

The Legislature of Massachusetts met on the 25th ult. when Lieut. Governor LINCOLN addressed that body in a speech replete with genuine patriotism. Our limits will not permit us to present our readers with more of this masterly performance, than the following, which we have extracted as a specimen of the whole—

"If legal animadversions on incendiary and libellous publications would be thought by some, dangerous to the liberty of speech and the press; a strong public opinion, favourable to government, would be equally efficacious to its authority and to discountenance its opposers. Shall such aid be withheld? Or must false views, misstatements, and groundless alarms, indicative of extreme distrust and danger from the Representatives of our own choice, the Government of our own choice, hurry virtuous and well meaning men into acts pregnant with awful consequences? It is said measures are unnecessary, unconstitutional, oppressive and tyrannical. Is it certain this is correct? Are citizens in the streets, in town meetings, in multitudinous assemblies, citizens pressed with deep personal interests and excited from erroneous conceptions, capable of deciding on great complicated constitutional questions? Hence our peril. Hence distraction and confusion in society. Hence encouragement to the enemy. Are such citizens more worthy of confidence than our rulers? Are they better instructed or do they possess higher means of information? Are our rulers blinded by their interests or impassioned by their sufferings? They decide against their interests, and their sufferings are in common with their constituents. Are they actuated by prejudice or stimulated by resentments? They have nothing personal. Their insults and injuries have been the insults and injuries of their country. What then is to be done? States, towns and individuals have their favorite projects. The union have theirs. Thus jarring are we, with augmented resentment, to rush together in ruinous collisions? Are we with mutual hatred to rend asunder the bands which have united us? To throw from our vitals the shield which protects them?

"A good government is Heaven's richest gift. Past events will shew the worth of ours. Calamities formed and introduced our federal Constitution. Its adoption, the desired and long suspended hope of our citizens, was hailed and truly hailed as the salvation of our country. Experience has exalted its value, and disclosed more and more, its practical excellencies. It is worthy the wisdom and labours of its authors, and merits every sacrifice for its preservation. Our history which precedes its adoption furnishes examples, which are fraught with admonitions. Our Government was humbled and inefficient. Our Union a thread. Our Commerce unregulated and unprotected. Our revenue nothing. Our faith perjury. Our credit bankruptcy, and our privations the want of every thing. Individuals were embarrassed; grievances complained of—our rulers censured, town and county resolutions published, combinations formed, a non-compliance with the law announced—Government opposed, property sold for one third its value, tender laws made, the insolvent imprisoned and our courts of justice stopped. But Government must then be supported and its laws be respected. Troops were detached, armed men patrolled our streets, and we saw them with a joy inspired by the idea of protection and security, from the execution of the law and the energies of its officers. Is the preventive against all these and worse calamities now to be abandoned, and these and worse ones to be invoked to afflict us?

"Should the northern, the middle or the southern States, should Virginia, or could Massachusetts, any of her towns or citizens, dictate measures to Congress, and by opposition or a convulsed state of things force their adoption—then indeed, would one State have obtained a disastrous triumph over the U. States. Then we should have conquered the Union—then should we have prostrated our Government, and have tampered under our feet the last reserve of national power. Could the opposition prevail, a party coerce the whole, our rights and our strength would be scattered to the winds. As a nation we should perish as freemen be lost. Our palladium, our ark

bulwarks would be shattered and broken to atoms. Then might their fragments float by the licenses of our enemies. Then might we single handed, meet the crisis—and buffering the destruction threatened from the deep, conflict with the clouds above, which in angry collision, are ready to break on our heads. But this can never be. Society is yet strong. Americans, virtuous and enlightened Americans, steady and determined, will continue their confidence in their efforts. They will rally around the national Constitution, cling to their Government, and should it be driven to the edge of the precipice, keep their hold in the extremity of its exit, and sink with it into the awful abyss.

"The importance, & the interesting & perilous nature of the crisis, has compelled me, thus long, to dwell upon it, and to hope from the wisdom of our legislature, some reconciling expedient, to quiet the agitated minds of our citizens.

