

Mr. Williams observed, that with respect to the gentleman's objections respecting the Journals, he hoped, that, as the opposition was against the President, for his perseverance in not being drawn into a war, to embrace our hands in the blood of one nation, to gratify the hatred, or serve the interest of another, we should now (as it was the last time) agree to the report, and altho' the gentleman (Mr. Giles) supposed it to be the interest of France to go to war with us, yet he did not think so; but if it was their interest, nothing would stop them.—It was the interest of this country to be at peace, and he would do every thing consistent with the honour of our nation to keep so.

Let us, said Mr. Williams, individually endeavour to eradicate from our minds those opinions, which we may have allowed to acquire a growth that overshadows the dictates of unbiased truth and justice; let us each individually consider, whether we have not allowed our immediate and particular interests to influence our public conduct; and with a view to temporary advantage to ourselves, given a sanction to measures, which, unless timely checked, may put in hazard those blessings which a constitution founded like the constitution of the United States, not on the vision of a heated or disordered imagination, but on principles which unchecked in their operations, by the arm of violence, or misrepresentation of calumny, must necessarily produce, and when we shall have traced them in the wisdom which directed, and the humours which effected the revolution, let us then consider the man who hath been the instrument.—

The committee rose, had leave to sit again, and the house adjourned.

Thursday, December 15.  
In Committee of the whole house, on the answer to the President's Address.

Mr. Nicholas had wished to have had this business settled as agreeably as possible. He thought himself at liberty to vote for the paragraph now before the committee, because he was satisfied that the present administration had, in many instances been wise and firm. In this address it could not be meant to include pending measures. He should think himself wrong if he forebore to express the regret which his constituents felt for the retiring of the President from office. Mr. Nicholas, however, considered the style of compliment as too strong.—He imagined that it might be better expressed for the sake of general accommodation to the sentiments of members.

Mr. Rutherford lamented that gentlemen should have a mistaken zeal for the President by introducing expressions into the answer before them which could not be substantiated. The division of sentiment which had taken place in the house on the occasion, would give the world an idea that there was a party who wished to criminate the President, and to rob him of those patriotic virtues which he possessed. There was no such thing. Every one and his colleagues amongst the rest, esteemed the virtues of that great man; and if there had been any slip in his conduct, the American people were generous and knew that to err was human, and that other persons were equally to blame with him. He was sorry, therefore to see so warm a zeal, endeavouring to grasp at too much. They were not only to consider the wisdom and patriotism of our chief magistrate and great deliverer under divine providence but also the situation in which we stand with respect to the Republic of France. We seemed to be in a delicate situation, and we ought to act with the greatest circumspection and circumspection. He therefore hoped the answer would be so amended as to pass unanimously.

Mr. Livingston hoped the answer to the address of the President would have been so drafted, as to have avoided this debate. He still hoped, that the candour of the gentlemen who advocated this address, and of those who opposed it, would admit of such amendments, as might make it pass unanimously. With this view, when the present motion was disposed of, he should move to strike out some words, for the purpose of inserting others. He had not the same opinion of the first paragraph proposed to be struck out by the gentleman from Virginia with other gentlemen. It did not appear to him to draw consolation from the misfortunes of other nations; and the comparison of a gentleman, who had likened our situation to that of members of the same family, had considerable weight upon his mind. The only objection he had to the paragraph, was to the single expression of "tranquil prosperity." He did not think that the present situation of the United States would warrant such an expression. There were similar objections to other parts of the address, which might easily be removed by amendments. He should therefore vote against striking out the eight clauses, in order that they might be amended, so as to prove generally acceptable.

Mr. Giles's motion was then put and negatived.

Mr. Parker wished to renew his motion for striking out the words "freely and most enlightened in the world."

Mr. Harper believed his motion would supercede that of the gentleman just sat down, because it contemplated the striking out of a greater portion of the answer, and because it had already been submitted to the house. Having already given his reasons for wishing his motion to prevail, he should not again trouble the house with them, but merely submit it to their decision. It was to strike out all that part of the answer, from the words "retirement from office," at the end of the seventh paragraph, to the words "may you long, &c." at the beginning of the last; and to insert "and to avail ourselves of this occasion, since no suitable one may hereafter occur, of disclosing those warm emotions of respect, gratitude and affection, with which we, no less than our constituents, have been inspired by a life, equally illustrious for the wisdom, integrity and patriotism whereby its public conduct have been guided, and fortunate in the happy influence which the exercise of those virtues has produced on the prosperity of our country."

"Mr. Freeman objected to the substitute offered by Mr. Harper, because it did not contain a sentiment in the original which he very much approved, viz. "Yet we cannot be unmindful, that your moderation and magnanimity twice displayed by retiring from your exalted stations, afford examples no less rare and instructive to mankind, than valuable to a republic."

