

From the Pittsburgh Gazette.

A Report of the proceedings of the committee appointed at the meeting at Parkin's Ferry on the 14th instant, to confer with commissioners on the part of the executive of the Union, and on the part of the executive of Pennsylvania, on the subject of the late opposition to the laws of the Union, and violation of the peace of the state government.

(Continued from our last.)

Pittsburgh, August 22, 1794.

Gentlemen,

The Committee of Conference having made up their opinion, and expressed it to the Commissioners on the part of the union, that it is the interest of this country that on the terms of accommodation proposed by them there should be a submission to that law which has been the occasion of certain acts of opposition lately said to be committed within the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, it will of course be the opinion of this committee that acts of opposition shall cease, and they will be disposed to recommend that temper and principle to others. They will report it particularly to the Committee of Safety to whom they are to make report, and they will state the reasons which influenced themselves in being disposed to with a general subordination to the laws of the union. But the signing any instrument of writing will have the air of a recognition, and of having broke the peace, or of being disposed to do it on their part, whereas in fact we expect to be considered as a body well affected to the peace of the country, and coming forward not only on behalf of those who may have violated the peace, but of the great body of the country who have organized themselves into committees in order to preserve it.

As to what the committee of sixty do must remain with themselves.—We shall make report to them of the propositions.

We wish it to be understood that it will be one thing for us or them to declare our sentiments, and to support them by arguments, and another to subscribe our names to any writing in any other manner than as other public bodies by their official representative of Chairman or President. We would request, therefore, that the proposition should be reconsidered, and that some other evidence of submission to the laws may be accepted from the people which may substantially have the same effect without a form which may be misunderstood by them, and in which they may not so readily acquiesce.

It is also our wish and expectation that the proposition of an amnesty may extend to the county of Bedford.

It is our idea also, that it will have a good effect in reconciling the public mind to have the amnesty considered as absolute at this time, liable to be forfeited only as to its benefits, by the future violation of the laws by the individual.

By order of the Committee,
EDWARD COOK, Chairman.

Thomas M'Kean and William Irvine,
Commissioners on the part of
Pennsylvania.

Pittsburgh, Aug. 22d, 1794.

Gentlemen,

We have received your answer, signed Edward Cook, chairman, of this day's date, and observe that you have in a degree confined yourselves to a subordination to the laws of the Union. These we consider as part of the law of Pennsylvania, but independent of a breach of the laws of the United States, you cannot be infensible that the laws, the peace and dignity of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania have been more essentially violated in the county of Allegheny; and tho' from a knowledge of your characters and confidence in your dispositions we rest assured of your cheerful obedience to the laws of the state, and that you will inculcate the like among our fellow citizens, yet we would have been pleased, had it been expressed.

Your objections to signing your names respectively to your answer, we have considered, and, tho' the signing the name as chairman, speaker, or president, in regular constituted bodies, implies the consent of the majority, which binds the whole, yet it means no more, and in the present body of twelve one half of the number present may not have acquiesced in the act, and yet it may be formally true. For this reason we wished for your respective signatures; or that it had been written, signed by the unanimous consent of the committee, or that you had otherwise ascertained the number.

We have never before heard it sug-

gested, that a persons signing his name to any instrument, implying an engagement or promise to do a lawful act, had the air of a recognition; nor did we ever mean that it could be supposed, that any gentleman of this committee was implicated in the late riots in these counties. We only wished to have the weight that your names and characters would give to the effectual quieting the present uneasiness among the people.

When we were commissioned to the present pacific and humane service, it was not known to the Governor, that any aggressions of the nature you allude to had been committed in the county of Bedford, and of course our powers do not extend to them, but if no future violations of the peace shall happen on a similar occasion, it is no more than probable his Excellency will extend his pardon to what has passed since, and which may require an amnesty.

We cannot grant a general pardon as yet, but when we shall receive reasonable assurances, that the inhabitants of these counties have returned to their duty, to an obedience to the laws, and that peace order and tranquility have been restored, we shall rejoice in having the opportunity of granting it without a day's delay.

We are Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servants,
THOMAS M'KEAN.
WM. IRVINE.

PITTSBURGH, August 23.

Gentlemen,

WE are satisfied with the explanation given of what was intended by requesting our individual signatures to any assurance we should have given of our own disposition to preserve peace or to conciliate that temper in others.

