

STATE GAZETTE OF NORTH-CAROLINA.

EDENTON: PRINTED BY HENRY WILLS, JOINT PRINTER TO THE STATE WITH A. HODGE.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1797.

NUMB. 57 3

Resolving General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, to be held at Raleigh.

Remonstrance and petition of the people called Quakers, from their year-meeting held in Pasquotank county, for adjournments from the 31st of the month, to the 3d of the 11th month inclusive, 1796,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

THAT your remonstrants feel their minds impressed with sorrow, that injustice and cruelty should be perpetrated under sanction of law, in any community, as have been exercised toward numbers of the African race in this state, who, after they were emancipated from motives purely mercenary, have been taken up, without being chargeable with the commission of any offence, and sold into abject slavery, being thereby far separated from their nearest connections in life. We believe such proceeding to be contrary to the laws of nature, and that it will incur the wrath of the Almighty, who is no respecter of persons. "made of one blood all nations of men, and sent his son into the world that he might save us," agreeable to the holy scriptures, so that all people, whatever their complexions may be, are objects of his mercy. For a legislative body of men, professing Christianity, to be so partial, as to refuse any particular people the enjoyment of their liberty, under the sanction of the government, wherein they are even when the owners of such slaves are actuated from religious motives, that they might enjoy their personal freedom, the natural right of all mankind, is incompatible with the nature of a free republican government, and repugnant to the spirit of the Christian religion, that we present case, perhaps, (all circumstances considered,) hath never been parallel in Christendom. Yet we hope the wisdom may enable this house to exercise the power vested in them to the honor of the Most High, and the welfare of the State, that piety and virtue may be promoted, and injustice, with other vices and immorality, suppressed.

Therefore we earnestly intreat and request, that you may please to give your sanction to this important and interesting subject, and pass an act whereby the citizens of this state, who are conscientiously scrupulous of holding slaves, may legally emancipate them, and the persons so liberated be under protection of law. Such a reasonable request we trust will not now be rejected, as we have submitted herein, but a sincere desire that justice and equity, may be put in practice, and are respectfully your friends.

Signed by direction and on behalf of our aforesaid Meeting,
LEVI MUNDEN, Clerk.

IN SENATE, 13th December, 1796.

THE committee to whom was referred the remonstrance and petition of the people called Quakers, having examined the same, and the several papers exhibited therewith, do recommend the following resolution:

Resolved, That the said remonstrance and petition of the people called Quakers, is highly dangerous to be carried into effect, and ought by no means to be

admitted, as from the state of alarm, and just apprehension, which a respectable part of the citizens labour under, and from the facts which have been made appear, the risings of the slaves are not only threatened, but even in some instances have been carried into effect.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE committee to whom was referred the presentments of the grand juries of the superior courts of the district of Edenton, and petitions and remonstrances of the Justices of the Peace and other respectable persons in the said district, on the subject of emancipation, with the bill to prevent the abuse of slaves and persons of colour, and to impose restrictions against emancipation, Report—That the presentments of the grand juries of the superior courts of the district of Edenton, are expressive of the great danger to which the district is reduced by the spirit of emancipation, stirred up by the Quaker societies and others, that they are in momentary danger of insurrection among the slaves—that the life and property of the citizens are at stake—that felons and runaways are harboured and secured by the Quakers—that arson and frequent outrages have already been committed, and that funds are established by the Quaker societies in this state, and to the northward, for the purpose of procuring a general emancipation. The grand juries will call in loud terms for the assistance of the Legislature to suppress the growing evil, and which has already risen to such a stand that order and good government are nearly expiring in that quarter of the state—2. That the grand jury of the different county courts in the said district have followed the example of the superior courts, in presentments of a like nature, presenting the Quakers as the authors of the common evil, that funds are established to effect it, and that unless speedy and effectual measures are adopted by the good sense of the legislature, a recourse to arms will be the common resource of safety. 3. That the Justices of the Peace of the counties in the district of Edenton, in open court, have also petitioned against the proceedings of the Quaker societies in some instances, for the reasons stated by the grand juries, and in others have petitioned against any species of liberation whatever, as merely tending to assist the growing evil. 4. That by letters from General Skinner, Major Allen, of Edenton, and the Justices of the Peace of the county of Perquimans, the sense of the grand juries is confirmed, and stating that from the proceedings of the Quakers, the negroes, and their other assistants in this scheme, the country is in imminent danger of destruction—that the mulattoes and negroes from the West-Indies and other places have nearly excited with the Quakers an almost common sedition among the slaves—and that the military ought to be instantly put on some regular establishment of offensive operations to prevent and curb the threatened rising of the negroes—That insurrections and risings of the slaves have in some instances actually taken place in the districts of Edenton and Wilmington, and that men by private subscription have been supplied with arms in suppression of

the danger. 6. That there are upwards of six hundred and fifty thousand negroes southward of the State of Maryland. 7. That the negroes in Edenton and elsewhere have assumed the names of gentlemen of colour, the language of the West-India blacks, and have appointed Justices of the Peace and constables, and tried warrants. 8. That numbers of freed negroes formerly slaves have returned into this state from the Northern and Eastern States.

The committee have unanimously concurred in expressing their strong desire to suppress the common danger, with which the Eastern part of the state is threatened, and recommend the bill referred to them to be adopted by the house, with some further additions that may be necessary to introduce in the course of its passage, which they have recommended to the mover of the bill.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 13.

Yesterday at 12 o'clock, the Senate in a body, waited on the President of the United States at his house, when the Vice-President presented the following address in answer to his speech to both Houses at the opening of the session.

WE thank you, sir, for your faithful and detailed exposure of the existing situation of our country, and we sincerely join in sentiments of gratitude to an over-ruling providence, for the distinguished share of public prosperity, and private happiness, which the people of the United States so peculiarly enjoy.

We are fully sensible of the advantages that have resulted from the adoption of measures which you have so successfully carried into effect to preserve peace, cultivate friendship, and promote civilization amongst the Indian tribes, on the western frontiers:—feelings of humanity, and the most solid political principles, equally encourage the continuance of this system.

We observe with pleasure, that the delivery of the military posts, lately occupied by the British forces, within the territory of the United States, was made with cordiality and promptitude, as soon as circumstances would admit; and that the other provisions of our treaties with Great-Britain and Spain, that were objects of eventual arrangement, are about being carried into effect, with entire harmony and good faith.

The unfortunate, but unavoidable difficulties that opposed a timely compliance with the terms of the Algerine treaty, are much to be lamented; as they may occasion a temporary suspension of the advantages to be derived, from a solid peace with that power, and a perfect security from its predatory warfare; at the same time, the lively impressions that affected the public mind, on the redemption of our captive fellow-citizens, afford the most laudable incentive to our exertions, to remove the remaining obstacles.

We perfectly coincide with you in opinion that the importance of our commerce demands a naval force for its protection against foreign insult and depredation, and our solicitude to obtain that object will be always proportionate to its magnitude.

The necessity of accelerating the establishment of certain useful manufactur es