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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1793.

[Whole No. 399.]

LAW OF THE UNION.

SECOND

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, AT THE SECOND SESSION,

Begun and held at the City of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, on Monday the fifth of November, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two.

An ACT regulating Foreign Coins, and for other purposes.

Section 1. BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That from and after the first day of July next, foreign gold and silver coins shall pass current as money within the United States, and be a legal tender for the payment of all debts and demands, at the several and respective rates following, and not otherwise, viz. The gold coins of Great-Britain and Portugal, of their present standard, at the rate of one hundred cents for every twenty-seven grains of the actual weight thereof, the gold coins of France, Spain and the dominions of Spain, of their present standard, at the rate of one hundred cents for every twenty-seven grains and two fifths of a grain, of the actual weight thereof. Spanish milled dollars, at the rate of one hundred cents for each dollar, the actual weight whereof shall not be less than seventeen penny weights and seven grains; and in proportion for the parts of a dollar. Crowns of France, at the rate of one hundred and ten cents for each crown, the actual weight whereof, shall not be less than eighteen penny weights and seventeen grains; and in proportion for the parts of a crown. But no foreign coin that may have been, or shall be issued subsequent to the first day of January, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, shall be a tender, as aforesaid, until samples thereof shall have been found, by assay, at the Mint of the United States, to be conformable to the respective standards required, and proclamation thereof shall have been made by the President of the United States.

Sec. 2. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That at the expiration of three years next ensuing the time when the coinage of gold, and silver, agreeably to the act, entitled, "An act establishing a Mint, and regulating the Coins of the United States," shall commence at the mint of the United States, (which time shall be announced by the proclamation of the President of the United States) all foreign gold coins, and all foreign silver coins, except Spanish milled dollars and parts of such dollars, shall cease to be a legal tender, as aforesaid.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That all foreign gold and silver coins, (except Spanish milled dollars, and parts of such dollars) which shall be received in payment for monies due to the United States, after the said time, when the coinage of gold and silver coins shall begin at the mint of the United States, shall, previously to their being issued in circulation, be coined anew, in conformity to the act, entitled, "An act establishing a mint, and regulating the coins of the United States."

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That from and after the first day of July next, the fifty-fifth section of the act, entitled, "An act to provide more effectually for the collection of the duties imposed by law on goods, wares and merchandise imported into the United States," which ascertainment the rates at which foreign gold and silver coins shall be received for the duties and fees to be collected in virtue of the said act, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That the assay, provided to be made by the act, entitled, "An act establishing a mint, and regulating the coins of the United States," shall commence in the manner as by the said act is prescribed, on the second Monday of February, annually, any thing in the said act to the contrary notwithstanding.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN ADAMS, Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

APPROVED, FEBRUARY 9, 1793.

GEO. WASHINGTON, President of the United States.

THOUGHTS ON THE STATE OF AMERICAN INDIANS.

(CONTINUED.)

THAT a people possessed of so many mental and bodily accomplishments should labor under a natural incapacity for improvement, reverses all the principles of reasoning in ordinary cases, and is utterly inadmissible. The savage state in which they continue is no evidence of it. That barbarism implies any defect of natural capacity, the history of all ages disproves. The Egyptians, Persians, Phenicians, and Chinese, all which afterwards became great and improved nations, were once barbarians—they were even ignorant of the use of fire, and of all the arts which are dependant on it and connected with it; than which there can scarcely be a more decisive proof of their extreme barbarity—

The same may be said of several other nations—even the polite and polished Greeks, to whom (through the medium of Europe) we are indebted for all our knowledge, "descended from savages, who wandered in the woods and fields without laws and leaders, having no other retreat but dens and caverns—without the use of fire, or of food proper for men—nay so ferocious as sometimes to eat each other." Such was the original state of a people, destined to be the patrons and improvers of the arts and sciences, and the admiration of all future ages—There is not a tribe perhaps in America, whose rudeness equals this description—Their barbarity, therefore, cannot be regarded in any degree as the fruit of imbecility, either of mind or body. The enumeration of the real causes which have hitherto retarded the progress of civilization among the Indians, with the measures which appear to me most likely to accomplish that object, will be the subject of some future papers.

No. II.