We are certainly disposed to preserve peace and to recommend it to others, not only with regard to the laws of the union on the terms of accommodation settled with the Commissioners from thence, but more especially with regard to the laws of our respective states, and Pennsylvania in particular; we are unanimous in declaring our resolutions to support the laws so that no impediment shall exist to the due and faithful administration of Justice, and we can with the more confidence engage this on behalf of our fellow citizens, as at a general meeting of the Representatives of townships, on the 14th of August, inst. a resolution to this effect was expressed by the unanimous voice of the meeting; and in fact we can assure you, though it may have been otherwise construed, that a great and leading object of that meeting was the establishment of peace amongst ourselves, and subordination to the state government.

By order of the Committee.
EDWARD COOK, Chairman.
The Commissioners on behalf
of the State:

The Committee deliberating on the above, the great and solemn question was considered whether we should accede or reject, in other words, whether we should have peace or a civil war.

It was considered that a convulsion at this time might affect the great interests of the Union—that notwithstanding an unworthy debt was accumulated in the hands of monied men, by means of the funding system, yet the foreign debt was justly due, and also a considerable part of the domestic, for which actual service had been rendered, or value given—that it might affect the payment of these two species of debt, to countenance an opposition which might communicate itself to other branches of the revenue. That a convulsion of this nature becoming general, might affect a nation of Europe struggling at this moment for life and liberty, by impeding the United States in making those remittances in payment of the debt due to them, which their situation essentially demanded; that a convulsion even in this country might affect the negotiations pending, in which our interests were essentially concerned—the free navigation of the Mississippi—the delivery of the western posts, and our protection from a frontier enemy—That it might give offence to our fellow-citizens elsewhere, who might excuse a sudden outrage, but might resent a formed system undertaken without their consent; more especially as they might not yet know the local and peculiar grievances of this country, and be disposed to make a proper allowance for the consequences; that the constitutional means of remittance might not yet be altogether exhausted, and so it might become us still yet to persevere; that even a contest with the United States, should it be successful, must involve this country, for a time at least, in ruin.

That for this reason, every man ought to lay his hand on his heart and answer, whether he would think himself justifi-

ble in countenancing the idea of a war; he ought to make up his mind, and be sure that on every principle he was justifiable, having a confidence not only of right, but of power also.

For these and other reasons it was thought advisable to concede, as contained in the answer to the commissioners.

From the Columbian Centinel.

Mr. Russell,

It is matter of consolation to the true friends to the government and constitution of their country, that the eyes of people are opened; to discover and detect, the gross falsehoods which have been palmed upon them as facts for the last two years. Falsehoods, gross as the Father of lies, and palpable as the progeny of Vice and folly.

From Georgia, to New-Hampshire, a chain of newspapers has been established, which have stuck at nothing, in order to deceive the public, and to destroy the government that protects them. Lie has followed Lie, in such rapid succession, that Truth has missed its object of refutation, and has been lost in the multitude of its adversaries. Every act of the General Government has been vilified and insulted; and every measure of THE PRESIDENT's, been declared the most abominable stretch of power. Strange the men of the People's choice should not have done one good deed!

Let the public but re-peruse in the hour of calm inquiry, the extracts from the Infurgent Gazettes of Charleston, S. C. Norfolk, in Virginia; Baltimore, Philadelphia, New-York, and Boston, and their little satellites in the interior places, and they must blush for their profusion of the Freedom of the Press. In these papers they will see one continued tissue of abuse, the most foul and unmerited; of assertions the most false and groundless; and of alarm, the most absurd and ridiculous.

To enumerate the instances would occupy more than a newspaper; but let the public revert but to the abuse before alluded to, of every act of Congress; of the President's Proclamation of neutrality, which deserves to be engraved with the point of a diamond, in monuments of coral; of the opinion of the Federal Judges respecting Genet's privateers; of the measures of the executive to remove that father of the Jacobin clubs; in short of every transaction wherein the advancement of the general prosperity has been connected, and conviction will be forced home to the heart of every peruser. From these let him cast his eyes on the mutilations, fabrications, and remarks made on the events in Europe; and when comparing them with Truth, he shall not find one assertion in an hundred true, he will see the necessity of discountenancing such glaring impositions, that the people may no longer be led away to believe a lie, and the deception of the worst of deceivers be exposed to the light of the day.

