

States are the source, from which she hopes to supply her profitable West India colonies. From this consideration they are dear to her; and as she extends her West Indian dominions, these colonies will become more and more the object of her regard. They are contiguous to us, and within striking distance of the force contemplated by the resolutions. "Tho', said he, I hope the ambition of conquest will never direct the government of this country, yet if injuries become intolerable and retaliation our duty, we must inflict wounds in those parts where our enemy is vulnerable." When Great Britain should reflect that so severe revenge may be taken, that the means of inflicting it are already in the hands of government, she will be cautious of wantonly incurring our resentment, and she has surely no just grounds for injurious conduct towards this country.

These he said were the objects of the force contemplated by the resolutions—there would be objections to them plausible—perhaps solid; there was one at least respectable, from the motive in which it originated—the jealousy of freemen, of a standing army, and the consideration that a militia should be the force—the instrument to defend and secure the existence of republican institutions. To a certain extent the principle was correct, and the jealousy well founded. This principle and this jealousy had influenced the conduct of the patriots to whom the defence of America was intrusted at the commencement of the late war. But by experience the only unerring guide in political investigation, it was discovered, that the principle was extended too far—by it the union was brought to the brink of ruin, and was only saved by an immense expence of lives and treasure. By the short enlistments of militia, they are incompetent for long continued exertions. If enlisted for a considerable length of time, though they may be denominated militia, they become possessed of all the properties which are the source of the jealousy of standing armies. If enlisted for short periods, just as they assume the character of soldiers, their term of enlistment expires. By experience it is known that no consideration can induce them to continue beyond the specified term of service—hence at stated periods, the country is left naked and defenceless. Besides, the wages of militia will always exceed those which will be required to procure a regular force. This the experience of the late war taught us was in the proportion of two or three to one; and the want of discipline and subordination will always occasion a prodigious waste of public and private property; and what is more important a want of the habits of soldiers, a lamentable waste of lives.

As long as we depend on a militia alone for repelling foreign injury, short of a direct attack on our territory, foreign powers will not believe we possess either the will or the power of vindicating our rights or retaliating their injuries: Besides when it is remembered, that should there be no war with a foreign power within two years and an half from the time of commencing the enlistments, and that time was not thought to be too long, considering the state of Europe, then the force is to be disbanded; remembering too, that they are to be trained 24 days in a year, and never but in detached corps, and that of course during peace, they will remain dispersed, and almost the whole time reposing in the bosom of civil society; when these circumstances are remembered, it will be impossible to suppose that such a force can be formidable to the liberties of the people—It is impossible to conceive that they will suppose they possess interests distinct from, or opposed to those of the community of which they are a part.

It might not be improper, he added, to state as far as he was able the probable amount of the expence of the proposed establishment. He had made a calculation. The regiment is to consist of 1000 privates; this number is purposely large, that the expence of officers might be less; one serjeant major and 50 serjeants to each regiment, would make the whole number of non-commissioned officers and privates 1051 men. These, at 12 dollars, for the suit of cloaths, per annum would make the expence in this article 12612 dollars; and the 24 muster-days, at half a dollar a day an equal sum, in all 25224 dollars, which multiplied by 15, the number of regiments, gives a total of 378440.

He had not accurately ascertained the amount of the officers' pay, but believed it would be about 14820 dollars, making

in the whole 393,260 dollars per annum, the whole expence of the proposed auxiliary or provisional troops. He called them auxiliary in reference to the 5000 regulars which now belong to the military establishment of the United States, with which we should be able to bring 20,000 men into the field, a number competent to any purpose for which they would be wanted.

The resolutions contemplate as a probable contingency the propriety of laying an embargo on American vessels and prohibiting the exportation of the produce of the United States. If such an embargo shall be necessary the operation can be better performed by the President than by the Legislature. In a body as numerous as the Legislature, it is impossible to keep a secret for any length of time, and the delays which the necessary forms require, would be such, that the effect of the measure would be lost before finally adopted—for every ship and all the produce which possibly could, would immediately be put out of the reach of government.

The reasons on which this idea of an embargo are founded, are, that Great Britain cannot supply her West Indies except from the United States. If this is in any degree true, in peaceable times, how much more powerfully must it operate now they have a considerable military force there to feed, in truth, without supplies from this country, they must inevitably abandon a project, with them a favourite one, the conquest of the French West Indies.

