

President's Message.

Washington, Nov. 8, 1804.

This day at 12 o'clock, the President of the United States delivered the following Message to both Houses of Congress.

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

To a people, fellow-citizens, who sincerely desire the happiness and prosperity of other nations, to those who justly calculate that their own well being is advanced by that of the nations with which they have intercourse, it will be a satisfaction to observe that the war which was lighted up in Europe a little before our last meeting, has not yet extended its flames to other nations, nor been marked by the calamities which sometimes stain the footsteps of war. The irregularities too on the ocean, which generally harass the commerce of neutral nations, have, in distant parts, disturbed ours less than on former occasions. But, in the American seas, they have been greater from peculiar causes; and even within our harbours and jurisdiction, infringements on the authority of the laws have been committed which have called for serious attention. The friendly conduct of the governments from whose officers and subjects these acts have proceeded, in other respects, and in places more under their observation and control, gives us confidence that our representations on this subject will have been properly regarded.

While noticing the irregularities committed on the ocean by others, those on our own part should not be omitted, nor left unprovided for. Complaints have been received that persons, residing within the United States, have taken on themselves to arm merchant vessels, and to force a commerce into certain ports and countries in defiance of the laws of those countries.—That individuals should undertake to wage private war, independently of the authority of their country, cannot be permitted in a well ordered society. Its tendency to produce aggression on the laws and rights of other nations, and to endanger the peace of our own, is so obvious, that I doubt not you will adopt measures for restraining it effectually in future.

Soon after the passage of the act of the last session, authorising the establishment of a district and port of entry on the waters of the Mobile, we learnt that its object was misunderstood on the part of Spain. Candid explanations were immediately given, and assurances, that, reserving our claims in that quarter as a subject of discussion & arrangement with Spain, no act was meditated in the mean time inconsistent with the peace and friendship existing between the two nations: and that conformably to these intentions would be the execution of the law. That government had however thought proper to suspend the ratification of the convention of 1802. But the explanations which would reach them soon after, and still more the confirmation of them by the tenor of the instrument establishing the port and district, may reasonably be expected to replace them in the dispositions and views of the whole subject which originally dictated the convention.

I have the satisfaction to inform you that the objections which had been urged by that government against the validity of our title to the country of Louisiana have been withdrawn: its exact limits however remaining still to be settled between us. And to this is to be added that having prepared and delivered the stock created in execution of the convention of Paris of April 30th, 1803, in consideration of the cession of that country, we have received from the government of France an acknowledgment in due form of the fulfilment of that stipulation.

With the nations of Europe in general our friendship & intercourse are undisturbed; and from the governments of the belligerent powers especially, we continue to receive those friendly manifestations which are justly due to an honest neutrality, and to such good offices consistent with that, as we have opportunities of rendering.

The activity and success of the small force employed in the Mediterranean in the early part of the present year, the reinforcements sent into that sea, and the energy of the officers having command in the several vessels, will, I trust, by the sufferings of war, reduce the barbarians of Tripoli to the desire of peace on proper terms. Great injury however ensues to ourselves as well as to others interested, from the distance to which prizes must be brought for adjudication, and from the impracticability of bringing higher such as are not sea-worthy.

The Bey of Tunis having made requisitions unauthorised by our treaty, their rejection has produced from him some expressions of discontent. But to those who expect us to calculate whether a compliance with unjust demands will not cost us less than a war, we must leave as a question of calculation for them also, whether to retire from unjust demands will not cost us less than a war. We can do to each other very

sensible injuries by war. But the mutual advantages of peace make that the best interest of both.

Peace and intercourse with the other powers on the same coast continue on the footing on which they are established by treaty.

In pursuance of the act providing for the temporary government of Louisiana, the necessary officers for the territory of Orleans were appointed in due time to commence the exercise of their functions on the 1st day of October. The distance however of some of them, and indispensable previous arrangements, may have retarded its commencement in some of its parts. The form of government thus provided having been considered but as temporary, and open to such future improvements as further information of the circumstances of our brethren there might suggest, it will of course be subject to your consideration.

In the district of Louisiana it has been thought best to adopt the division into subordinate districts which had been established under its former government. These being five in number, a commanding officer has been appointed to each, according to the provisions of the law, and so soon as they can be at their stations, that district will also be in its due state of organization. In the mean time their places are supplied by the officers before commanding there, and the functions of the governor and judges of Indiana having commenced, the government, we presume, is proceeding in its new form. The lead mines in that district offer so rich a supply of that metal as to merit attention. The report now communicated will inform you of their state, & of the necessity of immediate enquiry into their occupation and titles.

