

Mr. Gallatin's Speech

ON THE REDUCTION OF THE STANDING ARMY.

He said that the gentleman of S. Carolina (Mr. Harper) had mistaken the opinion expressed by Mr. Nicholas and himself. It was not that the reduction of the army would be most desirable in a state of war, but only, that, as it was already provided by law, that the troops should be disbanded in case the negotiation with France should succeed, the resolution on the table was peculiarly applicable to the case of a failure of negotiation. And, therefore was it, that he had given his reasons at large why these troops would be useless even in that case. The principal of these reasons was that there was no rational apprehension of an invasion. Yet the gentleman of S. Carolina drawing his own deductions from a supposed opinion of his own creation, had gone so far as to suppose that we would also avoid similar sentiments even in case of an actual invasion. The whole of the superstructure which he has erected on that false foundation must fall with the foundation itself.

The gentleman of S. Carolina supposes that this motion will encourage the French to attempt an invasion; and in order to support that opinion, he insisted much on the knowledge which France had acquired of our means and resources. She is said to have derived that knowledge from her experience during last war, from the publicity of our financial and other statements, and from the correct observations made by her agents in this country, particularly by that one who till very lately was an influential member of her own government (M. Talleyrand). Yet all the arguments and positions of the gentleman tend to show the extent of our resources. If those positions are true and the information of France as correct as he supposes it to be, it is impossible to believe that the nation should draw an inference from the disbanding of this army, that we are unable to support it. They will, if as the gentleman supposes, their information is perfectly correct, view this measure as we consider it ourselves, as a question of internal policy and economy. They will conclude that we reduce the establishment, because we do not fear an invasion and wish not to be at the useless expence.

ledge that our revenue does not exceed nine millions of dollars, and that our expence amounts to fourteen. Men and freemen we have, and we never, therefore, can want soldiers to repel an invading foe. But our limited resources are limited, and the only source of danger to us is our confining those resources for useless objects and exhausting ourselves for fear of imaginary dangers. And I would ask, added Mr. Gallatin, which situation is best calculated to impress foreign nations with an idea of our strength and wisdom—an annual expediture reduced to the level of our revenue, without this army—or a deficiency of five millions and this army, without any means of paying it, but ruinous loans?

That trite topic of the necessity of certain measures, because they are called measures of defence, that cry of alarm that we are, or will be considered, as a divided people, these charges of party spirit, disorganization and jacobinism, have, for a long time, been uniformly repeated on this floor, upon almost every subject of any importance. They have not been confined to debates, upon taxes, navies, or armies; the sedition and the alien law were also proposed and have since been supported as an indispensable measure of defence; those who opposed them were branded with the appellation of enemies of their government; and the fate of the conquered countries in Europe held up to our view as a warning of the approaching danger. It is true that the burthen of the song is now somewhat altered. Formerly it was Venice, that was the constant subject of the lamentations of some gentlemen. With the fate of Venice, we were perpetually threatened. At present Venice seems to have altogether escaped the recollection of those gentlemen. We hear not a single voice raised to remind us of the fate of Venice. Indeed, Sir, I hear no more of Venice in Europe than on this floor. We are yet to learn, that since the whole of the possessions of that Republic has been wrested from the rapacious hands of the French government by the Emperor of Germany, he has restored to her, her ancient independence. Is it then because the conqueror is not the same, and because the charge of ambition and rapacity is transferred from one power to another, that gentlemen have become silent on that subject? For my share, I sincerely believe that all the great powers of Europe, France as well as Austria, Prussia, England or Russia, and these as well as France are actuated by similar motives, and have similar objects in view. I can see no sensible difference between the overthrow of Tippoo Saib, the division of Poland, or the annexation of Venice and the conquest of Holland, Egypt or Switzerland. Inordinate ambition and insatiable avarice, coally govern them all, and they seem equally to disregard the dictates of justice and integrity. These are the exclusive attributes of the weaker European nations and seem to have no better foundation than their weakness.

