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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1791.

[Whole No. 269.]

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

WILLIAM PATERSON, ESQUIRE,

Governor, Captain-General, and Commander in Chief in and over the State of New-Jersey, and territories thereto belonging, Chancellor, and Ordinary in the same.

PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS it is, at all times, our duty to approach the throne of Almighty God with gratitude and praise, but more especially in seasons of national peace, plenty, and prosperity: I have, therefore, thought fit, by and with the advice and consent of the Honourable the Privy Council, to assign Thursday the eighth day of December next, to be set apart and observed as a day of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING and PRAYER for the great and manifold mercies conferred upon this land and people; and particularly for the abundant produce of the earth, during the present year, for the spirit of industry, sobriety, and economy which prevails; for the stability and extension of our national credit and commerce, for the progress of literature, arts and science, and for the good order, peace and plenty, and the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed. And also, that we may unite in our supplications, and humbly implore the Almighty Ruler of the Universe, that he would be pleased to continue his protection and goodness to this land and people, to smile upon all schools and seminaries of learning, to promote agriculture, manufactures and commerce, to illuminate and guide our public councils, to bless our national and state governments, to enable us all to discharge our official, social and relative duties with diligence and fidelity, to eradicate prejudice, bigotry and superstition; to advance the interests of religion, and the knowledge and practice of virtue; and for this purpose to pour out his holy spirit on all ministers of the gospel, and to spread the saving light thereof to the most distant parts of the earth.

Given under my hand and seal at arms, at Trenton, the twenty-first day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one.

WILLIAM PATERSON.

By his Excellency's command,
BOWES REED, Sec'y.

Copy of a letter from the KING of FRANCE to the National Assembly, accepting the Constitution

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE examined with attention the Constitution which you presented me for acceptance. I accept it, and shall see it executed. This declaration would have been sufficient at another time; but at present I owe the interests of the nation and myself an explanation of the motives that have induced this acceptance. From the beginning of my reign I have been desirous of reforming abuses, and in every act of government, have wished to be guided by public opinion. Various causes, among which the situation of the finances when I came to the throne should be mentioned, as also the immense expenses unavoidably incurred for the support of an honourable war, carried on for a length of time, without an increase of taxes, had established a great disproportion between the revenues and the expenses of the state.

Fully sensible of the enormity of the evil, I not only looked for a remedy, but felt the necessity of preventing its return. I conceived the design of establishing public felicity upon a firm foundation; and to subject to invariable rules even the authority which I exercised. I called around me the nation to execute this design. In the course of events brought on by the revolution—my intentions have never varied. When, after having reformed the ancient institutions, you began to substitute for them your first works, I did not wait to give them my assent that the whole Constitution should be known to me. I favored the establishment of parts before I could judge of the whole; and though disturbances which have attended almost every step of the revolution too often were the causes of great grief to me, I always hoped that the law would resume its vigor in the hands of its new depositaries, and that as you drew towards a conclusion of your labours, every day would restore it that respect, without which the people can neither be free nor happy. I long persisted in this hope; my determination changed, when that hope left me.

Let every one call to recollection the time when I left Paris. The Constitution was nearly completed, and the authority of the laws was diminishing. Public opinions, far from being fixed, appeared to be more divided than ever. The least moderate opinions appeared alone to have weight. The licentiousness of the press was at its height, and no authority was respected. I could not obtain an acquaintance with the general will, when by looking around I could see nothing but the laws without weight and not enforced: Then, I must say it, had you presented the Constitution at that time to me, I should not have thought it the interest of the people, the constant and only rule of my conduct, that I should have accepted it.

I entertained but one sentiment: I had in view but one design: I wished to retire out of the reach of every party, and examine what was really the wish of the nation. The motives that influenced my conduct, no longer exist; since the inconveniences and evils which I then complained of have struck you as they did me.

You have shewn a desire to restore good order; you have attended to the undisciplined state of the army; you have seen the necessity of putting a stop to the licentiousness of the press. In the revision of your work, you have placed among the laws several articles which have been presented me as constitutional decrees. You have established a legal mode of revising the Constitution. At length the public wish is known to me; I have seen it evidenced in the attachment of the people to your work, and to a monarchical form of government.