Mr. Harper said he had no objection to the admission of that sentiment into his substitute, which might easily be done.

Mr. Ames hoped the motion to strike out would not prevail. The original, he said, having been printed and in the hands of members, had the advantage of being well weighed, and he trusted generally approved; but any substitute would not have that advantage, besides that he thought the sentiments being crowded together in the way proposed, would drag heavily along.

The motion was put and negatived, there being only 25 votes for it.

Mr. Parker then urged his motion.  
Mr. W. Smith hoped the words in question would not be struck out. The reason assigned yesterday for striking out these words was that they might offend other nations who conceived themselves as free and enlightened as we. Gentlemen did not say what nation would take umbrage; but he supposed they alluded to the French republic. If, however, he could show those gentlemen that that republic had used a similar language, in which they called themselves the greatest nation in the world, he trusted they would feel easy as far as respected any offence to them. In looking over some papers, he had met with several bombastical expressions in a note of Barthelmy's, a report to the convention of Lavieure, and of Cambaceres in the name of the three committees. He read these, and hoped they would remove from the minds of gentlemen all ideas of offence to the French republic.

Mr. Parker said, when he made this motion he neither had the French Republic in view nor any other nation. His objection to the expression was, that if we were more free and enlightened than others, it was not becoming in us to make the declaration. Our government, he said, was as free as any in existence; and as to our being enlightened, we might be more so than others. His objection went against the declaration. But, however enlightened we might be, our enlightened understanding had been far exceeded by Denmark and Sweden, who had preserved their neutrality amidst the jarring interests of Europe—their vessels could pass unmolested on the ocean; even the Helvetic Republic had preserved its neutrality inviolate. The seamen of these countries were not seized and carried on board men of war, nor shot for leaving their pilot ships. The brother of a member of that house, he said had been shot at in this situation. It was true, he was not killed, but the shot was levelled at him. Was this, he asked, preserving our dignity? When the gentlemen from Massachusetts (Mr. Ames) last session spoke of the probability of a war with Great-Britain, he said, he was armed at all points like a Porcupine. It was then our business to be quiet—to shut ourselves up in a shell like a Tortoise. Peace was to be preserved at any rate; whilst the British were seizing our property and impressing our seamen, whom they scourged and treated in the most cruel manner, yet all must be still, not a word about resistance. When the Executive sent an Envoy to treat with the British King, he trusted to the justice and magnanimity of his majesty! Was this fit language for this country to hold to Britain? The most petty principality in Europe would have thought itself debased by such a conduct.—What was the result? A disgraceful Treaty. This was the act of an administration which they were called upon to applaud. He yet believed the President wise and virtuous, but he had, perhaps, persons about him who had advised him to this unwise and impolitic act.

The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Ames) had told them, we were on the eve of a war with France; the greatest nation, said Mr. Parker, on earth, a nation who was fighting in the cause of liberty, and who had carried her victories to every part of Europe, whose exploits in war Rome never exceeded. This he thought was not a situation in which to exult. We may, said he, think well of ourselves. He believed the people to be wise, the government good, but the administration bad. The gentleman from Massachusetts had said, we are desirous of peace; but if the French are determined on war, we are ready to meet them. Where he asked, were our ships, or our armies? This gentleman had told them last session of the tomahawk and of the mother bleeding over her child. He would not deal in metaphor with that gentleman, but he would ask him for his consistency. Why peace with England, but with France, say we are ready to meet them? Where was the last war? Did he meet the enemy? He believed not. But added he, I saw such cruelties committed by the British, as would make the stoutest shudder!

Mr. Parker said when Gen. O'Hara left Portsmouth he went into and found a house as large as that hall full of people ill of the small pox, many of them blind, whom O'Hara had left without a nurse or any assistance.—The gentleman from S. Carolina had seen a British court; he had not. He had seen some of their lords indeed, but he found them like other men.—If, he said, the French made war upon this country, he should certainly fight against them. He did not fear them; but he disliked to take up arms against a free people. Kingcraft and Priestcraft had too long governed the world with an iron rod: more enlightened times, he trusted, were approaching and he hoped ere long republicanism would cover the earth.—He wished the words to be struck out.

Mr. Harper said he did not feel the least disposition to follow the gentleman just sat down through his censures on our own administration. Nor did he see what relation this had to the matter in hand. The question was, whether we should make the declaration before them or not. And he thought the thing of little consequence; because, if we were the most free and enlightened, it was well, and other nations would see it. Why, then, travel into a field of invective against administration. Suppose this was as base as he could make it, it would not follow that all the rest of America were wicked. If all his assertions were true, therefore, he might vote against his own motion.

