

shock, and I might not again be able to go thro' the weight of business which necessarily follows the command of an army.

Although, Sir, I am myself persuaded that every thing was done, in the course of the last campaign, that could be done on my part, fully to answer the public expectation, yet it is denied by some, doubted by many, and known to but few out of the army. A wish to rectify the public opinion, and a duty that I conceive I owe to myself; induce me to request that an inquiry into my conduct may be instituted: when that is over, I may hope to be permitted to resign the commission of Major-General, which I now hold. Should the result of the enquiry be that, in any instance, the duties of my station were neglected, or that I did not improve every hour and every opportunity to the best advantage, or that the operations of the army, after it was in a condition to operate, were delayed one moment in consequence of my illness, I shall patiently submit to the merited censure.

To whoever may be appointed my successor, I shall be happy, Sir, to give every light and information my situation, as General of the army, or as Governor of the Western Territory, put in my power to obtain, and to evince to you, Sir, and to the world, that the confidence you were pleased to repose in me, was not misplaced.

With every sentiment of gratitude, of respect, and, allow me to add, of affection, I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
ARTHUR ST. CLAIR.

The PRESIDENT of the United States.

United States, March 28th, 1792.

SIR,

YOUR knowledge of the country north-west of the Ohio, and of the resources for an army in its vicinity, added to a full confidence in your military character, founded on mature experience, induced my nomination of you to the command of the troops on the frontiers.

Your desire of rectifying any errors of the public opinion, relatively to your conduct, by an investigation of a court of enquiry, is highly laudable, and would be readily complied with, were the measure practicable.—But a total deficiency of officers, in actual service, of competent rank to form a legal court, for that purpose, precludes the power of gratifying your wishes on the occasion.

The intimation of your readiness to afford your successor all the information of which you are capable, although unnecessary for my personal conviction, must be regarded as an additional evidence of the goodness of your heart, and of your attachment to your country.

I am, Sir,

With esteem and regard,
Your most obedient servant,
G. WASHINGTON.

Major-General ARTHUR ST. CLAIR.

Philadelphia, March 31st, 1792.

SIR,

I HAVE had the honor to receive your letter of the 28th inst. While I lament that circumstances prevent an investigation into my conduct, by a court of enquiry, I cannot but acquiesce in the reasons you have assigned why it cannot take place; and I beg leave to present my thanks for the desire to have gratified me, had it been practicable, which you have been pleased to manifest.

In my letter of the 26th, I expressed an intention of retiring from the army, when the enquiry should be over.—The only reason I had for wishing to retain my commission until that time was, that if any misconduct should appear in the course of the enquiry, I might be amenable to a court-martial, which a resignation would have precluded. The House of Representatives: Sir, have directed an enquiry into the causes of the failure of the last campaign to be made by a committee of their own body:—the same reason that influenced me when a court of enquiry was contemplated, operates now with equal force, and therefore it may be proper that I should still retain my commission; but, as it will soon be requisite that some person should be at the head of the army who is to continue to command it, it is necessary, Sir, that I should inform you explicitly, which I now do, of my fixed resolution to resign the moment the enquiry is finished, should no fault be found, that any embarrassment which may exist, with respect to providing a successor for me, may be removed.

Be pleased, Sir, to observe that my sole object is to give effect to public justice, in the usual way by a court-martial, should it appear that, in any manner whatsoever, the misfortunes of the last campaign can be attributed to me; and it is the proper, and I believe the only tribunal, where military crimes and misconduct can be enquired into and punished; or where an officer's reputation, infinitely dearer than life, can be vindicated.—Should the public service, however, require that another officer of the same rank with me be appointed immediately, I am ready to make the resignation forthwith, notwithstanding that it

may seem to proceed, and at a distance will be supposed to have arisen, from a sense that the volume of calumny and defamation, which is daily pouring from the press into the public ear, has too much foundation for me to meet it,—that I shrink from the consequences and chuse to shelter myself in a private station:—I am ready, Sir, upon this occasion, as I have been upon all others, to sacrifice every private and personal feeling and consideration to the public good.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

ARTHUR ST. CLAIR.

The PRESIDENT of the United States.

United States, April 4th, 1792.

SIR,

I HAVE read and duly considered your letter of the 31st ultimo.

The reasons you offer for retaining your commission, until an opportunity should be presented, if necessary, of investigating your conduct in every mode prescribed by law, would be conclusive with me, under any other circumstances than the present.

But the establishment of the troops allows only of one Major-General. You have manifested your intention of retiring, and the essential interests of the public require that your successor should be immediately appointed in order to repair to the frontiers.

As the House of Representatives have been pleased to institute an enquiry into the causes of the failure of the late expedition, I should hope an opportunity would thereby be afforded you of explaining your conduct, in a manner satisfactory to the public and yourself.

I am, Sir,

With esteem and regard,

Your most obedient servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

Major-General ARTHUR ST. CLAIR.

Philadelphia, April 7, 1792.

SIR,

I HAVE had the honor to receive your letter of the 4th instant.

Although I was very desirous, Sir, to hold the commission of Major-General until the enquiry by the committee of the House of Representatives should be over, for the reasons I assigned, and which you are pleased to think have some weight—yet the necessity of the officer being appointed who is to command the troops, in order to his repairing to the frontiers, is certainly pressing, and ought to silence with me every wish of a mere personal nature. I do therefore, Sir, now formally resign the appointment of Major-General.

