

WILMINGTON GAZETTE.

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CONGRESS.

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE from the President of the United States, accompanying sundry documents relating to a delivery of possession on the 20th ultimo, by the Commissary of the French Republic, to the Commissioners of the U. States of America, of the Territory of Louisiana—was presented on Monday the 16th inst. to the two Houses of Congress.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

IN execution of the act of the present session of Congress, for taking possession of Louisiana, as ceded to us by France, and for the temporary government thereof, Governor Claiborne of the Mississippi territory, and general Wilkinson were appointed commissioners to receive possession. They proceeded with such regular troops as had been assembled at Fort Adams, from the nearest posts, and with some militia of the Mississippi territory, to New-Orleans. To be prepared for any thing unexpected which might arise out of the transaction, a respectable body of militia was ordered to be in readiness in the states of Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee, and a part of those of Tennessee was moved on to the Natchez. No occasion however, arose for their services. Our commissioners on their arrival at New-Orleans, found the province already delivered by the commissaries of Spain to that of France, who delivered it over to them on the 20th day of December, as appears by their declaratory act accompanying this. Governor Claiborne being duly invested with the powers heretofore exercised by the Governor and Intendant of Louisiana, assumed the government on the same day, and for the maintenance of law and order, immediately issued the proclamation and address now communicated.

On this important acquisition, so favorable to the immediate interests of our Western citizens, so auspicious to the peace and security of the nation in general, which adds to our country territories so extensive and fertile, and to our citizens new brethren to partake of the blessings of freedom and self-government, I offer to Congress and our country my sincere congratulations.

—THE JEFFERSON.

January 16, 1803.

CITY OF NEW-ORLEANS, Dec. 20, 1803.

SIR, WE have the satisfaction to announce to you, that the province of Louisiana was this day surrendered to the United States by the Commissioner of France; and to add that the flag of our country was raised in this city, amidst the acclamations of the inhabitants.

The enclosed is a copy of an instrument of writing which was signed and exchanged by the commissioners of the two governments, and redesigned as a record of this interesting transaction.

Accept assurances of our respectful consideration.

Wm. C. C. CLAIBORNE,
JA. WILKINSON.

The hon. James Madison, Sec'y of State, City of Washington.

THE undersigned Wm. C. C. Claiborne and James Wilkinson, commissioners or agents of the United States, agreeably to the full powers they have received from Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States, under date of the 31st of October, 1803, and twenty-eighth year of the Independence of the United States of America, (8 Brumaire, 12th year of the French Republic) countersigned by the Secretary of State, James Madison, and citizen Peter Clement Laussat, Colonial Prefect, and commissioner of the French government for the delivery in the name of the French Republic of the country, territories and dependencies of Louisiana, to the commissioners or agents of the United States, conformably to the powers, commission and special mandate which he has received in the name of the French people from citizen Buonaparte, first consul, under date of the 6th of June, 1803, (17th Prairial, 11th year of the French Republic) countersigned by the Secretary of State, Hugues Maret, and by his excellency the minister of marine and colonies Decres, do certify by these presents that on this day, Tuesday the 20th of December, 1803, of the christian era, (28th Frimaire, 12th year of the French Republic) being convened in the hall of the Hotel de Ville of New-Orleans, accompanied on both sides by the chiefs and officers of the army and navy, by the municipality and diverse respectable citizens of their respective republics, the said William C. C. Claiborne, and James Wilkinson delivered to the said Laussat their aforesaid full powers by which it evidently appears that full power and authority has been given them jointly and severally to take possession of and to occupy the territories ceded by France to the United States by the treaty concluded at Paris on the 20th day of April last past, (10th Floreal) and for that purpose to repair to the

said territory, and there to execute and perform all such acts & things, touching the premises, as may be necessary for fulfilling their appointment conformable to the said treaty and the laws of the United States, and thereupon the said citizen Laussat declared that in virtue of and in the terms of the powers, commission, and special mandate, dated at St. Cloud, 6th of June, 1803, of the Christian era, (17th Prairial, 11th year of the French Republic) he put from that moment, the said commissioners of the United States in possession of the country, territories and dependencies of Louisiana, conformable to the 1, 2, 4, & 5th articles of the treaty, and the two conventions concluded and signed the 30th of April, 1803, (10th Floreal, 11th year of the French Republic) between the French Republic and the United States of America, by citizen Francis Barbe Marbois, minister of the public treasury, and Messrs. Robert R. Livingston and James Monroe, ministers plenipotentiary of the United States, all three furnished with full powers, of which treaty and two conventions the ratifications, made by the First Consul of the French Republic on the one part, and by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, on the other part, have been exchanged and mutually received at the city of Washington, the 21st of October, 1803, (28th Vendemiaire, 12th year of the French Republic) by citizen Lewis Andri Pichon, charge des affaires of the French Republic, near the United States, on the part of France, and by James Madison Secretary of State of the United States, on the part of the United States according to the process verbal drawn up on the same day; and the present delivery of the country is made to them, to the end, that in conformity with the object of the said treaty the sovereignty and property of the colony or province of Louisiana may pass to the said United States under the same clauses and conditions as it had been ceded by Spain to France, in virtue of the treaty concluded at St. Ildefonso, on the 1st of October, 1800, (9th Vendemiaire, 9th year) between these two last powers, which has since received its execution by the actual re-entrance of the French Republic into possession of the said colony or province.