A FEDERALIST.

Middlesex, Aug. 1794.

From the Columbian Centinel.

Mr. Russell,

From a candid perusal of the pamphlet published at Brest, and the letter of Lord Howe, relative to the action that took place between the French and English fleets, it appears evidently, that the French on the 28th May, in the first engagement had twenty six sail of the line, and that the English had the same number; that in the partial engagement which took place at the close of that day the Revolutionaire, a French ship and the Audacious an English ship, had been damaged and did not keep company with their respective fleets; that after this day nothing material took place between the fleets, before the 1st June; in the mean time the French received a reinforcement of three ships of the line, but two others that had been engaged separated; making on the 1st June, 26 sail of the line.

So much as relates to the French is exact with the report of their Representative Bon Jean, and of course must be true. Allowing the same indulgence to Lord Howe, which he is certainly equally entitled to; his own force was 25 sail of the line. I say he is equally entitled to belief, because it is not possible that a commander should deceive in the number of his own fleet; thousands are ready and able to contradict him if he should attempt it, and the most abandoned man would have more regard to his reputation than to expose himself by so public a lie; if it is necessary to make a difference between the forces, the numbers of the enemy will always be increased; but without inten-

tional misrepresentation, an enemy's force may be easily augmented in our belief, beyond the reality. M. Bon Jean says, the British had thirty six sail of vessels, when the first day they discovered them. Of these many were, doubtless, frigates. The French themselves sailed with fifteen frigates and a sloop of war, and though the French parted with many of their frigates for convoys, &c. this was a circumstance that most probably did not happen to the British, and that they might reasonably be allowed ten frigates. One French frigate who had a good opportunity to count the British ships, reported only 24 of the line; the Captain of another assures M. Bon Jean, after the engagement, that they were thirty four. M. Bon Jean, of his own authority, asserts they were twenty eight sail of the line. The fact is, probably, that the Captain of the Proserpine included frigates, and M. Bon Jean might have seen three frigates apparently in a line of battle; but where there is such positive difference of accounts among the French, we may credit the British, especially as they faithfully represented the force of the French.

Respecting the battle, there undoubtedly never was one more obstinately fought—and it does not detract from the praise due to the French, to say, that the British discipline and superior naval experience, especially among the officers, gave the latter the victory. M. BON JEAN says his van gave way, and when he was clear of the smoke, they were two leagues to leeward of his ship. Lord Howe says the French van were the first to give way, with this difference, that the Admiral led the retreat. The British, disabled as they were, certainly could not retreat to windward, which situation they maintained until the close of the day. That the English did not renew the engagement was by his own confession, through inability; and sufficient to the day had been the evil thereof.

By the returns made into port, of the two fleets, there can have been but one ship sunk on both sides; which was the Vanguard; this ship viewed from different positions, and in the confusion and smoke of the engagement, gave rise to the numbers supposed to be sunk. The facility of deception on such an occasion is proved from the Tourville, reporting that an English ship closed with the French ship Impetueux, and he saw them both sink—whereas the Impetueux was carried into the British port with Lord Howe's fleet.

IMPARTIALITY.

From the Carlisle Gazette of 20th Aug.

At a meeting of a number of the inhabitants of the townships of Westpenbore and Newton, in the county of Cumberland, held in the town of Newcastle, Thursday 14th instant, for the purpose of taking into consideration the excise law, and some other important acts of Congress; the following resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

Resolved, that the mode of selling back lands, in great quantities to companies, is unjust and improper, because, it is destructive of an essential principle in every republican government, viz. the equal division of landed property which ought to be encouraged by law, so far as is consistent with that encouragement due to industry; impolitic, because it tends to alienate the affection of the common people from the federal government, by seeing themselves deprived of becoming purchasers upon the same terms with the favorites of government, and consequently prevents that rapid increase of population that our country bids so fair for, both from the nature of the climate and the quality of the soil.

Resolved, that the funding act ought to be repealed, or at least so altered as to prevent that unprincipled class of mankind, called speculators, from drawing out of the treasury what they never were justly entitled to.

Resolved, that all original holders of certificates ought to be paid the real nominal value.

Resolved, that the excise law is unjust in principle, oppressive in its operation, and impracticable in its execution, in every republican government.

