPERS referred to in the President's message,

Department of State. Philadelphia, March 6th, 1799.

Sir, I include a commission, continuing you in commission with the chief Justice Ellsworth and Patrick Henry, Esq. of Virginia, Envoys Extraordinary, and Ministers Plenipotentiary of the French Republic, by the President's order, to be enclosed for your information copies of his messages to the Senate of 13th & 25th of March, by the latter of which you will see the motives inducing the nomination of a commission for the purpose of negotiating with France, instead of long the business wholly with you. This will stand as the weight of a sole responsibility in an affair of such magnitude.

It is the President's desire that you by letter to the French minister of foreign relations, inform him of the appointment of Oliver Ellsworth, Chief Justice of the United States, Patrick Henry, Esq. Governor of Virginia, and yourself, as appointed Envoys Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary of the United States to the French Republic, with full powers to discuss and settle by a treaty, all controversies between the United States and France; but that the two former will not embark for Europe until they shall have received from the Executive Directory, direct and unequivocal assurances, signified by their Secretary of foreign relations, that the Envoys shall be received in character to an audience of the Directory; and that they shall enjoy all the prerogatives attached to that character by the law of nations, and that a minister or ministers of equal powers shall be appointed and commissioned to treat with them.

The answer you shall receive to your letter you will be pleased to transmit to this office. You will also be pleased to understand it to be the President's opinion, that no more indirect and trifling communications, written or verbal, should be held with any persons whatsoever, agents on behalf of France, on subjects of difference between the United States and the French Republic. If the French government really desire a settlement of the existing difference, it will take the course we have pointed out, unless the executive Directory should prefer sending a minister Plenipotentiary to the United States.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, Sir, your obedient servant, TIMOTHY PICKERING, Min. Vanu Murray, Esq. Minister of the U. States, at the Hague.

(COPY.) The Hague, 14th May, 1799. Citizen Minister. It is with the greatest pleasure that I hasten to fulfil the instructions, which I have just the honor to receive from the government of the United States of America, by informing you, that the President has appointed Oliver Ellsworth, Chief Justice of the United States, Patrick Henry, Esq. late Governor of Virginia, Vanu Murray, Minister Resident of the United States at the Hague, to be Envoys Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary of the United States to the French Republic, with full powers to discuss and settle by a treaty, all controversies between the United States

and France, but that the two former will not embark for Europe, until they shall have received from the Executive Directory, direct and unequivocal assurances signified by their Minister of Foreign Relations, that the Envoys shall be received in character to an audience of the Directory, and that they shall enjoy all the prerogatives attached to that character, by the Law of Nations, and that a Minister or Ministers of equal powers shall be appointed and commissioned to treat with them.

I request you, Citizen Minister, to lay this subject before your government, and as the distance is so great, and the obstacles for numerous in the Atlantic voyage, that you will favour me, as speedily as possible, with an answer which is so lead to such happy and important consequences.

Accept, Citizen Minister, the assurances of my perfect and high esteem. (Signed) WM. MURRAY.

To the Citizen Talleyrand, Minister of the Exterior, Relations of the French Republic, &c. &c. The Hague, 7th May 1799.

Dear Sir, On the 4th instant late in the evening, I had the honor to receive your No. 29, containing the commission of envoys.

On the 5th I addressed, precisely agreeable to your instructions, as conceived, the enclosed letter to Mr. Talleyrand, the minister of exterior relations. You will perceive, Sir, that I did not think myself at liberty to go not only out of the common, but beyond the common word, as I deviated, in the word, "Minister" instead of "Secretary" of Foreign Relations. No direct nor indirect and trifling communications written or verbal shall be held by me or the French agents on American affairs.

