

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Wednesday, March 16.

Debate on Mr. Livingston's resolution continued.

Mr. W. LYMAN'S speech—concluded.

At the treaty of Utrecht in 1713, which was made with the view of settling the succession to the French and Spanish crowns, and to prevent their union in the same person, the letters patent of the king's of France and Spain, also the dukes of Berry and Orleans, renouncing and abjuring their feudal claims and pretensions, had been laid before the parliament of Paris, and the Cortes in Spain, for their approbation and confirmation. He then adverted to the argument of the gentleman from Rhode Island, who had spoken yesterday, to wit, that the small states claimed this construction of the constitution. To him, he said, it appeared to stand thus, that the smallest states should possess the power of absorbing the large states, in order to prevent the large states from dissolving the small ones. It would be the case he observed upon that gentleman's construction of the constitution, that the small states with the treaty making power, might dispose of the large states by bargain or contract; on a different construction there was perfect security for both large and small. He then adverted to another observation of that gentleman that the constitution was understood, by the Massachusetts convention in the same sense. As to that fact Mr. Lyman said he should not determine, but in that state he knew that the constitution had been criticised upon with much jealousy, especially in their convention, as would appear from the debates, and in them no such interpretation as the gentleman had contended for, could be found; indeed it appeared from their debates, and even the amendments which they had recommended, that this power had not been much examined or discussed, from which it was to be inferred, that there was a contrary conviction universally prevalent in their convention. A gentleman from New-Hampshire had charged the advocates of the resolution with disagreeing among themselves in their interpretation of the constitution, he said there was no diversity of sentiment, altho' perhaps every one might not give precisely the same explanation. In one thing however, all were agreed that his construction was wrong.

Mr. Lyman further observed, that with all proper regard for his colleague (Mr. Sedgwick) he would notice one observation that had fallen from him, which was that confidence in government ought to be unlimited. This Mr. Lyman said, to him appeared to induce another consequence, that obedience must be passive and absolute, and of course no resistance. He hoped that such sentiments would never be prevalent in this country; for it was his opinion that there never had been more ever would be any government that would long continue pure and uncorrupt, without some little distrust and watchfulness, and he thought that societies of tenebros exercised too little than too much distrust. He was warranted by the most celebrated writers and authorities, in saying, that there was a natural effort and tendency in society to confer the height of power and wealth on the few at the expence of the many. It was this tendency that required the most to be counteracted. Danger was first to be apprehended from this quarter, and not as had been pretended from another. Popular branches and assemblies never usurped, they never encroached on other departments, unless when they had been challenged and even driven to the conflict, by inordinate attempts for power. Governments ought then to exercise great moderation and caution not to excite and provoke discontents and possibly resistance.

Before he concluded his observations, he begged to be indulged with a few remarks more. The bill was relative to the late treaty; not indeed whether that treaty was a very good or a very bad treaty, for that was not now the question before the committee. The remarks were he said that the treaty itself recognized the principle he was contending for. He then read from the 12th article these words, that during the continuance of this article, the United States will prohibit and refrain the carrying Molasses, Sugar, Coffee, &c. Why, said he, is this language and phraseology used, upon this principle of the unlimited power of making treaties, and that they repeal laws? The language and phraseology ought to have been thus, the United States do prohibit or it is hereby prohibited. An answer was hardly necessary. The minister who negotiated that treaty well knew, that he possessed no such authority. He knew that from the source he derived his appointment, no such power could flow. Mr. Lyman said that he wished that the resolution might be agreed to by the committee, and pass in the house; for as they would be obliged to discuss the treaty to which the papers called for related, it was necessary they should have all the information and the whole subject before them; for although he had heretofore entertained unfavorable sentiments of that instrument, he nevertheless declared that if it should appear to be conducive to the welfare of the country; if it should appear that although there were some parts of it very humiliating, yet that they were imposed upon us by the necessities of their situation; if it should appear that their condition and the terms on which they now were with other foreign relations compelled them to shelter themselves in a compact of this sort he must, although in the two last cases it might be with extreme reluctance, give his vote for carrying it into effect. But if, on the other hand, the contrary of all this should appear to be the case, he declared that it should never have any operation or effect in this country with his consent.

