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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1792.

[JUSTICIAM SPECULAMUR.]—(NO. 17)

CONGRESS.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OF THE UNITED STATES,**

Tuesday, November 6.

A MESSAGE was received from the Senate, by Mr. Otis, informing the House that the Senate are now ready to receive the President of the United States—and that they had provided seats for the accommodation of the members of the House. The members of the House accordingly repaired to the Senate Chamber,—where, exactly at twelve o'clock, the President of the United States arrived, attended by his secretary and aids, and accompanied by the secretary of state, the attorney general, the secretary of the treasury, and the secretary at war—when he delivered the following speech to both Houses of Congress:

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives,

IT is some abatement of the satisfaction, with which I meet you on the present occasion, that in felicitating you on a continuance of the national prosperity, generally, I am not able to add to it information that the Indian hostilities, which have, for some time past, distressed our north-western frontier, have terminated.

You will, I am persuaded, learn with no less concern than I communicate it, that reiterated endeavors, towards effecting a pacification, have hitherto issued only in new and outrageous proofs of persevering hostility on the part of the tribes with whom we are in contact. An earnest desire to procure tranquility to the frontier—to stop the further effusion of blood—to arrest the progress of expense—to forward the prevalent wish of the nation, for peace, has led to strenuous efforts, through various channels, to accomplish these desirable purposes.—In making which efforts, I consulted less my own anticipations of the event, or the scruples which some considerations were calculated to inspire, than the wish to find the object attainable; or if not attainable to ascertain unequivocally that such is the case.

A detail of the measures which have been pursued, and of their consequences, which will be laid before you, while it will confirm to you the want of success, thus far, will, I trust, evince that means as proper and as efficacious as could have been devised, have been employed.—The issue of some of them, indeed, is still depending; but a favorable one, though not to be despaired of, is not promised by any thing that has yet happened.

In the course of the attempts which have been made, some valuable citizens have fallen victims to their zeal for the public service. A sanction commonly respected even among savages, has been found, in this instance, insufficient to protect from massacre the emissaries of peace: It will, I presume, be duly considered whether the occasion does not call for an exercise of liberality towards the families of the deceased.

It must add to our concern, to be informed, that besides the continuation of hostile appearances among the tribes north of the Ohio, some threatening symptoms have of late been revived among some of those south of it.

A part of the Cherokees, known by the name of Chickamagas, inhabiting five villages on the Tennessee river, have long been in the practice of committing depredations on the neighboring settlements.

It was hoped that the treaty of Holstein made with the Cherokee nation in July, 1791, would have prevented a repetition of such depredations. But the event has not answered this hope. The Chickamagas, aided by some banditti of another tribe, in their vicinity, have recently perpetrated wanton and unprovoked hostilities upon the citizens of the United States in that quarter. The information which has been received on this subject will be laid before you. Hitherto defensive precautions only have been strictly enjoined, and observed.

It is not understood that any breach of treaty, or aggression whatsoever, on the part of the United States, or their citi-

zens, is even alledged as a pretext for the spirit of hostility in this quarter. I have reason to believe that every practicable exertion has been made (pursuant to the provision by law for that purpose) to be prepared for the alternative of a prosecution of the war, in the event of a failure of pacific overtures. A large proportion of the troops authorized to be raised, have been recruited; though the number is still incomplete: Pains have been taken to discipline, and put them in condition for the particular kind of service to be performed. A delay of operations (besides being dictated by the measures which were pursuing towards a pacific termination of the war) has been in itself deemed preferable to immature efforts. A statement, from the proper department, with regard to the number raised, and some other points which have been suggested, will afford more precise information, as a guide to the legislative consultations; and among other things will enable Congress to judge whether some additional stimulus to the recruiting service may not be advisable.

In looking forward to the future expense of the operations, which may be found inevitable, I derive consolation from the information I receive, that the product of the revenue for the present year is likely to supercede the necessity of additional burthens on the community, for the service of the ensuing year. This, however will be better ascertained in the course of the session; and it is proper to add, that the information alluded to, proceeds upon the supposition of no material extension of the spirit of hostility.

I cannot dismiss the subject of Indian affairs, without again recommending to your consideration the expediency of more adequate provision for giving energy to the laws throughout our interior frontier; and for restraining the commission of outrages upon the Indians; without which all pacific plans must prove nugatory.—To enable by competent rewards, the employment of qualified and trusty persons to reside among them as agents, would also contribute to the preservation of peace and good neighbourhood.

If in addition to these expedients, an eligible plan could be devised for promoting civilization among the friendly tribes, and for carrying on trade with them on a scale equal to their wants, and under regulations calculated to protect them from imposition and extortion, its influence in cementing their interests with ours could not but be considerable.

The prosperous state of our revenue has been hinted.—This would be still more the case, were it not for the impediments which in some places continue to embarrass the collection of the duties on spirits distilled within the United States. These impediments have lessened, and are lessening in local extent; and as applied to the community at large, the contentment with the law appears to be progressive.

But symptoms of increased opposition having lately manifested themselves in a certain quarter:—I judged a special interposition on my part, proper and advisable, and under this impression, have issued a proclamation, warning against all unlawful combinations and proceedings, having for their object or tending to obstruct the operation of the law in question, and announcing that all lawful ways and means would be strictly put in execution to bring to justice all such infractors thereof, and securing obedience thereto.

Measures have also been taken for the prosecution of offenders; and Congress may be assured, that nothing within constitutional and legal limits, which may depend on me, shall be wanting to assert and maintain the just authority of the laws. In fulfilling this truth, I shall count entirely upon the full co-operation of the other departments of the government, and upon the zealous support of all good citizens.