On account of that appeal, been induced to reply to the gentleman; and although I do believe that it is not altogether fair to draw any arguments from opinions of a member of this body, which have never certainly been declared on this floor, and which must therefore, have been expressed in a loose manner and private conversation, I will beg the indulgence of the committee, whilst I state the facts alluded to, so far as I am acquainted with them.

The population of Switzerland is estimated at less than two millions of souls; and the canton of Bern includes about one third of the whole. Less than 400,000 souls form the population of that part of the Canton called the "German country." Between 2 and 3 hundred thousand inhabit that part called "Pays de Vaud," which was conquered by Bern from the house of Savoy. The government of that Canton was monstrous in theory, but gentle and it may be said good in its administration. Out of two hundred families, and at the exclusion of all the other citizens, a council of 259 was selected elected for life, filling their own vacancies out of those families annually, and uniting the supreme legislative, executive and even judiciary powers. It was a complete hereditary aristocracy. Yet the people were protected in their property; justice was administered with tolerable impartiality; individual acts of oppression were rare, taxes were light; the administration on the whole, might perhaps deserve the appellation of paternal; even the conquered inhabitants of Pays de Vaud, although subjects, in the true meaning of the word, could boast that they lived under the most gentle ferritude; the people of the whole Canton enjoyed a greater share of physical happiness than those of almost every other European Nation; and the only rational cause of discontent was the hereditary, insufferable exclusion from any share in the government of that nominal republic of which they were nominal citizens. The causes of so much real happiness, under a form of government so little calculated to bestow it, are worthy of attention and not altogether inapplicable to the present question.

BALL.

Mr. FRANCIS RESPECTFULLY informs his Pupils and the public in general, that his third Ball for the season will be on THURSDAY February 6th. at his academy in Fourth Street, in which will be introduced, Mr. Francis's new MARINE COTILLIONS: CALLED The United States, Constitution, and Chesapeake.

Also, two new Country Dances for the present season, called The Secret, and the Birth Day. Ladies tickets to be had as usual, by applying to Mr. Francis. On account of the incommodation experienced the last ball evening, Mr. Francis is obliged to give notice, that children (who are not pupils) cannot on any account be admitted. Mr. Francis informs his pupils and the public in general, that he intends shortly to publish a new set of Cotillions and Country Dances, with their proper figures annexed; including a variety of Marches, Reels, Hornpipes, Minuets, Gavots, &c. The music composed and selected, and the whole arranged as lessons for the Piano Forte, by Mr. Reingale. Mr. Francis and assistants attend Tuessdays and Saturdays at the academy, from three o'clock till six for his young pupils, and from six till nine for those at a more advanced age. Terms 5 dollars per month. NB The assembly room may be engaged on the off rights for balls, concerts, &c. by applying to Mr. Francis, No. 70 North Fourth Street. February 3. dtg

POST-OFFICE.

Philadelphia, Jan. 30. Letters for the British Packet Charlotte, will be received at this Office until Thursday the 6th February, at 12 o'clock, noon. N. B.—The inland postage to New-York must be paid. January 31.

INSURANCE COMPANY

Of the state of Pennsylvania. February 1, 1800. THE Directors have this day declared a dividend of twenty two dollars on each share of the stock of this company for the last six months, which will be paid to the Stockholders or their legal Representatives, after the 10th inst. JAMES S. COX, President. February 1. dtjch

SADDLE-BAGS,

ON the night of the 31st January during the Snow Storm—the owner upon describing the contents and paying the cost of this advertisement, will have them restored to him, by applying at the Board Yard, adjoining the new Roman Church in North Fourth street. February 1. dtf.

Horses to Winter.

HORSES will be taken to winter at Prospect Hill, at the 12 miles from the Bristol Road, where they will have good Timothy and Clover Hay, well littered and cleaned and a field to run in when the weather is good. Enquire of Mr. William Bell Merchant, or on the premises. N. B. Will not be answerable for accidents or escape, but will take every precaution to prevent either. November 12 dtawtf

REAL ESTATE,

FOR SALE. WILL BE SOLD, At Public Vendue, on Saturday, 15th of March next, A three story Brick House, AND large Kitchen, with two or three billiard tables, adjoining the same, situate on the corner of King and High Streets, Wilmington. Also, a two story brick house, &c. situate on the north side of the upper market house, Wilmington. Likewise a lot of excellent marsh in Brandywine, of about two acres and a half. It is thought unnecessary to particularize this property, as it is presumed the purchaser will incline to view it. The conditions will be made known on the day of sale. SAMUEL & JOHN ADAMS. Wilmington, (Del.) Jan. 27. dtwts.