[Debate to be continued.]

Thursday, April 21.

Mr. Mahlenberg presented a petition from 800 inhabitants of the city of Philadelphia, of the same kind with that presented by Mr. Swanwick yesterday, against the British treaty.

Mr. Isaac Smith also presented a petition from 163 inhabitants of Trenton, (N. J.) in favor of the British treaty.

Mr. Hartley presented a petition from 109 merchants and others of the city of Philadelphia, and another signed by 133 persons, inhabitants of the said city, in favor of the British treaty.

The above Petitions were referred to the committee of the whole on the State of the Union.

The amendments of the Senate to the bill for the relief and protection of American Seamen, were read, and referred to a select committee.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill for making appropriations for defraying the expences which may arise in carrying into effect the Treaty with the Dey and Regency of Algiers; and on the bill for making further provision relative to the revenue cutters, which were agreed to in the committee, went through the house, and were ordered to be engrossed, and to be read a third time to-morrow.

The house also resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the report of the committee of commerce and manufactures, relative to an election being given to certain persons to pay a duty for the quantity of spirits distilled, in excess of duty on the capacity of their stills; also, on the report of the committee of claims on the letter and application of Arthur St. Clair, for compensation for a horse or horses killed in the time of battle, which were agreed to, went through the house and bills ordered to be brought in.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the state of the union; when the resolution for carrying into effect the British treaty being under consideration, Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Moore and Mr. Holland, spoke against the resolution, and Mr. Kittera, in favor of it. The committee rose and had leave to sit again.

Adjourned.

For the GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

No. XIII.*

TO degrade, abuse, and vilify Virginia, and Virginians, has long been "the order of the day," with men, who, by way of pre-eminence, stile themselves "federalists and friends of order." Every source of reprobation, has been exhausted to overwhelm the name with disgrace. Truth, decency, and politeness have been equally sacrificed for the accomplishment of this favourite object.

It is the lot of humanity, that every nation, every province, every family, as well as every individual, has peculiarities—shades on which envy and malice may dwell with delight—luminous points of view, which friendship and benevolence may applaud, without a sacrifice of truth—And

"As shades more sweetly recommend the light," this order of things must have been intended by our Creator for wise purposes. We have no right to exact from Virginia an exemption from an unvarying rule in the moral and natural world.

Every enlightened American who takes an extensive view of our affairs—whose eagle eye pierces beyond the speck of existence allotted to the present generation, has justly deplored this mischievous propensity to excite discord. "Cursed be he that stirreth up strife," says the Bible, referring to the "strifes" of families. "But what a tenfold curse is due to the man who "stirreth up strife" among nations—strife whose duration, whose extent, whose consequences, are beyond the power of calculation! How many thousands of lives may, at no very distant day, be sacrificed to animosities which are now so eagerly propagated, to answer temporary and insignificant party purposes! How fatally may the bright and cheering prospects, which dawned upon the American republic at the commencement of her career, be blasted by such wicked artifices! Surely it, as the Poet says, there be

"In the flowers of Heaven
"A chosen cuse, big with uncommon wrath"
it must await the man who uses such destructive means to accomplish any end, even were it the best that ever the mind of man conceived.

That this conduct is neither decent nor federal, will be readily admitted. That it is equally unpolitic, may be easily proved. It might provoke retaliation. And fame is a greater liar than common, if New-England, where the abuse of Virginia prevails most, is not equally vulnerable. She has her shades—and some of them very dark—and it could not be very agreeable to her to have the scribbles of Virginia eternally detailing them in the newspapers. But if she has her shades, she has also lights—And, as a member of the great American family, I am proud to acknowledge them. Her wife system of education—her prevailing equality of fortunes—her indefatigable industry—her unwearied enterprise,—and numerous other shining qualities—render her a bright star in the American constellation. But let her do justice to her neighbours—and not, with the Pharisee, "thank God she is not like that publican yonder," Virginia.

