

STATEMENT referred to in the second Letter of the "Friend to Laws and Freedom."

Dr. The advantages of Peace preserved to the United States in account current, with the probable consequences of War for 2 years.	Cr.
To loss arising by the destruction of commerce now disturbed and interrupted:	By trade and commerce for one half the mercantile shipping of Great Britain to be taken by privateers, (82,000 tons a 8 guineas per ton (9))
In the article of Labour, which now finds honest employment and support. This being the source of all wealth, as Smith justly terms it, "the instrument of commerce and measure of value."—Say 100,000 men at £50 Pennsylvania currency per annum, for two years	By their cargoes out or home, in ballast or not, averaged 4,154 vessels of 150 tons each, a £3,000 per ship
To the difference in the value of rice, tobacco, wheat, &c. raised, estimated at one half the present value of all exports, which for the sake of round numbers take at ten millions of dollars	By two ships of 24 guns each, one of 64 and one of 50 guns taken, a £1,000 per ton, in
To the increased value of necessaries they purchase, sugar, coffee, &c.	By five frigates of different rates taken
To the comfort and satisfaction of enjoying it in peace, fathers and brothers with their families and friends, for which each would give something, average 1,000,000 willing contributions a £20 each, is	is Pennsylvania currency, £32,973,333
To suppose 50,000 useless men (hoping there is not so many in the United States) without property, or industry to get any, and equally free from families and friendship, who would rather try the field of Mars than the cornfield	By 60,000 men (enemies) to be killed, or destroyed in prison (10) ships, hospitals, climates, &c. in the same manner as our own, at 1-2 value to them
Deduct for them at same rate	By expense of their armament naval and military for their support, by which their national debt will be increased
To double the second year, tho' all the company supposed it would bear a much larger allowance, and that most people would give three, some five, and many ten times as much the second year for "peace once more"	By their annual taxes increased
To trade & commerce nearly annihilated for two years (1)	By the price of provisions ditto
To revenue diminished, to supply which recourse must be had to direct taxation, say a land tax—for the first year	By 500 bankruptcies in Great Britain, causing poverty and distress to as many innocent families
The second year	By transports lost and paid for
To depreciation in the value of land throughout the United States, which will then cease to be considered "the asylum from European evils," 380,000,000 acres at 1 cent only per acre, and which it might not for ages, perhaps, ever regain	By hospital expenses and provision for widows, orphans, maimed, lame and disabled, sick and hurt
To cost and outfit of 20 full first and second rate men of war, per treaty of alliance offensive and defensive (2) manned and victualled for twelve months, of which three are soon after taken	By peace and quiet of families destroyed
To maintaining and paying seamen, victualing, &c. 2d year.	By manufactures diminished
To cost of thirty frigates, sloops of war, cutters, bombs and fire ships per treaty (1) of which six are soon taken	By revenue ditto
To maintaining, victualing and paying second year	By land and labor ditto
To expense of enlisting, cloathing and paying 40,000 men (per treaty) twelve months, a £45 per man	By three Islands in the West Indies taken by the French, and from which we shall be excluded except in a very limited degree at the peace
To maintaining and paying the second year, and replacing the slain	By immorality and depravity, likely to continue as it is
To 15,000 ton of shipping to transport 20,000 men wherever required by our allies (per treaty) to be always ready, manned, victualled and equipped, a 26¢ per ton per month for two years, is	By education, the want of it in the lower orders of the people favorable to monarchy and to that government in particular as it is now conducted—This item should therefore appear on the other side.
To ships lost by capture and wreck of the foregoing, to be paid by the owners, suppose 10 per cent. on the value of £15 per ton first year	By damage done the enemy, but which is much more than counter balanced by our own
To second year (as wars always grow more unfortunate and expensive to all parties) increased to	Of which this sum is not insured by the United States, being added to her enemies
To pay and rations of militia	£11,750,000
To the lives of 30,000 citizens a £50 each (3)	By balance, or loss the United States would sustain as a nation by a War of only two years continuance, but which might not be ended in seven, exclusive of the individual benefit to be derived as above £32,973,333
To maintaining with medical assistance, the maimed, lame, hurt, sick and blind of the army and navy two years	Errors and Omissions excepted.
And for the rest of the lives of the survivors of them, unless you leave them to perish when the war ends	Paris, December 6, 1796.
To a scanty provision for the widows and children of the brave, who may be slain	A FRIEND TO LAWS & FREEDOM.
To the waste and decay of farms, utensils, rails, out-houses, &c. from Georgia to New Hampshire, adjusted by the company on a calculation made by the map, population, &c. first year	
The second year	
To impeded population	
To negroes who would run away (4) 30,000 a 200 dollars each	
To depreciation (5) of all the remainder, in consequence of vagrant habits resulting from idleness, 674,380 slaves in the United States (per census) a £5 each, the first year	
For the second year (6) as settled by the company, a £.17 10/	
To idle habits adopted generally throughout the country for want of employ, agreed to be reasonably estimated at	
To jail and work house expenses to punish and reclaim them	
To immorality and general licentiousness of all classes and conditions of people, which it will require very many years to cure	
To the broken peace of private families, irreparably injured thereby (7) fixed by the company, to close the debate, a	
To loss of education to the youth of both sexes, the talents of the men, for want of cultivation, forever lost to their country, and the heightened joys which improvement bestows on female society to reward them, 500,000 a £.175 each (8)	
	£257,486,133
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(1) Here a controversy began between a young West-Indian (which I found him to be) and the new New-England accountant, the former insisting that instead of this sum it should be "the balance of trade" only; much ingenious reasoning was urged on both sides and different authorities referred to; at length Smith's arguments were declared conclusive, "that as two countries may each benefit by the cash of their surplus produce, the whole decrease in the annual amount for which a valuable barter used to be received by either, was in such case to be deemed an actual loss," and the sum of 8 millions was inserted accordingly.