In this situation of affairs he believed it would be found proper to put into the hands of the President a power to lay this embargo, and in a moment to prevent all supplies going to the West Indies.—On great occasions confidence must be reposed in the executive, and the universal confidence in the present head of that department, would prevent all fears of its being abused in his hands.

When we are once in the situation contemplated by the resolutions offered, and if we are then obliged to exert the means in our power for our defence (but he hoped we should not be impelled to this disagreeable necessity) we can speak a manly language to any one who may attempt to insult us.

He was persuaded, that if a country does not respect itself it will not be respected by others nations; that if a nation is not vigilant in guarding their rights they soon will have no rights to guard; if they receive insults and injuries with impunity, they will suffer injuries and insults without end.

This is not the time, said he, for feeble measures—a manly conduct ought to be pursued—a conduct worthy of our brave and honorable constituents: They have bravery to assert and resources to vindicate their rights.

He did not wish the government to speak in the language of intimidation; but in the manly tone, and in the language of a free and independent nation; conscious that she possesses rights, and has the means of defending them. We should tell the belligerent powers, that we can make every reasonable allowance for a state of war.—That we have rights which must not be the sport of wanton and unprovoked violation. We should mark a line, and boldly declare, that we will not permit it to be transgressed. Such firm and manly language, backed by the means of enforcing respect, and retaliating injuries. A capacity of withholding the supplies necessary for the prosecution of a favorite object. A respectable and active force, ready to strike in a vulnerable quarter—such language under such circumstances must be heard and be trusted, would produce the desired effect.

He had the more confidence that this would be the case, when he reflected that Great Britain would have no possible motive of interest, or ambition in a war with this country. She was now straining every nerve, and was obliged to call forth all her resources—though she might be said to enjoy national prosperity, yet her subjects experienced much individual misery. The interruption of her commerce, with the United States, would doubtless add to her embarrassments; and in some degree affect the resources on which she depended for the prosecution of the war. On the other hand, there was nothing in our conduct of which she could justly complain.—She had no injuries to revenge, nor any benefit to obtain by hostility with America.

He next turned his attention to the source from which funds may be drawn for the execution of the plan proposed, and expressed a firm reliance on the patriotism of the people of America, who, he believed, would cheerfully submit and contribute in any manner which Congress might judge proper, in support of their right and to vindicate their national honor. He adverted to some observations which fell, a few days since from Mr. Lee, which he said did honor to that gentleman; but he could not agree with him in thinking that a land tax, was immediately necessary. He believed it as yet unnecessary to touch that great resource; and if it is unnecessary, it is not expedient. If it must be resorted to, however, he believed the people had virtue and patriotism enough to submit, without murmuring.

He concluded by observing, that the nation of whose treatment we have a right to complain, viewing our resources, will reflect seriously on the consequence of imposing any further injuries, and for their own interest sake, will permit us to continue in a state of tranquility and friendly intercourse with them.

LAW OF THE UNION.

THIRD CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

AT THE FIRST SESSION,

Begun and held at the city of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, on Monday the second of December, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three.

An ACT for the remission of the duties arising on the Tonnage of sundry French vessels which have taken refuge in the ports of the United States.

WHEREAS the disastrous situation of the town of Cape Francois, in the island of Hispaniola, compelled sundry vessels belonging to citizens of the French Republic, in the month of June last, to take refuge within the ports of the United States: and whereas they are liable by law to the payment of foreign tonnage, which considering the necessity of their case, ought equitably to be remitted to them:

Therefore, Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the duties on the tonnage, to which any of the vessels aforesaid are, or may have been liable, within any of the ports of the United States, be, and the same are hereby remitted; Provided nevertheless, That the master, owner or consignee, of every such vessel shall make proof to the proper officer of the port in which such vessel may be, that the said vessel was compelled to leave the said island of Hispaniola, and to take refuge within the said port, by reason of the calamity aforesaid.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS MÜHLENBERG,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN ADAMS, Vice-President of the United States and President of the Senate.

Approved March the }
third, 1794.

G. WASHINGTON, President of the United States.

Deposited among the Rolls in the Office of the Secretary of State,
EDM. RANDOLPH,
Secretary of State.

Foreign Intelligence.

BRUSSELS, November 12.