I cannot forbear to bring again into the view of the legislature the subject of a revision of the judiciary system. A representation from the judges of the supreme court, which will be laid before you, points out some of the inconveniences that are experienced. In the course of the execution of the laws, considerati-

ons arise out of the structure of that system which, in some cases, tend to relax their efficacy. As connected with this subject, provisions to facilitate the taking of bail upon processes out of the courts of the United States, and a supplementary definition of offences against the constitution and laws of the union, and of the punishment for such offence, will, it is presumed be found worthy of particular attention.

Observations on the value of peace with other nations, are unnecessary. It would be wise, however, by timely provisions, to guard against those acts of our own citizens, which might tend to disturb it, and to put ourselves in a condition to give that satisfaction to foreign nations, which we may sometimes have occasion to require from them.—I particularly recommend to your consideration the means of preventing those aggressions by our citizens on the territory of other nations, and other infractions of the law of nations, which, furnishing just subject of complaint might endanger our peace with them: And, in general, the maintenance of a friendly intercourse with foreign powers, will be presented to your attention by the expiration of the law for that purpose which takes place, if not renewed, at the close of the present session.

In execution of the authority given by the legislature, measures have been taken for engaging some artists from abroad to aid in the establishment of our mint; others have been employed at home. Provision has been made of the requisite buildings, and these are now putting into proper condition for the purposes of the establishment. There has also been a small beginning in the coinage of half dimes; and the want of small coins in circulation calling the first attention to them.

The regulation of foreign coins, in correspondence with the principles of our national coinage, as being essential to their due operation, and to order in our money-concerns, will, I doubt not, be resumed and completed.

It is represented that some provisions in the law, which establishes the Post-Office, operate, in experiment against the transmission of newspapers to distant parts of the country.

Should this upon due enquiry, be found to be the fact, a full conviction of the importance of facilitating the circulation of political intelligence and information, will, I doubt not, lead to the application of a remedy. The adoption of a constitution for the State of Kentucky has been notified to me. The legislature will share with me in the satisfaction which arises from an event interesting to the happiness of the part of the nation, to which it relates, and conducive to the general order.

It is proper likewise to inform you, that since my last communication, on the subject, and in further execution of the acts severally making provision for the public debt, and for the reduction thereof, three new loans have been effected, each for three millions of dollars; one at Antwerp, at the annual interest of four and one half per cent. with an allowance of four per cent. in lieu of all charges, and the other two at Amsterdam, at the annual interest of four per cent. with an allowance of five and one half per cent. in one case, and of five per cent. in the other, in lieu of all charges. The rates of these loans, and the circumstances under which they have been made, are confirmations of the high state of our credit abroad. Among the objects to which these funds have been directed to be applied, the payment of the debts due to certain foreign officers, according to the provision made during the last session, has been embraced.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

I entertain a strong hope that the state of the national finances is now sufficiently matured to enable you to enter upon a systematic and effectual arrangement for the regular redemption and discharge of the public debt, according to the right which has been reserved to the government. No measures can be more desirable, whether viewed with an eye to its intrinsic importance, or to the general sentiment and wish of the nation. Provision

is likewise requisite for the reimbursement of the loan which has been made of the Bank of the United States, pursuant to the eleventh section of the act by which it is incorporated. In fulfilling the public stipulations in this particular it is expected a valuable saving will be made.

Appropriations for the current service of the ensuing year, and for such extraordinaries as may require provision, will demand, and I doubt not, will engage your early attention.

Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives.

I content myself with recalling your attention, generally, to such objects, not particularized in my present, as have been suggested in my former communications to you.

Various temporary laws will expire during the present session. Among these, that which regulates trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes, will merit particular notice.

The results of your common deliberations hitherto, will, I trust, be productive of solid and durable advantages to our constituents; such as by conciliating more and more their ultimate suffrage, will also tend to strengthen and confirm their attachment to that constitutional government, upon which, under divine Providence, materially depend their union, their safety and their happiness.

Still further to promote and secure these inestimable ends, there is nothing which can have a more powerful tendency than the careful cultivation of harmony, combined with a due regard to stability in the public councils.

Go. WASHINGTON.

UNITED STATES, Nov. 6, 1792.

After which the President, accompanied as before, retired, and the Members of the House returned to their hall, where the Speech was read by the Clerk, and ordered to be printed, and then the House adjourned.

Wednesday, November 7.

The order of the day being called for, Mr. Lawrence in the chair, the speech of the President, delivered yesterday to Congress, was taken up, and on motion of Mr. Smith, the following resolve was agreed to.—“That a committee be appointed to prepare and report a respectful address to the President of the United States, in answer to his speech delivered to both houses of Congress, at the opening of the present session; with assurances that they would take into consideration the important matters therein contained.” An amendment was moved to strike out the word “important,” but it was negatived, as being a word of too much importance to be neglected. The resolution therefore was carried in substance as above. Messrs. Madison, Benson, and Murray were appointed by the speaker to prepare the answer in conformity with the said resolve.

A message was delivered by Mr. Lear from the President of the United States communicating to the house, sundry documents referred to by him in his address to both houses yesterday, viz. a statement of the appropriating of the funds, certified by the proper officers. A representation from the chief justice and associate justices of the court of the United States, complaining of the great severity of the duties imposed on them in being obliged to attend the circuit courts which occasioned them to spend a large portion of their lives in the act of travelling, which ought not to be expected from men far advanced in years, unless in case of great necessity.—That they were almost constantly forced to be absent from their families, and their health daily impaired by the fatigues and burthen of their office, and praying that modification may speedily take place in the judiciary system.

Another memorial, was also amongst the papers received with the President's message, from the judges of the North-Carolina district, containing a detail of the inconveniences to which they were subjected by the law respecting the claims of widows, orphans, and invalid pensioners. Both of those communications requested that Congress may hasten a modification of the judiciary system.