

DECLARATION OF THE DUKE OF BRUNSWICK.

[Read to the French National Convention by M. BRISSOT.]

WHEN their Majesties, the Emperor and the King of Prussia, in confiding to me the command of the armies which these two allied Sovereigns have caused to march into France, made me the organ of their intentions, set forth in the two declarations of the 25th and 27th of July 1792, their Majesties were far from conceiving the possibility of those scenes of horror, which preceded and brought on the imprisonment of their Majesties, the King and Queen of France, and the Royal Family.

[This gave rise to some murmurs.] [M. Brissot here observed, that the only answer he should make to this manifesto, was that General Dumoutier had it printed and distributed in his army; the good effects of which were found in the increased courage and provoked indignation of the soldiers. He proceeded in the reading of it.]

Such atrocious acts, of which nations in the least degree civilized have not yet shewn an example, were nevertheless not the extreme bounds, which the audacity of certain factious men, who had contrived to render the people of Paris the blind instruments of their will, had set to their guilty ambition.

The suppression of all the King's functions, which had been reserved to him by that very constitution, which has been so long cried up as the vow of the whole nation, was the last crime of the National Assembly, which has brought upon France the two dreadful scourges of war and anarchy. [Fresh murmurs.]

[M. Brissot.—I request silence, if it be only through pity.]

To perpetuate these evils, there remained but one step to be taken, which could be dictated only by that mad spirit, the fatal forerunner of the fall of empires, which has seized upon those men who distinguish themselves by the title of deputies of the nation, chosen to confirm its rights and happiness, upon the most substantial basis. The first decree which they passed in their Assembly, was the abolition of royalty in France; and the senseless acclamation of a small number of individuals, of whom even several were strangers, claimed the right of overthrowing the judgment of fourteen generations, who have filled the fourteen centuries of the existence of the French monarchy.

This proceeding at which the enemies of France alone should rejoice, if they supposed that it could have a lasting effect, is in direct opposition to the firm resolution, which their Majesties the Emperor and the King of Prussia have taken, and from which those two allied Sovereigns will never depart, to restore to his Most Christian Majesty his liberty, safety, and royal dignity, or to wreak a just and signal vengeance on those who shall dare any longer to violate or infringe upon them.

For these reasons, the undersigned declares to the French nation in general, and to each particular individual, that their Majesties, the Emperor and the King of Prussia, invariably attached to the principle of not meddling in the interior government of France, (a peal of laughter) persist nevertheless to require that his Most Christian Majesty, together with all the royal family, shall be immediately set at liberty, by those who presume to keep them imprisoned. Their Majesties also insist, that the royal dignity in France shall be, without delay, re-established in the person of Louis XVI. and his successors: (another and louder burst of laughter) And further, that this royal dignity shall be secured from any such affront in future.

If the French nation has not entirely lost sight of its true interests, and if, free in its resolutions, it is desirous of putting a stop quickly to all the calamities of a war, which exposes so many provinces to all the evils attendant upon the march of an army, it will not delay an instant to declare its opinion in favor of the peremptory demands which I make in the name of their Majesties the Emperor and the King of Prussia; and which, in case of a refusal, will inevitably draw down upon this kingdom, hitherto so flourishing, new and more terrible disasters.

The part which the French nation may take, in consequence of this declaration, will either extinguish or perpetuate the fatal effects of calamitous war, by removing, in the suppression of royalty, the means of re-establishing and keeping up the ancient connexion between France and the powers of Europe; or may open the way, by negotiation, to the restoration of peace, order and tranquility, which those who call themselves the depositaries of the national will, are the most interested to render as prompt as it is necessary to the kingdom. (Signed)

CHARLES F. DUKE OF BRUNSWICK LUNENBURG.

Head Quarters, at Ham, Sept. 28, 1792.

These papers were referred to the Committee of public safety.

COMBINED ARMIES.

Prussian Head Quarters at Vauliers, October 1.

