

# Gazette of the United States.

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[WHOLE No. III.]

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CONTINUED.

COPENHAGEN, 26 Dec. 1789.

THE day before yesterday the Supreme Tribunal, which revised the process of the conspiracy to burn the Russian and Danish fleets in our ports, pronounced definite judgment, by which the Sieur Benzeltierna is condemned to be beheaded. His accomplices, O'Brien, and Shields, to public labor for life. The only hope which at present remains for the unfortunate Swiss officer, is in the King's clemency.

Extract of a letter from Paris, 31 Dec.

The Marquis and Marchioness de Favras were apprehended on the night of the 24th and 25th. They were accused of setting on foot a plot to assassinate M. Neckar, the Marquis de la Fayette, and M. Bailly, to fill Paris with armed people, carry off the King, &c. On the morning of the 26th, Monsieur the King's brother, had an interview with the Marquis and M. Bailly—in consequence of which it is presumed, that he formed the resolution of addressing the Commons of Paris in person, to refute the odious measures imputed to him. He was received by the Representatives and the Saltiers with every mark of applause, and placed in an armed chair on the left side of the Mayor.

M. Bailly answered his speech in terms expressive of the favorable ideas which the Commons of Paris entertained of the Brother of a King, who was the Restorer of French Liberty, complimented him on his having shewn himself as the first citizen of the kingdom, by voting for the third estate in the second Assembly of the Notables. He concluded with offering him, in the name of the Assembly, the tribute of respect and acknowledgment which were due to his sentiments—the honor of his presence, and more particularly to the value he set on the esteem of Freemen.

M. Bailly's discourse was received with the loudest acclamations, and a cry of *No pardon! No pardon* for those who had accused him in so heinous a manner, as to associate his name with those guilty people. Monsieur however expressed his desires to pursue lenient measures. M. and Madame Favras have been committed prisoners to the Abby de St. Germain, as guilty of treason against the nation.

Monsieur not satisfied with justifying himself before the commons of Paris, conceived the matter of so serious a nature as to induce him to write a letter to the national Assembly on the subject, which was read on Monday 20th December, after which the DUKE DE LEVIS, proposed, that the committee of enquiry of the national Assembly "should take immediate measures with those of the city of Paris, to report as soon as possible concerning the affairs of M. de FAVRAS, and what they may discover respecting the injurious libel against Monsieur." M. Alexander de LAMETS observed on this motion, "that although Monsieur was the first citizen of the kingdom, like other citizens he was subject to the laws, that the Assembly ought not to order a particular search warrant for a libel, in his favor, that this matter ought to be referred to the proper tribunals, that the CHATELET having already taken up the business, it ought to rest there." M. le CHAPELIER, and the Count de MIRABEAU supporting the same principles, the Assembly decreed that there was no necessity to deliberate on the subject.

Previous to the discussion on Monsieur's letter, the Assembly after a long and animated debate decreed, that the several provincial States and departments should deliver up all accounts, papers and proceedings relative to the administration of the several departments, to the persons appointed to succeed them by the national Assembly, who are to investigate all accounts for the last ten years; excepting those of the treasurers and receivers deceased, and also such accounts as have been adjudged by the superior courts.

After which it was decreed without much difficulty "that in those provinces where the municipal officers possess the exercise of jurisdiction in civil and litigated matters, they should continue provisionally, the same functions as heretofore, until the organization of the judiciary powers.

## THE BRAVE ENGLISHMAN.

LONDON, FEB. II.

MR. NESHEM, the young midshipman, whose gallantry in saving the life of M. PLANTAIRE, at the instant when a savage mob were, from the similitude of his face and height to those of a Nobleman of the Aristocratic party, hurrying him to execution, procured the decree of a Civic Crown, and a Sword of the uniform of the National Guard, from the Assembly of the Commons of Paris, is daily expected in England. The President, in communicating the decree to Mr. Neshem, addressed him in the following terms:

"YOUNG STRANGER,

"You have merited well of the capital of the French Empire, in saving a citizen which is dear to it, at the hazard of your own life! The Assembly of the Commons wishes to acquit itself of the debt, by presenting you with its acknowledgments.

"After the example of Rome, in the days of its glory and liberty, it presents you with a Civic Crown, as the reward of your virtue.

