

NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

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[No 528.]

BY AUTHORITY.

GEORGE WASHINGTON,

President of the United States.

A Proclamation.

WHEREAS by an act supplementary to the act entitled "An act for establishing a mint, and regulating the coins of the United States," passed on the 3d day of March 1793, "The President of the United States is authorized, whenever he shall think fit for the benefit of the United States, to reduce the weight of the copper coin of the United States, provided such reduction shall not in the whole exceed two penny weights in each cent, of which he shall give notice by Proclamation,"

And whereas on account of the increased price of copper, and expence of coinage; I have thought it would be for the benefit of the United States to reduce the weight of the copper coin of the United States, one penny-weight and sixteen grains in each cent, and in like proportion in each half cent, and the same has, since the 27th day of December last, been reduced accordingly: I hereby give notice thereof; and that all cents coined and to be coined at the mint of the United States from and after the said 27th day of December, are to weigh, the cents, each seven penny weights, and the half cents, each three penny weights and twelve grains.

In testimony whereof, I the said George Washington, President of the United States, have caused the seal of the United States to be hereto affixed, and signed the same with my hand.

(L. S.) Done at the city of Philadelphia on the 26th day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety six, and of the independence of the United States the twentieth.

Go. WASHINGTON.

By the President,

TIMOTHY PICKERING,
Secretary of State

Report of the Secretary at War, on the measures which have been pursued to obtain proper sites for arsenals;—which is respectfully submitted to the House of Representatives of the United States.

IT having been determined to erect one arsenal on the Potowmack, and another in South-Carolina; the latter in a situation to and from which water transportation would be afforded, and the former in the vicinity of a number of iron works; the necessary orders were given in the year 1794, for exploring both countries; the agent employed on the former, reported, in the same year in favor of a situation about 25 miles below the Blue Ridge, where a number of circumstances invited the establishment. In an undertaking, however, of such importance and permanency, it was deemed expedient to make another examination. This was done last spring. The engineer employed pursuant to his instructions, reported the situation of various places where it would be practicable to erect the necessary works and magazines, with their respective advantages and disadvantages; and at what prices they could probably be obtained. These were all extremely high, and one far exceeded the whole appropriation for all the arsenals proposed to be erected. For this reason, another place, comprehending several lots of land, had the preference; and the requisite negotiations were begun for making the purchases. Before these were concluded, the attention of the executive was called to another situation on the Potowmack possessing, with some difficulties to be encountered, apparently many important advantages. The engineer was again instructed to examine this place, from whence he had lately returned. The American gentleman, well acquainted

with the country, and who assisted him in this examination, was to have transmitted a survey of the place referred to, and of the adjacent waters, on which the engineer's report would be completed. The survey has not yet been received, and the determination of the executive is consequently suspended.

The engineer employed, for the like purpose, in South Carolina, made a report, which was received, early in the last summer. He had explored that part of the country to which his attention had been directed by the executive. He also examined another. The latter independent of its being in a more healthy situation, was deemed by him to possess some other advantages over the former. However, he proposed to visit the seat of government, and personally explain his ideas of the subject. This visit was waited for, but not made: No decision has consequently been taken on his report.

The prices of lands and mill seats, (for the latter must be comprehended in the plan of an arsenal) so far exceeded those upon which the calculations were made, when the plan of erecting arsenals was projected, and rose so rapidly soon after, it is now found that the whole appropriation, for the three or four arsenals, which the executive was authorized by law to erect, would be inadequate for a single new establishment. Hence the principal object, in the measures pursued during the last summer, was to ascertain and secure the most eligible site on the Potowmack, where magazines could be erected, and certain military stores be collected and safely deposited; and where afterwards the works, necessary in the formation of all the implements of war, might be erected, as the requisite funds could be provided.