We have retraced our steps to the place in which we were 15 days ago. We have been 10 days in presence of the French army without an action, or a cannon shot on either side. The time has passed in negotiations. Baron de Breteuil repaired to Verdun. To this Minister it was, that the King of Prussia and the other Princes chiefly gave credit, after the retreat of M. de Calonne, to whose bad calculations are imputed, and, as appears, with reason, all the notions hastily taken up and ill digested, on which hopes of prompt and cheap success were too readily entertained. But for these fallacious assurances, the entrance into a country planted with fortresses from Lille to the Rhine, would not have been attempted; or if attempted, would have been so with greater means. Mr. de Breteuil watched events at Verdun, especially while the French army was surrounded almost on all sides by the allies.



CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. WEDNESDAY, December 26.

A bill providing for a reimbursement of a loan made of the Bank of the United States, was taken into consideration. Mr. Steele moved that the first section be struck out; this occasioned a debate.

Mr. Steele said he made the motion, not that he was opposed to the general object of the bill, but on a persuasion of the bad policy of borrowing. He remarked, that with respect to an individual it had been considered that he was generally in the road to ruin, in proportion to the facility with which he could borrow, and the same remark would probably apply to public bodies. He had an aversion to the whole system of borrowing; he had therefore made the motion in order to try the principle, how far we were to proceed, and in hopes that a more full discussion of the subject would produce an abandoning of such a system.

Mr. Madison enquired whether any information had been received in consequence of the resolution passed on Monday, directing the Secretary of the Treasury to report the state of the foreign loans.

The Speaker said, he supposed the time had not admitted of any return from the Secretary.

Mr. Madison then said, he should be glad to be informed what were the disadvantages which would accrue from deferring the business a few days. If it should appear that any loss would occur, or the credit of the government suffer, he should most heartily agree to proceed in the bill; but as it did not appear that this was the case, and much important information was wanting, he hoped that no precipitation would take place.

Mr. Sedgwick replied to Mr. Madison; he adverted to an existing state of facts, in relation to a sum of money now laying useless, but appropriated for a special purpose—he observed, that one object of the bill was for the government to avail itself of this sum, by making a loan at a less rate of interest than is now paid to the Bank of the United States.—The design, said Mr. Sedgwick, is not as the gentleman from North Carolina has said, to increase the debts of the United States, but to diminish those debts, and this has been the case in respect to every loan that has been made since the existence of the present government.

Mr. Madison observed, that he had heard nothing to induce him to suppose that any necessity existed for a loan for the purpose of the bill.—It is stated that there is a sum of money laying useless: he knew, he said, of no motives of delicacy or propriety which should prevent the application of this money to paying the loan made of the Bank of the United States. If any such reasons existed, he was ignorant of them, and therefore should be glad of further information: he supposed he was not alone in this respect; many of the members, he believed, were equally in the dark with himself.

Mr. Baldwin, after adverting to the several acts authorizing loans, inferred from their amount their appropriations, and the surplus of those loans now on hand, that there was no necessity for a new loan to discharge the loan made of the Bank of the United States.

Mr. Gerry gave an account of the several loans, the objects to which they are appropriated, and from this statement shewed that there was no such surplus as the gentleman stated, to be applied to the present object without interfering with appropriations already made. Mr. Gerry observed, that the design of the bill was, not to increase the debts of the United States, it is simply to provide for diminishing the interest now paid on a debt due from the government.—That this will be the operation of the proposed loan was demonstrable; and on this principle the bill is most extremely eligible.

Mr. Williamson said he had heard but one substitute hinted at, for the section proposed to be struck out; and he should not vote for striking out, for that. He shewed that the selling of the stock in the Bank, belonging to the United States, would have a most insidious effect.—It would fall into the hands of foreigners; he could have wished rather that the United States owned the whole of the stock. He doubted whether the government could, in justice and sound policy, make such a sale of stock as to affect the value of the property, as subscriptions from individuals arose in part from the government being interested; it would operate something like an ex post facto law. He added some remarks, to shew that no immediate necessity existed for a new loan—he thought we could do without one at present.

Mr. Madison replied to Mr. Williamson—he remarked that this was the first time he had ever heard it intimated, that the property of the United States, in the Bank, was unalienable—with respect to the money appropriated, and now laying useless, he was of opinion that it ought immediately to be applied to the original purpose, i.e. to pay our debt to France. He tho't that now was the time to discharge our obligations to that country; and so far was he from considering the present posture of affairs as a reason for withholding payment—he could rather wish that the sum due was waisted to them on the wings of the wind. He added, that if he was arguing from mistaken principles, he wished to be set right. But the reason for withholding payment from our generous allies

he did not think sufficient: the reason suggested was that the United States, by paying the money at the present time, might be liable to pay it again, in case of change in the government of France.

