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# Gazette of the United States.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1790.

[Whole No. 174.]

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.  
MR. FENNO,

EVERY friend to the mercantile interest of the United States must see with pleasure the exertions of an honorable member of Congress, from this State, for the improvement of the maritime and commercial law. The bill for the regulation of mariners in the merchants' service, which he brought in at the last session, does the highest honor to his patriotism and abilities, and the greatest expectations are entertained from the *affreightment bill*, which he is now about to lay before Congress.

It has been observed with wonder, that England, the greatest commercial country in the world, is the only one that is not in possession of a complete regular code of maritime and commercial jurisprudence; and that her judges are often obliged to borrow their notions on those subjects from the ordinances and writers of other countries. France, Spain, Sweden, Denmark, Holland and even the little confederacy of the Hanse towns, all have maritime ordinances. The ordinance of Philip the second, of Spain, and the ordinances of Bilboa are justly admired; and the ordinances of Lewis the fourteenth, of France, have stamped the fame of that monarch as a legislator, and are become in a great degree the general law of the commercial world. Was such an ordinance, suited to the particular circumstances of this country, to be compiled from the variety of rich materials that we have now before us, and be promulgated in the United States under the Presidency of a WASHINGTON, it would not diminish any thing from the great character that he has acquired as a promoter of the happiness of man. It would be highly useful and satisfactory to merchants and mariners, by establishing settled rules for their respective dealings and preventing many law-suits among them, and perhaps, and it is very probable it would be the case, we should have the honor of dictating laws to that country from which we have so long received them; for there is no doubt that if the principles established in the proposed ordinance were founded on justice and equity, Britain would adopt them in preference to those which she is now obliged to look for in the laws of other countries.

Such a work is not perhaps so arduous as some persons might be apt to imagine. A small committee of lawyers and merchants would probably be able to perfect it and report a plan to Congress in the space of two years; the expence would be trifling, the honor would be great and the utility permanent; merchants have also long wished to have particular courts appointed for the decision of their own differences; such courts are established in almost every part of the world. The court of admiralty in England was originally instituted for those purposes, but their too great attachment to the forms of the Roman jurisprudence, and the just jealousy of the courts of common law on that account prevented the desired effect. Certain it is, that matters respecting freight, insurance, bottomry, pilotage, piracy, captures, fitting out and repairing ships and vessels, mariner's wages, bills of exchange, bankruptcies and the numerous other matters that relate to maritime and commercial affairs, are sufficiently extensive and intricate to become the object of a particular court of judicature. One judge, skilled in the laws, with two assessors taken from the body of the merchants, in the principal sea-ports of the United States, might perhaps constitute a proper maritime and commercial court, with an appeal to some superior court of revision. Trial by jury might be preferred in those cases to which it properly applies; and as to the expence, there is little doubt but the merchants themselves would be glad to contribute to it, as the court would be instituted for their own immediate advantages. It would be improper to suggest more, perhaps I have already suggested too much.

A FRIEND TO COMMERCE.

FROM THE (BOSTON) COLUMBIAN CENTINEL.

LATEST FRENCH ADVICES.

[An obliging correspondent having favoured us with Paris papers, from the 11th to the 14th of October, we are enabled to furnish our readers with FRENCH INFORMATION 16 days later than hath been before received.]

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, Oct. 6.

A LETTER was received from the Keeper of the Seals, informing that the Decrees which suppress the present Courts of Justice, and establish new ones, had been received by the Cham-

bers of the Parliament of Rouen, Bourdeaux, Toulouse, Douai, &c.—That the Parliament of Toulouse, on receiving them, came to the following resolution, which he laid before the Assembly.

*Extract of the Resolve of the Parliament of Toulouse.*

"The Court considering that the French Monarchy is verging rapidly to the moment of its dissolution, &c. *Protests*, in behalf of their Lord the King, the Clergy, the Nobility, and all the citizens, against all attempts on the rights of the Crown—the annihilation of the Nobility, and the total overthrow of the French Monarchy: Against all Edicts, Declarations, and Letters Patent, tending to the suppression of this Court—and the dismemberment of the province of Languedoc; against all attempts made upon religion, upon the dignity of its Ministers, and upon the spiritual jurisdiction of the Church, and its Liberties: And whereas the records made by this Chamber since the 15th November last were only provisional, they are hereby declared of no validity or effect: The said Court ordains, that the present Resolution shall be transcribed upon its records, as a testimony of their principles, and as a Memorial that the Magistrates who compose it, and the people whom they represent, are devoted to the King, and to the Nation: They also ordain, that a copy of this Resolve shall be sent to the said Lord the King. Done at Toulouse, 27th Sept. 1790."

After it was read, Mr. Robespierre rose. "I observe, said he, that this Assembly cannot but view the Members of the Parliament of Toulouse, as weak enemies, vanquished and sunk under the weight of the public opinion. I beg that we may discover that moderation—that prudent firmness, which is the surest evidence of strength and the distinguishing trait of power. *Sirs*, treat the Members of this Parliament, as enemies of the Nation in a manifest delirium. I request then, they may be brought to this bar." This proposal excited great murmurs—many Members, among others, Mr. Camus, moved, that the affair might be submitted to the committee on reports, to report the day after to-morrow; but others proposed to submit it to the Committee on the Constitution. The last motion was carried.

Oct. 9.—The National Assembly decree, that the National Loans opened by virtue of former decrees, shall be shut from the day of the publication of the decree.

