

MR. ADAMS'S LETTERS.

LETTER XVI.

AMSTERDAM, OCT. 26, 1780.

S I R,

THE sixteenth enquiry is, "Who loses most by desertion? Do the English and German deserters serve voluntarily and well in the American army? How do those who do not enter into the army subsist?"

These questions I answer with great pleasure.—There has been, from the beginning of the war to this day, scarcely an example of a native American's deserting from the army to the English. There have been in the American army, some scattering Scotch, Irish, and German soldiers; some of these have deserted, but never in great numbers; and among the prisoners they have taken, it is astonishing how few they have been able to persuade, by all their flatteries, threatenings, promises and even cruelties, to enlist into their service.

The number of deserters from them has been all along considerable more. Congress have generally prohibited their officers from enlisting deserters; for some particular services permission has been given, and they have served well.

Those who do not enlist in the army have no difficulty to subsist. Those of them who have any trades, as weavers, tailors, smiths, shoemakers, tanners, curriers, carpenters, bricklayers; in short, any trade whatsoever, enter immediately into better business than they ever had in Europe, where they gain a better subsistence and more money; because tradesmen of all denominations are much wanted: Those who have no trade, if they are capable of any kind of labor, are immediately employed in agriculture, &c. labor being much wanted, and very dear.

I am not able to tell the precise numbers that have deserted; but if an hundred thousand were to desert, they would find no difficulty in point of subsistence or employment, if they can and will work.

Sir, yours,

JOHN ADAMS.

MR. CALKOEN.

LETTER, XVII.

AMSTERDAM, OCTOBER 26, 1780.

S I R,

THE seventeenth enquiry is, "Whether we have any information that we can rely on concerning population? Has it increased or diminished since the war?"

In some former letters I have made some observations upon the subject of the increase of mankind in America.

In the year 1774 there was much private conversation among the members of Congress, concerning the numbers of souls in every colony. The delegates of each were consulted, and the estimates made by them were taken down as follows:

In New-Hampshire	150,000
Massachusetts	400,000
Rhode-Island	59,678
Connecticut	192,000
New-York	250,000
New-Jersey	130,000
Pennsylvania and Delaware	350,000
Maryland	320,000
Virginia	640,000
North Carolina	300,000
South-Carolina	225,000
	3,016,678

This however was but an estimate, and some persons have thought there was too much speculation in it.—It will be observed, that Georgia was not represented in the first Congress, and therefore is not included in the estimate.

In a pamphlet published in England about a year ago, entitled a memorial to the Sovereigns of Europe, on the present State of Affairs, between the Old and New-World, written by Mr. POWNAL, a Member of Parliament, and formerly Governor of Massachusetts, and Lieut. Governor of New-Jersey—we are told that "The Massachusetts had, in the year 1722, 94,000 inhabitants; in 1742, 164,000; in 1751, when there was a great depopulation, both by war and the small pox, 164,484; in 1761, 216,000; in 1765, 255,500; in 1771, 292,000; in 1773, 300,000.

In Connecticut, 1756, 129,994; in 1774, 157,356. These numbers are not increased by strangers, but decreased by wars and emigrations to the westward, and to other States; yet they have nearly doubled in eighteen years.

In New-York, in 1756, 96,776; in 1771, 168,007; in 1774, 182,251.

In Virginia, in 1756, 173,316; in 1764, 200,000; in 1774, 300,000.

In South-Carolina, in 1750, 64,000; in 1770, 115,000.

In Rhode-Island, in 1738, 15,000; in 1748, 28,439.

As there never was a militia in Pennsylvania, before this war, with authentic lists of the population, it has been variously estimated on speculation. There was a continual importation, for

many years, of Irish and German emigrants, yet many of these settled in other provinces; but the progress of population, in the ordinary course, advanced, in a ratio between that of Virginia and that of Massachusetts; the city of Philadelphia advanced more rapidly; it had in 1749, 2,076 houses; in 1753, 2,300; in 1760, 2,969; in 1769, 4,474; from 1749 to 1753, from 16 to 18,000 inhabitants; from 1760 to 1769, from 31,318 to 35,000.

There were in 1754, various calculations and estimates made of the numbers on the continent. The sanguine made the numbers one million and a half; those who admitted less speculation into the calculation, but adhered closer to facts and lists, as they were made out, stated them at one million two hundred and fifty thousand.—Governor Pownal thinks, that 2,141,307 would turn out nearest to the real amount in 1774. But what an amazing progress, which in eighteen years has added a million, to a million two hundred and fifty thousand, although a war was maintained in that country for seven years of the term! In this view one sees a community unfolding itself, beyond any example in Europe.

Thus you have the estimates made by the gentlemen in Congress, in 1774, and that of Governor Pownal for the same epocha.—That made in Congress is most likely to be right: If in their estimate some States were rated too high, it has been since made certain, that others were too low.

But admitting Mr. Pownal's estimate to be just, the numbers have grown, since 1774, so much, notwithstanding the war, and the interruption of migrations from Europe, that they must be well nigh three millions.—If the calculation made by the members of Congress was right, the numbers now must be nearer four millions, than three millions and an half.

I have observed to you in a former letter, that the Massachusetts Bay has been lately numbered, and found to have increased in numbers as much as in former periods, very nearly.

I now add, that Delaware, which in 1774 was estimated at 30,000, upon numbering the people since, they appeared to be 40,000.

Pennsylvania is undoubtedly set too low in both estimates.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, &c.

JOHN ADAMS.

MR. CALKOEN.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

ABSTRACT OF JOURNAL OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

WEDNESDAY, May 13, 1789.

ORDERED, That Mr. Langdon, Mr. Strong and Mr. Carroll, be a committee, to confer with any committee that may be appointed on the part of the House of Representatives, and report what newspapers the members of the Senate and House of Representatives, shall be furnished with, at the public expense.