"Is it the idea that there are no dangers; that it can be said, thus far shall the increment come, & no farther—and here shall its effects be stayed? Let us not be deceived. This is the prerogative of God alone. Are we ripe, are we prepared to proclaim to a suffering and an enslaved world, that un happy man has made his last departing effort for the support of a free government—that the most promising experiment has so soon failed?—that liberty, the legitimate offspring of law the favourite child of government, has been expelled its hoped-for resting place, driven from its last retreat, & banished the world? Can we not wait with magnanimous patience, and endure privations a few months longer, and give to government one fair, unimpeded experiment of their measures on foreign nations? Will not the evils and the objections from existing measures lie as strong against non-intercourse, war, or any other arrangement for national defence? Are we ready to surrender all, to export our government with our produce, and to import foreign despotism with foreign goods? The farmer's merchandise and his ships are in the country. Mine are there, and I should rather sink them than government should be sunk. Without government they are not mine: not family nor personal protection, nor the opportunity of future acquisitions, or future happiness."

From the AURORA.

#### PHILADELPHIA CITY AND COUNTY MEETING

Yesterday being appointed by a call upon the friends of the union, independence and commerce, for meeting at the State House, to take place at eleven o'clock, the citizens of the various districts of the Northern and Southern Liberties, and of the fourteen wards of the city, assembled about 10 o'clock, at their respective districts, in order to reach the place of assembly at the hour publicly notified.

A platform and chairs, for the accommodation of the citizens who should be called to preside and to act as secretary, and for such citizens as might think fit to address the meeting, had been prepared by a select committee of the several districts.

At ten o'clock, an hour before the period appointed for taking the chair a number of persons, composed of men hostile to the peace and the principles of the government, some few lawyers, Robert Wharton, the late mayor of this city, and persons of this call, entered the State House Yard, and in a quarter of an hour after, placed themselves on the platform—and were in the act of proceeding to read certain resolutions or some such matter, when the first body of the citizens, from the lower part of the city and Southwark reached the place of meeting.

Whether it was intended to produce a riot by this unworthy trick, or that it was expected to impose upon the public by such a surreptitious proceeding, is neither important to ascertain, nor as the matter terminated, of any other consequence than as it goes to exhibit in stronger colors the unprincipled folly or depravity of those who were concerned.

A body of sailors was called upon the preceding evening, and commodore Truxton was selected to be made the instrument of this unworthy proceeding. Among the state-ies of this seditious group, was a person formerly a midshipman, recently dismissed for mal-practices from the U. States navy; and a number of other sea

men-like persons, who perhaps entertained an attachment for the commodore as an officer.

The commodore suffered himself to be placed in the chair, in the manner here described and some of the persons who surrounded him were about to speak, when the citizens began to throng into the place of meeting.

The occupation of the chair before the period advertised, excited a momentary ferment; the persons who had occupied the place, amounting to about 5 to 400, endeavored to prevent any access of other citizens; and much insolent abuse was lavished by persons in this group, on the citizens who had just arrived; the pressure from the outside became very great and irresistible; and those who had taken possession of the platform, found it impossible to remain; upwards of ten thousand citizens had entered in large masses, at a quarter before eleven; and the groupe found a retreat their only resource: they however determined to destroy the chair and platform, when a momentary conflict took place: some broken heads were received, & much worse must have followed, had it not been for the timely interposition of captain Jones and some other citizens, who afforded the disaffected an opportunity of retiring under showers of snow balls and shouts of derision—they then formed their little groups in front of the State House, and after giving Phinny Bond, his Britannic majesty's compliment, THREE CHEERS! Retired to their head quarters, the British Coffee House, where it is presumed they will issue their resolutions as if they had stood their ground.

A few minutes before 11 o'clock, capt. WILLIAM JONES was called to the chair, and col ROBERT M MULLIN appointed Secretary by the unanimous voice of EIGHTEEN THOUSAND CITIZENS: who were there assembled. Order and silence immediately prevailed. The chairman addressed the people in his usual energetic, and impressive style—and was followed by Mr Dallas, who went into a very lengthy examination of the topics which now agitate the nation—but it was not possible to hear, from the immense body of people that were arranged between the centre and the place at which we stood.

After a number of patriotic resolutions were passed, general Barker, the mayor of this city delivered a very popular and pointed speech, which from our distance we could not well hear, we understand he narrated the conduct of Timothy Pickering, in the case of several American citizens, who were detained and pressed on board a British sloop of war, at Philadelphia wharf, when Pickering was Secretary of State. The case we recollect well, and those who were near enough to hear Mr Barker's statements, expressed their execration of Pickering, in terms and tones, that reverberated to the adjacent streets.