I therefore accept the Constitution, I promise to support it in the kingdom, to defend it against foreign violence, and to procure its execution by all the means which it places within my power. I declare, that convinced of the attachment of the great majority of the people to the Constitution, I gave up the right of concurrence, which I had called for in this work, and that being responsible to the nation alone, no one has a right to complain of this departure from my original requisition.

I should however deviate from truth, if I said that I have perceived in the administrative and executive authority all the energy necessary to put in motion, and preserve harmony in all the parts of this wide extended empire: But since opinions are at this time divided on this subject, I consent that experience alone should be the judge. When I shall have put into action all the powers placed in my hands, I can suffer no reproach, and the nation, whose interest should be a constant rule, will explain itself in the manner

laid down in the Constitution. But to strengthen liberty and the Constitution, to promote the individual happiness of every Frenchman, certain interests positively call for the re-union of all our efforts. These interests are, respect for the laws, the re-establishment of good order, and the re-union of citizens.

At this time the Constitution being finally established, Frenchmen living under the same laws should know no other enemies than those who disregard them—Discord and anarchy—they are our common enemies: I will oppose them with all my might. It is important that you and your successors should second my efforts with energy. Without attempting to controul thought, the law protects equally all those whose actions are in conformity to it. Let those whom fear of persecutions and disturbances have driven from their country, find, when they return, security and tranquility: And to put an end to feuds, to soften the distresses which a great revolution always occasions, and, that the law may from this time command with full energy and be well executed, let us consent to forget the past. Let accusations and prosecutions, which took their rise in events which accompanied the revolution, die away, and let an universal reconciliation take place. I make no mention of those who have been guided only by their attachment for me: Is it possible that you should deem them guilty?—With regard to those who, having been guilty of excesses that involved personal injuries, have drawn upon their heads the vengeance of the laws, I prove to them, that I am King of all Frenchmen.

P. S. I have thought, gentlemen, that I ought to pronounce my solemn acceptance of the Constitution in the midst of the Representatives of the Nation, and on the spot where the Constitution was framed; I shall therefore come to the National Assembly tomorrow at noon.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, SEPT. 13.

After the King had subscribed the oath, the President made the following ANSWER.

INVETERATE abuses, which had long triumphed over the good intentions of our best Kings, and which would still have continued to defy the authority of the throne, kept France under oppression.

The National Assembly, entrusted with the wishes, the rights and power of the people, has, by the destruction of all abuses, re-established the solid foundation of public prosperity.

Sire, what the National Assembly has decreed, is ratified by the consent of the people: the most complete execution in all the parts of the empire attests the general assent. It defeats the weak schemes of those whom discontent has too long rendered blind to their own interests. It promises to your Majesty, that you will no longer wish in vain for the happiness of the French.

The National Assembly has nothing more to wish for on this ever-memorable day, wherein you consummate, in the midst of them, the most solemn engagement—the acceptance of the constitutional royalty. It is the attachment of the French—it is their confidence which confer upon you this pure and respectful title to the fairest crown in the universe: and that which secures it to you, is, Sire, the inexhaustible authority of a Constitution freely decreed: it is the invincible strength of a people, who has felt itself worthy of liberty: it is the want of hereditary monarchy, which will always be indispensable to such a great nation.

When your Majesty, expecting from experience the light which it will throw upon the practical results of the Constitution, promises to maintain it within and to defend it against enemies from without, the nation, relying on the justice of their rights, and on the consciousness of their strength and courage, as well as on the earnestness of your co-operation, cannot see any ground of alarm from without, and will concur by its quiet confidence in the quick success of its internal government.

How great to our eyes, dear to our hearts, and how sublime will appear in our history the era of this regeneration, which gives citizens to France—a country to the French; to you as a king, a title to greatness and glory, and to you, as a man, a new source of enjoyment and new fountains of happiness!

