

erise the blessings of freedom, at the shrine of France, and we still stand prepared to counter her open hostilities, or counteract her yet more dangerous principles and intrigues; nor will we suffer ourselves to be lulled into a fatal security by the semblance of conciliatory language or measures, the result of insidious policy. We will support the government of our choice, preserve our independence and our rights, or perish in the attempt. But we fondly trust, that so long as the enjoyment of rational liberty is secured, virtue and religion inculcated and practiced, *while the government continues true to the people, and the people to themselves*, we may defy the assaults of any power on earth, and look forward under the protection of Heaven, to a continuance of the prosperity and happiness of our country.

Adulation disgraces freemen; but the frank and undigressed expression of public sentiment is the most honorable reward an enlightened and virtuous statesman can receive. Accept then sir, our assurances in behalf of the people of Maryland, that the wise and salutary principles of your administration inspire present confidence; and a retrospective view of your long and faithful services, your steady patriotism and unrestrained integrity contribute an ample pledge for the future rectitude of your continuance, and with wishes for your health and happiness, we earnestly hope your usefulness will long be continued to your country.

PHILADELPHIA, December 8.

### PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

This day at 12 o'clock, the President of the United States met both Houses of Congress, in the Representatives' chamber, and addressed them as follows:

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

WHILE with reverence and resignation we contemplate the dispensations of divine providence, in the alarming and deplorable pestilence, with which several of our cities and towns have been visited, there is a cause for gratitude and mutual congratulations, that the malady has disappeared; and that we are again permitted to assemble in safety, at the seat of government, for the discharge of our important duties. But when we reflect that this fatal disorder has within a few years, made repeated ravages in some of our principal sea port towns, and with increased malignancy, and when we consider the magnitude of the evils arising from the interruption of public and private business, whereby the national interests are deeply affected, I think it my duty to invite the Legislature of the Union to examine the expediency of establishing suitable regulations in aid of the health laws of the respective States; for these being formed on the idea, that contagious sickness may be communicated through the channels of commerce, there seems to be a necessity, that Congress, who alone can regulate trade, should frame a system, which, while it may tend to preserve the general health, may be compatible with the interests of commerce, and the safety of the revenue.

While we think on this calamity and sympathize with the immediate sufferers, we have abundant reason to present to the Supreme Being, our annual oblations of gratitude for a liberal participation in the usual blessings of providence. To the usual subjects of gratitude, I cannot omit to add one of the first importance to our well being and safety: I mean the spirit which has arisen in our country, against the menaces and aggressions of a foreign nation. A manly sense of national honor, dignity and independence has appeared, which if encouraged and invigorated by every branch of the government, will enable us to view undismayed, the enterprises of any foreign power, and become the sure foundation of national prosperity and glory.

The course of the transactions in relation to the United States and France, which have come to my knowledge during your recess, will be made the subject of a future communication. That communication will confirm the ultimate failure of the measures which have been taken by the government of the United States towards an amicable adjustment of differences with that power. You will at the same time perceive, that the French Government appears tenacious to impede the opinion, that it is averse to a rupture with this country, and that it has in a qualified manner, declared itself willing to receive a minister from the United States, for the purpose of restoring a good understanding. It is unfortunate for professions of this kind, that they should be expelled in

terms which may countenance the inadmissible pretension of a right to prescribe the qualifications which a minister from the United States should possess, and that while France is asserting the existence of a disposition on her part to conciliate with sincerity the differences which have arisen, the sincerity of a like disposition on the part of the United States, of which so many demonstrative proofs have been given, should even be indirectly questioned. It is also worthy of observation, that the decree of the Directory alleged to be intended to restrain the depredations of French cruizers on our commerce, has not given and cannot give any relief; it enjoins them to conform to all the laws of France relative to cruising and prizes, while these laws are themselves the sources of the depredations, of which we have so long, so justly, and so fruitlessly complained.

The law of France enacted in January last, which subjects to capture and condemnation neutral vessels and their cargoes, if any portion of the latter are of British fabric or produce although the entire property belong to neutrals, instead of being rescinded, has lately received a confirmation by the failure of a proposition for its repeal. While this law, which is an unequivocal act of war on the commerce of nations it attacks, continues in force, those nations can see in the French government only a power, regardless of their essential rights, of their independence and sovereignty; and if they possess the means, they can reconcile nothing with their interest and honor, but a firm resistance.