After the several speakers had closed, Mr. J. Leib moved, that as a gross misrepresentation, as to the numbers of the people had been spread abroad, that the citizens present, march in procession down Chestnut street through Second into Dock, (by the British Coffee House,) and there disperse. The motion was carried with an universal shout, and the meeting was immediately closed; the citizens in an immense column, of about 18,000 persons, proceeded in the direction proposed; and in Dock Street, the citizens from the northern and southern districts, separated for their respective homes, in different bodies.

### Congress.

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Friday, February 3.

**REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO, &c.**  
Mr. D. R. Williams moved that the House again resolve itself into a committee of the whole on Mr. Nicholas's resolution. Mr. Troup moved to postpone the farther consideration of the subject indefinitely. [The motion was understood to contemplate putting the subject completely at rest.] Mr. Troup's motion was negatived, by Yeas and Nays, 93 to 26; and the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the subject.

The question being now on filling the blank in the resolution for repealing the embargo and issuing letters of marque and reprisal with the "fourth day of March"—Mr. Mosely spoke a few minutes in favour of that day.

When the question on filling the blank with that day, was taken and Carried, Ayes 70.

The question then being about to be put on that clause of the resolution contemplating the REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO,

Mr. Randolph spoke about two hours and a half in favour of it.

When the question, was taken on that clause and Carried, Ayes seventy-six.

The question being stated on the second clause of the resolution, viz. that part which relates to issuing letters of marque and reprisal—

Mr. Randolph moved to strike out that part of the resolution, and insert after the words "and at the same time" the words "to authorize the merchant vessels of the U. States owned wholly by citizens of the United States to arm and defend against any armed vessel sailing under the British or French flag, so long as their orders or decrees are unrevoked."

Mr. Key after stating the importance of the alternatives presented to the decision of the committee by this motion for amendment, moved that the committee now rise to give time for mature deliberation—Agreed to without debate.

February 4.

#### REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO, &c.

The House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole on Mr. Nicholas's resolution.

The question pending being on Mr. Randolph's motion to amend it—

Messrs. Key and Minor supported it. And Mr. D. R. Williams opposed it.

And the committee rose without deciding the question and obtained leave to sit again.

Monday, February 6.

#### REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO, &c.

The following resolutions were offered by Mr. Durell on Saturday, and referred to the committee of the whole on Mr. Nicholas's resolution:

*Resolved*, That the United States will consider any capture and condemnation of merchant vessels of the U. S. owned wholly by a citizen or citizens thereof, and engaged in a lawful commerce, by an armed vessel sailing under a belligerent flag, and acting by and under authority of orders, decrees or edicts, violating the lawful commerce or neutral rights of the U. States, as a declaration of war on the part of that government, in which said belligerent flag shall belong and in whose courts such condemnation shall be had.

*Resolved*, That the President of the U. States, on being satisfactorily informed of such capture and condemnation as aforesaid, be requested, forthwith, to recall from such belligerent state, by and under whose authority such capture and condemnation shall be made, such resident minister or ministers of the U. States as may reside at the government thereof.

The House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the resolutions offered by Mr. Nicholas, Mr. Bacon, and Mr. Durell.

The amendment offered to Mr. Nicholas's resolution by Mr. Randolph, in the following words, being under consideration: "to authorize the merchant vessels of the United States, owned wholly by citizens of the United States, to arm and defend themselves against any armed vessels sailing under the British or French flag, so long as their orders or decrees are unrevoked."

Mr. J. G. Jackson spoke against it for about three hours.

When the committee rose and obtained leave to sit again.

Tuesday, Feb 7.

#### REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO, &c.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole 53 to 51, Mr. Mason in the chair, on the resolution on the subject of the state of our foreign relations.

Mr. Randolph's amendment yet under consideration.

Messrs. Sloan, Cook, and Lyon advocated the amendment.

The question was taken on striking out so much of Mr. Nicholas's resolution as relates to issuing letters of marque and reprisal & there were

For striking out	37
Against it	39

Monday, February 16.

So that the next question is on inserting the substitute offered by Mr. Randolph on whose motion the committee now rose, 56 to 37 and obtained leave to sit again—Ayes 57.