With the Indian tribes established within our newly acquired limits, I have deemed it necessary to open conferences for the purpose of establishing a good understanding and neighbourly relations between us. So far as we have yet learned, we have reason to believe that their dispositions are generally favorable and friendly. And, with those dispositions on their part, we have in our own hands means which cannot fail us, for preserving their peace and friendship. By pursuing an uniform course of justice towards them, by aiding them in all the improvements which may better their condition, and especially by establishing a commerce on terms which shall be advantageous to them, and only not losing to us, and so regulated as that no incendiaries, of our own, or any other nation, may be permitted to disturb the natural effects of our just and friendly offices, we may render ourselves so necessary to their comfort and prosperity, that the protection of our citizens from their disorderly members will become their interest and their voluntary care. Instead therefore of an augmentation of military force proportioned to our extension of frontier, I propose a moderate enlargement of the capital employed in that commerce as a more effectual, economical and humane instrument for preserving peace and good neighbourhood with them.

On this side the Mississippi an important relinquishment of native title has been received from the Delaware. That tribe, desiring to extinguish in their people the spirit of hunting, and to convert superfluous lands into the means of improving what they retain, has ceded to us all the country between the Wabash and Ohio, south of, and including the road from the Rapids towards Vincennes; for which they are to receive annuities in animals and implements for agriculture, and in other necessaries. This acquisition is important not only for its extent and fertility, but as, fronting three hundred miles on the Ohio, and near half that on the Wabash, the produce of the settled country descending those rivers will no longer pass in review of the Indian frontier, but in a small portion; and, with the cession heretofore made by the Kaskaskias, nearly consolidates our possessions north of the Ohio, in a very respectable breadth from Lake Erie to the Mississippi. The Piankeshaws having some claim to the country ceded by the Delaware, it has been thought best to quiet that by fair purchase also. So soon as the treaties on this subject shall have received their constitutional sanctions, they shall be laid before both houses.

The act of Congress of February 28, 1803, for building and employing a number of gun boats, is now in a course of execution to the extent there provided for. The obstacle to naval enterprise which vessels of this construction offer for our sea-port towns, their utility towards supporting within our waters the authority of the laws, the promptness with which they will be manned by the seamen and militia of the place in the moment they are wanting, the facility of their assembling from different parts of the coast to any point where they are required in greater force than ordinary, the economy of their maintenance and preservation from decay when not in actual service, and the competence of our finances to this defensive provision without any new burthen, are considerations which will have due

weight with Congress in deciding on the expediency of adding to their number from year to year, as experience shall test their utility, until all our important harbors, by these and auxiliary means, shall be secured against insult and opposition to the laws.

No circumstance has arisen since your last session which calls for any augmentation of our regular military force. Should any improvement occur in the militia system, that will be always seasonable.

Accounts of the receipts and expenditures of the last year, with estimates for the ensuing one will, as usual, be laid before you.

The state of our finances continues to fulfil our expectations. Eleven millions and an half of dollars, received in the course of the year ending on the 30th of September last, have enabled us, after meeting all the ordinary expenses of the year, to pay upwards of three millions six hundred thousand dollars of the public debt, exclusive of interest. This payment, with those of the two preceding years, has extinguished upwards of twelve millions of principal, & a greater sum of interest, within that period; and, by a proportionate diminution of interest renders already sensible the effect of the growing sum yearly applicable to the discharge of principal.

It is also ascertained that the revenue accrued during the last year exceeds that of the preceding; and the probable receipts of the ensuing year, may safely be relied on as sufficient, with the sum already in the Treasury, to meet all the current demands of the year, to discharge upwards of three millions and an half of the engagements incurred under the British and French conventions, and to advance in the further redemption of the funded debt as rapidly as had been contemplated.

These, fellow-citizens, are the principal matters which I have thought it necessary at this time to communicate for your consideration and attention. Some others will be laid before you in the course of the session. But in the discharge of the great duties confided to you by our country, you will take a broader view of the field of legislation. Whether the great interests of agriculture, manufactures, commerce or navigation, can, within the pale of your constitutional powers, be aided in any of their relations? Whether laws are provided in all cases where they are wanting? Whether those provided are exactly what they should be? Whether any abuses take place in their administration or in that of the public revenues? Whether the organization of the public agents, or of the public force is perfect in all its parts? In fine, whether anything can be done to advance the general good?—are questions within the limits of your functions, which will necessarily occupy your attention. In these & all other matters, which you in your wisdom may propose for the good of our country, you may count with assurance on my hearty co-operation and faithful execution.

TH: JEFFERSON.

Congress of the United States.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

NOVEMBER 5, 1804.

Being the day appointed by law for the meeting of Congress, a quorum was formed; the members present were 84. Three of whom are new members; viz.

Christopher Clark of the state of Virginia, in the room of John Trigg deceased.

Samuel Riker of the state of New-York, in the room of John Smith appointed a Senator of the United States, & Simon Larned of the state of Massachusetts in the room of Thompson J. Skinner, resigned.

Mr. Buckley mentioned to the Speaker that the members of the Senate had adjourned half an hour ago, but had not formed a quorum.