(2) Which all parties and countrymen agreed must be made preparatory to the United States engaging in war with any European power, and that without agreeing to furnish such quotas no power would take part with her unless after making her convenient, Prussia-like perhaps to leave her in the lurch.

(3) A contest now arose about the value; the New-England-man who set a high value on the service and labour of a free-man maintained that "in Massachusetts they would be worth £100 lawful at least," while the young Islander insisted "they should not be rated above £10." The company wishing to see the account made out interposed and fixed it at £50. as inserted.

(4) Here an altercation recommenced—the young West-Indian, though he said he valued a negro at £100 ster. objected to their being charged in the account at 200 dollars or about £43 ster. observing (un-gardeedly) that "they would be all idle in case of war, and therefore worth little or nothing," which his cool opponent took advantage of by adding to the number he supposed would therefore run away, which the company computed at 20,000, and fixed the price at 200 dollars each.

(5) The Eastern Accountant took another advantage of his adversary's remark, and by consent of the company inserted this item as a result as probable as any conjecture could well be.

(6) The gentlemen mentioned who were now chief disputants as well as clerks differed considerably on this head, one waiting

to multiply it by 5 while the other thought double enough. The company considered it as justly to be dreaded and compromised it by dividing the difference, fixing it at 3½ times as much for the second year, though generally they were of opinion that slaves would scarce be worth keeping if war was to break out and last two years.

(7) This sum it was mutually agreed should be inserted, though the accountants as well as every person present declared they would "not for worlds" their families should be the unfortunate sufferers, and if such should be the case, "if millions beyond account would wash the stain and sting of its remembrance away, they would cheerfully pay the penalty."

(8) Now commenced a debate equally interesting and instructive, which I wish it was in my power to do justice to. The subject afforded a fine field, and every gentleman present delivered his sentiments upon it. The importance of education to the rising generation was universally confessed to be beyond computation—above all value: Its loss inevitable and beyond the reach of compensation or equivalent, either to the individual or the nation. Its beneficial effects were considered not less serviceable to the former than its transcendent influence on the latter. It was called "the sun-shine of society," without which even the invaluable blessings of heaven born freedom itself could not be rationally, fully or justly valued or enjoyed. It was termed "the light of the people," "the path to preferment," "the road to virtuous emulation," "the morning star of human happiness." The cause which introduced it was forgotten in contemplating the momentous consequence of its operation extending even beyond this life!

I regret being unable to retrace or relate the many well termed comments made upon this subject, which I find more difficult as every thing was spoken in French.

A pause taking place, the accountants wished to set down a sum, about which, tho' they fully agreed in principle, they could not coincide as to particulars. The company having spoken with great earnestness and very loud, at this moment, brought a boy

into the room to enquire "what was the matter"? Here it is fit to observe he was a remarkable fine boy, of that open complexion of countenance which pleases every eye; his was full of intelligent expression and ready comprehension—on being answered "the gentlemen are talking about the education of children," he asked "if whole children"? and persisted to question till he was fully informed about the subject of conversation, upon which pausing for a few minutes, he advanced through the company to the table, and looking the gentleman who held the pen, full in the face, with an emphasis and an eloquence of a surprising description, for it was the pure untaught perfidious rhetoric of nature's bounteous liberality, he said with a sigh, "I have no money to pay a master to teach me any thing, and my father is with the army, (here a tear glistened in his eye, but did not fall, he seemed to forbid it) but when he comes home if he does not send me to school I will not love him as I do now; though I know he will—he writes to madam L. and calls me his darling boy, (here he smiled) but how can he then but what I ought to be learning now? Here all eyes and ears were fixed towards him—an old gentleman, a ci-devant noble, was going to catch him in his arms, but the boy evaded the attempt and as he ran out of the room finished his more than Ciceronian speech, saying (again he sighed while seeming to suppress it) "If I had a hundred louis d'ors I would give them every one to be kept constantly at school," adding with a significant nod, "though I would play at times." Such a disposition in early age, delights as it is strange, and interests as it is real.

