

W. John Fenno,
Printer

NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

[VOL. XII.]

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1797.

[No. 573.]

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORY. PUBLIC AUDIENCE, OF OCTOBER 1.

*Speech of the Minister Plenipotentiary of the
Duke of Wurtemberg.*

Citizen Directors,

THE Minister Plenipotentiary of the Duke of Wurtemberg, comes to present his credentials and to pay you the homage and the respect due to the government of a very great nation. He belongs to a country so happily constituted that it cannot but wish well to the French Republic.

The Dukes of Wurtemberg have proved that they know no other interest but that of the State, and also, that they could make sacrifices for the country. The late Duke Charles was the first who at the instance of Citizen Madsen functioned the principle of Innunition,* and he foresaw already at that time, that by the will of others, this offer of the National Assembly would serve as a motive for his successor, the late Duke Louis, who exhorted the diet of the German Empire to adopt the system of pacification. The present duke whose love for the Wurtembergers exceeds that of all his predecessors, has been a sample of a separate peace. His system of policy and his confidence are so invariable, that accidents do not in the least alter his intentions; and,

Citizen Directors,

It is at the present juncture of affairs that he has displayed the greatest eagerness to negotiate with you the completion of our mutual interests.

The Circle of Suabia of which he is the Elector has been increased in proportion to the population. He wishes but does not know the means to fulfill all his engagements and he is perfectly sensible of the advantages which must result from a closer union with the French Republic.

Citizen Directors,

I flatter myself that the expression of his sentiments will deserve him the good will of the Executive Directory; and as for me, I follow the same labour.

* In 1791 the French government offered Innunitions to the German princes whose lands were situated in the adjacent provinces of Lorraine and Alsace were, agreeably to the demands of the National Assembly, no longer subject to the feudal right. The prince of Wurtemberg, Salis, Baden, and Hesse had the most extensive possessions in the above mentioned provinces.

J. N. S. W. E. R.

*Mr. President of the Executive Directory.
Minister Plenipotentiary of the Duke
of Wurtemberg.*

The Executive Directory heard with a real pleasure the expression of the Duke of Wurtemberg's sentiments for the Republic.—Your Government may rely on a sincere regard from the part of the French government. If our Republic is a terrible enemy, she is also to be a faithful ally.

May the example of those governments who are wise enough to unite with us, induce at last our haughty enemies, to put an end to a war which we have entered into, not to disturb the tranquility of the world but to secure our own and to maintain our independence; a war which, notwithstanding former partial and momentary checks, the courage and firmness of the Republicans will know to terminate in a manner as glorious, as the cause for which it was undertaken is just.

Mr. Minister Plenipotentiary,

The Executive Directory relies upon your personal loyalty, in the same manner as you ought to rely on their good will and frankness. They hope that reticence amongst us will convince you more and more of the purity of our intentions.

*An account of the Banks of Newfoundland and
the Fishery thereon.*

The banks of Newfoundland may be ranked among the many surprising and wonderful works of nature, being a mountain formed under water, by the flame that is continually washing away from the continent. Its extent has never yet been ascertained, but is generally reckoned to be about 160 leagues long, and 60 broad. About the middle of it is a kind of bay, called the Ditch. The depth of water varies considerably, being in some places only five, and in others sixty fathoms. The sun is scarcely ever to be discerned, a cold thick fog generally covering the whole atmosphere, which renders it extremely dangerous to a fleet; for it is at times in a state of total darkness, where a continual firing of guns or incessant noise of the drum, can alone prevent the ships running foul of each other.

The winds around these banks are generally very impetuous, the constant agitation of the waves, I am informed, is occasioned from the sea being driven by irregular currents, that beat sometimes on one side and sometimes on the other, striking with great force against the borders of these banks, which are every where almost perpendicular, and repel them with equal violence; and yet, on the banks themselves, a little from the coast, it is as quiet as in a bay, except there happens to be a strong and forced wind coming from a great distance.

When we found we were upon these banks, which is perceptible without sounding, as the water changes from an azure blue to a white sandy colour, we laid to in order to fish for cod, the process of which is no less entertaining than surprising to Europeans.

After baiting the hooks with the entrails of a fowl, in a minute we caught a fish, when the sailors made use of some part of the entrails, as being a better bait, and then drew up the cod as fast as you can possibly imagine; for though we remained there only half an hour, we caught as many as would serve the ship's crew the rest of the voyage.

