Congress
OF THE
UNITED STATES.

SENATE.

Monday, October 17, 1803.

Twenty-nine members appeared and took their seats.

After reading the message of the president, a confidential communication, accompanied by the Louisiana treaty, and sundry documents, was received from the president.

On this important subject the senate are now engaged with closed doors.

House of Representatives.

Monday, October 17, 1803.

Between the hours of 11 and 12, A. M. one hundred and ten members appeared on the floor.

The house proceeded by ballot to the choice of a speaker; and upon examining the ballots, a majority was found for NATHANIEL MACON, of North Carolina.

Mr. Macon,	76	ballots.
Mr. Varnum,	30	
Mr. Dawson,	1	

Mr. Macon was, thereupon, conducted to the chair by Messrs. Varnum and Nicholson.

The speaker made his acknowledgments to the house as follows:

Gentlemen,

Accept my unfeigned thanks for the honor which you have conferred on me. The task which you have assigned me will be undertaken with great diffidence, but my utmost endeavors shall be exerted to discharge the duties of the chair with fidelity; in executing the rules and orders of the house, I shall rely with confidence on the liberal and candid support of the house.

The house then proceeded to the election of a clerk, when John Beckley was elected by nearly an unanimous vote.

The oath to support the constitution of the United States was then administered to the speaker, and by him to the respective members.

A message was sent to the senate, informing them that the house had made a quorum, and chosen Nathaniel Macon, speaker.

A message was received from the senate, informing the house that a quorum of the senate was assembled, had, in the absence of the vice president, elected John Brown, president pro-tempore, and were ready to proceed to business.

On motion of Mr. J. Randolph, resolved, that a committee be appointed on the part of this house, jointly with such committee as may be appointed on the part of the senate, to wait on the president of the United States, and inform him that a quorum of the two houses is assembled, and ready to receive any communications he may be pleased to make to them.

Messrs. J. Randolph, R. Griswold and Nicholson, were appointed on the part of the house.

A committee, consisting of Messrs. Eustis, New, and Huger, were appointed to prepare standing rules.

The following standing committees were appointed.

Of *elections*—Messrs. Findley, Goddard, M. Clay, Hunt, Varnum, Livingston, and Kennedy.

Of *claims*—Messrs. John C. Smith, Gregg, Plater, Holmes, T. Moore, Chamberlin, and Bedinger.

Of *commerce and manufactures*—Messrs. S. L. Mitchill, Dana, M'Crery, Newton, Crowninshield, Leib, and Wynns.

Of *revisal and unfinished business*—Messrs. Tenney, Boyle, and Dickson.

Of *ways and means*—Messrs. J. Randolph, Nicholson, Hastings, R. Griswold, J. Clay, Rodney, and Sands.

Joseph Wheaton was elected serjeant at arms.

Votes for Mr. Wheaton	83
Mr. Moore	21

Thomas Claxton was appointed doorkeeper, and Thomas Dunn, assistant.

Each member was ordered to be supplied with three newspapers.

Mr. Dawson, after a few preliminary observations, offered to the house the following resolution:

Resolved by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America, in congress assembled, two-thirds of both houses concurring, that the following article be proposed to the legislatures of the several states, as an amendment to the constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of the said legislatures, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said constitution, viz.

That in all future elections of president and vice-president, the persons shall be particularly designated, by declaring which is voted for as president, and which as vice-president.

Which being read, was taken into consideration, and on the motion of Mr. Dawson referred to the committee of the whole on the state of the union.

The speaker laid before the house sundry papers transmitted to him from Kenhawa county, in the state of Virginia, respecting the election of Thomas Lewis

Referred to the committee of elections

Mr. J Randolph, from the committee appointed to wait on the president, reported that they had waited on the president, and that he had signified to them that he would make a communication, to that house, to-day in writing.

In a short time, the message was received by Mr. Harvie, his secretary which was read.

Ordered That it be referred to a committee of the whole house on the state of the union. Adjourned.

This day at three o'clock, the following MESSAGE was delivered to the two houses of congress by Mr. Harvie secretary to the president:

To the Senate and house of Representatives of the United States:

IN calling you together, fellow-citizens, at an earlier day than was contemplated by the act of the last session of congress, I have not been insensible to the personal inconveniencies necessarily resulting from an unexpected change in your arrangements; but matters of great public concernment have rendered this call necessary; and the interests you feel in these will supercede in your minds all private considerations.

Congress witnessed, at their late session, the extraordinary agitation produced in the public mind by the suspension of our right of deposit, at the port of New-Orleans, no assignment of another place having been made according to treaty. They were sensible that the continuance of that privation would be more injurious to our nation, than any consequences which could flow from any mode of redress. But reposing just confidence in the good faith of the government whose officer had committed the wrong, friendly and reasonable representations were resorted to, and the right of deposit was restored.