I except the appointment which you have been pleased to bestow on me, with under a great and noble high honor conferred upon me, and which I accept with the greatest confidence. I may be allowed to say that though I was deeply sensible of the honor conferred by the nomination, and that always I have retained a most general recollection of it, yet Sir, the new nomination of that nomination gave me great pleasure, always conceiving as I thought I did, that any negotiation with France would be full of anxieties and political perils to the envoys that should be employed by our government, it had no wishes to be engaged in, and no expectation that I should be to have a share in it was by me not thought; you will excuse this declaration, because I was instrumental in certain preliminary steps relative to the advances of France, which produced the basis of the appointment.

I sent the original of the enclosed to Mr. Talleyrand by post, another a copy, to major Mounfflorence to be handed to him, a third to Mr. Griffin for major M. in case the other failed, to be opened by Sir G. if major M. should have been out of Paris, and directed Mr. G. to follow the instructions which he would find in the letter to major M. which were to deliver the enclosed to Mr. Talleyrand, and take his letter, answer for me, and send it to me.

As soon as I have the answer of the Directory, I shall have the honor of transmitting copies to you Sir, by different ways.

I am with the greatest respect and sincere esteem, dear Sir, your most obedient servant, WILLIAM V. MURRAY.

The Hon. Timothy Pickering, Esq. Secretary of State of the United States of America, Paris, 2nd Floreal, (12th May, 1799.)

with year of the French Republic, one and indivisible. The minister of Exterior Relations, To William Vanu Murray, minister Resident of the United States at the Hague.

I augur too well, Sir, from the eagerness you display in fulfilling the instructions of your government, not to hasten to answer the letter I received from you dated the 15th of this month.

The Executive Directory being informed of the nomination of Mr. Oliver Ellsworth, of Mr. Patrick Henry and of yourself as Envoys Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary of the United States to the French Republic, to discuss and terminate all differences which submit between the two countries, sees with pleasure that its perseverance in pacific sentiments has kept open the way to an approaching reconciliation. It has a long time ago manifested its intentions with respect to this subject.

Be pleased to transmit to your colleagues, and accept yourself, the frank and explicit assurance that it will receive the Envoys of the United States, in the official character with which they are invested; that they shall enjoy all the prerogatives which are attached to it by the law of na-

tions, and that one or more ministers shall be duly authorized to treat with them.

It was certainly unnecessary to suffer for many months (scarcely for the mere confirmation of what I have already declared to Mr. Gerry, and which after his departure I called to my recollection to you at the Hague. I sincerely regret that your two colleagues, as yet, have not at great length reached in a few days, and would be well to well the value of time when the restoration of Harmony between the Republics, which every thing invites to friendship is in question, be delayed that as soon as you can take hand the object of your mission, I shall have the honor immediately to send you passports.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my very sincere consideration.

Stated CH. MAU. TALLEYRAND, Letter from Patrick Henry, Esq. to the Secretary of State, Charlotte County, Virginia, April 16th, 1799.

SIR, YOUR favour of the 25th ult. did not reach me till two days ago. I have been confined for several weeks by a severe indisposition, and am still so weak as to be scarcely able to write this.

My advanced age and increasing infirmity, compelled me to a total cessation of serving my country, when the scene of operation is far distant, and her interests call for incessant and long continued exertion. Confused as I am of my inability to discharge the duties of an Envoy, sent forth by the commission you had given, I am called, I herewith resign it. I cannot, however, forbear expressing on this occasion the high estimation of the honor done me by the President of the Senate in the appointment of me, and beg of you, Sir, to permit me to treat in terms of the most grateful regard, allowing them to be the task of their own House in my case, a public event, as a very sensible and flattering proof of their consideration towards me, and that nothing more of absolute necessity could induce me to withhold my little aid from an administration, whose abilities, patriotism, and virtue deserve the gratitude and reverence of all their fellow-citizens.

With sentiments of very high regard and distinguished esteem, I am, Sir, your most obedient, and very humble servant, P. HENRY. The Hon. T. Pickering Esq. Secretary of State.

AN ACT

Granting longer time to survey certain Land in this State, and prescribing the manner in which entries of claims to the vacant Lands in this State shall in future be made.

