

The nature of foreign negotiations requires caution; and their success must often depend on secrecy, and even when brought to a conclusion, a full disclosure of all the measures, demands, or eventual concessions, which may have been proposed or contemplated, would be extremely impolitic; for this might have a pernicious influence on future negotiations, or produce immediate inconveniences, perhaps danger and mischief, in relation to other powers. The necessity of such caution and secrecy was one cogent reason for vesting the power of making treaties in the president; with the advice and consent of the senate, the principle on which that body was formed confining it to a small number of members. To admit, then, a right in the house of representatives to demand, and to have as matter of course, all the papers respecting a negotiation with a foreign power, would be to establish a dangerous precedent.

It does not occur that the inspection of the papers asked for can be relative to any purpose under the cognizance of the house of representatives, except that of an impeachment, which the resolution has not expressed. I repeat, that I have no disposition to withhold any information which the duty of my station will permit, or the public good shall require, to be disclosed; and in fact, all the papers affecting the negotiation with Great-Britain, were laid before the senate when the treaty itself was communicated for their consideration and advice.

The course which the debate has taken, on the resolution of the house, leads to some observations on the mode of making treaties under the constitution of the United States.

Having been a member of the general convention, and knowing the principles on which the constitution was formed, I have ever entertained but one opinion on this subject, and from the first establishment of the government to this moment my conduct has exemplified that opinion, that the power of making treaties is exclusively vested in the president, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, provided two thirds of the senators present concur; and that every treaty so made and promulgated, thenceforward became the law of the land. It is thus that the treaty making power has been understood by foreign nations; and in all treaties made with them, we have declared, and they have believed, that when ratified by the president, with the advice and consent of the senate, they become obligatory. In this construction of the constitution, every house of representatives has heretofore acquiesced; and until the present time, not a doubt or suspicion has appeared to my knowledge, that this construction was not the true one. Nay, they have more than acquiesced; for till now, without controverting the obligation of such treaties, they have made all the requisite provisions for carrying them into effect.

There is also reason to believe that this construction agrees with the opinions entertained by the state conventions, when they were deliberating on the constitution, especially by those who objected to it, because there was not required in commercial treaties the consent of two thirds of the whole number of the senate, instead of two thirds of the senators present; and because in treaties respecting territorial and certain other rights and claims, the concurrence of three fourths of the whole number of the members of both houses respectively was not made necessary.

It is a fact declared by the general convention, and universally understood, that the constitution of the United States was the result of a spirit of amity and mutual concession. And it is well known, that under this influence the smaller states were admitted to an equal representation in the senate with the larger states, and that this branch of the government was invested with great powers; for on the equal participation of those powers the sovereignty and political safety of the smaller states were deemed essentially to depend.

If other proofs than these, and the plain letter of the constitution itself, be necessary to ascertain the point under consideration, they may be found in the journals of the general convention, which I have deposited in the office of the department of state. In those journals it will appear, that a proposition was made, "that no treaty should be binding on the United States which was not ratified by a law;" and that the proposition was explicitly rejected.

As, therefore, it is perfectly clear to my understanding, that the assent of the house of representatives is not necessary to the validity of a treaty; as the treaty with Great-Britain exhibits, in itself, all the objects requiring legislative provision, and on these the papers called for can throw no light; and as it is essential to the due administration of the government, that the boundaries fixed by the constitution between the different departments should be preserved; a just regard to the constitution, and to the duty of my office, under all the circumstances of this case, forbid a compliance with your request.

GEO. WASHINGTON.
United States, March 30, 1796.

Fourth Congress of the United States.

At the first session, begun and held at the city of Philadelphia, in the state of Pennsylvania, on Monday the seventh of December, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five.

An ACT for the relief of certain officers and soldiers who have been wounded or disabled in the actual service of the United States.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That every commissioned, non-commissioned officer, private or musician, who has been wounded or disabled, while in the line of his duty, in actual service, called out by authority of any law of the United States, while he belonged to the militia, or any vo-

lunteer not belonging to the militia, who has been wounded or disabled, while in the line of his duty, in actual service, as aforesaid, shall be placed on the list of invalids of the United States; at such rate of pay, and under such regulations, as shall be directed by the president of the United States for the time being: *Provided*, that the rate of compensation for such wounds and disabilities shall never exceed, for the highest disabilities, half the monthly pay received by any commissioned officer, at the time of being so wounded or disabled; and that the rate of compensation to non-commissioned officers, privates and musicians, shall never exceed five dollars per month; and that all inferior disabilities shall entitle the person so disabled, to receive only a sum in proportion to the highest disability: *And provided*, that these provisions shall not be construed to extend to any person wounded or disabled before the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine, nor to any person wounded or disabled since that time, who has made application for a pension, under any existing law of the United States, and has been denied, or admitted on the pension list: *And provided*, that all applications herein shall be made within one year after the end of the present session of congress.

JONATHAN DAYTON, Speaker of the house of representatives.

JOHN ADAMS, Vice-president of the United States, and president of the senate.

Approved, March the twenty-third, 1796.

GEO. WASHINGTON, President of the United States.

Deposited among the rolls, in the office of the department of state.

TIMOTHY PICKERING,
Secretary of state.

Wanted to Purchase or Hire,

A NEGRO WOMAN, who is a good cook, A washer and ironer. Inquire of the PRINTERS. *John Randall*
Annapolis, April 1, 1796.

AN election will be held in the City of Annapolis, on Monday the 18th instant, for one REPRESENTATIVE to represent the second district of this state in the congress of the United States, in the room of GABRIEL DUVAL, Esq; resigned.

RICHARD HARWOOD, Sheriff of Anne-Arundel county.

April 4, 1796.

In CHANCERY, April 1, 1796.

