

AMERICAN PATRIOT.

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NO. 19.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.

Albany, Nov. 5.

This day the legislature convened at about 12 o'clock. David Woods, Esq. of Washington county, was elected speaker by a majority of 51 over James Emott. Five republican members and one federal member were absent.

Aaron Clark was elected by a resolution to that effect. No opposition. Thos. Donnelly sergeant at arms—Benj. Whipple, doorkeeper.

It was extremely gratifying to see the representation from New York republican so much elated with contemplating that very circumstance. At 1 o'clock the governor delivered his speech (a copy is enclosed.) The federal member in Madison has his seat, so that three members are returned from that county instead of two. But in Oneida, Henry Huntington (rep.) has the certificate instead of the federalist, Abm. Camp—misspelling of christian name the reason. Republican majority 36 in assembly.

The house have resolved to meet at 10 o'clock in the forenoon during the present session.

Peter Allen took his seat and voted without opposition—so did six other republican members from Ontario!

Advocate.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

Gentlemen of the Senate and Assembly—

I avail myself of the present occasion to express to the people, through their representatives, my acknowledgments for the renewed honor conferred on me, by committing once more to my charge the administration of their government.

The general state of peace in which mankind at length repose, is a subject of high felicitation. Europe, hitherto the theatre of perpetual and bloody contention, now presents a spectacle of nations at amity, rivaling each other only in quiet industry, commercial enterprise, and all the means of repairing the ravages caused by their long and cruel wars.

The southern part of our own continent is the principal exception to universal peace. There we behold a vast population, inhabiting a doubtless extent of fertile territory, struggling to dispel the clouds of superstition, and to shake off the chains of foreign despotism. An effort so noble challenges the best wishes of the philanthropist, and cannot fail to receive the sympathy of the citizens of the United States; and if, in the dispensations of Providence, it shall be decreed, that our southern brethren may terminate their political sufferings in the establishment of a great confederacy of republics, mutually cultivating the arts and sciences, conducting extensive and liberal commerce, promoting agriculture, becoming respectable and happy at home and honored abroad, and dispensing all the blessings of political and religious freedom, the western hemisphere will present a scene of delightful contemplation.

Within our own borders every thing is tranquil and happy; and although some of the productions of the earth have not been so abundant the past season as they usually are, a bountiful store, fully sufficient, with prudent foresight, to supply all the necessities and comforts of life, is still left us. This, and the general healthfulness of the season, call forth warm emotions of gratitude to the great dispenser of all good.

The present meeting of the legislature being appointed by law for a special purpose, I shall submit to your consideration at this time such subjects only as are pressing and of indispensable importance.

In the month of September last Daniel Northrop, of the county of Saratoga, was convicted of the crime of murder, and was sentenced to be executed on the last Friday of the present month.

The jurors who tried him have requested that his punishment may be commuted, but the chief justice, who presided at the trial, is so well persuaded of the mental derangement of the unfortunate convict, that he does not think him a fit subject for punishment of any kind. It is, however, considered dangerous to permit him to go at large, and, therefore, if pardon be granted, a condition that he be confined in some lunatic hospital or asylum is respectfully recommended.

The progress of vice keeping pace with the rapid increase of population, it becomes impossible to accommodate, in the single

edifice at New York, all the convicts which are sent from the different parts of the state. So crowded, indeed, is that prison, that serious apprehensions are entertained of infection and other alarming consequences. For this reason many pardons are recommended by the judges of the supreme court, and the inspectors of the prison, on the plea of necessity, which perhaps would not have been advised on the ground of merit.

This necessity renders punishments more uncertain, and that uncertainty destroys the respect for and operation of the laws; and as the grand melioration of our criminal code, which substitutes deprivation of liberty and subjection to hard labor for sanguinary and capital punishments, will not have a fair experiment, or be truly tested, unless the mild sentences pronounced are endured, you will readily perceive the high importance of removing the present embarrassments to the full execution of criminal sentences.—The communication from the inspectors of the institution, which I now present, suggests several remedies for the existing evil.—Without expressing an opinion on the propriety of ultimately adopting those which are experimental, and will be more difficult and tedious of accomplishment, it is respectfully submitted to your wisdom to make provision at the present session, employing a part, at least, of the state prisoners, either in building the new prison at Auburn, erecting fortifications, opening and repairing great roads, constructing canals, or in making other improvements.

