

MARYLAND GAZETTE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1783.

Cantonment of the American army on the Hudson's river, May 10, 1783.

PROPOSALS of establishing a society, upon principles therein mentioned, whose members shall be the officers of the American army...

The proposals being read, fully considered paragraph by paragraph, and the amendments agreed to, major gen. Knox, brig. gen. Huntington, brig. gen. Hand, and captain Shaw, were chosen to revise the same...

Tuesday 13th May 1783.

The representatives of the American army being assembled agreeable to adjournment, the plan for establishing a society whereof the officers of the army are to be members is accepted, and is as follows, viz.

It having pleased the Supreme Governor of the Universe, in the disposition of human affairs, to cause the separation of the colonies of North America from the domination of Great-Britain, and after a bloody contest of eight years to establish them free, sovereign, and independent states, connected by alliances founded on reciprocal advantage with some of the great princes and powers of the earth:

To perpetuate therefore, as well the remembrance of this vast event as the mutual friendships which have been formed under the pressure of common danger, and in many instances cemented by the blood of the parties, the officers of the American army do hereby in the most solemn manner associate, constitute and combine themselves into one society of friends, to endure as long as they shall endure or any of their eldest male posterity, and in failure thereof, the collateral branches, who may be judged worthy of becoming its supporters and members.

The officers of the American army, having generally been taken from the citizens of America, possess high veneration for the character of that illustrious Roman, Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus, and being resolved to follow his example by returning to their citizenship, they think they may with propriety denominate themselves, the society of the Cincinnati.

The following principles shall be immutable, and form the basis of the society of the Cincinnati.

An incessant attention to preserve inviolate those exalted rights and liberties of human nature, for which they have fought and bled, and without which the high rank of a rational being is a curse instead of a blessing.

An unalterable determination to promote and cherish between the respective states that union and national honour, so essentially necessary to their happiness, and the future dignity of the American empire.

To render permanent the cordial affection subsisting among the officers; this spirit will dictate brotherly kindness in all things, and particularly extend to the most substantial acts of beneficence, according to the ability of the society, towards those officers and their families who unfortunately may be under the necessity of receiving it.

The general society will, for the sake of frequent communications, be divided into state societies, and those again into such districts as shall be directed by the state societies.

The societies of the districts to meet as often as shall be agreed upon by the state societies, those of the state on the fourth day of July annually, or oftener if they shall find it expedient, and the general society on the first Monday in May annually, so long as they shall deem it necessary; and afterwards at least once in every three years. At each meeting the principles of the institution will be fully considered, and the best measures to promote them adopted.

The state societies will consist of all the members residing in each state respectively; and any member removing from one state to another is to be considered, in all respects, as belonging to the society of the state in which he shall actually reside.

The state societies to have a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and assistant treasurer, to be chosen annually, by a majority of votes, at the state meeting.

Each state meeting shall write annually, or oftener if necessary, a circular letter to the other state societies, noting whatever they may think worthy of observation respecting the good of the society, or the general union of the states, and giving information of the officers chosen for the current year: Copies of these letters shall be regularly transmitted to the secretary general of the society, who will record them in a book to be assigned for that purpose.

The state society will regulate every thing respecting itself and the societies of its districts, consistent with the general maxims of the Cincinnati; judge of the qualifications of the members who may be proposed, and exactions of the members who may be inconsistent with a gentleman, and a man of honour, or by an opposition to the interests of the community in general, or the society in particular, may render himself unworthy to continue a member.

In order to form funds which may be respectable and assist the unfortunate, each officer shall deliver to the treasurer of the state society one month's pay, which shall remain for ever to the use of the state society, the interest only of which, it necessary, to be appropriated to the relief of the unfortunate.

Donations may be made by persons not of the society, and by members of the society, for the express purpose of forming permanent funds for the use of the state society, and the interest of these donations appropriated in the same manner as that of the month's pay.

Monies, at the pleasure of each member, may be subscribed in the societies of the district, or the state societies, for the relief of the unfortunate members, or their widows and orphans, to be appropriated by the state society only.

The meeting of the general society shall consist of its officers, and a representation from each state society in number not exceeding five, whose expences shall be borne by their respective state societies.

In the general meeting, the president, vice president, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer, and assistant treasurer general; shall be chosen to serve until the next meeting.

The circular letters which have been written by the respective state societies to each other, and their particular laws, shall be read and considered and all measures concerted which may conduce to the general interest of the society.

It is probable that some persons may make donations to the general society, for the purpose of establishing funds for the further comfort of the unfortunate; in which case such donations must be placed in the hands of the treasurer general, the interest only of which to be disposed of if necessary, by the general meeting.

All the officers of the American army, as well those who have resigned with honour after three years service in the capacity of officers, or who have been deranged by the resolution of Congress upon the several reforms of the army, as those who shall have continued to the end of the war, have the right to become parties to this institution; provided that they subscribe one month's pay, and sign their names to the general rules in their respective state societies; those who are present with the army immediately; and others, within six months after the army shall be disbanded, extraordinary cases excepted. The rank, time of service, resolution of congress, by which any have been deranged, and place of residence, must be added to each name: and as a testimony of affection to the memory and the offspring of such officers as have died in the service, their eldest male branches shall have the same right of becoming members as the children of the actual members of the society.

Those officers who are foreigners, not resident in any of the states, will have their names enrolled by the secretary general, and are to be considered as members in the societies of any of the states in which they may happen to be.

