AMERICA
SUBLIME VERTIGE SIDERA FERIAM
[Nobis est Justitia.]

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1802.

Capt Wiswall, of the schooner John, from St. Croix via Turks-Island (arrived at New-York,) informs, that the inhabitants of that place have come to a resolution not to sell another bushel of salt, under existing circumstances—the Governor of the Bahamas having laid a tax of one penny a bushel on this article, and a duty amounting to 7 per cent. on all goods landed on that island. The inhabitants, feeling the injustice of this measure, have sent a Deputy to England to endeavour to obtain redress; and, until the decision of the British government, not a bushel of salt will be sold at the above place. Capt. W. adds, that several American vessels had stopt there for this article, but were obliged to leave the island without being able to obtain any.

The inhabitants of the *Havanna*, it is said, complain loudly against the Government of *Cuba* for excluding American vessels. The price of living being thereby rendered enormously high; flour from 30 to 40 dollars pr. barrel. It is certainly an inexplicable policy, to tax their own people excessively to abridge the American trade a little.

BONAPARTE is the God of federalism to the East; and his infallibility and glory appear to have as many devotees in Boston as in Paris. Orators of Massachusetts, and poets of Connecticut, sound his praises! Seize the moment, lest it fly, and ye be constrained in dolorout notes to pronounce dirges of martyrdom, instead of peans of triumph.

Some of the federal prints have gone into *mourning* for the judiciary act of the expiring administration which drew its last breath on the first day of July. And well may THEY *mourn*. They have lost a friend in need; the only friend left them amidst their misfortunes.

How easy the transition from carrying into effect *unconstitutional* laws, which violated the dearest rights of freemen, to refusing to executive *constitutional* laws, enacted to protect them. Had the aggrieved spirit of republicanism submitted to the dogma of judicial inviolability, we might have indeed hailed the early approach of days, in which these men would have stopped the wheels of government, and by interdicting the exercise of all power by others, have absorbed the government in themselves. Then we should have had glorious days! Then we should have had an eternal of bondage.

[illegible], however, fasting is considered as an evidence of contrition and self-humiliation for our manifold sins, we cannot too highly appreciate the pious act, nor recommend it too strongly to the general observance of our federal friends.—*Nat. Int.*

Accounts from the Italian Republic mention, that a convocation of the three electoral colleges was to be held the 15th May at Milan, to decide on the question, shall Bonaparte continue President of that republic for life!

On Wednesday, the 14th July, being the anniversary of the destruction of the *Bastile*, one of the engines of *French* tyranny, Captain PORTER, of the Observatory, specially noticed the memorable event, by a display of upwards of one hundred colours during the whole day. At noon, the French national which schooner, lying at the Point, fired a salute of 16 guns, was answered from Federal Hill; and at sun-set, a like compliment was repeated. We hope, for the sake of humanity, that *Bonaparte* will not build a *Bastile* to immure patriots in.

Extract of a letter from Halifax, dated 21st June, 1802.

"We are under hourly trepidation from fires caused by some vile lurking incendiaries. On Thursday night, Mr. Alexander Allen's new buildings and his old house were entirely consumed—the former was the first that caught, and had been lately occupied by C. Hall, and not any person known to have been in it with any kind of light or fire for several days previous. On Saturday night another alarm was given by Mr. Fills's barn taking fire, which it is probable was also wilfully caused; luckily there was no wind, and the flames spread no farther. About 8 o'clock another fire was luckily discovered in its commencement in a store, a brand of fire had been put through a hole cut for the admission of cats, and burnt through a floor two inches thick, and God knows where it might not have spread but for the Providential discovery, which was owing to Mr. Ewen's sending to the store to have it opened for the purpose of airing it, when the smoke led to the detection, and it was instantly extinguished. The inhabitants patrole nightly, and sentinels placed in all the lanes, alleys, etc. who challenge and take up all persons unseasonably out, who cannot give a fair account of themselves. I hope these precautions will lead to a discovery of the villainous perpetrators. We are all in good health, though as you may suppose, in great perturbation."