Rezin Hammond, executor of Philip Hammond, against Edward Dorsey, son and devisee of Edward Dorsey, deceased, and against others.

THE object of the bill is to obtain a decree to charge the defendants, as heirs and devisees of Edward Dorsey, deceased, with the payment of a joint bond, executed on the 13th day of August, 1776, by the said deceased and a certain John Dorsey, unto Philip Hammond, for the sum of £.85 10 s sterling, with interest; the bill states, that John Dorsey survived the said Edward, and became insolvent, that no part of the principal or interest hath been paid, and that the defendant, Edward Dorsey, resides out of the state of Maryland, and out of the reach of this courts process; it is thereupon ordered, that the complainant cause a copy of this order to be inserted, at least three weeks successively, in the Maryland Gazette, before the end of the present month, to the intent that the defendant, Edward Dorsey, may have notice of the bill aforesaid, and of its object, and may be warned to appear here, on the first day of September next, to shew cause why a decree should not pass as prayed by the bill.

Test. SAMUEL HARVEY HOWARD,
Reg. Cur. *Samuel Harvey Howard*

LA FAYETTE,

IS in high order, and will stand this season, at my stable, in Annapolis, and at Mr. Gambrell's tavern, near the head of Severn. The particulars will be inserted in the next week's paper.

JAMES WILLIAMS.

April 6, 1796.

TAKEN up as a stray by THOMAS SOAPER, manager at Mr. NOTLEY YOUNG's forest plantation, in Prince-George's county, on the 11th of March, 1796, a dark bay MARE, about thirteen hands high, seven or eight years old, has a large star and snip in her forehead, her two hind feet white, and branded on the near shoulder with the letter M. The owner may have her again by proving property and paying charges. *100/6/0*

To be SOLD, on Monday the 11th day of April next, at the subscriber's,

A GREAT variety of valuable household furniture, consisting of FEATHER-BEDS and FURNITURE, &c. The terms will be made known on the day of sale. VACHEL STEVENS.
Annapolis March 24, 1796. *3X*

A STRAY MARE.

WAS taken up as a stray, on the 19th of March, 1796, a small bay MARE, about four or five years old, without brand or any other perceivable mark, by the subscriber, living in Anne-Arundel county, near South-river ferry. The owner may have her again by proving property and paying charges. L. ROBINSON.
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MAP OF MARYLAND.

Griffith's Map of Maryland,

Sold by

John Shaw.

Annapolis, March 30, 1796.

To be Sold,

A HEALTHY NEGRO WOMAN, about nineteen or twenty years of age, with a male child about seven months old; she has been accustomed both to domestic services and to the work of a farm, and will be sold for a term of eight years; the child, for twenty-one years. Apply to the PRINTERS.
March 30, 1796. *2*

I WILL sell that corner LOT, in Upper Marlborough, which I lately occupied; with the improvements thereon, consisting of a dwelling house, containing three spacious rooms and passage on the first floor, two large chambers on the second, a large garden and yard, well paled, &c. Its vicinity to the court-house and public offices, renders it an eligible situation for a merchant or inn-keeper; the purchaser, on giving a bond with approved security, will be indulged with a year's credit. The terms, which will be moderate, may be known by applying to Mr. JOHNSON M. O'BILLEY, near Upper Marlborough, or the subscriber, in Annapolis.

HUGH MAGUIRE.

Annapolis, March 29, 1796. *2*

Archibald Golder

RESPECTFULLY informs his friends, and the public, that he has opened a DRY and WET GOODS STORE, in the house of his nativity, in West-street, in the city of Annapolis, where he intends constantly keeping a very extensive assortment of goods, of the first quality, which he is determined to sell at the most reduced prices; being solicitous to please, he will ever exert himself to give satisfaction to those who will obligingly give him their custom.

He likewise intends to transact the conveyancing business; and from his long experience he hopes to have it in his power to give general satisfaction.

He wants to hire two sober, honest, and attentive labourers; and to employ two young men to act in the store.

For SALE,

One two story brick HOUSE, subject to a ground rent of £.4 5 s sterling; two second hand single top CARRIAGES, and a negro GIRL, about 15 years of age, she can be recommended; the lowest price is £.75; to any person in Baltimore, the city of Annapolis, or vicinity. *2*

To RENT,

Three small framed dwelling HOUSES.
March 27, 1796.

CASH given for Clean Linen and Cotton

72 RAGS,

At the Printing-Office.

HAVING suffered much loss by trespasses on my plantation near this city, I now give notice, that I will prosecute all those who commit the like in future. August 22, 1795. *20* BENJAMIN OGLE.

To be SOLD,

A COMMODIOUS DWELLING-HOUSE, in a pleasant part of this city.—Apply to the PRINTERS. *21* Annapolis.

For SALE,

A N elegant PHAETON, built on the most fashionable construction, with a set of the best London plated HARNESS. The carriage is in no manner injured. Apply to the printers hereof. *10*

ALL persons having claims against HENRY WARFIELD, late of the city of Annapolis, attorney at law, deceased, are requested to exhibit them to the subscriber for settlement, and all those indebted to the deceased will be pleased to call and pay the amount to

THOMAS WARFIELD, Administrator.

N. B. All those persons who employed the said Henry Warfield as an attorney, are hereby informed that all his *law papers* are lodged in the hands of RICHARD RIDGELY, Esq; of Annapolis, and are subject to the directions of those entitled to receive them. Head of Severn, March 22, 1796. T. W.

A PERSON well qualified to conduct the business of a COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE, coming with a good recommendation; will meet with encouragement, on application to the subscriber, clerk of Prince-George's.

JOHN READ MAGRUDER, Junr.
Upper Marlborough, February 9, 1796.