And the said citizen Laussat in consequence at this present time, delivered to the said commissioners of the United States, in the public sitting, the keys of the city of New-Orleans, declaring that he discharges from their oath of fidelity towards the French Republic, the citizens and inhabitants of Louisiana, who shall choose to remain under the dominion of the United States.

And that it may forever appear the undersigned have signed the process verbal of this important and solemn act, in the French and English languages, and have sealed it with their seals, and have caused it to be countersigned by their secretaries of commission, the day, month and year above written.

(Signed) Wm. C. C. CLAIBORNE, (Seal.)
JA. WILKINSON, (Seal.)
LAUSSAT, (Seal.)

The Governor's Address to the Citizens of LOUISIANA.

Fellow-Citizens of Louisiana,

ON the great and interesting event now finally consummated—an event so advantageous to yourselves, and so glorious to the United States of America, I cannot forbear offering you my warmest congratulations.—The wise policy of the Consul of France has, by the cession of Louisiana to the U. States, secured to you, a connection beyond the reach of exchange, and to your posterity the inheritance of freedom. The American people receive you as brothers; and will hasten to extend to you a participation of those inestimable rights, which have formed the basis of their own unexampled prosperity. Under the auspices of the American government, you may confidently rely upon the security of your liberty, your property, and the religion of your choice. You may with equal certainty, rest assured, that your commerce will be promoted, and your agriculture cherished; in a word, that your true interests will be among the primary objects of our national legislature. In return for these benefits the United States will be amply remunerated, if your growing attachment to the constitution of our country, and your veneration for the principles on which it is founded, be duly proportioned to the blessings which they will confer. Among your first duties therefore, you should cultivate with assiduity among yourselves, the advancement of political information, you should guide the rising generation in the paths of republican economy and virtue; you should encourage literature, for without the advantages of education, your descendants will be unable to appreciate the intrinsic worth of the government transmitted to them.

As for myself fellow-citizens, accept a sincere assurance that during my continuance in the situation in which the President of the U. States has been pleased to place me, every exertion will be made on my part, to foster your internal happiness, and forward your ge-

neral welfare, for it is only by such means that I can secure to myself the approbation of those great and just men who preside in the councils of our nation.

Wm. C. C. CLAIBORNE.
New-Orleans, Dec. 20, 1803.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Friday, January 6.

Mr. Bard—For many reasons this house must have been justly surprised by a recent measure of one of the southern states.—The impression, however, which that measure gave my mind, were deep and painful.—Had I been informed that some formidable foreign power had invaded our country, I would not, I ought not, be more alarmed, than on hearing that South-Carolina had repealed her law prohibiting the importation of slaves.

In the one case we would know what to do. The emergency itself would inspire exertion, and suggest suitable means of repelling the attack—but here we are non-plussed, and find ourselves without resource—our hands are tied and we are obliged to stand confounded, while we see the flood gate opened, and pouring incalculable miseries into our country—by the repeal of that law, fresh activity is given to the horrid traffic, which has long since been seriously regretted by the wise and humane, but none have been able to devise an adequate remedy to its dreadful consequences.

Congress has but little power, or rather they have no power to prevent the growth of the evil—to impose a tax on imported slaves is the extent of their power; but every one must see that it is infinitely disproportionate to what the morality, the interest, the peace and safety of individuals, and of the public, at this moment demand.

And though in regard to their present case the power of the general government may be insufficient to check the mischief, yet I hope they are disposed to discourage it, as far as they are authorized by the constitution—therefore I beg leave to offer the house the following resolution:

Resolved, That a tax of ten dollars be imposed upon every slave imported into the United States.

Dr. Mitchell from the committee of Commerce and Manufactures, to whom was referred that part of the message of the President that relates to measures for preventing the improper use of the American flag, reported a bill to amend an act entitled an act concerning the recording and registering American vessels.

Referred to a committee of the whole.

Saturday, January 7.

Mr. Nicholson from the committee on the memorial of Alexander Moultrie, agent for the South-Carolina Yazo Company, and of agent of the Virginia Yazo Company, made a report, going considerably into detail, and concluding with a resolution adverse to the prayer of the memorialists.

Referred to a committee of the whole on Monday.

Sunday, January 8.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill further to amend the act to lay and collect a direct tax within the United States; the committee rose and reported several amendments, which were ordered to lie on the table.

Tuesday, January 10.