In estimating the causes which have retarded the civilization of the Indians, we must not rest contented with a single view of the subject, but observe the force of all the collateral causes which may in any degree have operated that effect.—The first that I shall mention, is that which arises from "the few and feeble exertions that have been made for this purpose, the manner in which these have been conducted, and the languor with which they have been pursued." The civilization of a barbarous nation is difficult and laborious—the transition from the hunter's to the pastoral life, and thence to that of agriculture and commerce, is effected by slow advances—All changes indeed in the habits and customs of a nation, must be made gradually—men are attached to that mode of life to which they have been accustomed, and are averse to the idea of altering it; the habits of education create a prejudice in favor of their own state, and an indifference to others—Men also who are accustomed to perfect independence, as is the case with all savage nations, revolt at the idea of surrendering their liberty to the condition of law, or of submitting to any kind of restraint. The answer of the ancient Scythians to the ambassador of Menander the great—of Anacharsis of the same nation to Solon, and the aversion of all savage nations from adopting the arts and manners of polished life, evince the partiality they entertain for their own condition, and their indifference to the blessings of improved society.—The history and experience of all ages, proves the difficulty of bringing a barbarous nation to the knowledge and practice of social duties. Some centuries elapsed before the inhabitants of ancient Greece were brought to any degree of civility. The same may be said of many other nations. Nearly four hundred years are supposed to have passed from Manco Capac, the first Inca and founder of Peru, to the conquest of that country by the Spaniards. Those sages who first recovered men from their wandering savage life to a fixed residence, and inspired them with a taste for the enjoyments of social life, generally pretended a mission from a superior being, whom they represented as the author and patron of that manner of life and of those blessings they wished to introduce.—Almost all nations, of whose origin we have any distinct account, were formed in this manner.—The first legislators of the Cretans, Egyptians, Grecians, Locrians, Arimaspes, Getes, Romans and Peruvians, all pretended intercourse with some invisible power, and a communication from him.—Thus, by availing themselves of the ignorance and credulity of mankind, and converting superstition into an instrument of policy, they obtained a ready reception to their instructions, and gave permanency to their establishments. [To be continued.]

For the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES.

To PHILO DIAGENES—the author of a piece, in the Daily Advertiser of Saturday last.

CITIZEN AUTHOR,

I HAVE observed your disposition to join with me and other friends of democracy in pointing out the macula which (with good glasses) may be discovered in a certain political luminary. We think however, you direct your attention to a wrong quarter, and wish you to direct your telescope to another limb, where the dark spots of aristocracy are very evident, and which will furnish you with more matter for animadversion.

As to the negroes, you must be tender upon that subject—for we think it is rather a mark of modern democracy. It is certain that Rome, during the republic, had abundance of slaves, and that it was Kings who abolished the practice. We have seen Stanislaus laboring to emancipate the slaves in Poland, and Catharine bettering their condition in Russia, even Louis the XVth has signed a decree in favor of the negroes; why then should any one ape such monarchical conduct? Conduct which would give great offence to some of our best patriots. I affirm it, that the contrary conduct is most like a good republican.—Look

about you, Citizen! Who talk most about liberty and equality—who monopolize the virtue and spirit of America? Who are the guardians of the equal rights of man? Is it not those, who hold the bill of rights in one hand, and a whip for the affrighted slaves in the other? Are not some of our warmest declaimers upon liberty, men who traffick in human flesh and riot on the profits which arise from the sweat and groans of their dusky brethren? Mark their conduct, Citizen, and you will agree with us, that an eternal oppression of these wretched people, is very consistent with the pure spirit of modern patriotism!

It is therefore you were wrong; but I will point out proper subjects for your future lucubrations respecting the aristocratical conduct of a certain great man. In the first place, it has been a practice with divers Kings, in order to get through the multiplicity of their business, to apportion their time, and do all things with much regularity; Alfred's economy of time is well known: the late King of Prussia always retired early, and constantly (even in his last sickness) rose at four in the morning, employing himself till breakfast with his secretaries, in reading petitions, dictating letters, learning the state of the Kingdom and dispatching the public business.—Will you believe it, Citizen Philo! that even this symptom of monarchy is to be found in this free country! It is said that He also retires at an early hour—that the duties of the day, with him, begin with the sun, and that most of the public business is dispatched before some of our democratic club are out of their beds; to be sure some advantages may arise from this, and the public business will never get in arrear. But why should any one, affect this singularity but from a love of monarchical manners? and why should He not rather copy certain young patriots, who lie in bed so long that they have not time to comb their heads before they go to Congress?

A second mark of aristocracy is, that He frequently goes to Church and even shews a respect for pious clergymen. Is not this aping the conduct of many Kings of old, who were devout worshippers—and in effect copying after King David, who as the Paris commune assures us, was a crowned rascal. Is this, Citizen Philo! is this the conduct of our modern patriots? those who adore liberty so much—do you ever see them adoring their maker? Is not infidelity a mark of what at present passes for good democracy—and does not a certain Gazette frequently blend an outcry of liberty, with a sneer at religion?

Yes, Citizen, until our rulers get rid of the trammels of religion, they will never be considered by us, as free from the leaven of aristocracy.

As to the clergy, I believe it can be proved, that a certain person has been seen in their company and has ever been heard to speak respectfully of them. A sure mark of an aristocrat! King-craft and Priest-craft go together—and one of our very patriotic members has already intimated, that we shall never do well, till we get rid of the clergy.—The time for shipping them off is not yet come: but every man who does not lean to aristocracy, ought to refuse them countenance or support—ought to declaim against Priest-craft—ridicule the puritanical folly of going to Church and make these black coated gentry, as poor as rats and as shabby as a finged cat.