It is greatly to be deplored, when capitalists had from the purest motives of patriotism, and when the best interests of the country required it, adventured their property in them, that establishments for domestic manufactures should have been suffered to be suspended or even to languish. An appeal to the general government has produced partial relief: but the utmost exertions of the state legislature will be required to yield such further encouragement as will place manufactures of domestic articles upon an equal footing with the importers of foreign merchandize.

GENTLEMEN—When we compare the situation of the United States with that of other countries, we have great cause of self-gratulation. We find ourselves in the enjoyment of every rational right, civil and religious. Our government has proved itself capable of resisting the shock of most political changes which peace or war can produce. Its duration, then, may confidently be predicted, coeval with the intelligence and virtue of its inhabitants.

The present state of the world, and the general despotism of mankind, are propitious to the encouragement of learning, the advancement of the arts and the extension of religious information: the certain and only means of perpetuating our happy condition. As the guardians of the prosperity, liberty and morals of the state, we are, therefore, bound by every injunction of patriotism and wisdom, to endow, to the utmost of our resources, schools and seminaries of learning, to patronize public improvements, and to cherish all institutions for the diffusion of religious knowledge and for the promotion of virtue and piety.

DANIEL D. TOMPKINS.

ALBANY, NOV. 5, 1816.

FROM THE AMERICAN CENTINEL, NOV. 12.

THE ELECTION.

Altho' the returns of the election throughout this state for electors of president and vice president, have not yet been fully received, we are confident, that the ticket nominated by the legislature, and pledged to vote for Messrs. Monroe and Tompkins, has been carried by a respectable majority. In fact, throughout the union, there has been no settled opposition to these candidates. To their worth and integrity must be ascribed the general support and confidence which have been thus bestowed upon them. It must be peculiarly gratifying to these gentlemen to find the loud tone of party hushed, and the divisions always existing on so momentous an occasion, and which in fact will continue to exist while we remain free, almost unknown in the present instance—to observe themselves called almost spontaneously—without jealousy or alarm—without fear or faction—to the first offices in a free and representative government. It is a rare and almost an unexampled proof of confidence. Whatever may

be said against congressional nominations, (and we are free to confess that many worthy citizens view them with a suspicious, if not a hostile eye,) it will be seen, that the members of congress have hitherto only acted in unison with the voice and wishes of the people; for had any other candidates been nominated, there is every reason to believe, that the support would not have been so general or decisive. While the wishes of the people are consulted, and until a more effectual and satisfactory mode of choosing candidates shall be established, we see no cause of objection against the custom which has hitherto prevailed.

Mr. Monroe, then may be considered duly elected president of the United States for the four ensuing years. He will enter on the duties of his office, not with the apprehension of a stranger, but with the confidence of experience. The responsibility of his official station will not be viewed by him with awe or dread; but on the contrary, will be assumed with ease, strengthened by the assurance arising from a long term of public service faithfully devoted to the welfare of his country. His duties, however, in the office to which he has been called, will be no less difficult than those which may be considered as terminated. His activity and vigilance must be increased in proportion as his responsibility is magnified. The president of the United States is selected from the people, who in their sovereign capacity, have designated him to administer the laws; and although a civilized people are ever prepared to respect the magistracy of their own creation, there is a reciprocal respect due from the officer to the people, over whom he possesses no exclusive rank or additional rights, but is virtually and substantially their fellow citizen. The constitution, the hope of our country, and the rock of its salvation, must be maintained, in its letter and its spirit, with an ardent and unswerving devotion. The institutions of the United States, the guarantee of the liberty we enjoy, must never be violated or impaired—public faith, the foundation of public confidence, must be supported at every hazard—and an unremitting attention to the rights, the honor, and the interests of the nation must be evidenced in all the steps and measures of the executive. These are not trifling duties; they must, and doubtless will receive from Mr. M. the close attention which they respectively merit.