A great deal, Mr. Harper observed, had been said about pacific intentions, war, &c. Strangers, or gentlemen who had not heard the whole of the debate, would suppose, that the question before the committee was the subject of a declaration of war, tho' it was merely to determine whether we should call ourselves free and enlightened. Yet the gentleman from Virginia was very pacifically inclined to all nations. The sum and substance of the whole story was, that this gentleman was pacifically inclined towards the nation which seemed to have hostile views against this country. He hoped, however, they should not enter on fields of discussion,

which could only serve to irritate and prolong the business, nor give scope to their recollection of every thing that had been pleasing or displeasing to them, but vote on the simple question. The gentleman from Virginia had said, that when compared to Denmark, Sweden, or the Helvetic republic, our administration had been very unwise indeed. Now it happens, said Mr. Harper, that the gentleman has been very unfortunate in his comparison; for Sweden and Denmark submitted to the same kind of treatment which we have submitted to. As to the Swiss cantons, they were in alliance with the only nation that could successfully annoy them, owing to their inland and mountainous situation. He did not see therefore any wisdom in their conduct. Whilst, said he, with many difficulties on our hands, we have still preserved peace, and eluded the effects of European broils, much better than any of us expected.

[Debate to be continued.]

Monday, December 19.

The militia bill was taken up in committee of the whole. The first section provides for a division of the militia into two classes, the first to comprise those between 20 and 25 years of age, the other those between 25 and 40; the first class to devote a considerable portion of time in military duties, the other to be considered as a corps de reserve. The principle of this section was objected to, on account chiefly of the great expense of time and money which the execution of the plan would require, and it was moved to strike it out. A motion, however was made for the rising of the committee, which obtained, and the committee obtained leave to sit again.

On motion of Mr. Livingston, a committee was appointed to enquire and report, by bill or otherwise, what alterations appeared necessary in the penal code of the United States.

A petition from Stephen Moylan, commissioner of loans for the state of Pennsylvania, praying an increase of salary, was read, and referred to the committee on that subject.

Mr. Gallatin obtained leave of absence for ten days.

Mr. Harper moved, that the committee of the whole should be discharged from further considering the militia bill, with a view that it should be recommended to a select committee. The motion was negatived.

On motion of Mr. Heath, resolved, that a committee be appointed to enquire whether any and what alteration ought to be made in the existing laws, to enforce the payment of monies due the United States, by the different officers of the revenue. Adjourned.

## PHILADELPHIA,

TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 20 1796.

RETURN OF VOTES FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT									
	Adams	Jefferson	Burr	Hamilton	Clinton	Livingston	Johnson	O. Elsworth	Total
New-Hampshire	6	6							
Massachusetts	16	13						2	1
Rhode-Island	4								
Connecticut	9	4							
Vermont									
New-York	12	12							
New-Jersey	7	7							
Pennsylvania	1	2	14	13					
Delaware	3	3							
Maryland	7	4	3	2					
Virginia	1	2	1	15					
Kentucky									
Tennessee									
North-Carolina	1	1	1	6					
South-Carolina									
Georgia									
Total									

MARRIED, last Evening, by the Rev. Dr. Rogers, Mr. EDWARD HARRIS, Merchant; late of England, to Miss JANE USTICK, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Ustick, of this city.

This day his Excellency Thomas Mifflin was proclaimed Governor of this Commonwealth with the customary formalities.

The New York papers by this day's mail, say it is probable that Edward Livingston, Esq. is re-elected a member of Congress.

The ship Charleston, capt. Garman, is arrived in the river, in 7 days from Charleston.

On Saturday, at twelve o'clock, agreeably to appointment, Dr. Rush delivered his Eulogium in the Presbyterian Church, in High street, on the late Mr. RITTENHOUSE. The Doctor commenced his Oration with an account of the birth of the great philosopher whose eulogy he was about to make, and proceeded to give an account of all the material transactions of his life, till he came to the awful period of his death, in all which he found occasion to pay the highest tribute of praise to the deceased. Indeed, we believe, we shall be joined in sentiment by all who heard it, in pronouncing the Oration a most masterly composition, and that it was pronounced with all the ability of an ORATOR and with all the feeling of a FRIEND. The Church was exceedingly full, but very attentive. The President of the United States, the Members of Congress, and of the Legislature of this State, the foreign Ministers, the Philosophical Society, Medical Students, &c. were a part of the auditory on this solemn and affecting occasion.

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MR. FENNO,

IN a pamphlet published yesterday, under the title of "An Address to certain Bank Directors," is contained the following paragraph:

"A certain bank director applied to a stationer some short time ago, to have a handsome bank book made. After the stationer had completed his work, agreeable to order, he was so much

pleased with its elegance, that he resolved to furnish himself with one equally handsome, and exactly like it. A few days after, the stationer sent his new and pretty bank book to the bank, to get a small note wrote in. To his surprise his pretty book was returned with a credit for a note which had been discounted (FOR THE DIRECTOR) for eighteen thousand dollars. The accidental resemblance of two elegant bank books caused this mistake; but it also discovered a fact that points with silent energy at the bank proceedings."