Mr. Giles denied the necessity and the policy of making a loan of two million of dollars, to provide for the payment of an instalment of 200,000 dollars to the Bank of the U. States.—He shewed by an induction of particulars, that it was at least extremely problematical whether there would be any saving by a loan at 5 per cent. when the charges and douceurs were taken into the account. At least, said he, it will require a considerable time to elapse before the profits talked of will begin to accrue. On the whole, considering the imperfect state of the information in possession of the House, respecting the loans already made, their amount and application,—he thought the business should be postponed: he therefore proposed a resolution, requiring from the Secretary of the Treasury, a more particular statement of facts, respecting all foreign loans, than was required by the resolution of Monday.

Mr. Findley observed—from the various surmises which had been made in the House, he feared there was a general want of information, in respect to the whole business; and therefore was in favor of the bill's laying over till the requisite information was obtained. For his part, he never would vote for the clause till this information was received; and if the bill is not postponed, he should vote for striking out the section.

Mr. Boudinot remarked, that as the United States need the sum now to be provided for, and were paying an interest at 6 per cent. the only question was, whether we shall borrow a sum at 5 per cent. to pay it off, and thereby make a saving of 20,000 dollars annually, or continue to pay the 6 per cent. He remarked, that the only objection which had been mentioned, was that which had been offered by the gentleman from Virginia, that little or no saving would be made, owing to the douceurs, charges, &c.—Mr. Boudinot said, that it must be understood, that 5 per cent. includes the charges.

Mr. Fitzsimons observed, that the gentleman who had brought forward the motion, had said he did it to try the principle, whether we were to go on with the pernicious practice of loans.—Mr. Fitzsimons said he did not think that this would try the principle. None of the loans made by the present government have added to the debt of the United States; they were all made to discharge other loans, and have been applied to the great benefit of the country—and this is the object of the loan now proposed to be made.—Mr. Fitzsimons stated fundry particulars, to shew that a loan at 5 per cent. would in the present case be an annual saving to the United States of 16,000 dollars per annum; even calculating on the douceurs, stated by the gentleman from Virginia, which is the highest that has ever been mentioned.—Mr. Fitzsimons added some observations respecting the necessity of making immediate provision, as the instalment became due next week.

Mr. Madison adverted to the different grounds on which the bill had been advocated; and now the support was narrowed down to the simple idea of the exigency of making immediate provision for the instalment. He hoped, therefore, that the bill would not be precipitated, but lay on the table for further consideration.

Mr. Dayton opposed the bill's laying on the table.

Mr. Steele offered fundry reasons to induce a postponement. Mr. Venable observed, that according to the statement which had been mentioned of the douceur on foreign loans, the United States in the first instance would increase their debt by borrowing at 5 per cent. to pay off loans on which 6 per cent. was now paid: it would require a number of years to elapse before they would begin to realize any advantage; so that at this moment the debt of the United States were in fact increased by the loans already made—and it would take four years to place the country in exactly the same state in which it now is, in relation to the loan of the Bank of the United States, in case a foreign loan at 5 per cent. is now made to pay the bank.

Some observations were made in opposition to Mr. Venable, in which it was asserted that the advantage of the proposed loan would begin immediately to accrue to the United States.

Mr. Steele's motion was at length determined in the negative by ayes and noes, which are as follows:

- A Y E S. Mess. Ashe, Baldwin, Findley, Greenup, Grove, Lee, Madison, Moore, Parker, Schoonmaker, I. Smith, Steele, Sturges, Sumpter, Tredwell, Venable.

- N O E S. Mess. Ames, Benson, Barnwell, Boudinot, S. Bourne, B. Bourn, Dayton, Fitzsimons, Gerry, Gilman, Goodhue, Gordon, Griffin, Hartley, Hillhouse, Huger, Jacobs, Key, Kitchell, Kittera, Learned, Livermore, Murray, Milledge, Niles, Sedgwick, Sylvester, W. Smith, Thatcher, Tucker, Wadsworth, White, Williamson, Willis.