The new assignats [paper-money] created by the decree of 29th Sept. shall be in Notes of 2000, 500, 200, 100, 80, 70, 60, and 50 livres each.

[The following very important Decree is prefaced by a lengthy speech of M. BARNAVE, in which he gives the Assembly a particular detail of occurrences in the Colonies, particularly some illegal measures of the Municipal Assembly of St. Marc, in the island of St. Domingo—At the close of which he introduced the following Decree, which was adopted—]

Oct. 12. The National Assembly, after having heard their committee on the subject of the colonies, upon the situation of the island of St. Domingo, and the events which have there taken place, considering that the principles of the Constitution have been violated, the execution of their decrees suspended, and the public tranquility disturbed by the acts of the General Assembly sitting at St. Marc—considering also that the National Assembly has promised to the colonies the speedy establishment of laws the most proper to secure them in the possession of their property; that they have in order to quiet their alarms early announced to them the intention of hearing their voice on every change which might be proposed in the laws prohibitive of commerce, and their firm determination of establishing as constitutional articles in their organization, that no personal laws should be decreed for the colonies, but upon the special and formal request of the colonial Assemblies—that they have been solicitous that the colonies of St. Domingo should realize these dispositions, by securing to them the execution of the decrees of the 8th and 28th of March, and taking every measure necessary to establish public order and tranquility—

DECLARES—the pretended decrees and acts issued from the Assembly appointed at St. Marc, under the title of the General Assembly of the French division of St. Domingo, an outrageous attempt against the national sovereignty and legislative power, and decrees that they are null and incapable of being put in execution—declares the said assembly deprived of its power, and all

its members stripped of the character of deputies of the Colonial Assembly of St. Domingo—

DECLARES—that the Provincial Assembly of the North, the citizens of the town of Cape-Francois, the parish of Croix de Bouguets, and all those who have remained faithful to the decrees of the National Assembly, the volunteers of Port-au-Prince, those of St. Marc, the patriotic troops of the Cape, and all other active citizens who have been guided by the same principles, have gloriously performed all the duties belonging to the title of Frenchmen, and are thanked in the name of the nation by the National Assembly—

DECLARES—that the governor general of St. Domingo, those officers of rank who have faithfully served under his orders, and especially the Sieurs Vincent and de Mauduit, have gloriously performed the duties of their functions—

DECREE—that the King shall be requested to give orders, that the decrees and instructions of the 8th and 28th of March last, shall be put in execution in the Colony of St. Domingo—that in consequence they shall immediately proceed [if it has not yet been done] to the formation of a new Colonial Assembly, according to the rules prescribed by the said instructions, and to conform to them precisely—

DECREE—that all established laws shall continue to be executed in the colony of St. Domingo, until new laws are substituted, following the steps presented by the decrees aforesaid—

DECREE, notwithstanding, that until the organization of the tribunals in the said colony, the Supreme Council of the Cape shall be continued in the form in which it was established; and that the judgment therein rendered, since Jan. 10, shall not be set aside by reason of the illegality of the tribunal.

DECREE—that the King shall be requested, in order to preserve the tranquility of the colony, to send there two ships of the line, and a proportionate number of frigates, and to complete the number of the regiments at the Cape and Port-au-Prince—

DECREE also—that the members of the before mentioned General Assembly of St. Domingo, and the other persons sent from the National Assembly by the Decree of Sept. 20th, shall remain in the same condition until further orders are taken respecting them.

BOURDEAUX, SEPT. 30.

This day at noon the corporation with the Mayor at their head and preceded by the trumpets of the city and a detachment of the municipal guard on foot, proceeded to the court-house, Place de Lombaice, in conformity to the decree of the National Assembly of the 7th of this month sanctioned by the King, to set the seals upon the registry, archives, and other deposits of papers and the records of the ancient tribunal, formerly the parliament. This formality, which drew together a large concourse of spectators, was finished without the least disturbance; the officers of the corporation were received at the entrance into the court with universal acclamations. A single picquet of the National cavalry were held in readiness during this operation, which will not be one of the least brilliant epochs of our history.— Thus then is fallen that ancient oak, whose root sprung from the foundations of monarchy, and whose proud top has so often braved the thunder: The traveller contemplates with some remains of horror this enormous trunk which lately threatened to bury the state in its fall, now laying in the dust, and blestes the victorious hand which has thrown it down.

PHILADELPHIA, DECEMBER 7, 1790.

AS the partnership of JOHN DUNLAP and DAVID C. CLAYPOOLE will expire on the first day of JANUARY, 1791, DAVID C. CLAYPOOLE proposes to publish a Newspaper, entitled

The Mail,

and

New Daily Advertiser.

(To be continued every Evening, Sundays excepted.)

THE MAIL shall be printed with an elegant new Type, prepared for this particular purpose, on Paper, equal in size and quality to any of the Newspapers of Europe or America—And the Subscriber engages that no Means shall be spared to render the MAIL and NEW DAILY ADVERTISER in other respects worthy of the Public Patronage, which he now respectfully solicits.

The Price of the MAIL will be Eight Dollars pr. annum, to be paid at the end of the Year: And Advertisements will be received on such moderate Terms as to prove satisfactory to those who may be pleased to favor the Printer with their Commands in that line.

Subscriptions are thankfully received at No. 48, Market-Street, by D. C. CLAYPOOLE.