In a severe gale on the 11th of April last, in the North Seas, the brig Favorite, capt. Benjamin Henderson, of Salem, by shipping a sea, lost one man overboard, and another was badly bruised; also, lost her boats, mainsail-boom gaff, tri-sail mast, and all the apparatus thereto belonging, water casks, part of the quarter boards, and sundry other articles, and shifted every thing on board. Captain H. has since arrived at Copenhagen, and repaired his vessel.

A letter from London of the 8th May, says "No sooner has peace taken place, than a French gentleman, Mr. Gurnerin, has brought over a large baloon, of 10,000 feet, and an immense parachute, a fulfiled honneur, and a bust of Bonaparte, which are all exhibiting at the Pantheon, for one shilling each person. He is to ascend with this baloon 10,000 feet high, and then descend by means of the parachute."

In the Turkish printing establishment at Constantinople, which has existed for the last two years, under the favour of the Sultan Selim, a Dictionary is now printing of the Turkish, Greek, Latin, French and Persian languages, in three volumes, folio; and ninety sheets are already printed. In Constantinople there are, besides two Greek printing-offices, under the inspection of patriarch Neophytus, but in these, only church books are printed.

According to a calculation formed upon the plan of the Count D'ARANDA, the population of Spain, amounts to 9,307,804 individuals, of whom 157,805, are composed of the regular and secular clergy.

FROM THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

HISTORY OF THE LAST SESSION OF CONGRESS.

CONTINUED.

On the 8th of December, the several standing committees of the House of representatives were organised, a committee appointed to enquire what alterations were necessary in the existing government of the Territory of Columbia, and a motion made, directing the secretary of the treasury to lay before the House a statement of the accounts of Timothy Pickering, *late Secretary of State*, which was postponed until the ensuing Monday.

On the 10th, the Senate chose Dr. Gant, and the House Mr. Parkinson their chaplains.

On motion of Mr. S. Smith, the secretary of the Treasury was directed to report a schedule of all the duties imposed by law on goods, wares and merchandise imported into the United States.

A committee was appointed to revise the Post-office laws.

And on motion of Mr. S. Smith, the committee of commerce and manufactures were directed to enquire, what alterations, if any, are necessary in the laws imposing duties on the tonnage of ships, and on goods, wares and merchandise imported into the United States.

Mr. Pickering's accounts.

On the 14th day of December, Mr. Nicholson called up a resolution made by him on the 6th inst. respecting the expenditure of public monies by Mr. Pickering. He observed, that "some ideas expressed by a gentleman from Massachusetts, when this subject was before the House, had weight with him, and had induced him to modify his motion. It had been properly, in his opinion, remarked that such a motion should not point at any particular officer, but that it should be extended to all offices [illegible] the disbursements of public money." He had, therefore, prepared another resolution, which, while it embraced his first object, would be seen to be connected with other objects equally interesting, as follows:

Resolved, that a committee be appointed to enquire and report, whether monies drawn from the treasury, have been faithfully applied to the objects for which they were appropriated, and whether the same have been regularly accounted for; and to report, likewise, whether any further arrangements are necessary to promote economy, enforce adherence to legislative restrictions, and secure the accountability of persons entrusted with the public money.

Mr. Bayard declared his high pleasure at the liberality and candour, which characterised the mover of the resolution; which had been manifested on the institution of it, as well as in the modification now offered. The motion as it now stood, however, was not confined to one department, but embraced the whole. He thought it would be best to confine it to one department; but to give it a more retrospective effect, and to apply it not to Mr. Pickering only, but also to the secretaries of State that preceded him. He believed, that, on investigation, it would be found that monies disbursed had not been expended conformably to the strict letter of appropriations. But such a deviation was the result of necessity. The public service forbade delaying certain measures, for the execution of which competent appropriations had not been made, to the next session of congress. He believed that the same thing had occured in other departments. It had been the custom, in cases where money was wanted for one though appropriated to another object, under the same department, to take it from the latter, and apply it to the former. This was illegal; but its being the custom palliated it.