And as there are and will at all times be men in the respective states, eminent for their abilities and patriotism, whose views may be directed to the same laudable objects with those of the Cincinnati, it shall be a rule to admit such characters, as honorary members of the society for their own lives only. Provided always, that the number of honorary members in each state does not exceed a ratio of one to four of the officers or their descendants.

Each state society shall obtain a list of its members, and at the first annual meeting the state secretary shall have engrossed on parchment, two copies of the institution of the society, which every member present shall sign; and the secretary shall endeavour to procure the signature of every absent member; one of these lists to be transmitted to the secretary general to be kept in the archives of the society, and the other to remain in the hands of the state secretary.

From the state lists the secretary general must make out, at the first general meeting, a complete list of the whole society, a copy of which he will furnish each state secretary.

The society shall have an order by which its members shall be known and distinguished, which shall be a medal of gold, of a proper size to receive the emblems, and suspended by a deep blue ribbon, two inches wide, edged with white, descriptive of the union of America and France, viz.

The principal figure to be Cincinnatus, three senators presenting him with a sword and other military ensigns; on a field in the background his wife standing at the door of their cottage, near it a plough and instruments of husbandry; round the whole,

Omnia reliquit servare republicam.

On the reverse, Sun-rising, a city with open gates, and vessels entering the port;

Fame crowning Cincinnatus with a wreath inscribed Virtutis premium.

Below, Hands joining, supporting a heart, with the motto, esse perpetua.

Round the whole, Societas Cincinnatorum instituta A. D. 1783.

The society deeply impressed with a sense of the general assistance this country has received from France, and desirous of perpetuating the friendships which have been formed, and so happily laboured between the officers of

the allied forces in the prosecution of the war, direct that the president-general transmit, as soon as may be, to each of the characters hereafter mentioned, a medal containing the order of the society, viz. His Excellency the Chevalier de la Luzerne, minister plenipotentiary, his Excellency the Sieur Gerard, late minister plenipotentiary, their Excellencies the Count d'Estaing, the Count de Grasse, the Count de Barras, the Chevalier de Touches, admirals and commanders in the navy, his Excellency the Count de Rochambeau, commander in chief, and the generals and colonels in his army, and acquaint them that "the society do themselves the honour to consider them as members."

Resolved, that a copy of the foregoing institution be given to the senior officer of each state line, and that the officers of the respective state lines sign their names to the same in manner and form following, viz. We the subscribers, officers of the American army, do hereby voluntarily become parties to the foregoing institution, and do bind ourselves to observe and be governed by the principles therein contained; for the performance whereof we do solemnly pledge to each other our sacred honour.

Done in the cantonment, on Hudson's river, in the year 1783.

That the members of the society at the time of subscribing their names to the institution, do also sign a draught on the pay-master-general in the following terms (the regiments do it regimentally, and the generals and other officers, not belonging to regiments, each for himself individually) viz.

To John Price, Esq; pay-Master-General to the army of the United States.

S I R Please to pay to the state association of the Cincinnati, or his order, one month's pay of our several grades respectively, and deduct the same from the balance which shall be found due to us on the final liquidation of our accounts, for which this shall be your warrant.

That the members of the several state societies, assemble as soon as may be for the choice of their president and other officers, and that the presidents correspond together and appoint a meeting of the officers who may be chosen for each state, in order to pursue such farther measures as may be judged necessary.

That the general officers, and the officers delegated to represent the several corps of the army, subscribe to the institution of the general society for themselves and their constituents, in the manner and form before prescribed.

That general Heath, general Baron de Steuben, and general Knox, be a committee to wait on his Excellency the commander in chief, with a copy of the institution, and request him to honour the society by placing his name at the head of it.

That major-general Heath, second in command in this army, be and he hereby is desired to transmit copies of the institution, with the proceedings thereon, to the commanding officer of the southern army; the senior officer in each state from Pennsylvania to Georgia inclusive; and to the commanding officer of the Rhode-Island line; requesting them to communicate the same to the officers under their several commands; and to take such measures as may appear to them necessary for expediting the establishment of their state societies; and sending a delegation to represent them in the first general meeting to be held on the first Monday in May 1784. The meeting then adjourned without day.

FRANCKFORT, July 27.

LETTERS from Poland, of the 27th instant, import, that Russia declared war against the Turks the 24th ult. that hostilities had already commenced; that the Turks had surprised a body of 3000 Russians, and cut the greatest part to pieces; and that the Russians had seized the fortress of Oczakow. We expect a confirmation of this news by the next courier.

PARIS, June 20. The signing of the definitive treaty has never been talked of so positively as at present. We are assured that the last hand will be put to it upon the return of a courier from London. It is much doubted whether England will be obliged to give up Negapatam. They have this article much at heart, but it is said that their repugnance in consenting to it will not be any obstacle to the treaty; the duke of Manchester having declared, that the king his master was so bent on retaining Negapatam, or Trincomalee, that he would refuse any sum which might be offered as an equivalent.

LONDON, July 1.

It has long been the political error of this kingdom to raise the debt of this nation, to the involving of all in the concern for discharging the amazing interest, the payment of which lies as an intolerable burthen on the poorest, demanding the taxes, enhancing all provisions, and destructive of all science, skill, and labour; and as provisions rise above par with other nations, must destroy all our marketing of goods in time, both at home and abroad. This and the random leased advance of lands, has forced a lasting price of grain, beyond all the foreign markets, uncorrected; there with many nameless oppressions, must urge every genius, labourer, and artist, from this land, however loth; with tears they must quit their native country, and seek themselves and children a more friendly state.