BE it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the Senate, That the claimants for unappropriated lands in the several counties in this State, who have made legal entries of the same at any time previous to the first day of January, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight, and have paid the purchase money for the use of the State as required by law, previous to the first day of October, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine; and the claimants who have made legal entries in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight, and have paid or shall pay the purchase money for the use of the State as is required by law, before the tenth day of October, in the year one thousand eight hundred, shall have longer time to cause surveys to be made and returned to the Secretary's office, until the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and two.

II. And be it further enacted, That no grants shall issue upon any surveys made after the first day of February, one thousand eight hundred, unless signed by the surveyor of the county.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in all cases of legal entries of lands made previous to the first day of January, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four, in which the warrant of survey and the plats shall be returned to the Secretary's office within the time by this act limited, it shall be the duty of the Secretary and he is hereby required, on application, to issue a grant without requiring an affidavit or other proof of the payment of the purchase money, provided such entries shall appear and be found on the transcripts

of the entry-books lodged in his office.

IV. And be it further enacted, That from and after the passing of this act, no grant shall issue on any entry made since the eighth of February, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, or hereafter to be made, on the Treasurer's receipt, counter-signed by the Comptroller; but it shall be the duty of the Comptroller, and he is hereby required, to make out and deliver to the Secretary, a certificate conformable to each receipt by him counter-signed, on which the Secretary is hereby required to issue the grant; and on no other proof whatever shall he issue grants for lands entered since the year aforesaid.

V. And be it further enacted, That all acts and clauses of acts which come within the purview and meaning of this act, be, and the same are hereby repealed and null and void.

VI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That this act shall take effect, and be in force, from the day of the ratification thereof.

Read three times, and ratified in general Assembly, the 27th day of December, 1799.

JOHN S. SMITH, S. S. M. MATTHEWS, S. H. C.

For Sale

THAT valuable corner lot, and Brick Building thereon, between Market-Street and Tomter's Alley on Second-Street—the dwelling house and kitchen may be easily repaired, as the walls are but little hurt by the fire.—On 500 dollars being paid on the 25th of March next—12 or 18 months credit will be given for the residue.

JOHN BURGWIN, December 26.

NOTICE is hereby given,

THAT the Land purchased by the Deep and Low-River Navigation Company, in the fork of said Rivers, for the purpose of erecting the Town of Wood, has been laid off—it is formed upon a very eligible plan—the Lots long—two Streets wide, and forming right angles.

The sale of the Lots will commence on the second Thursday of February next, on the premises; and will be sold to the highest bidder. One-fourth of the Money to be paid down—nine months credit for the remainder, upon giving bond with approved security. The reason of the late intended Sale of the Lots being postponed until that time, was that a number of gentlemen concerned that sufficient information had not been given the Company.

JOHN HENDERSON, President. N. B. Notice is also given to the company that the general annual meeting will be held at Charbon Court-House, on the second Monday in February next; and those shareholders who have not paid any money for their share or shares, are requested to attend meeting to pay to their Treasurer fifteen dollars for each share; and those who have paid five dollars, are requested at the same time, to pay ten dollars for each or every of six or their respective shares.

J. H. Dec. 19th, 1799.

NOTICE.

THE subscriber having obtained letters of administration on the estate of Robert Henderson, decd. requests all persons indebted thereto to make payment without delay; and those who have demands on the same, are requested to bring them forward within the time limited by an act of Assembly, entitled "An Act to amend an Act entitled an Act concerning proving of wills and granting letters of Administration, and to prevent frauds in the management of intestate estates.

JOHN HENDERSON, Adm'r. Wilmington, Dec. 23, 1799.

WANTED

Agang of 30 or 40 Negroes, for which a liberal price will be given. A considerable sum in part will be paid down, and for the remainder a credit is expected on approved security—for further information apply to the Printer. November 28.