A PERSON

WHO will do any kind of business, either as a Labourer, an Accountant, a Clerk, an Assistant in a School, or any occupation by which he can make a living—wants employment. He is a stranger, but asks no wages till earned, and is willing to forfeit any he may earn in case he does not fully satisfy any person who may honor him with employment. Apply at No 58 North Seventh street, near Cherry Alley, or to the Printer hereof. January 27. dtj

For Sale, or to Let,

A two story Brick House, Situate on Duke street, or Artillery Lane, in the Northern Liberties. HAVING two rooms on a floor, five places in each, a kitchen and wash house; all in excellent order and built of the best materials. For further information inquire at No. 39, Arch street. Also, A HOUSE, No. 106, South Second Street, to let—enquire as above. Dec. 3 dtaw.Gv.

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

THE POSSESSORS OF OBLIGATIONS or CERTIFICATES signed by the Subscriber, or undivided Shares or Lots on his purchase within the city of Washington, who have not yet applied for and received their Deeds, are hereby notified, that their several Titles will be duly completed to the order of those who in conformity with the terms of the said Certificates, do make the Payments in full thereof, either to Thomas M. Egan & Co. or to the Subscriber at Philadelphia, on or at any time before the 31st day of May next. Samuel Blodget. December 17

NEW THEATRE.

To-morrow Evening, February 5, Will be presented, (for the first time this Season) an Historical Play, called COLUMBUS; Or, A World Discovered. To which will be added, a much-admired Farce, called THE PRISONER AT LARGE; Or, The Humours of Killarney. Box, one Dollar, Pit, three quarters of a dollar, and Gallery half a dollar. The doors of the Theatre will open at a quarter past 5, and the curtain rise at a quarter past 6 o'clock precisely. VIVAT REPUBLICA. OFFICE FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMISSION BUSINESS, Transacted extensively. Money advanced on good Notes of Hand, Mortgages and Merchandize. Bills of Exchange bought and sold. Also, Purchases and Sales of Houses and Lands made. By JAMES NEWPORT, No. 25 Arch street. Philadelphia, Feb 4 dtwtf

HENRY BENBRIDGE

DEPOSE leave to inform his friends and the public, that he has commenced the business of a BROKER, at his Office No. 83 Dock-street, near the Bank of the United States, where he buys and sells on Commission all kinds of Public Securities, Stocks, Notes, &c. &c. and offers his services in any business in his line. Jan 14. dtw3aw6w

MILITARY LAND WARRANTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF LOCATING.

JAMES E. SMITH as early as the 2d of Sept. shortly after his return from viewing the Military Land, offered his services to the holders of Military Land Warrants for the purpose of classing, registering and locating them, in consequence of an arrangement made with Mr. James Johnson in July preceding, on the land, for the purpose of exploring the sections in the whole survey. This business having been carried on a complete effect by Mr. Johnson, with the assistance of an intelligent inhabitant of that country, they having taken notes descriptive of the situation, soil and natural advantages attached to each section in the whole survey. Mr. Johnson being now here with those notes, together with the said J. E. Smith having a complete copy of the Surveyor General's return made to the Treasury Department of the Township surveys. Being thus informed the subscribers, jointly offer their services to the holders of warrants of the above description, to receive, register and locate, for which one tenth part of the land located will be required as a compensation—for locating where the registry is already made, as may be hereafter agreed on by applying to either of the subscribers. Such of the honorable members of Congress as may now hold, or may receive warrants from their friends before the 1st of February next, by addressing a line to either of the subscribers, through the medium of the Post Office, will be waited on agreeable to their appointment. JAMES E. SMITH, No. 100, South 8th Street, opposite the Horse Market. JAMES JOHNSON, No. 219, Market Street. February 1. dtawtt-thf.