Mr. Nicholson replied, that it was his intention to embrace all the departments; and that this was the more important from the accounts of the war and navy departments not being predicated upon precise appropriations, whereby great latitude was allowed.

Mr. Giles observed that he had always been in favor of giving the people the fullest information on the expenditures of public money. It would be recollected that he was among the first to institute an inquiry into the disbursements of the Treasury under this government. It was true that his efforts were attended with but little success; they had been treated with but little respect; and he might, perhaps, add that they had been treated with some share of disrespect. He rejoiced, however, in the change which had taken place, and he expected that this house would hereafter be as jealous of public disbursement, as he had long been.

The disbursement of public treasures excited, and deservedly excited, the national sensibility. The people felt it as all important. He was, therefore, well pleased with the resolution, whose effect would be to enquire into the conduct of all present and past secretaries. As the whole would be included, it would exclude all party consideration.

He hoped that they were now assembled to legislate for the public good; and that standing on the ground of truth, all calumny, let it come from whatever quarter, would be dismissed. He felt no ill will to any public officer, but he thought the official conduct of all of them should be tested by facts. He believed there had existed practices dangerous to our happiness; and his remarks were directed against those practices, not against any particular persons. If inconvenience and injury had sprung from the practices, we should find a remedy for them.

Mr. Giles hoped that at the commencement of a new administration all the doors of information would be thrown open, that the people might be well informed, and be able to repel all calumny that was propagated, and know where real blame attached.

The House sat here as a board of enquiry into the transactions of the government, and without respect to any particular man, it was their duty to enquire into the conduct of all. He therefore, hoped, not only that this motion would pass; but that something similar to it would be incorporated in the standing rules of the house; whereby the act of enquiry would be general and a matter of course. If this should be done, the measures of all the departments would pass in review every session, and checks would be sufficiently multiplied to satisfy the public mind.

The debate was continued by the remarks of Messrs. Mitchill, Bayard, Bacon, Lowndes and Claiborne; on the one side the measures of Mr. Pickering were advocated, as well as other measures of the administration, in which was involved a departure from legal appropriations; while on the other side those departures though admitted to be unavoidable in some cases of great necessity, were deprecated as great evils, as having been in some instances unnecessarily extended, and as having in all instances required the sanction of Congress immediately after their occurrence.

When the question was taken on Mr. Nicholson's motion, carried without a division, and a committee of seven members, viz. Messrs. Nicholson, Griswold, Giles, Hastings, Jones, Bayard and Elmendorf appointed.

MR. FOX'S SPEECH,

In reply to *Hawkesbury's*, on the motion relative to Pitt's administration: This motion was a *vote of thanks* to the late minister; Mr. Fox opposed the motion—the reader will see with what effect.

Mr. Fox rose at half past eleven, and continued a most able and argumentative speech till past two o'clock. It is therefore impossible to present any thing more than a mere sketch of it. He began with expressing his embarrassment as to the mode of treating a question which presented itself in such various shapes. He reprobated the mode which the noble lord had adopted of engrafting an amendment so totally different from the original motion. It was no less contrary to the orders of the house and the regularity of proceeding, than contrary to reason.—Instead of directly negativing the original motion the noble lord, with a dexterity which, if the phrase could be admitted, might perhaps be stiled a *sinister dexterity*, contrived to introduce an amendment for the purpose of obtaining the priority of vote. It was thought perhaps too, that to praise by name the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, might not be agreeable to certain descriptions of men, and therefore the general lumping amendment was proposed, by which, army, navy (already repeatedly and justly thanked by the house) and his Majesty's counsels were praised: and in fact a general edict of praise was to be issued. The house itself was complimented, and the same dilicacy observed by the principal members of the late administration, in withdrawing from a motion to thank themselves, was to be followed. The representatives of the people must be placed in a very aukward situation, in being called upon to vote their own thanks, and in apportioning their own share of this general piece of flummery.

