

THE NORTH-CAROLINA MINERVA, AND FAYETTEVILLE ADVERTISER.

FAYETTEVILLE:—PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY BY HODGE AND BOYLAN.

Vol. I.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1797.

NUMB. 48

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Jan. 17. The most of this day's business was upon the Algerine business with closed doors.

Jan. 18. The house was occupied with petitions and reports of committees chiefly of a private nature, and then in committee of the whole on the subject of farther revenue. Mr. Williams, Mr. W. Lyman, and Mr. Harper spoke against the plan of direct taxation. Mr. Craik, Mr. W. Smith, and Mr. Findley in favour of it. The call for the question was very loud, but it was carried for the committee to rise 44 to 85. Adjourned.

Jan. 19. A letter was received from the Secretary of the treasury, inclosing the report of the Secretary of war on the subject of the naval establishment, and an estimate respecting the ports and harbours of the United States—referred to committees. The report from the attorney-general, respecting the claim of Georgia to certain lands in the S. West parts of the United States with the documents relative thereto, was received and read.

Jan. 20. The house entered upon consideration of the resolution reported by the committee of the whole on the subject of farther revenue. The proposed tax on slaves met with great opposition, and what is very extraordinary, it was chiefly from members whose constituents would be least affected by it. The question was finally carried—68 to 23. In the committee of the whole on the bill for giving effect to the laws of the United States in the state of Tennessee—the salary of the district judge was after some debate, reduced from 1000 to 800 dollars.

Several reports from committees were read.

A bill for the relief of Nova-Scotia and Canada refugees was reported. The bill extending the laws of the United States to Tennessee passed to the third reading.

In committee of the whole on the military establishment. It was resolved that so much of the act as relates to light dragoons should be repealed.

BOSTON, January 24.

Captain Stover, from Surinam, informs, that the English were about to blockade that place—vessels of war for this purpose had arrived in the river. The inhabitants expected an attempt would be made to get possession of the colony. A number of vessels were sunk in the river to obstruct the passage to the town. Provisions were scarce—land produce high.

Captain Hollis, from Guadaloupe, says, the French at that island are also depredating on American commerce. They have equipped a number of privateers, and captured all vessels belonging to the United States, going to or coming from British ports.

The orders for capture of American vessels received at Guadaloupe, were from the minister in America. They were not sufficiently explicit, and captain Very, who arrived on Sunday, informs, that he brought dispatches from Victor Hughes to citizen Adet, on that subject.

Capt. Cole, who arrived last evening from Aux-Cayes, state, that American produce is very high and scarce at that place—but that the nefarious conduct of the administration of that place, towards Americans, continued, and deterred many from entering the port.

Fortune's Favourites.

No. 11,000, the fortunate number which drew 20,000 dollars, is owned by Messrs. Reed and Green, of Keene, N. H. They had been confined in prison for some time for debt: and one of them, in custody of an officer, arrived in town on Saturday, to claim this boon of fortune. It is said that 25,000 dollars have been drawn in the last Harvard Lottery, by three tickets owned within 8 miles of their residence.

NEW-YORK, January 27.

The letter from the Secretary of State to Mr. Pipekey, discloses some curious facts. Among other things, the minister of France has made it a subject for formal complaint to our government,

that the French flag has not been displayed before Congress in their hall of session—and what is more singular, the minister has complained that the publishers of almanacks and registers, have arranged the names of the British minister before that of the French and Spanish ministers, and he has requested the President to disavow this conduct of the printers, and suppress the publications.

What will the world think of the agent of a great nation, descending to such puerilities? And what opinion will be formed of the minister of a nation, who can be so ignorant of the laws of the United States, as to suppose the executive has the power to suppress a publication, not prohibited by law? It seems as if the agents of the French nation take unwearied pains to make their government hated and themselves despised.

The house of representatives have resolved to reduce the military establishment of the United States, by disbanding the dragoons. A motion for reducing the four regiments of infantry to two, introduced by Mr. Williams, did not succeed. It is calculated that the savings, in the military department, with a few other items, will amount the present year to about 400,000 dollars.

By the last arrivals from London, we learn that the Portuguese minister, commissioned to treat for peace, arrived in Paris on the 7th October.

The East-India company have it in contemplation to apply to Parliament for leave to add to their capital stock the sum of two millions. The reasons assigned by the chairman of the court of directors, are, the high price of war freights; large payments to the bank of England and especially the vast increase of their trade. The war with Tipoo had also created a drawback of two millions from what would otherwise have been derived from their territories.

On the 28th October, Mr. Pitt brought forward his proposition, in the house of commons, for funding the navy and exchequer bills. The former amounting to 11,993,167l. sterling; the latter two millions and a half. These navy bills fall due at different periods, none were due at the time of this proposition, but the minister observed, that such a quantity of floating securities in market injured the public credit and the operation of commerce. After debate, the motion passed.

During the discussion, Mr. Pitt made the following remarks on the subject of peace and the pending negotiation.