Pursuant to the standing rules and orders of the House; the following committees were appointed; viz.

A committee of Elections, consisting of Messrs. Finlay, Varnum, Livingston, Kennedy, Eppes, Clagett and Elmer.

A Committee of Ways & Means consisting of Messrs. J. Randolph, Joseph Clay, S. Griswold, Boyle, Davenport, N. R. Moore, and Meriwether.

One of Commerce and Manufacturers, consisting of Messrs. S. L. Mitchell, Crowningshield, M'Creery, Leib, Newton, Early and Chittenden.

Another of Claims, consisting of Messrs. J. C. Smith, Holmes, Chamberlain, Stanford, Plater, Bedinger, and Stanford.

And also one of revision and unfinished business, consisting of Messrs. Tenney, Dickson and Earle.

The Clerk was then directed to supply the members with the usual number of such newspapers as they might severally direct.—After which it was Resolved, That the daily hour to which the House shall stand adjourned during the present session be eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

Adjourned.

Tuesday, Nov. 6.

Mr. J. Randolph moved for the appointment of a committee on the part of the house to join a committee of the Senate to wait on the President and inform him that quorums of both houses are formed and ready to receive his communications.

Mr. Dana enquired if a quorum of the Senate was formed; that circumstance he thought ought to be ascertained before the house adopted the gentleman's resolution.

Mr. Randolph did not know whether or no the Senate had formed a quorum, but he saw no objection on that account to proceeding with their own business. He, however, had understood that the Senate would form a quorum this day.

The resolution was carried, and Messrs. J. Randolph and R. Griswold appointed the committee.

On motion of Mr. Newton a committee of seven on post offices and post roads was appointed.

Mr. J. Randolph requested information from the chair as to the situation in which the articles of impeachment against Samuel Chase, one of the associate justices of the supreme court of the United States, were left at the last session. The house would recollect that they were then merely reported and ordered to be printed. If that business was to be prosecuted, he conceived it of importance that the party should have all the time to prepare for his defence that their political existence would allow him. Was it the opinion of the Speaker that this subject was before the committee of revision and unfinished business, or should it be referred to a special committee to prepare articles de novo.

The Speaker judged that it was before the Committee of Revision and Unfinished business as a matter of course.

Dr. Mitchell presented a petition from Daniel Cotton, praying compensation for the injury he sustained in having his ship the Ann Maria, whilst in the service of the United States, pressed by the Bey of Tunis to carry goods, &c. into Marseilles.

On motion of Mr. J. Randolph, a select committee, to consist of 5 members, was ordered to report on the articles of impeachment against S. Chase, one of the associate justices of the supreme court of the U. S.

The petition of Moses White and Charlotte Hazen, the legal representatives of Gen. Hazen, praying to be indemnified for the losses sustained by Gen. Hazen, during the revolutionary war, under a resolution of the old congress of 1776, was referred to the committee of claims.—Adjourned.

November 7.

The Secretary of the Senate, Mr. Otis, delivered a message to the House informing that the Senate had formed a quorum, and were ready to proceed to business.

Also, That the Senate had appointed a committee to join the committee of the House to wait upon the President of the United States, and inform him that a quorum of the two Houses are assembled, and ready to receive any communications he may be pleased to make.

A message from the Senate, informing that they had concurred in the Resolution of the house that two Chaplains of different denominations be appointed, and on their part they had appointed the Rev. Mr. M' Cornick.

Mr. Thomas of New-York, moved to proceed by ballot to appoint a Chaplain on the part of the house.

Rev. Wm. Bentley of Salem, Massachusetts, and Rev. Mr. Parkinson were nominated.

Upon examining the ballot, the votes were found to be for Mr. Bentley 61; Mr. Lawrie 21; Mr. Parkinson 13; Mr. Ganit 2. The first named Gentleman having a majority of the whole number of votes, was consequently appointed, and Mr. Beckley was desired to acquaint the Senate therewith.

Mr. J. Randolph reported from the joint Committee, appointed to wait upon the President, that the Committee had performed that service, and received for answer, that he would make a communication to Congress, in writing, at 12 o'clock to-morrow.

FOR SALE

Two Valuable Plantations.

THE Subscriber offers for sale his two plantations in Orange County, both in the Haw-fields; the one containing about 1000 acres, the Land of excellent quality.—On the premises are a house containing eight rooms with a fire place to each; there is also a good Kitchen, Smoke house & good Overfeers house with other out-buildings.

The other contains 360 acres, the Land equal perhaps to any in the Haw fields and tolerably well improved; for terms apply to the Subscriber on the premises.

ARCH'D. CAMPBELL.

October 10th 1804.

For Sale at the *Minerva Office*, Deeds of Conveyance. Sheriff's do. Bills of Sale. Powers of Attorney. Ejectments & various other Declarations. Warrants and Executions. Bonds & Notes.