As to the motion of the learned gentleman, many of the remarks with which it was prefaced, were extremely just and pertinent, but nevertheless, he could not think of giving that motion his vote. He could not vote an address of thanks to his majesty for dismissing the late first lord of the treasury, until he actually knew that he was *dismissed*. Rumour represented the transaction in a very different light.—If it was true that Mr. Pitt resigned because he was unable to effect the plan which he deemed necessary for improving the situation of the Catholics, then, however hostile in other respects to the measures and principles of the right honorable gentleman, he should bestow the full share of merit upon that conduct, and say, that "nothing in his administration became him like the leaving it." If Mr. Pitt and his late colleagues did find themselves thwarted in so great a measure, they acted honorably and constitutionally in quitting their official station. He should have been much more disposed, indeed, to give them credit for their motives, had they appeared in Parliament, and justified the step by declaring its motive—nay, by moving in the house—the place indeed where, by the theory of the constitution, which we ought never to lose sight of, such a measure ought to originate—that the plan of civil and religious liberty, no less recommended by justice than by policy, should actually be carried into execution.—By such a mode of proceeding, it would have been found whether there was any foundation for the reports of any dislike to the measure in the royal breast; for it was to the last degree unconstitutional, and unworthy of an independent member of Parliament, to presume that any such obstacle could exist to a measure of wisdom and policy. It might be thought indeed, that without the concurrence of the executive government, there was little chance of success to a plan of this kind, brought forward against its inclinations.—Such a supposition, however, implied a most undue submission in Parliament to the will of the executive power. But he did not think that a measure so brought forward would have ultimately been unsuccessful. At any rate, if those who resigned were seriously actuated by the motives assigned, they ought to have transferred to their successors the responsibility of opposing a plan which they had deemed of so much public importance.

The second amendment was at least more candid and manly, and he preferred it to the mere *palaver* of the first. But with what propriety or grace could the House return their thanks without inquiry? Some disasters were admitted to have attended the war, and the House never thought proper to inquire. What would be thought if they proceeded to vote praise without any attempts to ascertain and demonstrate the justice of it? The present ministers have given us peace, and he gave them thanks for so great a blessing. But what were the terms of peace? Very strong and very well founded objections were urged against the terms; he saw and acknowledged their weight. The only justification of the peace must be that the country was reduced to a situation when, in comparison of the war, this peace was good. But if the situation of the country was such as to justify a peace in itself very objectionable, was it not evident that praise could not, on the face of things, be voted to those ministers who had brought the nation into such a state? Many of the former ministers see the matter in this light. They see that they must either blame the peace, or tacitly censure their own conduct that reduced the country to such circumstances as alone could justify it. They are perfectly consistent at least. Though Lord Grenville is a man with whom (said Mr. F.) I differ so widely in many things, whose answer to Bonaparte's overtures I have ever censured, I must admit that he has taken a firm and manly part on this occasion. He is a man of great ability, and the ground he has taken in discussing the Treaty of Peace is dignified and consistent. He knows that if the country was not in a situation of comparative difficulty, the peace could not be defended. He justly says to us who are called Jacobins, and to the present ministers who made the peace, and those who supported them, who are a sort of half jacobins, "You may say that the country was in a situation of distress or of embarrassment, *we* deny this convention, and we contend that we know the country had resources to carry on the contest, and that war was preferable to such a peace." This language is held by Lord Grenville, Lord Spencer, the late Secretary at War, and it is supposed that Lord Rosslyn entertains similar opinions. What are the sentiments of the late War Secretary on this subject has not yet appeared, as he has been so little in the House since the peace took place, a reproach which from me, who so frequently incurred the rebukes of that Right Honorable Gentleman, Mr. Dundas, may appear unbecoming, though I may be allowed to seize this opportunity of returning the accusation of the irregularity of my attendance.