But, hold, I cannot admit that our New-England brethren are guilty of this crime. The aspersions to which I allude, it is true, creep into their papers. But the guilt and illiberality of them rest on a few heads. The people at large can wash their hands, and say "we are not guilty of this crime." I will fondly cherish this idea—it is pleasing and consolatory.

While we cheerfully do justice to the bright part of the New-England character, let us not forget to pay a tribute to Virginia; for she, as well as her sisters, has luminous points to contrast with the dark shades. Who that has ever even darted through the country, has not observed—and who that has observed, will not acknowledge—her urbanity of manners—her noble hospitality—the great and comprehensive minds of her statesmen—the ardent and glowing love of liberty prevalent among her citizens? Has she not produced some of the greatest men that ever adorned the American annals? Was she not one of the first of the provinces to contribute, and with the most laudable liberality, to the relief of the proscribed inhabitants of Boston? Is this debt of gratitude to be repaid with scurrility and abuse?

"But," you object, "her system of slavery," "aye, there's the rub." Let us examine how far this system affords any sister state, a just pretext to vilify her.

* No. XI. and No. XII. have been published in the Philadelphia Gazette.

Here, reader, I shall offer a paradox, to which I hope finally to gain your assent. The northern and middle states are more disgraced by slavery than Virginia.

Do not lay aside the paper, till you hear me out. Slavery in Virginia is an evil of such immense magnitude, is so inveterate, and so intimately interwoven with the body politic, that even humanity herself, in the shape of a Benezet, a Howard, or a Wilberforce, could hardly devise a remedy for it, that would not perhaps equal the disease. We may deplore, we may commiserate the situation of these oppressed creatures—but it is easier to deplore, than to remove such a mighty evil. It will require the wisdom of ages to apply any adequate relief.

If slavery be so horrible a thing in Virginia, is it better in the rest of the Union? The humane principle that revolts at holding a fellow creature in slavery, is equally outraged by the man who has ten slaves, as by him who has one hundred. He that holds one slave, would, if occasion called for it, hold a hundred.

Let us then proceed with our enquiry. To the immortal honour of Massachusetts be it said, she is the only state in the Union, not disgraced by slavery. To the other States, Virginia may say: "And behold, a beam is in thine own eye."

I said, the northern and middle states are more disgraced by slavery than Virginia. Does the reader yet hesitate to agree to this proposition?

In Virginia the evil almost wholly precludes all attempt at a remedy. There is therefore a just apology for submitting to it as incurable. But in Connecticut, which has 2764 slaves, the cure would be neither tedious, difficult, nor expensive. A small tax which would hardly be felt, would speedily remove that odious blot from the Connecticut cutcheon. The reasoning applies with still greater force to New-Hampshire, which has 158, and to Rhode Island which has 948 human beings groaning in slavery. HARRINGTON.

NEW THEATRE.

The Public are respectfully informed, that the Doors of the Theatre will open at half an hour after FIVE, and the Curtain rise precisely at half past SIX o'clock, for the remainder of the Season.

Mr. Harwood's Night.

On FRIDAY EVENING, April 22,

Will be presented,

A COMEDY, (altered by Garrick from Beaumont & Fletcher) never performed here, called

Rule a Wife and have a Wife.

- Duke of Medina, Mr. Wiltlock,
Don Juan, Mr. Green,
Sancho, Mr. Beete,
Alonzo, Mr. Darley, jun.
Cacofogo, Mr. Darley,
Leon, Mr. Moreton,
Michael Perez, (the Copper Captain) Mr. Harwood,
Lopez, Mr. Mitchell,
Lorenzo, Mr. Warrell, jun.
Margaretta, Mrs. Shaw,
Altea, Mrs. Francis,
Clara, Mrs. Harvey,
Estifania, Mrs. Marshall,
Old Woman, Mr. Bates,
Maid, Mr. Francis.
Ladies, { Mrs. Solomon, Mrs. Bates, and Miss Rowson.