Mr. Madison then moved to strike out of the first section, the words two millions, and insert two hundred thousand, before the word dollars.

The Ayes and Noes being demanded at this motion, are as follow:

- A Y E S. Mess. Ashe, Baldwin, Findley, Greenup, Grove, Lee, Madison, Milledge, Moore, Niles, Parker, Schoonmaker, I. Smith, Steele, Sturges, Sumpter, Treadwell, Tucker, Venable, White, Williamson, Willis.

- N O E S. Mess. Ames, Barnwell, Benson, Boudinot, S. Bourne, B. Bourn, Dayton, Fitzsimons, Gerry, Gilman, Goodhue, Gordon, Hartley, Hillhouse, Huger, Jacobs, Kittera, Learned, Leonard, Livermore, Murray, Sedgwick, W. Smith, Sylvester, Thatcher, Wadsworth.

The Speaker voting in this case in the negative, the motion was lost.

A motion by Mr. Williamson, to amend the section by adding a clause, to restrict the premium on the loan, to 5 per cent. per annum, including all charges, was unanimously agreed to—and then House the adjourned.

MONDAY, Dec. 31.

Mr. B. Bourn presented the petition of the corporation of Rhode Island College, praying reparation for the damages done to the said College during the war, by the American and French armies, and for rent for the same—the College was alternately used as a barrack and an hospital to the said armies. Read and referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Thatcher presented the petition of Isaiah Thomas, Printer, of Worcester, in Massachusetts, praying that the article of Printing Types imported from Europe, may be exempted from duty; and that bonds given by the petitioner for the duty on a large quantity of Types imported by him, may be cancelled. Read and referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

A bill to amend an act entitled, an act for establishing a mint, and regulating the coins of the United States, so far as respects the coinage of copper; was reported by Mr. Williamson, read twice, and referred to a committee of the whole for to-morrow.

The bill to ascertain the fees demandable on cases of admiralty proceedings in the courts of the United States, &c. was brought in engrossed, read the third time, the blanks filled up. On the question, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. Williamson said the bill appeared to him to be essentially defective; one leg was cut away, and it limped very badly on the other: he wished therefore it should not pass. He wished that the judiciary system should be generally amended; this was the desire of his constituents, who, under the regulations now existing were exposed to innumerable difficulties; and with respect to seizures, they had almost ceased, owing to the perplexities thrown in the way, by the regulations of the courts of the U. States.

Mr. W. Smith acknowledged that the bill was not so good an one as he could have wished—he remarked that he could not conceive how any thing could limp on one leg. But its mutilated state, said he, may be attributed to the gentleman who now opposes its passage. Mr. Smith said, the gentleman had not, in his opinion, give a sufficient reason against its passing. He further remarked, that it originated on a petition from upwards of 60 respectable merchants of the city of Charleston, who complained of the enormous fees they were subject to in that state. Their petition has been thought just and reasonable. The bill will afford them relief, without doing injury to any other parts of the union. He hoped, therefore, that the bill might pass, as a temporary relief, until a general revision of the judiciary system, shall take place. No further observations being made, the bill was passed.

The report of a select committee on the petition of the inhabitants of Vincennes, praying to be released from the expences of re-surveying their lands, was read, which was in favour of the petitioners; the report was accepted, and a committee appointed to report a bill.

Mr. Gerry presented the memorial of the officers of the Massachusetts line of the late army, in behalf of themselves and the privates of the said army. Read and laid on the table.

Mr. White called up a motion which he laid on the table, on Friday last, which was, that a committee be appointed to prepare and report a bill to explain the act establishing the courts of the United States, in respect to taking bail in criminal cases.

This motion being agreed to, Mr. White, Mr. W. Smith, and Mr. J. Smith, were appointed as the committee.

Mr. Goodhue, from the committee appointed for the purpose, reported a bill relative to claims against the United States, not barred by any act of limitation, and which have not already been adjusted. Read twice, and committed for Thursday next. Ordered that 100 copies be printed in committee of the whole, on the bill making appropriations for the year 1793.

Mr. Sedgwick in the Chair. The committee made some amendments; they then rose, and reported progress. On motion the committee of the whole was discharged, and the bill recommitted to the select committee which reported it.