A committee consisting of Mr. Johnson, Mr. Read, Mr. Langdon, Mr. Morris, Mr. Dalton, Mr. Elmer, Mr. Henry and Mr. Gunn, was appointed to report a bill, defining the crimes and offences that shall be cognizable under the authority of the United States, and their punishment. Adjourned.

THURSDAY, May 14.

The committee appointed the 9th inst. to determine "under what Title it will be proper for the Senate to address the President"—and to confer with a committee of the House of Representatives, "upon the disagreeing votes of the Senate and House," informed the Senate, that they had conferred with a committee of the House of Representatives, but could not agree upon a report.

The committee appointed the 9th inst. "to consider and report under what Title it will be proper for the Senate to address the President of the United States of America," Reported, That in the opinion of the committee it will be proper thus to address the President—HIS HIGHNESS THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND PROTECTOR OF THEIR LIBERTIES.

Which report was postponed—and the following resolve was agreed to, to wit:—

From a decent respect for the opinion and practice of civilized nations, whether under monarchical or republican forms of government, whose custom is to annex Titles of respectability to the Office of their Chief Magistrate; and that, on intercourse with foreign nations, a due respect for the majesty of the people of the United States may not be hazarded by an appearance of singularity; the Senate have been induced to be of opinion, that it will be proper to annex a respectable Title to the Office of President of the United States: But the Senate desirous of preserving harmony with the House of Representatives, where the practice lately observed in presenting an address to the President was without the addition of Titles, think it proper for the present to act in conformity with the practice of the House:—

Therefore Resolved, that the present address be—"To the President of the United States"—without addition of Title.

A motion was made to strike out the preamble as far as the words "but the Senate;" which passed in the negative—and on motion for the main question; it passed in the affirmative.

The committee appointed to consider and report a mode of carrying into effect the provision in the second clause, of the third section of the first article of the Constitution, reported—

Whereupon Resolved, that the Senators be divided into three classes, the first to consist of Mr. Langdon, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Morris, Mr. Henry, Mr. Izard and Mr. Gunn—

The second of Mr. Wingate, Mr. Strong, Mr. Patterfon, Mr. Bassett, Mr. Lee, Mr. Butler and Mr. Few—

And the third of Mr. Dalton, Mr. Ellsworth, Mr. Elmer, Mr. Maclay, Mr. Read, Mr. Carroll and Mr. Grayson.

That three papers of an equal size, numbered 1, 2, and 3, be by the Secretary rolled up and put into a box, and drawn by Mr. Langdon, Mr. Wingate and Mr. Dalton, in behalf of the respective classes in which each of them are placed; and that the classes shall vacate their seats in the Senate according to the order of numbers drawn for them, beginning with number one—

And that when Senators shall take their seats from States that have not yet appointed Senators, they shall be placed by lot in the foregoing classes, but in such manner as shall keep the classes as nearly equal as may be in numbers.

The committee appointed to confer with a committee of the House of Representatives, in preparing proper rules to be established for the enrollment, &c. of the acts of Congress—Reported, which report was ordered to lie for consideration.

Ordered, That the committee appointed to draft an answer to the President's Speech wait on him, and request him to appoint the time when it will be agreeable to receive the address of the Senate, at his own house. Adjourned.

FRIDAY, May 15.

The Committee appointed to draft an answer to the President's Speech further reported—

Whereupon it was Agreed, That the Senate should wait upon the President at his own house on Monday next, at a quarter after eleven o'clock, and that the Vice President then, present the address of the Senate, as agreed to on the 7th instant.

The Senate proceeded to determine the Classes agreeably to the resolve of yesterday, on the mode of carrying into effect the provision in the second clause, of the third section, of the first article of the Constitution, and the numbers being drawn, the classes were determined as follows:—

Lot No. 1, drawn by Mr. Dalton—containing Mr. Dalton, Mr. Ellsworth, Mr. Elmer, Mr. Maclay, Mr. Read, Mr. Carroll, and Mr. Grayson—whose seats shall accordingly, be vacated in the Senate at the expiration of the second year.

Lot No. 2, drawn by Mr. Wingate—containing Mr. Wingate, Mr. Strong, Mr. Patterfon, Mr. Bassett, Mr. Lee, Mr. Butler, and Mr. Few—whose seats shall accordingly be vacated in the Senate at the expiration of the fourth year.

Lot No. 3, drawn by Mr. Langdon—containing Mr. Langdon, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Morris, Mr. Henry, Mr. Izard, and Mr. Gunn—whose seats shall accordingly be vacated in the Senate, at the expiration of the sixth year. Adjourned.

SATURDAY, May 16.

A message from the House of Representatives by Mr. Beckley, their Clerk, who informed the Senate that "the House had concurred in the appointment of a committee, consisting of Mr. Sylvester, Mr. Wynkoop and Mr. Smith (of South-Carolina) to confer with a committee appointed on the part of the Senate, the 13th instant, and to report what newspapers the members of Congress shall be furnished with at the public expense; and that it was an instruction to the said committee on the part of the House, to receive proposals for printing the acts and other proceedings of Congress." Adjourned.

MONDAY, May 18.

Agreeably to the order of the 15th instant the Senate waited on the President of the United States, at his own house, when the Vice-President in their name, delivered to the President the address agreed to on the 7th instant: To which the President of the United States was pleased to reply.

(See our paper of May 20.)

Ordered, That Mr. Lee be a committee on the part of the Senate, to join any committee appointed for that purpose on the part of the House of Representatives, to lay before the President of the United States for his approbation, a bill, entitled, "An Act to regulate the time and manner of administering certain oaths," after it shall be enrolled, examined by the said committee, and signed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and by the Vice-President.

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