End of the Comedy,

A Comic Pantomimic DANCE, (composed by Mr. Francis) called

Harlequin Hurry Scurry;

Or, The Rural Rumpus.

- Harlequin, { (with a leap thro') Mr. Francis
{ a Cask of Fire)
Collin, (the Cooper) Mr. Lege,
Healtop, (the Cobler) Mr. Darley, jun.
Cabbage, (the Taylor) Mr. Warrell, jun.
Billy Puffs, (the Barber) Master Warrell,
Farmer Studs, Mr. Rowson,
Sawyers, Messrs. Mitchell & Solomon.
Bumkin, (the Clown) Mr. Doctor,
Lucy, Miss Milbourne,
Millener, Miss Wilkins,
Sempstress, Mrs. Lege,
Walcher Women, Mrs. Harvey, &c.
Columbine, Mrs. De Margie.

In the course of the Dance will be introduced a new TRIPLE HORNPIPE, By Miss Wilkins, Miss Milbourne & Mrs. Demarquis. The whole to conclude with a REEL.

To which will be added,

A FARCE, (never performed here) called

Two strings to your Bow;

OR, THE MAN WITH TWO MASTERS.

- Don Pedro, Mr. Francis,
Don Sancho, Mr. Warrell,
Oblivio, Mr. Beete,
Ferdinand, Mr. Green,
Borachio, Mr. Morgan,
Lazarillo, Mr. Bates,
Drunken Porter, Mr. Blissett.
Walters, Messrs. J. Warrell, & Mitchell,
Denna Clara, Mrs. Francis,
Leonara, Miss Wilkins,
Maid, Miss Rowson.

BOX, One Dollar—PIT, Three-Fourths of a Dollar—and GALLERY, Half a Dollar.

TICKETS to be had at H. and P. RICE'S Book-Store, No. 59, Market-Street; and at the Office adjoining the Theatre.

Places for the Boxes to be taken of Mr. WELLS, at the Front of the Theatre.

No money or tickets to be returned; nor any person, on any account whatsoever, admitted behind the scenes.

Ladies and Gentlemen are requested to send their servants to keep places a quarter before five o'clock, and order them as soon as the company is seated, to withdraw as they cannot on any account, be permitted to remain.

VIVAT RESPUBLICA.

NOTICE.

THE President and Managers of the Delaware and Schuylkill Canal, having determined to supply the city of Philadelphia with water, early in the year 1797, Proposals will be received in writing until the first day of June next, from any person or persons disposed to contract for the calling and delivery of Iron Pipes necessary for the above purpose.

By the Board, WILLIAM MOORE SMITH, Secy.

March 31. WANTED, Several Apprentices to the Printing-Business. Apply at the Office of the Gazette of the United States, No. 119, Chestnut-Street.

Foreign Intelligence.

GENOA, Feb. 12.

The Neapolitan Squadron, which hitherto had been joined with the British fleet, are returned to Naples, with a great number of their crews sick on board. It is expected they will be replaced by a fresh Squadron. According to the Treaty lately concluded between England and Algiers, the water are permitted to convey their prizes into the ports of Corsica. The King of this kingdom pays 179,000l. to the Dey, for retaining the Corsican slaves retained in Algiers. The Dey has received a beautiful Kebeck of 18 guns, as a present from the English.

COBLENZ, February 15.

There are great movements among the French troops. A part of our garrison has quitted us, and it is not yet replaced. The chief cause of these movements is the new organization of the army. It will be divided, it is said, into 175 brigades. They are employed in completing the corps—many officers have been dismissed, and replaced in part by others. The generals are likewise changed. Championnet will not remain here; he will command elsewhere. General Bernadot left this on the 9th, to go to Jourdan.