Previous, however, to this period, we had not been unaware of the danger to which our peace would be perpetually exposed whilst so important a key to the commerce of the western country remained under foreign power. Difficulties too were presenting themselves as to the navigation of other streams, which arising within our territories, pass through those adjacent. Propositions had therefore been authorised for obtaining, on fair conditions, the sovereignty of New-Orleans, and of other possessions in that quarter, interesting to our quiet, to such extent as was deemed practicable: and the provisional appropriation of two millions of dollars, to be applied and accounted for by the president of the United States, intended as part of the price, was considered as conveying the sanction of congress to the acquisition proposed. The enlightened government of France saw, with just discernment, the importance to both nations of such liberal arrangements as might best and permanently promote the peace, friendship and interests of both; and the property and sovereignity of all Louisiana, which had been restored to them, has, on certain conditions, been transferred to the United States by instruments bearing date the 30th of April last. When these shall have received the constitutional sanction of the senate, they will, without delay, be communicated to the representatives also, for the exercise of their functions as to those conditions which are within the powers vested by the constitution in congress. Whilst the property and sovereignity of the Mississippi and its waters secure an independent outlet for the produce of the western states, and an uncontroled navigation through their whole course, free from collision with other powers, and the dangers to our peace from that source, the fertility of the country, its climate and extent, promise, in due season, important aids to our treasury, and ample provision for our posterity, and a wide spread for the blessings of freedom and equal laws.

With the wisdom of congress it will rest to take those ulterior measures which may be necessary for the immediate occupation, and temporary government of the country; for its incorporation into our union; for rendering the change of government a blessing to our newly adopted brethern; for securing to them the rights of conscience and of property; for confirming to the Indian inhabitants their occupancy of self-government, establishing friendly and commercial relations with them, and for ascertaining the geography of the country acquired. Such materials for your information relative to its affairs in general, as the short space of time has permitted me to collect, will be laid before you when the subject shall be in a state for your consideration.

Another important acquisition of territory has also been made since the last session of congress. The friendly tribe of Kaskaskia Indians, with which we have never had a difference, reduced by the wars and wants of savage life, to a few individuals unable to defend themselves against the nighboring tribes, has transferred its country to the United States, reserving only for its members what is sufficient to maintain them in an agricultural way. The considerations stipulated are, that we shall extend to them our patronage and protection, and give them certain annual aids, in money, in implements of agriculture, and other articles of their choice. This country, among the most fertile within our limits, extending along the Mississippi from the mouth of the Illinois to, and up the Ohio, though not so necessary as a barrier, since the acquisition of the other bank, may yet be well worthy of being laid open to immediate settlement, as its inhabitants may descend with rapidity, in support of the lower country, should future circumstances expose that to foreign enterprise. As the stipulations in this treaty also, involve matters within the competence of both houses only, it will be laid before congress so soon as the senate shall have advised its ratification.

With many of the other Indian tribes, improvements in agriculture and household manufacture, are advancing; and, with all, our peace and friendship are established on grounds much firmer than heretofore. The measure adopted of establishing trading houses among them, and of furnishing them necessaries in exchange for their commodities, at such moderate prices as leave no gain, but cover us from loss, has the most conciliatory and useful effect on them, and is that which will best secure their peace and good will.

The small vessels authorised by congress, with a view to the Mediterranean service, have been sent into that sea, and will be able more effectually to confine the Tripoline cruisers within their harbors, and supercede the necessity of convoy to our commerce in that quarter.—They will sensibly lessen the expenses of that service the ensuing year.

A further knowledge of the ground in the north-eastern and north-western angles of the United States, has evinced that the boundaries established by the treaty of Paris, between the British territories and ours in those parts, were too imperfectly described to be susceptible of execution. It has therefore been thought worthy of attention, for preserving and cherishing the harmony and useful intercourse subsisting between the two nations, to remove by timely arrangements, what unfavorable incidents might otherwise render a ground of future misunderstanding. A convention has therefore been entered into, which provides for a practicable demarkation of those limits, to the satisfaction of both parties.

An account of the receipts and expenditures of the year ending the 30th September last, with the estimates for the service of the ensuing year, will be laid before you by the secretary of the treasury, so soon as the receipts of the last quarter shall be returned from the more distant states. It is already ascertained that the amount paid into the treasury, for that year, has been between eleven and twelve millions of dollars, and that the revenue accrued during the same term, exceeds the sum counted on, as sufficient for our current expenses, and to extinguish the public debt, within the period heretofore proposed.