A circumstance which has excited great astonishment here is the orders given by government to the states, to furnish 15,000 pioneers within 48 hours, and 2000 waggons, to repair to Valenciennes. The communes which remonstrated, received the strictest orders to send the men required within 24 hours, under pain of military execution. Since that the peasants are flocking from all quarters day and night; they are to have 16 sols and 2 pounds of bread per day from the time of their departure—they are intended to make entrenchments between Valenciennes and Bavay, and in general in places and posts which are occupied by the combined army. They are to remain ten days, and then to be relieved by an equal number. This kind of press has excited considerable murmuring among the inhabitants; the parish of Lacken openly refused to send their contingency. But eighty soldiers were immediately dispatched to inflict military execution, and the farmer who was at the head of this revolt was seized and carried bound to Malines, to receive there the reward of his disobedience.

The Dutch are returning in whole companies every day; yesterday 120 grenadiers of the Dutch and Swiss guards passed through this town, and immediately

took possession on the canal of the large bark which sets out every day for Antwerp. These troops are so happy to return home, that they cannot conceal their joy. This conduct, which forms a contrast to that which they exhibited on their late march hither, has exposed them to the reproaches of the inhabitants, who openly accuse them of cowardice.

We were yesterday astonished by a very singular event: A Republican General arrived after four o'clock at the house of the minister. He was dressed in his uniform, and attended by an aid-de-camp of the Prince de Cobourg. They immediately repaired to his Royal Highness the Archduke Charles, and after a conference, the French General with his companion returned to Mons. It was remarked that the same evening the minister sent couriers to Berlin; and to General Wurmer: Nothing has yet transpired respecting the cause of this strange and secret mission. It is said that the French officer was Tourville, the commandant of Maubenge, who had emigrated, and given great information to the Prince de Cobourg respecting the plans of attack projected by the enemy.

The news from Strasburgh are dreadful. General Wurmer in four weeks has not been able to advance a single step. On the 9th, all the members of the municipality and of the commune, to the number of 70 persons, were guillotined. Among these were the heads of the most illustrious families, Baron de Weiterheim, de Wangeat, de Boulach, de Wurmer, de Brestlet, &c. who were all allied to the family of General Wurmer. The greatest ferment prevailed next morning after this horrible execution, and a general massacre was expected between the two parties. General Wurmer's slowness of operation is alleged as the cause of these executions. As soon as he arrived with his victorious army at Haguena, a resolution was privately formed at Strasburgh to deliver up the city to the General in the name of Louis XVII. The garrison was then so weak that nothing was to be dreaded from it. The number of those well affected was superior. The municipality, the commune, the French General Isambert, the commandant of the nation of the national guards, the ex-nobility, all connected with the family of Wurmer, were agreed. Two deputies were sent to the Austrian general to offer to give up the town in the name of Louis XVII. and to request him to advance with his army in the night time, in order to take possession of it. The General however, who perhaps had other instructions respecting the manner in which the town should be surrendered, hesitated, and promised to give an answer in six days, in case the deputies did not think proper to surrender in the manner proposed, and arrange under the auspices of the Emperor, as conqueror. While Wurmer was negotiating with the chief deputies, the secret was discovered; an army of 45,000 republicans arrived in the city; and another of equal force took possession of some important posts at Saverne, from which the Prussians were dislodged. After this the staff-officers in the city, the municipality and the commune were displaced, and all those who had held any office were seized. In short, the plot was defeated, and all those who wished for the re-establishment of good order were subjected to the infernal guillotine. The wretched end of these unhappy men was ascribed to General Wurmer, and to add to this misfortune, that important city, which forms one of the bulwarks of France, is now lost for ever to the combined powers, and all their operations which have been so successful in Alsace, are rendered of no use, as the combined army is now obliged to act on the defensive. It is well known that to lay siege to the town and citadel of Strasburgh, an army of 60,000 would be necessary, and another of the like number to cover the siege.

All the troops that passed lately this way are in a most deplorable state with respect to cloathing. Instead of uniforms they have only rags tacked together, and it is absolutely impossible to distinguish one regiment from another. The case is the same with the cavalry before mentioned, who were almost all naked, and their horses unfit for service. An officer of the regiment of Barco, assured me, that several Austrian, and Hungarian troops, had gone over to the enemy during some engagement. He estimates the number of deserters, since the commencement of the campaign, at 4000 men; and affirmed that a whole squadron of his regiment,