So far it was evident, at least, that several members of the Cabinet were not mere stop gaps, as seemed to be insinuated, for such men as Lord Grenville, Lord Spencer, the late Secretary at War could not be supposed mere nominal Ministers, under the controul even of Mr. Pitt. These men were at variance with the latter on the subject of the peace; it was absurd to vote thanks to Mr. Pitt, with the inference that all the Members of the Cabinet, however differing in opinion from him, were to be comprehended.

Mr. Fox then proceeded to consider and contrast the situation of the country as the late Administration found, and as they left the country. He contended that this country was the aggressor in the war because the usual and proper steps of negociation were not used to prevent the war. If it was true, as Lord Hawkesbury had observed, that the ground taken at the beginning of the war was not broad enough, at least those who undertook it ought to have made up their own minds on the subject, if they did not declare it, because that was necessary for the proper conduct of it. If the war had been to keep the Scheldt shut, to drive the French out of Belgium, and to defend Holland, objects of the utmost importance to this country, they might in that case have told France that we took Martinique, or any other foreign settlement of France, in order to induce her to desist from these pretensions. If, however, the "moral effect" of the Revolution and the object of setting up some better form of Government, whether the Throne of the Bourbons or some other regular government were the object, how could we expect assistance from any honest Frenchman, when we began to take Martinique and Dunkirk for ourselves, Valenciennes for the Emperor, and other advantages for Prussia? This shewed that our intention was not to improve the Government of France, but to take the opportunity of new distractions to pillage, and partition her territories. As the war was conducted, the means employed were applicable to neither of their objects, so that it was impossible we could be successful. But it was said that the present Government of France was better. Granting that it was, at least it was not the effect of the war. The war prolonged the reign of the monster Robespierre, because Frenchmen, from a laudable feeling, which in some cases might be carried too far, thought not of their domestic tyrant, but looked only to the English and Austrians by whom they were assailed.—The ways of Providence are inscrutable, and the means by which its ends are brought about, beyond our investigation. The fortune of Bonaparte had been conspicuous, and along with his great and extraordinary qualities, had smoothed his way to eminence. Among the circumstances by which he was favored might be classed the treatment he had received from the British Government; but if the Ministers, like Lord Hawkesbury, were to claim the merits of having brought about that better form of Government in France under Bonaparte, this would be the first time that the alliance of the British Government with Bonaparte in the attainment of his power was *admitted*, though most would agree that in fact he had important aids in the incapacity, the folly, and intemperance of our Ministers of which he had prudently availed himself.

Mr Fox then went on to show, that at the beginning of the contest had Marat been treated with, we might have had peace on the most advantageous terms. Holland, Belgium, &c would have been saved, and then would French principles have been less dangerous than under the extended dominion of Bonaparte! With respect to the danger of French principles, he thought it never was great: in considering it the noble lord should have shewn that diffidence in mere general reasoning, which he had so wisely and modestly recommended. It certainly was extraordinary that the milder infections of this country should have been cured by war, when the most violent stage of the malady, in Ireland, was universally admitted to have been more remedied by peace than by any thing else. Mr. Fox then commented with much humour on the phrase, that the country had been *resigned* under the war, and *disinterested* in the support of it. That they were *resigned* to a war, which from the joy at peace, and other proofs, it was evident they disapproved, he thought no great compliment; *disinterested* they had been, for they made the greatest sacrifices and suffered the greatest inconveniences for no valuable end or object whatever, a circumstance which implied no great compliment either! If they had continued happy and contented, it was not *because*, but *although* they had been taxed in their property and curtailed in their rights. Mr. Fox then shewed the gross injustice and falsehood of the assertion, that the last war was new in its nature & its dangers. He demonstrated that the danger of the house of Stuarts, of arbitrary power, and of