The amount of debt paid, for the same year, is about three millions one hundred thousand dollars, exclusive of interest, and making, with the payment of the preceding year, a discharge of more than eight millions and an half of dollars of the principal of that debt, besides the accruing interest; and there remain in the treasury nearly six millions of dollars. Of these, eight hundred and eighty thousand have been reserved for the payment of the first instalment due under the British convention of Jan. 8, 1802, and two millions are, what have been before mentioned, as placed by congress under the power and accountability of of the president, towards the price of New-Orleans and other territory acquired, which, remaining untouched, are still applicable to that object, and go in diminuton of the sum to be funded for it.

Should the acquisition of Louisiana be constitutionally confirmed and carried into effect, a sum of nearly thirteen millions of dollars, will then be added to our public debt, most of which is payable after fifteen years; before which term the present existing debts will all be discharged, by the established operation of the sinking fund. When we contemplate the ordinary annual augmentation of impost from increasing population and wealth, the augmentation of the same revenue by its extension to the new acquisition, and the economies which may still be introduced into our public expenditures, I cannot but hope that congress, in reviewing their resources, will find means to meet the intermediate interest of this additional debt, without recurring to new taxes, and applying to this object only the ordinary progression of our revenue. Its extraordinary increase, in times of foreign war, will be the proper and sufficient fund for any measures of safety or precaution, which that state of things may render necessary in our neutral position.

Remittances for the instalments of our foreign debt having been found practicable without loss; it has not been thought expedient to use the power given by a former act of congress, of continuing them by reloans, and of redeeming, instead thereof, equal sums of domestic debt, although no difficulty was found in obtaining that accommodation.

The sum of fifty thousand dollars, appropriated by congress for providing gunboats, remain unexpended. The favorable and peaceable turn of affairs, on the Mississippi, rendered an immediate execution of that law unnecessary; and time was desirable, in order that the institution of that branch of our force might begin on models the most approved by experience. The same issue of events dispensed with a resort to the appropriation of a million and an half of dollars, contemplated for purposes which were effected by happier means.

We have seen with sincere concern the flames of war lightened up again in Europe, and nations, with which we have the most friendly and useful relations, engaged in mutual destruction. While we regret the miseries in which we see others involved, let us bow with gratitude to that kind providence, which inspiring with wisdom and moderation our late legislative councils, while placed under the urgency of the greatest wrongs, guarded us from hastily entering into the sanguinary contest, and left us only to look on and to pity its ravages.—These will be heaviest on those immediately engaged; yet the nations pursuing peace will not be exempt from all evil. In the course of this conflict let it be our endeavour, as it is our interest and desire, to cultivate the friendship of the belligerent nations by every act of justice and of innocent kindness; to receive their armed vessels, with hospitality, from the distress of the sea, but to administer the means of annoyance to none; to establish in our harbors, such a police as may maintain law and order; to restrain our citizens from embarking individually in a war in which their country takes no part; to punish severely those persons, citizen or alien, who shall usurp the cover of our flag, for vessels not entitled to it, infecting thereby with suspicion those of real Americans, and committing us into controversies for the redress of wrongs not our own; to exact from every nation the observance towards our vessels and citizens, of those principles and practices which all civilized people acknowledge; to merit the character of a just nation, and maintain that of an independent one, preferring every consequence to insult and habitual wrong. Congress will consider whether the existing laws enable us efficaciously to maintain this course with our citizens in all places and with others while within the limits of our jurisdiction; and will give them the new modifications necessary for these objects. Some contraventions of right have already taken place, both within our jurisdictional limits, and on the high seas.

The friendly disposition of the governments, from whose agents they have proceeded, as well as their sense of justice, and regard for justice, leave us in reasonable expectation, that they will be rectified and prevented in future: And that no act will be countenanced by them which threatens to disturb our friendly intercourse. Separated by a wide ocean from the nations of Europe, and from the political interests which entangled them together, with productions and wants which render our commerce and friendship useful to them, and theirs to us, it cannot be the interest of any to assail us, nor ours to disturb them. We should be most unwise indeed, were we to cast away the singular blessings of the position in which nature has placed us, the opportunity she has endowed us with, of pursuing, at a distance from foreign contentions the paths of industry, peace, and happiness, of cultivating general friendship, and of bringing collisions of interest to the umpirage of reason, rather than of force. How desirable then must it be, in a government like ours, to see its citizens adopt individually the views, the interests, and the conduct which their country should pursue, divesting themselves of those passions and partialities, which tend to lessen useful friendships, and to embarrass and embroil us in the calamitous scenes of Europe Confident, fellow-citizens, that you will duly estimate the importance of neutral dispositions, towards the observance of neutral conduct, that you will be sensible how much it is our duty to look on the bloody arena spread before us with commiseration indeed, but with no other wish than to see it closed. I am persuaded you will cordially cherish these dispositions, in all discussions among yourselves, and in all communications with your constituents. And I anticipate with satisfaction the measures of wisdom, which the great interests now committed to you, will give *you* an opportunity of providing, and *myself* that of approving, and of carrying into execution, with the fidelity I owe to my country.

