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[Whole No. 169.]

PHILADELPHIA.

S P E E C H

OF THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
TO BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS.

FELLOW CITIZENS OF THE SENATE, AND
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

IN meeting you again I feel much satisfaction in being able to repeat my congratulations on the favorable prospects which continue to distinguish our public affairs.—The abundant fruits of another year have blessed our country with plenty, and with the means of a flourishing commerce.—The progress of public credit is witnessed by a considerable rise of American Stock abroad as well as at home—And the revenues allotted for this and other national purposes, have been productive beyond the calculations by which they were regulated—This latter circumstance is the more pleasing, as it is not only a proof of the fertility of our resources, but as it assures us of a further increase of the national respectability and credit; and let me add, as it bears an honorable testimony to the patriotism and integrity of the mercantile and marine part of the citizens—The punctuality of the former in discharging their engagements has been exemplary.

In conforming to the powers vested in me by the acts of the last session, a loan of three millions of florins, towards which some provisional measures had previously taken place, has been completed in Holland, as well the celerity with which it has been filled, as the nature of the terms (considering the more than ordinary demand for borrowing created by the situation of Europe) give a reasonable hope, that the further execution of those powers may proceed with advantage and success. The Secretary of the Treasury, has my direction to communicate such further particulars as may be requisite for more precise information.

Since your last sessions, I have received communications, by which it appears, that the district of Kentucky, at present a part of Virginia, has concurred in certain propositions contained in a law of that State; in consequence of which the district is to become a distinct member of the union, in case the requisite sanction of Congress be added—For this sanction application is now made—I shall cause the papers on this very important transaction to be laid before you.—The liberality and harmony with which it has been conducted, will be found to do great honor to both the parties; and the sentiments of warm attachment to the union and its present government, expressed by our fellow-citizens of Kentucky, cannot fail to add an affectionate concern for their particular welfare, to the great national impressions under which you will decide on the case submitted to you.

It has been heretofore known to Congress, that frequent incursions have been made on our frontier settlements by certain banditti of Indians, from the northwest side of the Ohio: These, with some of the tribes dwelling on and near the Wabash, have of late been particularly active in their depredations; and being emboldened by the impunity of their crimes, and aided by such parts of the neighboring tribes as could be seduced to join in their hostilities, or afford them a retreat for their prisoners and plunder, they have, instead of listening to the humane invitations and overtures made on the part of the United States, renewed their violences with fresh alacrity and greater effect. The lives of a number of valuable citizens have thus been sacrificed, and some of them under circumstances peculiarly shocking, whilst others have been carried into a deplorable captivity.

These aggravated provocations rendered it essential to the safety of the Western Settlements, that the aggressors should be made sensible, that the government of the union is not less capable of punishing their crimes, than it is disposed to respect their rights, and reward their attachments. As this object could not be effected by defensive measures, it became necessary to put in force the act, which empowers the President to call out the militia for the protection of the Frontiers. And I have accordingly authorized an expedition, in which the regular troops in that quarter are combined with such draughts of militia as were deemed sufficient. The event of the measure is yet unknown to me. The Secretary of War is directed to lay before you a statement of the information with which it is founded, as well as an estimate of the expence with which it will be attended.

The disturbed situation of Europe, and particularly the critical posture of the great maritime powers, whilst it ought to make us more thankful for the general peace and security enjoyed by the United States, reminds us, at the same time of the circumspection with which it becomes us to preserve these blessings. It requires also that we should not overlook the tendency of a war, and even of preparations for war among the nations most concerned in active commerce with this country, to abridge the means, and thereby at least enhance the price of transporting its valuable productions to their proper markets. I recommend it to your serious reflections how far, and in what mode, it may be

expedient to guard against embarrassments from these contingencies, by such encouragements to our own navigation as will render our commerce and agriculture less dependent on foreign bottoms, which may fail us in the very moment most interesting to both of these great objects. Our fisheries, and the transportation of our own produce, offer us abundant means for guarding ourselves against this evil.

Your attention seems to be not less due to that particular branch of our trade which belongs to the Mediterranean. So many circumstances unite in rendering the present state of it distressful to us, that you will not think any deliberations misemployed which may lead to its relief and protection.

The laws you have already passed for the establishment of a Judiciary system, have opened the doors of justice to all descriptions of persons. You will consider in your wisdom, whether improvements in that system may yet be made; and particularly whether a uniform process of execution on sentences issuing from the Federal Courts, be not desirable through all the States.

The patronage of our commerce, of our merchants and seamen, has called for the appointment of Consuls in foreign countries. It seems expedient to regulate by law the exercise of that jurisdiction, and those functions which are permitted them, either by express convention, or by a friendly indulgence in the places of their residence. The Consular Convention too, with his Most Christian Majesty, has stipulated in certain cases, the aid of the national authority to his Consuls established here.—Some legislative provision is requisite, to carry these stipulations into full effect.

