

NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

[VOL. XII.]

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1797.

[No. 58.]

HOLLAND. NATIONAL CONVENTION. NOVEMBER 17.

THE President read an extract from the Foreign dispatches, announcing a general report of an armistice between the Austrians and French by land, from which the latter insisted, however, to exclude Mantua.

Saxony and Bavaria were stated to have acceded to the armed neutrality proposed by Prussia, so that the House of Austria is solely left to carry on the war on the continent.

Those extracts were ordered to be printed. The representative Castelle now made his promised speech, containing his opinion relative to the New Constitution, which lasted two hours, and was very patiently and calmly received by all the members of the assembly, and the audience in the tribunes.

He said, that tho' he had many general remarks to make upon the new plan of the constitution, yet he approved of several articles, and would entirely confine himself, for the present, to the financial and provincial departments. He considered the finances as the sinews of the state, and also as the cause of its disunion. The people expected a constitution which was equally to spread its blessings over all the citizens of the republic; it were much better to have no constitution at all, than such a one as did not exact unity, and in which some concerns were common to all, and others reserved to the decision and management of certain provincial departments: that having no constitution, there would always be an opportunity of getting a good one, but if a bad one were now established, all opportunities of making a better would vanish; the new plan divided the Republic into nine independent departments or provinces, in which division he could perceive no unity; nine nations could not oppose one common nation, and there was nothing to represent them as one united nation, if there is to be unity, that unity ought to take place in the finances; the nine nations or tribes are to stand separate from each other, and by so doing, unity was set aside; the fear of melting into one, or of amalgamating the debts, was the cause of this division. The speaker then took pains to prove, that the rendering the provincial debts common to the whole country, was not only equitable, but even necessary, and that, that amalgamation of debts was the point of union; the debts of Holland were great, those of Zealand still greater, and those of Utrecht equal to those of Holland, but it was the debt of Holland which caused the most fear, on which account he would particularly call the attention of the Legislators to that point; he clearly proved that the debts of Holland were entirely to be attributed to the burdens it bore for the sake of the other provinces, and proved it by a regular statement of the growing increase of the debts of that country, at different epochs, and under different circumstances; he plainly demonstrated that the inhabitants of Holland had been burdened three times more than the people of Guelderland; he added, the debts of Holland were not to be attributed to the imposition of less taxes in other provinces, but to the negotiations of loans in specie in behalf of the common country. To this was also to be added, the backwardness of provincial arrears and the neglect of furnishing their quotas; in raising the marine, Holland had been rated 75, and sometimes at 80 per hundred, but had never repined at the imposition on account of its patriotism. He asked, whether it would be just, that Holland alone should bear the debt in which the Republic was still involved? Whether it would be equitable, in founding a Republic on unity, to expect of it should partake of all the advantages resulting from such an unity, with-

out participating in the discharge of the debts, on which depends the existence of the Republic? Whether it would be right to lay those debts, which were contracted for the common weal, to the sole charge of Holland? "If it is the wish of the nation to be one," said he; "it must also take its common share in the public debt!" He now proposed several general and equitable principles of taxation, by which the whole nation contribute towards its discharge. He added, that if the system of unity was not adopted, Holland would demand restitution of all the sums advanced by her, which would then be thought excessively hard upon certain provinces. The amalgamation of debts was not only just and necessary, but every other measure was unconscionable; if the people could be made happy by such an amalgamation, the amalgamation and unity became far more indispensable, as it would do away all the discordance, the divisions and contradictions to which financial matters were so apt to give rise.

He proceeded to prove, how much different Provinces would be benefited in their Finances by the new plan of constitution, while the plan would bring an annual deficit of seven millions upon Holland, besides a triple burden upon the inhabitants of that province. He repeatedly asked, whether this was justice? Whether it was a specimen of equality? Whether it was consistent with the rights of men and citizens? And tho' not a syllable was mentioned in the new constitution of the rights of men and citizens, he still was of opinion that these principles ought to be held sacred. After many other strong and forcible observations, citizen Castelle concluded by moving, that the plan of the new constitution should never become a subject of deliberation, because it was deficient in point of unity and equality, especially relative to the finances.