The company unanimously resolved to insert this sum in the account, and the old gentleman observing "that a citizen who devoted himself to the service of his country in the day of danger and difficulty in the humble station and capacity of a soldier, should have his child educated by that country," promised to take care of this boy himself, while the company as if animated by the tongue of an angel engaged their exertions to each other in order to "establish and provide for the universal education of

children"; this I had afterwards the pleasure to learn has been done—a system is digressing and will speedily be adopted (I hope with more effect than the present imperfect plan) throughout the republic.

(10) For the probability of this, the returns of 1783 were examined; by which it appears the British Army alone in America, had 43,633 men rank and file killed, exclusive of officers!

(11) For this item, see the King's speech to Parliament, 5th December, 1782, recommending to them "to correct the prevailing vices of the times." See also Newgate Calendar at the close of the war (before cited).

The rest of the account was flated by the old gentleman and agreed to by the company, being placed as you see it in the outer column on "the effect of such an increase of debts" and "the operation of circumstances so influential on a people," several judicious observations were made, but it was not considered by any one of the company as likely to produce a retribution or reparation of the damages! on the contrary it was thought "so much distress head'd upon the people would disperse or at least ill dispose them to submit to additional and heavy taxes for the purpose of paying us," "that an appeal to arms has ever been looked upon as the satisfaction demanded or taken for compensation of wrongs and no other redress after that is begun can ever be expected;" that just compensation would then require the full payment of all expenses incident to the war as well of the sum which gave cause to it, amounting to more perhaps than all the specie in circulation throughout the world!!! in the nature of things impossible under any circumstances however fortunate or favorable to expect "the very method of seeking redress being so expensive as to cause an absolute prohibition to obtaining it."!!!

(1) The general particulars of the debit side being ended, an elderly gentleman (whom I found had been an officer under the royal government, and possessing a very considerable estate) took up the pen and with a very satisfied smile observed to the one who had just laid it down, "now fir, we shall see the other side of this account which in importance I expect will be tho't to over-balance the account you exhibit." In the first place (looking round to the company as if he expected an universal acquiescence in his opinions) "it must be observed that national honor (laying great stress on the words national honor and expressing them with the air of a soldier) requires that injuries unprovoked and such as have been done to the United States, should be repented with that prompt spirit and vigor which the country has already shewn itself to possess. Was this country (France) so insulted, there is not one of the Ancient Regimé (I cannot render this expression into our language, and preserve its force) but would willingly sacrifice one half their property, to obtain satisfaction, as an individual, sooner than sit tamely quiet under such unpardonable insults. I would rather suffer every evil, even of an unfortunate war, the death of half my tenants, and the loss of half my rents." Here he was interrupted by another French gentleman abruptly observing that "his income as well as that of the great class of independent and industrious citizens of France, would not admit of such a sacrifice; those who have little more than life to give (though they justly prize and prefer their own honor) might not think proper to sacrifice it to the opinion of others, that the national honor required that they should?" The old officer seemed equally displeas'd at the interruption and the observation, but proceeded by remarking, "that merchants farmers and mechanics might be content under such circumstances, but to the ideas of a soldier it was distressing."—The company were, however, unanimous in declaring that "as no specific value could be set upon it in a national account, the item was inadmissible, whereupon he proceeded—"The records of the United States inform us how much mischief he could do to the trade of Great Britain. Mr. Coxe (page 346) tells us that three countries (only) in the state of Massachusetts took during the last war 1108 vessels and cargoes out of 6219 fail, the entire mercantile shipping of that country! I propose then to meet the gentleman in his political account current, by entering on the opposite side to that he has filled up, the value of said ships and cargoes. Here he paused as if to consider on the sum or rate, but it was observed "that was in a war of seven years, the account was intended for an estimate of only two." The old gentleman refusing, observed in reply, "that the superior ability of the United States at present to what it was during the revolution, would admit a mode of calculation not likely to be very far from the probable event of such an occurrence." Mr. Reeves (in his law of shipping, page 433) states the whole mercantile shipping of Great Britain to be 1,365,000 tons which he estimates at 8 guineas per ton, is £11,466,000 ster." of this the old officer observed he "had no doubt the United States would in two years take one half " which being acquiesced in by the company, was entered in the account accordingly, as well as the estimated value of their cargoes, and also of the men of war and frigates, which from the confidence of safety will be observed "be certainly taken, being opposed by men and ships of their own way of fighting."