"It arms you with the sword of the National Guard, to be the future instrument of your courage. Your parents will there read, and not without interest, the inscription of your generous achievement.

"When on your return you shall meet the regard of your country—you shall say, that you have seen, on the banks of the Seine, a people brave and generous—too long addicted to frivolity—but who now enjoy with pleasure the occasion of recompensing virtue—You will tell them, that free nations are as brethren—that France and England owe to each other a reciprocal esteem, and that the object most worthy the ambition of each is—to insure the general happiness of humanity!"

*We have seen French papers which contain the particulars of the above event—and we have taken some pains to ascertain them—as, while they testify to the intrepidity of the gallant Englishman—they are strikingly demonstrable of the gratitude of our allies: It seems that M. Plantaire had been seized by the mob, who, mob-like, were hurrying him to the fatal lamp-post for execution, without a hearing—The National Guards, under the Marquis de LA FAYETTE, were marching to his rescue: But the cord was tied round his neck, and his body almost suspended in the air, when Mr. Neshem, knowing M. Plantaire's innocence, rushed through the crowd to prevent the execution: He was told that he risked his life in the attempt—to this he replied, "That he had rather do that, than an innocent man should suffer"—and immediately with his sword, cut the halter, just above M. Plantaire's head. Before the mob could again make it fast, M. Plantaire was rescued—and thus through the bravery of a stranger, preserved to his country.*

Massa. Centinel.

## CHURCHES.

London, how magnificent—how populous. London, from the number of its churches, must be the most religious city in the world—yet the churches of London are seldom full—generally empty—For, in London, religion is a trade carried on by gospel-managers, in gospel-shops.—One, two, three,—hundred methodist meeting-houses, in each of which the Preacher goes upon this text, "I am the way." What, is there but one way to heaven? O, many ways—in London, there are as many ways pointed out for a man's soul, to journey towards heaven, as towards the opposite point—and each has its Overseers. You may go to heaven by the new light, or the old light; thro the Moravian half-penny hatch—the Muggletonian foot-path—the turn-stiles of methodism, or a hundred other ways, laid down in the geography of the different preachers—but then each of these ways has its parallel, that leads to a different climate.

LEYDEN, [United Provinces.] FEB. 16.

By letters from New York, of so late a date as 8th Jan. last, we are informed, that on that very day, the Congress of the United States met for the 2d time since the adoption of the New Constitution, to which even North-Carolina had lately acceded. On the solemn occasion, the illustrious WASHINGTON opened the sessions by delivering a speech full of congratulations and exhortations, absolutely on the model of those delivered in Parliament by the King of England, with the following difference only in the way of dressing.

1st.—Co-citizens of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives, &c.

2d.—Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, &c.

3d.—Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives,

"I have directed the proper officers to lay before you the papers and estimates," &c.

This we observe, to shew not only that very little is wanting to Mr. WASHINGTON to be something like a King; but that let the first magistrate of any country bear the title that fancy may ap-

propriate to him, the time is at hand when all European governments must be modelled upon those of Old and New-England: Mankind will hear no more of absolute Monarchy. The King of the French has given up the offensive motto, GOD AND MY SWORD; all the Potentates are aware of the necessity of following the wise example: They are only anxious how to meet the wish of the people with something like good grace.

## CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31.

The proposition for assuming the State debts under consideration.

MR. SMITH (S. C.) replied to Mr. Williamson, he said he was not afraid of the assumption business losing ground by a reconsideration. He was sorry to hear that North-Carolina would be defrauded of half a million by the measure, but he believed there was more probability of a fraud being committed, if no assumption was to take place. Part of the gentleman's reasoning, said Mr. Smith goes more in favor of the measure than against it; and the remainder of his arguments are not difficult to refute.