I have never, Sir, entertained a doubt that an enquiry into the causes of the failure of the late expedition, whether directed particularly to my conduct, or to that connected with other causes that may have operated in whatever way it might be conducted, would not prove honorable to me, and satisfactory to the public, as far as I was concerned with it; but setting, as I do, a due value upon the public opinion, and desirous not to lose that place in the esteem of the virtuous and intelligent of my fellow citizens which I have long held, you will not wonder that, under existing circumstances, a degree of anxiety, not only that there should be an enquiry, but that every thing capable of being misconstrued, should be avoided on my part. I will own to you, Sir, that the desire of honest fame has ever been the strongest passion in my breast: I have thought that I had merited it, and it is all that I have to compensate for the sacrifice of a very independent situation, and the best years of my life devoted to the public service, and the faithful application of my talents, such as they were, in every situation in which I have been placed, with a zeal bordering upon enthusiasm. I trust, Sir, I shall still enjoy it, while those who have attempted to disturb it, will be forgotten, or remembered with indignation, and in their bosoms, if they have feeling, sensations may arise something similar to what Milton has described to have seized upon Satan when he discovered our first parents in Paradise.

With every sentiment of respect and duty,

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

ARTHUR ST. CLAIR.

The PRESIDENT of the United States.

Last Tuesday the following gentlemen were elected Aldermen in the room of the late F. Hopkinson, Esq. and Samuel Powel and W. Collady, Esquires, who had resigned, viz.

JONATHAN BAYARD SMITH, }
MICHAEL HILLEGAS, and } Esquires.
FRANCIS GURNEY, }

The following gentlemen were elected Common Councilmen, viz.

Mordecai Lewis, John Wood, Benjamin Chew, jun. James Millegan, Isaac Snowden, John Stille, William Wells, Lawrence Seckel, Joseph Norris, Richard Fullerton, Jacob Schreiner, John Montgomery, Philip Wager, Edward Bartholomew, Samuel M. Fox, John Craig, James Abercrombie, Robert Wain, Robert Ralston, Robert Smith, John C. Stocker, John Perot, George Bickham, David Jackson, Frederick Kuhl, James C. Fisher, Godfrey Hags, William Van Phul, Jacob R. Howell, and Robert Wharton, Esquires.



CONGRESS.

IN SENATE.—APRIL, 1792.

The Committee on the subject of WEIGHTS and MEASURES, Report, that it is their opinion,

1. THE standard for the measures and weights of the United States, be a uniform cylindrical rod of iron, of such length as in latitude 45° in the level of the ocean, and in a cellar of uniform natural temperature, shall perform its vibrations in small and equal arcs, in one second of mean time.

2. That the President of the United States be requested to have such a standard rod provided; that it be prepared with all the accuracy which the importance of the object merits and circumstances admit;—that this be done by actual experiments, under the parallel of 45° of latitude complete, or by actual experiments, rectified by due allowances, under any other parallel, where a superiority of means for accurate experiment may promise on the whole greater truth in the result.

3. That the expences of the measures he shall adopt for this purpose, not exceeding dollars, be defrayed by the public.

4. That the standard rod so to be provided, shall be divided into five equal parts, one of which to be called a foot, shall be the unit of measures of length for the United States.

That the foot shall be divided into 10 inches.

The inch into 10 lines,

The line into 10 points, and

That 10 feet make a decad,

10 decads a rod,

10 rods a furlong,

And 10 furlongs a mile.

5. That measures of surface in the United States, be made by squares of the measures of length; and that in the case of lands, the unit shall be a square, whereof every side shall be an hundred feet, to be called a rood.

That each rood be divided into tenths and hundredths.

That 10 roods make a double acre,

And ten double acres a square furlong.

6. That the unit of measures of capacity, in the United States, be a cubic foot to be called a bushel;

That each bushel be divided into ten pottles,

Each pottle into 10 demi pints,

Each demi pint into 10 metres;

That 10 bushels be a quarter,

And 10 quarters a last or double ton.

7. That the unit of weights of the United States, be a cubic inch of rain water, to be called an ounce, and to be measured and weighed in a cellar of uniform natural temperature;

That the ounce be divided into 10 double scruples,

The double scruple into 10 carats,

The carat into 10 minims or demi grains,

The minim into 10 mites;

That 10 ounces make a pound,

10 pounds a stone,

10 stones a kental,

10 kentals a hoghead.

The consideration of this report is postponed until the next Session of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11.

The memorial of T. Fielder, inventor of an apparatus to facilitate navigation, praying the aid of Congress to carry his project into execution, was read and ordered to lie on the table; as was also a memorial from the commissioners of the city and county of Philadelphia, respecting compensation for the use of the city jail;—and a memorial from the merchants of New-York, remonstrating against the proposed augmentation of the impost duties.

A memorial from the inhabitants of the towns of Cincinnati and Columbia, on the little Miami, was referred to a select committee.

A memorial was read, from Signor Giuseppe Ceracchi (the Roman artist, who executed the bust of liberty over The Speaker's chair) setting forth that he is ready to enter upon the execution of a design for the national monument, which he some time ago laid before Congress. Referred, together with his former memorial, to Mess. Gerry, Benson, Lee, Murray and Tucker.

Presented by the committee of enrollment, and signed by The Speaker, the Representation Bill—and the bill for altering the times of holding the Circuit Courts in certain districts of the United States.