Thirdly, stick to the subject of levees; it is true visits of ceremony must be received—foreigners will press to see a man whose talents and virtues have made his name dear through the civilized world.—Citizens will crowd to pay him respect, and members of Congress and public officers, think it but decent to shew respect to the MAN OF THE PEOPLE. But what then! ought he not, Citizen Philo! to be visible at all hours, and on all days, especially on Sundays, when many of our club don't know how to employ themselves! If this perpetual visitation did interrupt or retard the public business, would not that be compensated by the information he might gain in these very interesting and profitable visits; besides we could then call upon him, without being put on a footing with new people, who have started up like Jonah's gourd, and seem to overshadow the ancient families of the dominion. But as things are managed, one may be obliged to stand along side of a man, whom a few years ago, no body knew. Another thing—why should not, as Mirabeau says, why should not our rulers go to the coffee-houses? I never saw the Governor of Pennsylvania, or the Secretary of State, or members of Congress and other great men frequent these places, where they might pick up much useful information—at least about the price of stocks and molasses; indeed the beer shops might be a place still better, and visiting them would evidence a more genuine democratic spirit. I say every great officer ought to mingle with the people, and if he could not find time in the day, he might keep open house at night and join with his fellow-citizens in a sociable game of whist or all-fours.—It certainly would oblige some of us, whose fondness for that rational amusement is well

known: but it is confidently said, that cards are never permitted to be played in the House! What abominable aristocracy and despotism is this, in a free country!

Lastly you may observe, Citizen Philo, that there is great aristocracy in the preeminence of his virtues.—How is it—if he is not aiming at some higher rank, that he continues to unite in his favor the attachment and respect of every honest mind? How is it that he has twice been the unanimous choice of three millions of people? And why is he not content with a common share of public confidence. Such conduct is a snare for the liberties of our country—His very merit is dangerous—and it is high time for America to shew that republican ostracism which prosecutes a man for the superiority of his worth.

CIVIS.

For the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES.

TO THE PRINTER OF THE GENERAL ADVERTISER.

MR. BACHE,

BY whom all the publications in your paper, designed to insult the President of the United States are written, is of little consequence, since the causes of that spleen which prompts you to publish them with so much avidity is perfectly known.

If your venerable Grandfire views from his abode the mockery of Patriotism exhibited in your paper, it may console him for the follies which He committed, the servility and sycophancy He practised at the court of France; and for the disappointment He met with in not being able to place an idle sing song at the head of the Post-Office. But nothing can efface from the minds of free Americans, the infamously disgraced Convention He made with France; and which, though on the remembrance of Congress, has been somewhat amended: yet still contains enough of its first principles to strip the boasted laurel from the brow of Franklin, and stamp indelible disgrace on American negotiation.

But, Mr. Bache, since your venerable Grandfire is made a competitor for Fame with Washington, I will hereafter furnish you some anecdotes of his career at the Court of Versailles, which will more fully unfold the justice of his claim to admiration, for his patriotic and disinterested conduct.

From the Monthly Review for October, 1792.

A M E R I C A.

Art. 51. A Brief Examination of Lord Sheffield's Observations on the Commerce of the United States: In Seven Numbers; with Supplemental Notes on American Manufactures, 8vo, p. 135—2/6—Printed at Philadelphia, by M. Carey; Re-printed for Phillips, &c. London, 1792.

LORD SHEFFIELD'S Observations were written just at the close of a war commenced against revolted British dependencies, and which left them in the capacity of independent States; an alteration in circumstances that necessarily gave rise to more material changes in their domestic economy, than would bear decisive reasoning at that period. This examination was undertaken at a convenient distance of time, in order to compare Lord Sheffield's predictions with the present actual state of facts; and was published in a Periodical Work, called The American Museum. It has every appearance of coming from the pen of an able and well informed Writer, whom Mr. Capel Loft, the Editor of this English edition, points out to be Tench Cox, Esq. assistant treasurer to the government of the United States.

This examination is clearly pursued; and resting on known facts (which we are to presume, from the authorities cited, are beyond controversy) the author writes with more temper and moderation than might have been expected, considering the advantages which he claims. He represents the productions, manufactures, imports and exports, of America, as materially differing from what Lord Sheffield expected when he wrote; and if his Lordship, arguing from the past, ventured too largely into futurity, he ran the risk to which all political Reasoners expose themselves, more or less, finding their speculations set aside by events which their foresight could not anticipate.

We are now informed, that the Americans are making a rapid progress in all the most useful manufactures; not only for their own consumption, but for exportation, to a degree that was once deemed incompatible with their situation, as having such immense lands to settle—but while one definition of men are spreading themselves over new lands, the population in the old colonies will necessarily occasion new employments to be introduced; for they are not sufficiently improved and polished to support drones of any description. When all the useful departments of society are filled, and their system of affairs becomes more complicated, then will be the time to expect drones of all descriptions to creep in, and rise up, to fatten on the labours of the rest, just as they do among their ancestors in the Old World.