The gentleman has observed that it was imprudent to add to the debt, which was already a large one, by the assumption; that the amount of the state debts was uncertain, and that a door was still to be opened to increase them: It is not adding to a debt, Mr. Smith said, to acknowledge those we owe, and we have already resolved that Congress owe these debts which have been improperly called state debts, because they were incurred for general purposes; it is not a wanton act, but an honest avowal, that these debts ought to be paid by the union—their actual amount is immaterial if they are due. Has not the house declared they will fund the domestic debt, and is that all liquidated? There are eighty millions of continental bills still unsettled, a man cannot refuse paying a just debt because he is not acquainted with the precise amount of all his debts; no door is opened to new claims from individuals, but only a permission to the states to bring forward their claims, this will not increase the amount of the state debts, for they are already liquidated by the several states, it will only affect the final settlement between the states and the United States. The same member has said, that North-Carolina owes to her citizens a large debt, amounting to several millions which she has assumed, and which Congress ought to pay, and he adduces that as an argument against the assumption, when in fact it is the strongest reason he could have offered to shew its justice and propriety; for it would be the height of injustice to burden that state with the payment of a large sum which she does not owe; but if the measure is wrong, he would vote against it, although it should be for the interest of North-Carolina. In this the gentleman was to be commended; but the committee of the whole, after fair discussion, had declared the measure to be right; if it was right when that vote was taken, an adventitious circumstance could not make it wrong. Suppose North-Carolina had not acceded, then the measure would have been declared a right one by a decided majority; its accession cannot make it a wrong one, especially when it is so obvious that it will be for her interest.

We are cautioned against the imprudence of undertaking what we cannot pay; but either the state debts are to be paid, or they are not. If they are never to be paid, I give up the argument; if they are to be paid, and that is admitted on all sides, then I am clear it will be more easy for Congress to pay them than the states, it will require less money to be levied on the people. The resources are the same, whether they are paid by the one or the other; but the collection will be more simple and economical in the one case than in the other. The only question is, whether these resources shall flow into the pockets of the creditors through one channel or through thirteen. The Secretary of the Treasury has assured us he has ample funds for the purpose, and others in reserve, without laying a land-tax; his calculations have been questioned, but as he is a responsible officer, who has undoubtedly contemplated the subject with attention, and whose reputation is in some measure pledged for the accuracy of his reports, I am inclined to give credit to them, until I hear them refuted. From his calculations it is evident, that the state debts may be funded with the greatest ease by the union, and with infinitely more advantage to the people in general than by the several states. To prove our inability, we have been told, that the inhabitants of France who reside in Paris, contribute each 64 livres annually, and those who dwell in the country 19 livres, to the government. Apply this to the citizens of the United States, and what will be the result: Suppose 200,000 inhabitants dwelling in towns, paying annually 64 livres, or fourteen dollars, this would furnish the sum of 2,800,000 dollars: And suppose 2,800,000 inhabitants residing in the country, paying nineteen livres, or three and an half dollars, this would give 9,800,000 dollars, making together the aggregate sum of 12,600,000 dollars; but the sum required for the interest on the debt, including those of the several states and the civil list, is only 3,840,000 dollars, leaving a surplus revenue of 8,760,000 dollars. Thus the instance which the gentleman cites, to prove the inadequacy of our resources, has a direct contrary effect, and if applicable contradicts his own assertions.

It is said that the impost will be inadequate to the purpose, and is uncertain, and that a poll and land tax, which may be collected with greater certainty, are to be deprecated, because they would be odious to the people. I admit that if the state creditors are excluded from the benefits of the impost, it will be insufficient even to discharge the interest on the continental debt, because the obstructions which will be thrown in its way by the state legislatures in funding the state debts, and the facility which will be given to smuggling by the injured state creditors, will considerably reduce the avails of the impost which may be laid for that purpose; but if the state creditors who are considerably more numerous than the other class are included in the provision, they will have an interest in supporting the due collection of the revenue, and the general popularity of the impost will ensure its operation. If the citizens of North-Carolina deprecate a direct tax, they will find their advantage in the assumption; for if they are left to fund their own debts, they must resort to direct taxes; they are deprived of the impost altogether; little or no revenue can be drawn from a state excise—they must therefore raise all their supplies by a direct tax. One or other of these consequences must therefore ensue; either that state must distress her citizens annually by imposing an enormous direct tax payable in good money, or she must defraud her creditors by paying them off in a depreciated paper.—These are hard alternatives, but they are the inevitable consequences of a non-assumption.

The member from that state has said that her citizens, though numerous, are not wealthy. This is another reason, in my judgment, why the assumption would be advantageous to them; for citizens who are not wealthy, contribute less to the revenue by impost than by direct taxes. A poor man pays as much by a poll-tax as a rich man; but each individual pays by an impost only in