Nor do I consider it as a measure less eligible in another view of our situation in the prospect of peace. It cannot surely be expected that at the very commencement of a negotiation of so momentous a nature, and so extensive in its relations, any occurrence should take place within the short period of a week decisive of its issue. He must indeed, reason at an extraordinary and unaccountable rate, who calculates on such an event. However sanguine in my own wishes for the auspicious return of tranquility, I cannot admit that the discussions of the great and important interests of Great-Britain and her allies, and of these weighty and complicated points which necessarily involve, are likely to be so speedily decided or brought within so short a compass as to have any influence on the present measure. There is, indeed, one possible case, which I reluctantly notice, and which I sincerely trust will, in the present instance, be averted, which might render the result of negotiation matter of such speedy issue, namely, that some occurrence should take place, or some propositions be started in its very outset, of such a nature as at once to put a negative on all our hopes of peace, and to put a stop to all further proceedings. But if we shall be ultimately successful in the grand object of all our wishes, it is not the space of a single week which can give any definitive turn to the complexion of negotiation, far less decide the important issue. But if from the magnitude and importance of the questions to be discussed it should be necessary to adopt a plan of negotiation more extensive, and likely to be protracted for a considerable period, it is reasonable that during all the time we should submit to the pressure of an evil which so long exists, must continue to weigh down our prosperity, and which we possess the means instantly to remove, if we have only energy to exert it."

PHILADELPHIA, January 30.

ANOTHER FIRE

Broke out Saturday evening in the Malt Room of Mr. Morris's Brew-house, Moravian alley. The fire was extinguished before it got to any considerable height, which probably prevented serious consequences—the place being difficult of access.

On Saturday the remains of Mrs. Brown and her three children (eldest a girl of thirteen, the second

a boy of nine, and the youngest a girl of seven years of age) were conveyed in three coffins from the house of Major Robert Patton, to the grave-yard of St. Paul's Church, attended by the clergy of all denominations, and by the greatest concourse of other citizens that probably ever convened at a funeral in this city. The sympathy in this mournful scene, was sincere and universal, and many tears were shed over the deceased, by all classes of people. After reading the funeral service, the Rev. Doctor Magaw ascended the pulpit of St. Paul's church, and addressed a few pathetic words to the audience. His sympathy, and the agitation of the audience, prevented his saying more.—He concluded by promising to preach a sermon suited to the awful event next Sunday.

Mrs. Brown will long be remembered and lamented by all who knew her, for her amiable domestic, and social virtues.

We have heard since Saturday, that the negro boy supposed to be burnt, escaped unburnt. Mr. Brown is indebted, under Providence, for his life to the fidelity and exertions of his black servant, who conducted him on a ladder from the third story of his house, to which he had ascended through a staircase, while it was in flames, in order to save his wife and children. He was much injured by the fire, but is now out of danger.

Two servant maids, and three apprentices, who were likewise a good deal burnt, and sent to the Pennsylvania Hospital, are all it is said upon the recovery.

We hear that the Philadelphia Gazette will be continued by Mr. Carey, Mr. Brown's assistant, during the confinement and indisposition of Mr. Brown.

Feb. 1. A letter from Cape Nicola Mole to a gentleman in this city, mentions, that the brig Punch, captain Rutherford was taken by a British 74 gun ship on her way from the port of St. Domingo to Jacmel and carried into the Mole.

RICHMOND, Feb. 8.

PHILADELPHIA, December 27th, 1796.

GENTLEMEN,

The address on the subject of my retirement, which you have done me the honour to enclose, by direction of the General Assembly of Virginia, was received on the 25th.

My acknowledgment of it is committed to your care—and for the polite and flattering manner in which you have executed the direction of the Legislature, I pray you to accept my best thanks, and the good wishes of,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient and
Very humble Servant,

Go. WASHINGTON.

LUDWELL LEE, Esq. S. S. }
JOHN WISE, Esq. S. H. D. } Virginia.

TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA.

GENTLEMEN,

For your address, be pleased to accept my acknowledgments.

That any service of mine should have produced a declaration of the friendship, and gratitude of the Legislature of Virginia, cannot be as pleasing as it is honourable to me, whose high ambition has been, by faithfully and zealously serving my country, to the utmost of my abilities, in all the public employments of my life, to merit the approbation of my fellow-citizens.

It is with unfeigned thankfulness for the goodness of a kind Providence, that I look forward to the period, when the first wishes of my heart are to be gratified, in returning, once more, to a private occupation, in the shades of rural retirement.

Go. WASHINGTON.

United States, 27th December, 1796.

NORFOLK, February 6.

On Saturday arrived here the schr. Telegraph, Capt Paul Gold, in 21 days from Jacquemel, bound to Baltimore, informs, that no Americans had been carried in there.

Same day arrived the ship Juliana, capt. Hayward, 12 days from Porto Rico.

Capt. Hayward was on his passage from Hamburg to Baltimore, and was captured on the 4th of January, in the lat of 32, 30. long 72, 5, by the prize brig Active [taken by Commodore Barney] then three days out from Hampton Roads, without any commission. The Active rounded too under the ship's stern, fired a gun at her, ordered capt. Hayward to hoist out his boat, detained the captain and six hands, and sent nine French sailors on board the Juliana; they then proceeded to Porto Rico, where the Juliana was given up to Capt. Hayward, after a few days detention, and he obliged to pay all expenses.