Hitherto, therefore, nothing is discoverable in the conduct of France, which ought to change or relax our measures of defence, on the contrary, to extend and invigorate them, is our true policy. We have no reason to regret that these measures have been thus far adopted and pursued, and in proportion as we enlarge our view of the portentous and incalculable situation of our country, we shall discover new and cogent motives for the full development of our energies and resources.

But in demonstrating by our conduct that we do not fear war, in the necessary protection of our rights and honor, we shall give no room to form that we abandon the cause of peace. An efficient preparation for war can alone ensure peace. It is peace that we have uniformly and preferentially cultivated, and harmony between us and France may be restored at her option. But to send another minister without more determinate assurances that he would be received, would be an act of humiliation to which the United States ought not to submit; it must therefore be left with France, if she is indeed desirous of accommodation, to take the requisite steps. The United States will readily observe the maxims by which they have hitherto been governed. They will respect the sacred rights of Embassy. And with a sincere disposition on the part of France to desist from hostility, to make reparation for the injuries heretofore committed on our commerce, and to do justice in future, there will be no obstacle to the restoration of a friendly intercourse. In making to you this declaration, I give a pledge to France and the world, that the Executive authority of this country still adheres to the humane and pacific policy, which has invariably governed its proceedings, in conformity with the wishes of the other branches of the government and the people of the United States. But considering the late manifestations of her policy towards foreign nations, I deem it a duty deliberately and solemnly to declare my opinion, that whether we negotiate with her or not, vigorous preparations for war will be alike indispensable. These alone will give to us an equal treaty, and insure its observance.

Among the measures of preparation which appear expedient, I take the liberty to recall your attention to the naval establishment. The beneficial effects of the small naval armament provided under the acts of the last session are known and acknowledged. Perhaps no country ever experienced more sudden and remarkable advantages from any measure of policy, than we have derived from the arming for our maritime protection and defence. We ought, without loss of time, to lay the foundation for an increase of our navy, to a size sufficient to guard our coast and protect our trade. Such a naval force, as it is doubtless in the power of the United States, to create and maintain, would also afford to them the best means of general defence, by facilitating the safe transportation of troops and stores to every part of our extensive coast.

To accomplish this important object a prudent foresight requires that systematic

cal measures be adopted for procuring at all times, the requisite timber and other supplies. In what manner this shall be done, I leave to your consideration.

I will now advert, Gentlemen, to some matters of less moment, but proper to be communicated to the national Legislature.

After the Spanish Garrisons had evacuated the posts they occupied at the Natchez and Walnut-timms, the Commissioner of the United States commenced his observations to ascertain the point near the Mississippi which terminated the northernmost point of the thirty-first degree of North Latitude. From thence he proceeded to run the boundary line between the United States and Spain. He was afterwards joined by the Spanish Commissioner, where the work of the former was confirmed; and they proceeded together to the demarcation of the line. Recent information renders it probable that the Southern Indians, either instigated to oppose the demarcation, or jealous of the consequences of suffering white people to run a line over lands to which the Indian title had not been extinguished, have, ere this time stopped the progress of the commissioners. And considering the mischiefs which may result from continuing the demarcation, in opposition to the will of the Indian Tribes, the great expence attending it, and that the boundaries which the Commissioners have actually established, probably extend at least as far as the Indian title has been extinguished, it will perhaps become expedient and necessary to suspend further proceedings, by recalling our commissioner.

The Commissioners appointed in pursuance of the fifth article of the treaty of amity, commerce and navigation between the United States and his Britannic Majesty, to determine what river was truly intended under the name of the river St. Croix, mentioned in the treaty of peace, and forming a part of the boundary there in described, have finally declared that question. On the twenty-fifth of October, they made their declaration, that a river called Scoodiac, which falls into Pamunquoddy-Bay, at its north-western quarter, was the true St. Croix, intended in the treaty of peace, as far as its great fork, where one of its streams come from the westward, and the other from the northward; and that the latter stream is the continuation of the St. Croix to its source. This decision, it is understood, will preclude all contention among individual claimants, as it seems that the Scoodiac and its northern branch, bounds the grants of lands which have been made by the respective adjoining governments. A subordinate question, however, it has been suggested, still remains to be determined. Between the mouth of the St. Croix, as now settled, and that is usual, I called the Bay of Fundy, lie a number of valuable islands. The Commissioners have not continued the boundary lines through any channel of these islands, and unless the Bay of Passamaquoddy, be a part of the Bay of Fundy, this further adjustment of boundary will be necessary. But it is apprehended, that this will not be a matter of any difficulty.

