

## MARYLAND GAZETTE

T H U R S D A Y, D E C E M B E R 23, 1802.

CONGRESS of the UNITED STATES.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, December 6, 1802.

THIS being the constitutional day of meeting, fifty three members appeared, who not forming a quorum, an adjournment took place till to-morrow at 11 A. M.

Tuesday, December 7, 1802.

A quorum of members appeared. The following new members appeared and took their seats:

Samuel Hunt, from New-Hampshire, in the room of Joseph Pierce, resigned; Samuel Thatcher, from Massachusetts; David Merriwether, from Georgia, in the room of Mr. Taliaferro, resigned; Thomas Winn, of North-Carolina, in the room of Charles Johnson, deceased; and Thomas M. Greene, a delegate from the Mississippi Territory, in the room of N. Hunter, deceased.

Ordered, That the clerk inform the senate that this house has formed a quorum, and is ready to proceed to business.

Ordered, That the clerk furnish each member with three news-papers at his lodgings.

Adjourned.

Wednesday, December 8, 1802.

On motion of gen. S. Smith, the following standing committees were appointed.

A committee of elections of seven members.

A committee of revival and unfinished business of three members.

A committee of claims of seven members.

A committee of commerce and manufactures of seven members.

Gen. S. Smith further moved, that a committee of ways and means, consisting of nine members, should be appointed. As the number of nine members involved a departure from a rule confining that committee to seven, the motion was ordered to remain for consideration until to-morrow.

Thursday, December 9, 1802.

Mr. Gregg moved a resolution for the appointment of two chaplains of different denominations, one for each house, to interchange weekly.

Consideration postponed till Monday next.

Friday, December 10, 1802.

Mr. Gregg moved the re-adoption of the resolution of the last session, authorising the door keeper to employ one additional assistant, two servants and two horses, for the present session.

Agreed to.

Mr. Thompson presented the petition of Gibert Combs, representing that he had, after long study, discovered the mode of ascertaining the longitude, and praying the assistance of congress to conduct his researches.

Referred to a select committee.

There being no quorum in the senate, adjourned.

Saturday, December 11, 1802.

The petition of James Stiles, a captain in the U. S. regiment of artillery, and late commanding officer of the garrison of West Point, praying to be indemnified for the costs and damages of a suit instituted against him in New-York, for a trespass committed by a part of his company in the neighbourhood of the garrison of West Point on the 4th of July, 1800, without the knowledge or consent of the petitioner, was read and referred to the committee of claims.

Monday, December 13, 1802.

Mr. Davenport, from the committee of revival and unfinished business, made a report in part.

Tuesday, December 14, 1802.

A message was received from the senate, informing the house that they had made a quorum, and had chosen Stephen R. Bradley president pro tempore, in the absence of the vice-president of the U. States, and were ready to proceed to business.

On motion of Mr. Dawson, resolved, that a committee be appointed on the part of this house, to unite with a committee on the part of the senate, to wait upon the president of the United States, and inform him that the two houses have formed, and are ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make to them.

Mr. Dawson, Mr. Lowder and Mr. Van Ness, appointed the committee.

A message was received from the senate, advising this house, that they had passed a similar resolution

and had appointed, on their part, a committee, consisting of Mr. Wright and Mr. Theodore Foster.

Mr. Dennis stated that, he understood that at the same time that this house had passed a resolution for the appointment of a committee to join a committee of the senate to wait on the president, the senate had passed a resolution to the same effect. There appeared, therefore, to be two concurrent resolutions, each originating in one house but neither of which was acted upon by the other. He, therefore, moved a concurrence on the part of the house in the resolution of the senate.—Agreed to.

The house took up the motion, made four days since, by Mr. Gregg, for the appointment of two chaplains, of different denominations, to interchange weekly.

Mr. Davis expressed himself against the resolution.

It was defended by Messrs. Dennis, Griswold, Nicholson, Smilie, Claiborne and Elmer.

Mr. Dennis moved to strike out "of different denominations." This motion was supported by Mr. Smilie, and opposed by Messrs. Nicholson, Elmer and Claiborne.—Lost, ayes 24.

The resolution was then agreed to, without amendment.

Mr. Dawson, from the committee appointed to wait upon the president, reported that they had delivered the message of the house to the president, who replied, that he would make his communication to congress by message to-morrow.

Dr. Mitchell gave notice that immediately after the receipt of the president's message, he should offer a specific motion on the subject of French spoliations.

Wednesday, December 15, 1802.

This day, at 12 o'clock, the following MESSAGE was delivered to each house by Mr. Lewis, secretary to the president.

## MESSAGE.

To the SENATE and HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES of the UNITED STATES.

WHEN we assemble together, fellow-citizens, to consider the state of our beloved country, our just attentions are first drawn to those pleasing circumstances which mark the goodness of that Being from whose favour they flow, and the large measure of thankfulness we owe for his bounty. Another year has come around, and finds us still blessed with peace and friendship abroad, law, order and religion at home, good affection and harmony with our Indian neighbours, our burthens lightened; yet our income sufficient for the public wants, and the produce of the year great beyond example. These, fellow-citizens, are the circumstances under which we meet; and we remark with special satisfaction those which, under the smiles of Providence, result from the skill, industry and order of our citizens, managing their own affairs in their own way, and for their own use, unembarrassed by too much regulation, unoppressed by fiscal exactions.