In a country where such establishments are unknown, and where the actual state of things admits of a suspension of some of them, consistently with the public safety, it would seem expedient to make an experiment with one, in a central position. The obvious principles of economy recommend this caution, and the avoiding of defects likely to appear in a first attempt, and the probability of solid improvements which experience would suggest in a second, strongly enforce it.

Springfield, in the state of Massachusetts, was at once fixed upon as a proper situation for the arsenal to be established, in the eastern division of the states. Magazines for military stores had been formerly erected at that place:—Some additional buildings have been made, and a number of workmen collected for the purpose of repairing and manufacturing small arms. The former has been executed, and the latter commenced.

TIMOTHY PICKERING.

Department of War, }
Dec. 12, 1795. }

Report of the Secretary at War on the measures which have been taken to replenish the magazines with military stores:

IN respect to some of the most essential articles, the stock on hand is respectable; and as to others, the magazines are not now ill supplied.

A contract has been made for a large quantity of salt-petre; and probably it is now on its way from India. This important article may, however, be obtained in the Western parts of the United States. The facts is ascertained.—Forty or fifty tons have been bro't from those parts to Philadelphia for sale;—and it is said that several hundred tons might be procured, in the same way, in the course of the next summer, if needed.

To increase the stock of small arms, and to render serviceable those already in the public stores, two sets of armourers have been employed, to wit: at Springfield in Massachusetts, and at New-London in Virginia, in repairing arms, and preparing to

manufacture the most essential parts of muskets; and some specimens have been produced which prove their capacity to equal, in that article, the manufacture of any country in the world. All the arms in the magazines in Philadelphia have been repaired; with some thousands at West-Point, where the residue are now repairing

In addition to these sources of supply—besides two thousand rifles which have been purchased, contracts have been made, and executing, for seven thousand muskets, to be manufactured in the United States. The present period may be deemed an unfavorable one to carry on such manufactures, on account of the high price of labor. Nevertheless, it seemed important to secure the services of the manufactures, when they might be of the highest necessity, by continuing to furnish them employment. Such muskets as are manufactured are after the model of the French arms, which compose by far the greatest part of those in our magazines. For this reason, and because they are preferable to those of any other nation known in the United States, it was apparently inexpedient to make an importation of arms from Europe, seeing a supply was not to be expected from France; and the situation of the United States not rendering the measure of an immediate importation indispensable.

The casting of cannon has not been attended hitherto with the expected success. The founderies which formerly succeeded very well in the casting of small guns, were not well adapted to the casting of 24 and 32 pounders. A French gentleman, of some knowledge and experience in cannon founderies, has lately been employed to amend the process of casting, and to improve the machinery for boring; and there is room to hope that his projected improvements will be realized. Nevertheless, in an undertaking so important, and at the same time so expensive, it was desirable to obtain, if possible, a complete cannon founder, and from the information received, it seemed probable that one might be procured from one of the first founderies in Europe.—Measures for that purpose have accordingly been taken.

All which is respectfully submitted to the House of Representatives of the United States.

TIMOTHY PICKERING.

Department of War, }
Dec. 12, 1795. }

THE NOTED HORSE,

HYDER ALI.

IS now in high order, and will stand at the stable of the subscribers at Haw landing, in Glasgow county, in order to cover mares: at ten dollars the season, payable the first of January next; or eight dollars if paid in the course of the season; five dollars the leap, and twenty dollars to insure. Corn or pork will be received in payment thereof, if delivered in January next.

The season will begin the 10th of March, and end the 10th of August. When mares are brought for the leap, the money will be expected with them, otherwise the charge will be made for the season.

HYDER ALI is a beautiful dark bay, upwards of 15 hands high. He was got by York Mark Anthony; his dam by the imported horse Bajazet, his grandam by Crawford.

Good pasturage for mares gratis, and the greatest care taken of them; but the subscribers will not be answerable for accidents or escapes of any kind.

HOLLIDAY & CARR.

N. B. Half a dollar to be paid to the Groom, at the stable door.

Glasgow county, Feb. 24, 1796.