Such progress has been made in the examination and decision of cases of captures and condemnations of American vessels, which were the subject of the seventh article of the treaty of amity, commerce and navigation, between the United States and Great Britain, that it is supposed the Commissioners will be able to bring their business to a conclusion in August of the ensuing year.

The Commissioners acting under the twenty-fifth article of the treaty between the United States and Spain, have adjusted most of the claims of our citizens, for losses sustained in consequence of their vessels and cargoes having been taken by the subjects of his Catholic Majesty, during the late war between France and Spain.

Various circumstances have concurred to delay the execution of the law for augmenting the military establishment. Among these the desire of obtaining the fullest information to direct the best selection of officers. As this object will now be speedily accomplished, it is expected that the raising and organizing of the troops, will proceed without obstacle and with effect.

*Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,* I have directed an estimate of the appropriations which will be necessary for the service of the ensuing year, to be laid before you, accompanied with a view of the public receipts and expenditures to a recent period. It will afford you satisfaction to inter the great extent and solidity of the public resources,

from the prosperous state of the finances, notwithstanding the unexampled embarrassments which have attended commerce. When you reflect on the conspicuous examples of patriotism and liberality, which have been exhibited by our mercantile fellow citizens, and how great a proportion of the public resources, depends on their enterprises you will naturally consider whether their convenience cannot be promoted and reconciled with the security of the revenue, by a revision of the system, by which the collection is at present regulated.

During your recess, measures have been steadily pursued for effecting the valuations and returns directed by the act of the last session, preliminary the assessment and collection of a direct tax. No other delays or obstacles have been experienced, except such as were expected to arise from the great extent of our country, and the magnitude and novelty of the operation, and enough has been accomplished to assure a fulfilment of the views of the Legislature.

*Gentlemen of the Senate, and Gentlemen of the H. of Representatives.*

I cannot close this address without once more adverting to our political situation and inculcating the essential importance of uniting in the maintenance of our dearest interests; and I trust by the temper and wisdom of your proceedings, and by a harmony of measures we shall secure to our country that weight and respect, to which it is so justly entitled.

JOHN ADAMS.

The President then presented a copy to the President of the Senate, and another to the speaker of the House of Representatives.

After the President and Senate had retired, the speaker read the speech to the House, and it immediately adjourned without doing any farther business.

### Notice is hereby given,

TO all whom it may concern, that *William Lawrence, jun.* who was administrator of *Edward Simpson*, deceased, is dead, and that the subscriber qualified at December sessions of Craven county, as administrator *de bonis non* of said *Edward Simpson*.

All persons having any claims against the estate of said *Edward Simpson*, are requested to exhibit them to the subscriber within the time limited by law, otherwise they will be forever barred from a recovery.

FRANCIS LOWTHORP,  
*Adm'r. de bonis non.*

December 15.

### FOR SALE

THE following lots and tracts of Land, with the improvements thereon, late the property of *Isaac Edwards, Esq.* deceased.

Lot No. 105 in the town of Newbern, with a large and commodious dwelling, house, &c. thereon, together with Lots No. 104, 243, 244 and 272, adjoining the same.

Lot No. 63, near the Court-House, and Lot No. 358, fronting Jones-street, in the town of Newbern.

A tract of Land in Cumberland county, containing 150 acres, lying on the West side of the North-West river, on a branch of Donally's creek.

A tract of land in Rutherford county, containing 300 acres, lying on both sides of first little broad river, including the mouth of Racon river.

A tract of Land in Mecklenburg county, containing 190 acres on Shugaw-creek.

A tract of Land in Mecklenburg county, containing 115 acres, lying on both sides of Mickell's creek.

A tract of Land in Craven county, containing 100 acres, lying on the North side of Neuse river, between the mouth of the per Broad creek and Goose creek.

Also,—One acre of Land in the township of Salisbury.

ROBERT OGDEN, Junr.  
*Newbern, Nov. 23, 1798.*

### CASH

Given for SNAKE-ROOT, at the Printing Office.

December 22.