The following Address from the General Assembly of St. Domingo, was read in the House of Representatives of the United States, on Monday last.

TO THE HONORABLE THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

GENTLEMEN,

IN our letter of the 24th of last August, you received information of the misfortunes, which had befallen the northern part of this flourishing colony. Our whole force, though very limited, has been levelled against the ravagers, who are laying it waste; and we have so far accomplished our ends, as, if not to effect their total reduction, at least to check the evil in its progress. That unhappy catastrophe forced the General Assembly of the French part of Saint Domingo to embrace every means of safety, indispensable in similar cases, and rendered necessary by the urgency of circumstances; in consequence of which, the shipping in general, and, among the rest, the vessels belonging to your nation, have experienced some little delay in their departure. But, desirous of maintaining the union and harmony, that subsist between France (of which we constitute a part) and your States—desirous also of testifying, as far as in their power, their grateful acknowledgment of the generous services, offered and rendered to the colony, by the brave subjects of the United States—the General Assembly, in concert with the King's representative, have in the first place, set aside the *Droit d'Aubaine*, in favor of such as might fall victims to their own zeal and courage. The Assembly would have wished to abolish it forever, and to extend the exemptions to the Americans in general, but this object being a constitutional

point, they intend to apply for it to the mother country; and we have not a doubt, that she will eagerly gratify our wishes.

In the next place, having taken into consideration the obstacles, experienced by Mr. Sylvanus Bourne your consul in this colony, to the registry of his credentials—obstacles, which were occasioned by certain formal defects—the General Assembly hastened to remove them, and to give orders that the said credentials should be registered.

Finally, under the constant influence of those principles of justice and equity, which cement the union between the two allied nations, and desirous of corresponding with the views of France, who will ever hold dear that memorable epoch, when she saw permanent security given to the unlimited freedom of a nation, that has furnished her with the glorious example, for the recovery of her own rights so long misunderstood—the General Assembly have, in favor of the Americans, hastened to take off the embargo, which the unfortunate situation of affairs had obliged them to lay on all vessels without distinction.

But in vain would the colony have recovered her former tranquility, if the means of applying a speedy remedy to the evil were not to be employed. The General Assembly have therefore determined to send to your body two new commissioners, Messrs. De Beauvois and Payan, who are provided with letters from the Assembly and the King's representative.

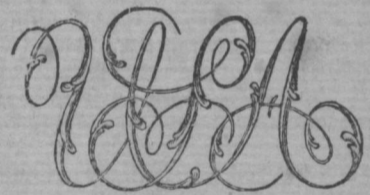
The General Assembly do not entertain a doubt, that you will together with a favorable reception to them, give your assent to the requisitions which they are empowered to make of you, the success of which will undoubtedly extend its influence to the commerce, which the subjects of the United States carry on with this colony.

With this pleasing hope, we contemplate their departure, and direct them to the representatives of a generous nation, the friend and ally of France since the year 1782, the period when she fully recovered her liberty.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient humble servant,

J. PONCIGNON, President.

Cape-Francois, October 13, 1791.



CONGRESS.

PHILADELPHIA.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 15, 1791.

IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.
Debate on the Ratio of Representation.

(CONTINUED.)

MR. STEELE laid he should not have troubled the committee again if his observations had not been distorted by the remarks which had been made on them; he hoped that what he should offer on some of the opinions which had fallen from gentlemen in opposition to him would be received with that candor with which he should deliver them. He professed to be as warm a friend to the liberties of the people as any man, but he differed in his ideas respecting the measures which would most effectually secure them; the present question he thought was not particularly interesting to the liberties of the people, as the point of difference would not make a very great variation in that number of the representative body which appeared to be the most eligible to the majority of the committee; but the principle contended for, he conceived had a very important aspect on the stability of the government; the subject therefore should be considered principally with respect to legislation; the great and essential principles of which he observed were involved in the discussion—and here he thought that our own experience was the best instructor, for the examples quoted from Great-Britain did not in his opinion apply to this country in all respects; the circumstances of the people of the respective countries are essentially different.