Mr. Nicholson from the committee appointed for that purpose, reported a bill to provide for the further protection of American Seamen.

The committee, on the memorial of the Legislature of Tennessee, respecting boundaries, made a report recommending the appropriation of dollars for an Indian Treaty. Referred.

Mr. J. Randolph from the committee of ways and means, presented a bill for the relief of the captors of the Moorish ship Meshouda, and referred to a committee of the whole.

Wednesday, January 11.

Mr. Mitchell from the committee of commerce and manufactures, on a resolution instructing them to enquire whether any and what additions are necessary to be made to the naval establishment of the United States, and the bill from the Senate for the sale of the General Greene, &c. made a report, stating that in their opinion no addition to the navy is at present necessary, and that it will be expedient instead of selling, to convert the General Greene into a Store ship.

Mr. J. Randolph moved that William C. C. Claiborne, Agent of the Virginia Yazo Company, be heard by Counsel at the bar of this House, on Monday next, in support of the claim of said company.

After some conversation on the propriety of the motion the yeas and nays were taken on it—Yeas 12—Nays 42.

A like motion was then made to hear counsel in behalf of the South-Carolina Yazo company.

Mr. Metcower moved to enlarge the motion, so as to allow counsel in behalf of all the claimants to be heard.

It being suggested that it would be time e-

nough to extend this privilege when desired.

This motion was disagreed to—Yeas 42—Nays 45.

The motion previously made was then agreed to—Yeas 67—Nays 46.

The House went into a committee of the whole on the bill for the relief of the captors of the Moorish armed ship Meshouda and Mirboka, but did not finish it.

Mr. Varnum in the chair—the committee reported the bill without amendment, and the house concurred in their report, and ordered the bill to a third reading to-morrow.

Mr. J. Randolph moved the recommitment of the 3d section of the bill further to amend the act laying a direct tax.

Mr. C. W. Campbell moved to recommit the whole bill—Carried—and made the order for to-day.

The House immediately went into a committee on the bill—Mr. Varnum in the chair—The bill having undergone amendment, the committee rose, asked and obtained leave to sit again.

Thursday, January 12.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Varnum in the chair, on the report of the committee of claims, for enabling the President of the U. States to make restitution to the owners of the Danish brigantine called the Henrick, which was agreed to, and a bill ordered to be brought in.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole; Mr. Dawson in the chair on the motion of Mr. Rodney to extinguish the State Debts.

Mr. Rodney in a speech of considerable length, advocated the measure, which was also supported by Messrs. Thomas, Smilie, Mason and Mitchell; and opposed by Messrs. Elmer, Thatcher, Hastings, Gregg, Boyd, Sloan and Dennis.

The committee rose without coming to a decision, and obtained leave to sit again.

Friday, January 13.

A message was received from the President of the United States, enclosing the annual report of the Director of the mint.

A report was received from the Secretary of the Navy containing a statement of moneys expended for the support of the Marine Corps, since its organization.

A report was also received from the Secretary of the Treasury, conforming with a resolution of the House requiring information in relation to the state of the fund for the relief of sick and disabled seamen.

A communication was received from the Governor of Ohio, enclosing the ratification by that state of the amendment of the constitution respecting the mode of electing a President and Vice-President.

Mr. Varnum stated that some imperfections existed in the articles of war, now in force, and moved the appointment of a committee to revise the rules and articles for the government of the army of the U. States. Agreed to.

Mr. Eppes stated that a motion, submitted by him some time since, to enquire into the expediency of discontinuing the office of commissioner of loans, had been referred to the committee of ways and means, who had reported against the discontinuance of the office. That report had been disagreed to by the house. He therefore moved that the committee of ways and means should be instructed to prepare and bring in a bill for the discontinuance of the office of commissioner of loans in the several states, and to provide for the discharge of those duties.

Ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. John C. Smith from the committee of claims reported a bill to make restitution to the owners of the Danish brigantine Henrick.

The house went into a committee of the whole on the bill, who reported it to the House, who agreed to the same, tied up the blank with the appropriation of 10,000 dollars, and ordered the same to a third reading on Monday.

The bill for the relief of the captors of the Moorish armed ship Meshouda and Mirboka, was read the third time and passed.

The bill appropriates 2,504 dollars as prize money to the officers and seamen of the John Adams, and 5,000 dollars to the loss of the Philadelphia, to be distributed in the proportion prescribed by law.

A message was received from the Senate, acting as a high court of impeachment, stating the manner in which witnesses shall be served on witnesses in the case of John Pickens.

The house again went into committee of the whole, on the bill further to amend the act laying a direct tax; Mr. Varnum in the chair, some amendments were made and reported, which the house took up and acted upon.

A motion was made to recommit the bill to a select committee. Negatived—Yeas 28.

The question was taken by yeas and nays, on the motion of Mr. C. W. Campbell, to strike out the 6th section of the bill, and passed in the negative—Yeas 21—Nays 60.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading on Monday.