On the restoration of peace in Europe that portion of the carrying trade, which had fallen to our share during the war, was abridged by the returning competition of the belligerent powers. This was to be expected and was just. But, in addition, we find, in some parts of Europe, monopolizing discriminations, which, in the form of duties, tend effectually to prohibit the carrying thither our own produce in our own vessels. From existing amities and a spirit of justice, it is hoped that friendly discussion will produce a fair and adequate reciprocity. But should false calculations of interest defeat our hope, it rests with the legislature to decide whether they will meet inequalities abroad with countervailing inequalities at home, or provide for the evil in any other way.

It is with satisfaction I lay before you an act of the British parliament anticipating this subject, so far as to authorise a mutual abolition of the duties and countervailing duties, permitted under the treaty of 1794. It shews on their part a spirit of justice and friendly accommodation, which it is our duty and our interest to cultivate with all nations. Whether this would produce a due equality in the navigation between the two countries, is a subject for your consideration.

Another circumstance which claims attention, as directly affecting the very source of our navigation, is the defect or the evasion of the law providing for the return of seamen, and particularly of those belonging to vessels sold abroad. Numbers of them, discharged in foreign ports, have been thrown on the hands of our consuls, who, to rescue them from the dangers into which their distresses might plunge them, and save them to their country, have found it necessary, in some cases, to return them at the public charge.

The cession of the Spanish province of Louisiana to France, which took place in the course of the late war, will, if carried into effect, make a change in the aspect of our foreign relations, which will doubtless have just weight in any deliberations of the legislature connected with that subject.

There was reason, not long since, to apprehend that the warfare in which we were engaged with Tripoli, might be taken up by some other of the Barbary powers. A reinforcement, therefore, was immediately ordered to the vessels already there. Subsequent information, however, has removed these apprehensions for the present. To secure our commerce in that sea, with the smallest force competent, we have supposed it best to watch strictly the harbour of Tripoli. Still, however, the shallowness of their coast, and the want of smaller vessels on our part, has permitted some cruisers to escape unobserved; and to one of these an American vessel unfortunately fell a prey. The captain, one American seaman, and two others of colour, remain prisoners with them; unless exchanged under an agreement formerly made with the bashaw, to whom, on the faith of that, some of his captive subjects had been restored.

The CONVENTION with the state of Georgia has been ratified by their legislature, and a repurchase from the Greeks has been consequently made, of a part of the Taliaferro county. In this purchase has been also comprehended a part of the lands within the fork of Oconee and Ockmulgee rivers. The particulars of the contract will be laid before congress so soon as they shall be in a state for communication.

In order to remove every ground of difference possible with our Indian neighbours, I have proceeded in the work of settling with them, and marking the boundaries between us. That with the Choctaw nation is fixed in one part, and will be through the whole within a short time. The country to which their title had been extinguished before the revolution is sufficient to receive a very respectable population, which congress will probably see the expediency of encouraging, so soon as the limits shall be declared. We are to view this position as an out post of the United States, surrounded by strong neighbours, and distant from its support. And how far that monopoly, which prevents population, should here be guarded against, and actual habitation made a condition of the continuance of title, will be for yet consideration. A prompt settlement too of all existing rights and claims within this territory, presents itself as a preliminary operation.

In that part of the Indiana territory which includes Vincennes, the titles settled with the neighbouring tribes, fix the extinction of their title at a breadth of twenty-four leagues from east to west, and about the same length parallel with and including the Wabash. They have also ceded a tract of four miles square, including the Salt Springs near the mouth of that river.

In the department of finance it is with pleasure I inform you that the receipts of external duties, for the last twelve months, have exceeded those of any former year, and that the ratio of increase has been also greater than usual. This has enabled us to answer all the regular exigencies of government, to pay from the treasury, within one year, upwards of eight millions of dollars—principal and interest, of the public debt, exclusive of upwards of one million paid by the sale of bank stock, and making in the whole a reduction of nearly five millions and an half of principal, and to have now in the treasury four millions and an half of dollars, which are in a course of application to the further discharge of debt, and current demands. Experience too, so far, authorises us to believe, if no extraordinary event supervenes, and the expenses which will be actually incurred shall not be greater than were contemplated by congress at their last session, that we shall not be disappointed in the expectations then formed. But nevertheless, as the effect of peace on the amount of duties is not yet fully ascertained, it is the more necessary to practise every useful economy, and to incur no expense, which may be avoided without prejudice.

The collection of the internal taxes having been completed in some of the states, the officers employed in it are of course out of commission. In others they will be so shortly. But in a few, where the arrangements for the direct tax had been retarded, it will still be sometime before the system is closed. It has not yet been thought necessary to employ the agents authorised by an act of the last session, for transacting business in Europe relative to debts and loans. Nor have we used the power, confided by the same act, of prolonging the foreign debt by re-loans, and of redeeming instead thereof, an equal sum of the domestic debt. Should, however, the difficulties of circumstances be so large a scale, render it necessary at any time, the power shall be executed, and the money thus unemployed abroad shall in conformity with