You may wonder by what means they are certain of having caught a fish, with so many fathoms of line out. When it has been a little while in the water, they generally pull it with the finger and thumb, and if there is a fish, the struggling of it occasions a vibration of the line, which is very perceptible, though so many fathoms deep. Then they haul it in, and as soon as the fish comes in view the water magnifies it to such a size, that it appears almost impossible to get it on board; and indeed it requires some dexterity, for on the hauling them out of the water they struggle with such violence as frequently to work themselves off the hooks, by entangling the line in the rigging before they can be got up the ship's side.

But those vessels which particularly follow this business, avoid the inconvenience by erecting galleries on the out side, from the main mast to the stern, and sometimes the whole length of the ship, in which are placed barrels with the tops struck out, and the fishermen get into these to shelter themselves from the weather. Their stay, I imagine, cannot be long, as the method of curing, is equally as expeditious as the catching them; for as soon as the cod is caught they cut out its tongue, and give it to one who immediately strikes off its head, plucks out the liver and entrails, and giving it to another, the bone is drawn out as far as the navel; it is then thrown into the hold of the ship, where it is salted and ranged in piles. The person who salts it is careful to leave sufficient salt between the rows of fish to prevent their touching each other, and yet not too much, as either excess would spoil the cod.

The right of fishing upon the great bank, by the law of nature, ought to have been

common to all mankind; but England and France, being the only two powers that had colonies in North America, made no scruple to appropriate to themselves, what Spain certainly had the greatest claim to, as the original discoverer of it, and who from the number of her monks and priests, as well as her religion, might have pleaded the necessity of keeping it. Yet at the conclusion of the last peace, she entirely gave up all pretensions to it: since which time England and France are the only nations that frequent those latitudes, and both have frigates continually cruising to prevent the encroachments of other nations.*

The produce of this fishery is certainly a most inexhaustible wealth to both countries, and it is no wonder they are so very tenacious of it: yet it is surprising what a large circuit the ships are obliged to take before their voyage is completed, and the profits resulting from this fishery returns to either, nearly traversing by water half the globe; for in the first instance, they sail from their respective ports in Europe to these banks; from whence they proceed to the Mediterranean and African islands, where they dispose of their fish for the produce of those islands, then go to the West Indies, to exchange that cargo, and return home laden with sugar and rum.

It appears a very singular circumstance, that these banks should abound with cod and no other fish; and that the greatest philosophers have never been able to account for it.

Note.

* This account is from a letter dated September 1776; since which another peace has introduced America, as an independent state, into a participation in this fishery.

S A V A N N A H, December 9.

On Tuesday night, the 6th instant, about 9 o'clock, this city was again visited by a dreadful fire—it broke out in the stable loft of John Glen, Esq. but whether by accident or design, has not been yet ascertained.—In a little while it communicated to Mr. Glen's dwelling house, where the families of Doctor Noble W. Jones and Mr. W. Hunter had taken refuge, after the first fire. It soon after reached to the corner houses on the Bay, the property of Doctor George Jones, occupied by Messrs. John Gibbons, Chas. Jackson and John Craig—then to that owned by Mr. Harry Grant, occupied by Messrs. Kennedy and Parker—from thence to R. Wayne's, Esq. where Mr. George Anderson's family had taken shelter—then to the dwelling and store of Mr. Saul Simons: About the same time the fire reached the Bay, it broke out at the house of D. B. Mitchell, Esq. Mr. Shiek, the new building lately erected by John Cunningham, and in which the unfortunate family of the late Captain M'Cullough resided. It then consumed the house and store of Capt. Doye, and all the buildings belonging to Mr. Thomas Hogg.

In the space of two hours, the whole tithing was laid in ashes. This second and afflicting misfortune, has not only destroyed as valuable a part of the town as remained, but thrown a number of families on the bounty of those, who have houses remaining. And let it be told to their praise, that they have come forward with a liberality, unbounded. Nothing but great exertions, saved the houses facing the tithing on the W. & S. W. side, from being destroyed, to which, had the fire communicated, the remainder of the City, together with all the buildings on the wharfs, must have fallen a prey to that destructive element.

This fire consumed about 20 houses, besides out-houses.

B L A N K S of all kinds, for sale at the
Printing-Office.