Citizen Withols next delivered his advice against the new plan of constitution; and like Castelle, who was himself a member of the commission that framed it, he pointed out those parts which had been adopted against his will. He asserted that, in his opinion, such a plan could never secure the welfare of the Batavian nation; that the *Seven-headed monster of Federation* was, by virtue of it, to assume *nine heads*, that it was in vain to search in it for unity, for liberty, Equality and Fraternity, or for the avowed and sacred rights of men.

Citizen Withols concluded, by censuring the abominable Financial System set forth in the new plan, and appealed to the whole nation, whose representatives were before him, that he had no share in that plan, which he only conceived to be calculated to overwhelm his country in a new train of numberless evils.

The convention adjourned till six o'clock at night, when after going through the usual business before them, they formed themselves into a general committee.

L O N D O N, DEC. 9.

The Genese government have published a proclamation respecting the insults they sustained from the British, which led to the shutting of their ports against them. In the instrument it is stated, that in the year 1792 a British Vice Admiral arrived at Genoa with a squadron in great distress, for provisions, and with several sick; the courtesy and hospitality of the Genoese was then carried so far that, for several days, the citizens denied themselves the benefit of the public acqueducts to accommodate the English ships. That from that period they were always well received, and furnished with every thing they wanted. Such moderation, so favorable to the British commerce, gave reasonable hopes of conciliating a similar conduct on the English and their agents; but this expectation

proved delusive; it did not avail even in procuring the respect due to a neutral country; but on the contrary, led to measures seldom made use of against declared enemies.

After Mr. Drake's arrival, in 1793, as an English envoy, his neglect to present his letters of credence, under pretence of waiting for the Doge, a circumstance by no means necessary to the operations of government, was remarked; and that at the very instant was, by his audience of the 2d of October, qualifying himself as a minister of peace, and the bringer of good intelligence, he was planning the enormous violence committed by the English vessels in the port of Genoa on the 5th of the same month, which was afterwards extended to those of Spezzia and Cartaja; a violence too well known and too afflicting in its remembrance to repeat; a violence for which records had been demanded by the Republic without effect, and for which violation of rights in all respects of the king of Great Britain reparation and compensation.

Letters from Berlin of the 11th, bring advices, that his Prussian Majesty has concluded an offensive and defensive alliance with the elector of Saxony, the landgrave of Hesse Cassel, in virtue of which, both these princes reciprocally stipulate to grant each other every assistance that shall be required, to repel any attacks made upon their respective territories by the house of Austria, or any other continental power, that should attempt to force them to relinquish their neutrality during the present war. This treaty was concluded about the latter end of August; but we understand, that it has not yet been finally ratified by the elector of Saxony. The dukes of Brunwick, Mecklenburg and Wirtemberg, the margrave of Baden, and some other princes in the northern parts of Germany have been invited to join in this treaty.

A new plan was on Wednesday submitted to the Lords of the Admiralty for working the ~~Telegraph~~ *Telegraph* by means of reflecting mirrors; every trial for nocturnal signals has hitherto failed of success: this invention is to undergo an investigation.

Letters received yesterday from Montgomeryshire, and other parts of North Wales state, that very large meetings of the freeholders and inhabitants have lately taken place, in opposition to the new militia bill; and that very great discontents, in regard to this measure, prevailed through all ranks in that part of Wales.

It appears that a grand operation is now on the eve of being executed. The division of gen. LEFEVRE, amounting to 18,000 men, has effected the passage of the Rhine, and is directing its course to Andernach, to reinforce the centre of the army. In the mean time, a large division is to pass the Rhine at the bridge of Neuwied, and the army of the north, which is already on the right bank, is to attack the Austrians on the Sieg. All the preparations which are making indicate this double project. Thirty thousand rations of bread and as many of hay and oats, are preparing at Cologne, to be sent to Mulheim.

Gen. Bournonville has arrived by post at Bologne.

FOR SALE,

THE lands in and about Newbern belonging to the estate of the late Col. Lay. For further particulars apply in said town during the first three days of the next Superior Court, to

BENJAMIN SMITH, Ex'r.

Belvidere, March 27th.

The subscriber wants to purchase a quantity of Oak bark, for which he will give 35% per cord, delivered at Newbern.

Feb. 25.

SAM. FISHER.