TH: JEFFERSON.

October 17, 1803.

HAVING received information from several of my friends on the Eastern Shore, of a report circulating there, that it was my intention to decline the *Commission Business*—I beg leave to assure my friends and the public generally, that no intimation of the kind has at any time fallen from me; and that all those who may be pleased to intrust their property to my care, may rely on every exertion being made for their interest, by their most obedient servant,

RICHARD NICOLS.

Baltimore, August 2, 1803. tf

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

JOHN FRANCIS MERCER,

Governor of the State of Maryland.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS the General Assembly of Maryland did, by an act passed at November session, seventeen hundred and ninety, entitled, An act directing the time, places and manner, of holding elections for representatives of this state in the Congress of the United States, and for the regulation of the said elections, and also to repeal the act of assembly therein mentioned, direct, that the governor and council, after having received the returns, papers and instruments containing the number of votes for representatives of the state in the Congress of the United States, should enumerate and ascertain the number of votes for each and every candidate and person chosen as a representative; we, in pursuance of the directions of the said act, do, by this our proclamation, declare, that *John Campbell*, Esquire, was elected for the first district, *Walter Bowie*, Esquire, was elected for the second district, *Thomas Plater* Esquire, was elected for the third district, *Daniel Heister*, Esquire, was elected for the fourth district, *Nicholas Ruxton Moore* and *William Mac Creery*, Esquires, were elected for the fifth district, *John Archer*, Esquire, was elected for the sixth district, *Joseph Hopper Nicholson*, Esquire, was elected for the seventh district, and *John Dennis*, Esq. was elected for the eighth district.

Given in Council, at the city of Annapolis, under the seal of the State of Maryland, this seventeenth day of October, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and three.

JOHN F. MERCER.

By the Governor,
NINIAN PINKNEY, clerk of the Governor and Council.

In COUNCIL, October 17, 1803.

ORDERED, That the foregoing Proclamation be published three times in each week for the space of two weeks successively, in the American, Telegraphe, Federal Gazette, at Baltimore, Maryland Gazette, National Intelligencer, Republican Advocate, Bartgis's paper Fredericktown, Greeves's paper Hager's-town; and the Star, at Easton.

By order,
NINIAN PINKNEY,
Clerk of the Governor and Council.

For Sale,

THAT valuable Mill and Mill-seat, commonly called Gibson's Mill, situate on the eastern branch of Wye River, together with about eighty or an hundred acres of valuable land adjoining, about ten acres of which is prime meadow land.—This mill being situate in a fine wheat country, and on a never failing stream, renders her more valuable than any mill on the eastern-shore, and the whole works new and complete. Also the indisputable right of the subscriber, to that part of a tract of land called Addition, lying on the north side of the land formerly sold to the late Arthur Bryan, and which part of the Addition is supposed to contain about fifty acres; the whole to be sold with some stock and other moveable property at public sale on Thursday the 17th day of November next, if fair, if not, on the first fair day following. A credit of from five to seven years will be given, by the purchaser entering into bond with approved security for the punctual payment of the annual instalments, with the interest on the whole. There will be some reservations and further conditions, all of which will be more particularly made known on the day of sale, and immediate possession given to the purchaser. Any person wishing to be particularly informed as to the limits of this property and the title, which is indisputable, may apply to doctor William E. Seth, adjoining the same.

JOHN GIBSON.

Annapolis, October 15, 1803.

TO THE
Voters of Talbot County.

Gertlemen,

BEING solicited by a number of my friends, to offer myself a candidate for the sheriff's office, at the next election of sheriff for Talbot county, I take this early opportunity of making you acquainted with my intention of becoming a candidate for said office—Should you think proper to confide in me, your favor shall be gratefully acknowledged by

Your obedient, humble servant,
JONATHAN KINNAMONT.

Talbot county, October 25, 1803. 3

Strayed or Stolen

FROM *the Plantation of the subscriber, living near Easton, on Tuesday night last, a grey* HORSE, *fifteen hands high, and supposed to be* 12 *or* 13 *years old; he is a little hip shot in his right hip, which may be easily seen from examination, and is rubbed with the trace on his right hind thigh. Any person who who will give information of said horse, or deliver him to the subscriber shall be generously rewarded; and twenty dollars will be paid to any person who may detect the thief, so that he may be brought to condign punishment.*

JAMES SETH.

Talbot County, Oct. 25, 1803. 3