Resolved that the people of the United States ought not to chafe at the ensuing election for members of Congress any speculator in the funds, any stock holder in the bank of the United States, nor any land jobber, as these are a class of men who seem to have a separate interest from the mass of the people, and consequently must be under its influence in their deliberations.

Resolved, that the present pay of the militia is no way adequate to their services, as being far short of the pay of the day laborer, and the disproportion is so great between the pay of officers and privates; and also the fines, it appears to us, that it was the sine Congress had more in view than personal service.

Resolved, that all civil authority originates with and is derived from the people, in a republican government, that every law made by the representatives, not agreeable to the voice of those from whom they derive their authority is tyrannical and unjust.

Resolved, as virtue is the only spring

that supports a republican government, and not power, the laws should recommend themselves to the affections of the people by their propriety, consequently it would make them easy in their execution.

Resolved, that as long as direct taxes is necessary for the payment of public debt and the support of government, Congress should lay a tax upon all warranted and patent lands, and least we may be thought by some, enemies to all taxation and good order, we unanimously resolve, that we will be ready at all times to support government by the payment of taxes in common with our fellow-citizens in proportion to the value of our estates real or personal.

Whereas, the governor of this state, in compliance with a requisition from the President of the United States, hath ordered the militia to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning, to enforce the execution of the excise, amongst our brethren in the western country, therefore resolved unanimously, that the citizens of this county be earnestly recommended to send a number of delegates, not fewer than six, nor more than ten, to meet at the court house in the borough of Carlisle, on Friday the 29th inst. for the purpose of taking into consideration the important crisis in which we are placed, and the measures proper to be pursued.

Resolved, that our fellow-citizens of Mifflin county, with whom we have so often acted in union in public measures, be requested in the spirit of fraternal affection to send some of their confidential citizens to meet us on this occasion.

Signed by order of the meeting,
ROB. RT. SHANNON, Chairman,
JOHN MITCHELL, Clerk.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Philadelphia, September 1, 1794.

S I R,

IF after the information, upon which my letter of the 20th of May 1794, was founded, any considerable doubt had remained, of Governor Simcoe's invasion; your long silence, without a refutation of it, and our more recent intelligence forbid us to question its truth. It is supported by the respectable opinions, which have been since transmitted to the executive, that in the late attack on Fort Recovery, British officers and British soldiers were, on the very ground, aiding our Indian enemies.

But, sir, as if the Governor of Upper Canada was resolved to destroy every possibility of disbelieving his hostile views, he has sent to the Great Sodus, — a settlement begun on a bay of the same name on Lake Ontario—a command to Captain Williamson, who derives a title from the state of New-York, to desist from his enterprise. This mandate was borne by a Lieutenant Sheaffe, under a military escort; and in its tone corresponds with the form of its delivery, being unequivocally of a military and hostile nature.

"I am commanded to declare that during the inexecution of the treaty of peace between Great Britain and the United States, and until the existing differences respecting it, shall be mutually adjusted, the taking possession of any part of the Indian territory, either for the purposes of war or love, reigny, is held to be a direct violation of his Britannic Majesty's rights, as they unquestionably existed before the treaty, and has an immediate tendency to interrupt, and in its progress to destroy, that good understanding which has hitherto subsisted between his Britannic Majesty and the United States of America. I therefore require you to desist from any such aggression. R. H. Sheaffe Lieut. 5th Regt. and Qr. Mr. Genl. Dept. of his Britannic Majesty's service. G. Sodus 26th August 1794.

Captain Williamson being from home a letter was written to him by Lieutenant Sheaffe in the following words.

"Sodus 16th August 1794. Sir, having a special commission and instructions for that purpose from the Lieut. Governor of his Britannic Majesty's province of Upper Canada, I have come here to demand by what authority an establishment has been ordered at this place, and to require that such a design be immediately relinquished, for the reasons stated in the written declaration accompanying this letter; for the receipt of which protest I have taken the acknowledgment of your agent Mr. Little. I regret exceedingly in my private as well as public character that I have not the satisfaction of seeing you here, but I hope on my return, which will be about a week hence, to be more fortunate. I am, Sir, your most obedt. Servt. R. H. Sheaffe Lt. 5th Regt. Q. M. G. D."

The position of Sodus is represented to be seventy miles within the territorial line of the United States, about twenty from Oswego, and about one hundred from Niagara.

For the present, all causes of discontent, not connected with our western