The establishment of the militia—of a mint—of standards of weights and measures—of the post-office and post-roads, are subjects, which (I presume) you will resume of course, and which are abundantly urged by their own importance.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

THE sufficiency of the revenues you have established for the objects to which they are appropriated, leaves no doubt that the residuary provisions will be commensurate to the other objects for which the public faith stands now pledged. Allow me moreover to hope that it will be a favorite policy with you not merely to secure a payment of the interest of the debt funded, but as far, and as fast as the growing resources of the country will permit, to exonerate it of the principal itself. The appropriation you have made of the Western Lands, explains your dispositions on this subject, and I am persuaded the sooner that valuable fund can be made, to contribute along with other means, to the actual reduction of the public debt, the more salutary will the measure be to every Public Interest, as well as the more satisfactory to our constituents.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE, AND
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

IN pursuing the various and weighty business of the present session, I indulge the fullest persuasion that your consultations will be equally marked with wisdom, and animated by the love of your country. In whatever belongs to my duty, you shall have all the co-operation which an undiminished zeal for its welfare can inspire. It will be happy for us both, and our best reward, if by a successful administration of our respective trusts, we can make the established government more and more instrumental in promoting the good of our fellow citizens, and more and more the object of their attachment and confidence.

G. WASHINGTON.

United States, December 8th, 1790.

F R A N C E.
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.
SEPTEMBER 9.

TUMULT AT St. ETIENNE, IN FOREZ.

A number of people had assembled on the 4th instant, of which M. *Birtheas* was the ostensible cause.

The commandant sent a detachment of the National Guard to conduct M. *Birtheas* to the Guardhouse.—This detachment was followed by a very great crowd of people of both sexes—it was feared the guard would be insufficient—it was accordingly doubled, and being even then not of sufficient strength, M. *Birtheas*, by way of safety was imprisoned.

He was accused of having monopolised corn.—To appease the people, his house was examined, in which there was found only a small quantity of corn. After this, the guards about the prison were almost dispersed, and the people were proceeding to break open the gates. Neither prayers nor entreaties could hinder them—they broke them open—seized M. *Birtheas*, and murdered him!

Next day (the 9th) the insurgents proceeded of their own accord, to the election of new Municipal Officers, and to make regulations respecting the prices of corn. On this a number

of citizens armed themselves, and proceeding against the insurgents, made a number of them prisoners, who were conducted to Lyons.

The assembly, remitted the process and punishment of this shameful business to the Tribunal of Lyons, who are charged to pursue all instigators and agents in this horrid affair with the most pointed severity of the laws.

M. *de Sillery* communicated to the assembly, intelligence, that in the plains of Jales, at the foot of the Cevennes, an army of 20,000 Gardes Nationales are assembled, headed by a troublesome priest named *La Basside*, sword in hand, with a cross in his hat, who had made them take a sort of oath to set on foot a solemn Crusade for the reformation of abuses at Nismes.

SATURDAY, Oct. 2.

The Assembly proceeded to the order of the day, the discussion of the affair of the 6th of Oct.

Mr. Chabraud undertook the defence of Mr. d'Orleans, with great warmth and zeal, reading and commenting on several parts of the register of the police, which were favorable to Mr. d'Orleans. He also read some letters, complaining that the testimony of several persons of credit was not received.

Mr. d'Estournel demanded that these papers should be sent to the Chatelet.

Which was opposed by Mr. Mirabeau, who declared that he stood forward as the accuser of the Chatelet, which he would prosecute to his grave.

The proposition of Mr. d'Estournel was rejected.

Mr. Abbe Maury said, that in an affair of this sort, the Assembly should follow the strictest rules of justice—he therefore proposed to hear the accused first, if they wished to speak, then the witnesses, and afterwards such members of the Assembly as should desire to give their opinion on the measures the Assembly ought to take.

Mr. Goupil wished that such members as were witnesses should withdraw, and that those only who were disinterested should take part in the debate.

Mr. Mirabeau desired that an exception should be made in favor of those deputies, who having been summoned to give their testimony, declared they had nothing to depose.

The Abbe Maury then delivered a speech, in which he argued that the Assembly ought not to pronounce the absolution of Mr. d'Orleans. He said he should not oppose the decree that there is no ground of accusation against Mr. Mirabeau—there did not exist charges against him sufficiently strong to support the decision of the Chatelet, but that the situation of Mr. d'Orleans was different.

A Prince of the blood accused of being seen on the morning of the 6th of October, encouraging the assassins, who massacred the gardes du corps, and attempted even the Queen, ought as a descendant worthy of Henry 4th, to prostrate himself in the sanctuary of justice; and to provoke its severest scrutiny; he declared that it was by such means also, he could clear up his innocence, and that his friends, and the friends of his reputation, ought to advise him to demand the vengeance of the tribunals.

Mr. Mirabeau then appeared in the tribunal, and declaimed with great warmth against the proceedings of the Chatelet, which he declared to be a monument that would attest to future ages the iniquity and anticipation of the judges of this tribunal. He then examined the different accusations which were made against him, and answered them all in a satisfactory manner.

Mr. Barnhave undertook the defence of Messrs. d'Orleans and Mirabeau, both of whom he declared to be irreproachable; and it was the judgment of the Chatelet alone which merited the indignation of every good citizen.

The Assembly divided on the question, and declared the two deputies free from all inculpation.

SUNDAY, Oct. 3.

A letter was read from Mr. Silles, a young officer, who distinguished himself at Nanci, modestly thanking the Assembly for the eulogium they had bestowed upon him, and desiring that this might be considered less as the exercise of a virtue than as the performance of a duty.

A report was made to the Assembly of commotions in Languedoc, with information that the people of Carcassonne shewed a disposition to revolt.

The Assembly decreed, that the Executive power should be called upon to interpose, and with