Mr. Monroe owes his election to republicans, and to them alone; we trust he never will be insensible to this fact. It would be a vain and a weak effort to attempt to unite all parties—the materials are too discordant. Men are too much the slaves of their passions and their prejudices. The federal party throughout the union have at least the merit of consistency; they never will appoint a republican to office when they can procure one of their own party; and if they occasionally confederate with any section of republicans, it is done solely for the purpose of advancing their own interests, and furthering their own views. We should not be insensible to this example, and while a republican of talents and integrity is to be found, no other should be commissioned by a republican executive. Although the federal party brought forward no candidate in this election and although the whisperings of faction and discontent have been but slightly heard even in this state, still it must not be inferred that the federal party would have supported Mr. Monroe, had a hope existed that a candidate of that party would have been even respectably supported. They swam with the current, because they had not strength to resist its force. As a mark of political hostility, as pointed as it was unexpected, they supported in this state a spurious ticket, because it exhibited the shadow of opposition. As an evidence of their peculiar hatred to republicans, they approved and voted a ticket formed by a few citizens in opposition to the one recommended by the free and unbiassed voice of the legislature and this too when there was a moral certainty of discomfiture and disgrace. The republican party therefore has no obligations to acknowledge.

The congressional nomination lost neither force nor character, by associating the name of Daniel D. Tompkins, as vice president, with that of Mr. Monroe. It will be recollected, that governor Snyder was named and respectably supported for this office. Pennsylvania, always uniform

consistent, strong in principle and in power, without a solitary feeling of state jealousy; without a desire of creating geographical divisions in the country, still felt that her estimation in the scale of the union warranted the expectation that one of her citizens should be placed on the nomination with Mr. Monroe; accordingly, the executive of the state, a citizen whose public worth and services cannot be too highly rated, was brought forward. The result was favorable to Mr. Tompkins; yet citizens of this state accustomed to act on principle, and familiar with correct and honest habits, cheerfully co-operated in support of the candidates desired by the people.

The situation of vice-president, however, does not afford room for the operation of extraordinary talents. Mr. Tompkins possesses more than is required to fill the station with credit. His experience in public life; his activity and industry, will not fail to contribute to the welfare of the union. During the interregnum, occasioned by the death of the venerable Gerry, the duties of the office have devolved on the hon. Mr. Gaillard of South Carolina, and by him have been faithfully and respectably administered.

Independent of the tranquil manner in which this important election has been decided, and the satisfaction & content which generally appear to prevail, it will not fail to attract the attention the astonishment of what is called the civilized world. While the monarchs of Europe, to support their own pretended rights, have expended freely the blood & treasures of their people; while public fidelity has been sacrificed at the shrine of private interest; while an unhallowed alliance, supported by tyranny & superstition, has entailed chaos and misery on their subjects; let them turn their eyes to a country where liberty is cherished, because her real value is properly estimated. Here they will perceive that she reprobates flattery on the labors of the poor—no pensioned courtiers—no sinecure placements—no confederacy to dethrone a dynasty, in order to make room for another—no subsidies—no intrusive kings or governors—all is republican—all is elective. By the free, unbiassed, unought, and, in many instances, unsolicited voices of freemen, our citizens are taken from the ranks of private life, and placed on the road to the highest authority. We require from them no detail of illustrious pedigree; their actions are the heralds of their fame. These and not their ancestry, from the criterion of merit, and the foundation of confidence. This system, pursued since our independence, and never to be relinquished but with our existence as a nation, has made us what we are, has given us an important rank and character among the governments of the earth—has nerved the arm of our citizens in defence of our rights, and will not fail to lead us eventually to the height of prosperity and national greatness.

Very Important!

On the 11th inst. the British barque Harlequin arrived at New-York in 28 days from Liverpool. She was chartered by Merchants of Liverpool to bring out letters to their correspondents in the United States announcing that the crops were short, and that there would be a scarcity in England.

In consequence of this news, flour rose immediately in New-York, from 2 to 3 dollars a barrel.

The Baltimore Federal Gazette of Thursday last, says the effect produced by it in Baltimore, was a rapid rise, in the price of Wheat and Flour, "continues to advance."

Baltimore Corn Market, Nov. 14.
Flour - - - - \$ 13 50 a 14
Wheat, per bushel - - 2 85 a 3
Indian Corn do - - - 2
Oats do - - - 1 12 a 1 25

Letters from Baltimore dated on Friday last, state that \$ 15 per barrel had been refused for flour on that day!

Considering the general scarcity throughout the United States it is a subject worthy of consideration, whether measures ought not to be taken by our government to prohibit, for a certain time, the exportation of bread stuffs.