FRANKFORT, February 23.

A great number of cavalry coming from Austria, passed through this town the day before yesterday, on their way to join the army of the Rhine, having a great number of horses for it.

Two messengers from the British ambassador at Lannes, and another from Turin, have passed on their way to London.

LONDON, March 7.

Last night a vessel arrived at Dover from Calais, by which we received a *Moniteur* of the 3d inst. It contains little that is interesting or important. The council seems to be occupied in discussions of some length upon the motion for admitting into the Legislative body, seven members of the late national convention.

In the sitting of the 11th Ventose [March 1st] two commissions were appointed by the Council of Five Hundred, the first of which was to present a plan of police to prevent strangers from flocking to Paris.

The second commission was to report upon a message of the Directory, demanding what line of conduct should be adopted towards those judges who have refused to take the oath of hatred to royalty.

Mr. Grey, we understand, means to put off his motion for an enquiry into the state of the nation, which stands for this day, to Thursday next.

The Frenchman who arrived the other day from Paris, at the office of the Secretary of State for the Foreign Department, brought dispatches to Lord Grenville, sealed with the national seal of France. Their contents, of course, have not transpired.

Two frigates built at Dover, the Tamer and Clyde, of 40 guns each, are to be launched at Chatham on the 26th of this month.

Sir John Warren, that active and admirable officer, it is said, is again to have the command of a squadron of frigates, to cruise off the coast of France.

Sir John Sinclair's bill for facilitating the general inclosure of all the waste lands in the kingdom, is one of the most salutary plans ever laid before Parliament. Its beneficial tendency, in supplying a radical remedy for the scarcity of corn, and for repressing the abominable and avaricious extortions of the farmers and millers, will speedily be acknowledged by the whole country. The zealous and patriotic exertions of Sir John Sinclair, on this, as well as on many other subjects of great public import, deserve the warmest thanks of a grateful nation.

A few days ago a man went into a shop in Ulverston, and got a bill drawn upon London for six pounds; which, he said, he had occasion to remit to a friend there. The next day, he called at a banking-house in Lancaster, and got the same bill (as it now appears) discounted; but the value in then bore was sixty pounds; a having been added to the figure, and 4y to the word six.

A method was some time since suggested to prevent forgeries of this kind, by employing letters at the top of the bill, as well as in the body, and leaving no space between the words expressive of the sum; viz. L. sixpounds, eightpounds, ninepounds, &c. These could not be made into sixty pounds, nor sixteen pounds; nor into eighteen, eighty &c.

THE LEVANT TRADE,

AS TO BREAD AND CORN.

The following are the questions on this important object, propounded by the Lords of the Council; with the answers to those questions, given by Mr. Bosanquet, the Governor of the Turkey Company.

The questions were these:

Question 1. Whether any cargoes of wheat could be obtained from any ports in the Levant?

Answer. It seemed a well founded opinion, that large quantities might be procured from Egypt, by taking particular measures:—by which is understood approaching the Aga of the place from whence the corn is to be shipped with a suitable present!

About two years since, English ships carried wheat from the island of Tenedos to Malta [for there was a scarcity there]. And Malta was then chiefly supplied from Egypt, without a grain from the Porte!

Q. 2. The wheat of that country; of what quality is it?

A. It is hard brown wheat; the bushel weighing 62 lb.

The mode of extracting the grain, is by trampling it out, which renders it very dirty, and no means are used to cleanse it. This circumstance renders it liable to heat in the voyage!

It is said that considerable quantities are exported to France and Italy, where the wheat is much liked; and consequently, there is reason to imagine there are no material objections arising from the extreme hardness of it which should render it unfit for grinding.

Q. 3. What would be the charge of freight per quarter to bring it to this country?

A. The present high price of assurance, (viz.