(1) Smith vol. 2d page 304. "An instructed and intelligent people are always more decent and orderly than an ignorant and stupid one," they feel themselves each individually more respectable and more likely to obtain the respect of their lawful superiors, and they are therefore more disposed to respect those superiors, they are more disposed to examine and more capable of seeing thro' the interested (or designing) complaints of faction and sedition, and they are upon that account, less likely to be led into any wan-

ton or unnecessary opposition to the measures of government.

Here a review of the whole account took place, by which it appeared to the company, "that by a successful war of two years individual citizens might get about £32,000,000 Pennsylvania, or 85 millions of dollars in prizes, which would be acquired solely by the cities and trading towns, while the entire landed interest would suffer doubly—in the depreciated value of what was raised and the appreciated value of every necessary imported; and that the United States as a nation would unavoidably incur a debt of at least an equal sum (as the items will explain) which at 6 per cent. only (2) is 5,120,000 dollars per annum, to be borne by the whole country forever after, besides all the other inconveniences, losses and distresses estimated, amounting or equal to 225 million of pounds Pennsylvania, or 600,000,000 dollars more! the whole weight of which point of retarded property the country inevitably feel at compound interest. That the losses by illegal captures seizures alleged of American vessels and property (sometimes blended with that of the enemies of the captors, in five years, that is, since the commencement of hostilities in Europe, does not amount to the whole of which it is now very probable will be recovered (just exceptions only excluded (3) as consulting futurity, it is evident equally the interest of Great-Britain France and Spain to render justice and maintain a good understanding with the United States, and that under their present peaceful, flourishing and happy situation, the Union should recompense the sufferers rather than hazard the forfeiture of so enviable a position.

The old officer and one American gentleman dwelt much on "what Great-Britain intended to have done if not prevented by the balsam of Toulon et cetera; upon the distress a war with the United States would bring upon England; and what we could do there: but fortunately placed at a great distance from the scene where the balance of power is so much the subject of content and with which we have nothing to do and that they ought not to go to war for honor."

(4) Fifteen out of seventeen persons present, "approved of the statement, and the exemplary wisdom, piety, firmness and patriotism by which the proof of its contents are so fortunately postponed.

(2) Which it was agreed to rate it at, tho' satisfied it would cost the country above ten per cent.

(3) See how admirably cases are determined in the superior courts of justice in Europe. Postlethwaite's Dict. vol. 2d page 715, and sequel.

(4) Poor soldier, "So Pat you got that broken head for honor and THERE you lay bleeding in all your glory."

Falstaff, "There lies honor" pointing to the carcase.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
December 26.

Mr. Evans presented two petitions signed by a number of the citizens of Montgomery County praying that a new election district may be formed and that the place of holding the election may be at Pottstown, which were read & referred to the Members from the County.

Mr. Evans presented a petition from a number of the inhabitants of Montgomery County, referring to a former petition, and praying a sum of money may be granted them for the erection of a bridge over the Manatoway creek, which was read, and referred to a Committee of roads and in land Navigation.

Mr. Vanborne presented a petition from the Trustees of the Academy at Newtown, in Bucks County, praying a sum of money for the endowment of the said Institution, which was read and referred to a Committee.

Mr. Guenay presented a petition from a number of the owners of land on the Wissahickon road, praying a law may be passed authorizing the Governor to incorporate a Company to erect an artificial road which was read and referred to the Committee on the petition from the Germantown.

Mr. Worrell presented a petition from the Trustees of Lower Dublin Academy praying leave to raise a sufficient sum by way of lottery to finish the buildings, which was read and referred to a Committee.

Dr. Leib presented a petition from a number of the citizens of Philadelphia County, praying the Governor may be authorized to incorporate a Company to erect an artificial road to the twelve mile stone on the Reading Road, similar to several already offered, which was referred to a Committee already appointed.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on a Bill to authorize Frederick Leather his heirs and assigns to maintain a Dam across Bald Eagle creek in the County of Berks Dr. Leib in the chair. After some time spent the Committee rose and the Bill was recommitted.

Mr. Hembill offered a resolution for the continuance of the act for increasing the salaries of the Judges of the Supreme Court, the President of the Circuit courts and the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

The report of the Committee on a petition from Berks County praying the appointment of a Trustee was read a second time and agreed to and a committee was appointed to bring in a Bill.

The further report of the committee on unfinished business was read a second time, and the different subjects were referred to committees.

Several parts of the report on the governor's address which were postponed, were taken up and referred.

Dr. Leib laid the following resolution on the table, Resolved that a committee be appointed to bring in a bill authorizing the commissioners of the county of Philadelphia to keep a record of the roads within the said county.

The resolution offered by Mr. Hembill was called up for a second reading by special order and after considerable debate was postponed till Friday next. Adjourned.