The stationer alluded to, deems it but justice to the bank director in question, to declare, that the whole contents of the above paragraph are absolutely destitute of even the smallest shadow of foundation.

December 20, 1796.

## BY THIS DAY'S MAILS.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 17.

### ANOTHER FIRE IN SAVANNAH.

Captain Hughes who arrived yesterday from Savannah, which he left on the 6th inst. we learn, brings an account of another fire in that unfortunate city. Not having seen Captain Hughes, we could not obtain any further particulars than that it occurred a day or two previous to his sailing, occasioned, perhaps, by the smoking ruins of the late fire; and that twenty more houses had been laid in ashes.

NEWBERN, December 3.

A letter from South Carolina, states, that Mr. Pinckney will undoubtedly have all the votes of the electors of that state, for Vice President of the United States: but that the votes for President will be considerably divided between Messrs. Adams and Jefferson.

The honorable brigadier-general Benjamin Smith, Esq. is elected speaker of the Senate, and the hon. John Leigh, Esq. speaker of the House of Commons.

## Pantheon,

AND RICKETTS'S AMPHITHEATRE.

Corner of Chestnut and Sixth-Streets.

For EQUESTRIAN AND STAGE PERFORMANCES.

To-morrow evening, Wednesday, Dec. 21, Will be presented the following entertainments, viz.

### HORSEMANSHIP,

by the Equestrian troop.

A Comedy, in two Acts, called,

The Lying Valet.

Sharp (the Lying Valet) Mr. Chambers

Gaylefs, Mr. Jones

Justice Guttle, Mr. Durang

Beau Trippet, Mr. Tompkins, and

Dick, Mr. Sully

Malissa, Miss Robinson

Mrs. Gadabout, Mrs. Durang

Mrs. Trippet, Mrs. Tompkins, and

Kitty Fry, Mrs. Chambers

A COMIC DANCE, called

The Dwarf; or,

The Warrior's Wonder.

A Song by Miss Robinson.

In the course of the evening, a Duet by Mr. and Mrs. Chambers.

The whole to conclude with the Grand Pantomime of

Don Juan; or,

The Libertine Destroyed.

Doors to open at 5, and the Performances to commence at a quarter after 6 o'clock.

\* The days of performances, to be Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

## CAUTION.

WHEREAS very large and heavy debts are justly due and owing from messrs. Blair McClenachan and Patrick Moore, of the city of Philadelphia, merchants, trading under the firm of Blair McClenachan and P. Moore, and from Blair McClenachan in his separate capacity; to which, by the laws of the land, all the joint as well as separate property of the said Gentlemen, is, and ought to be, liable. And whereas it is clearly and satisfactorily ascertained, that Mr. Blair McClenachan, of the said firm, has conveyed away to Mr. John H. Huston, his son-in-law, to his daughter, Miss McClenachan, and to his son, George McClenachan, several large and valuable real estates, as well as considerable personal property, in the city and county of Philadelphia, in the county of Lancaster, in the county of New-Castle on Delaware, and elsewhere, with a view, as it is apprehended, to defeat the Creditors in the recovery of their just debts.—This is, therefore, to forewarn all persons whomsoever, against the purchase from the said grantees, or either of them, of any portion of the said real or personal property, as the most vigorous measures will without delay be taken to render the same liable to the just demands of the Creditors.

By order of the Creditors.

Thomas Fitzsimons,

Philip Nicklin,

Isaac Wharton,

William M. Murtrie,

Samuel W. Fisher,

} Committee:

Philadelphia, December 17th, 1796. 20th.

## FOR SALE,

### A very Valuable Estate,

CALLED TWITTENHAM, situate in the township of Upper Derby, and county of Delaware, 7 1-2 miles from Philadelphia, and half a mile from the new Western road: containing 230 acres of excellent land, 45 of which are good watered meadow, 90 of prime woodland, and the rest arable of the first quality. There are on the premises a good two story brick house, with 4 rooms on a floor, and cellars under the whole, with a pump-well of excellent water in front; a large frame barn, stables, and other convenient buildings; a smoke-house and stone, spring-house; two good apple orchards, and one of peach-trees. The fields are all in clover, except those immediately under tillage, and are so laid out as to have the advantage of water in each of them, which renders it peculiarly convenient for grazing.

The situation is pleasant and healthy, and from the high cultivation of the land, the good neighbourhood, and the vicinity to the city, it is very suitable for a gentleman's country seat.

The foregoing is part of the estate of Jacob Harman, deceased, and offered for sale by

Mordecai Lewis,

OR: 21. 24W Surviving Executor.