

the carpenter of his crew, a pilot, and spare anchors and cables; had it not been for their timely assistance the ship must have gone to pieces, as a violent gale from the N. E. came on the next day.

Captain Gellison cannot withhold the opportunity of thus publicly returning his unfeigned thanks to Captain Larcom of the *Hind* British sloop of war, for the assistance he furnished him; he acknowledges the favour the more readily, as he had a signal of distress being seven days, and could obtain no assistance by it.

Captain Gellison informs us, that on the 18th of July a sailing boat arrived at Bellefleur river, with information that she had been chased by a Spanish brig which was part of a fleet consisting of 28 sail of vessels, under convoy of two frigates, from Mexico, fitted out for the purpose of destroying the British settlement on that river; this vessel also had accounts of their force, which consisted of 2000 troops under the command of general O'Neill, viceroy of Yucatan; the ships under command of Don Colmar.

On the arrival of this news, an embargo was laid on all the shipping. About the 18th of August, two Spaniards were taken prisoners, that had deserted from the fleet at Ambergreaf; these men confirmed the news, and related there were 4 gun boats, with four 24 pounders each, a schooner mounting 18 sixes, and a sloop with 12 guns. Immediate preparations were now made to repel them; a half moon battery was erected under the inspection of colonel Barrow, to the southward of Fort Dundas; martial law was proclaimed, and the negroes called into the service; the wood saws were converted into gun boats, a schooner and 4 sloops were armed, and every preparation made.

On the 19th September the fleet was discovered at Key Chapelle; captain Mads, of the *Merlin* sloop of war, sent out two sloops to St. George's Key, which had partial actions with them for two days—On the 23d, in the afternoon, the whole Spanish fleet got under way and 8 of the heaviest vessels with several launches came down inside the reef, with intent to force the English from their station, when a very heavy fire from the sloops and scows broke their line, and threw them into confusion, from which they never recovered, but made off as fast as they could. Captain G says the English had 253 men ashore, among whom were 40 whites.

December 15.

A letter from Port-au-Paix, to Mr. Ben. Payne of this town, says "that a brig belonging to captain Lyman, of this place, bound to Jamaica with slaves, was captured by a French privateer and carried into Port-au-Paix."

On this occasion we cannot pass unnoticed the old saying, "that seldom one misfortune happens alone."

The above gentleman (we are informed) has, at this very moment, one vessel missing, and her carried into the Cape in distress; a third, as above stated, and a fourth, in *limbo* in this port, for unluckily arriving after the 1st inst. from a French port.

Yesterday arrived here the schooner *Martha* and *Mar*, captain John Ruffeter, 21 days from Porto Rico. Captain R. informs, that privateering at that place was at an end, in consequence of the Spanish governor having bid a duty of 25 per cent. on all prizes sent in there. It was conjectured at Porto Rico, that the French frigates from Cape-Francois had put into the Havanna for provisions. American vessels are not permitted to enter Porto Rico, unless they have flour on board, and that the governor takes at his own price. The *Acasto*, British frigate, captain Lane, had been cruising off St. John's, and had taken several prizes.

Annapolis, January 3.

ADDRESS of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of MARYLAND

To JOHN ADAMS, President of the UNITED STATES.

SIR,

THE General Assembly of the State of Maryland, composed of characters selected by the various classes of its citizens, and possessed of a full knowledge of the sentiments of their constituents, would, in this interesting crisis of public affairs, do little justice to their feelings, the interest of their country, and to your virtue, in forbearing to express an entire and cordial approbation of the firm, temperate, and dignified measures of your administration.

Called to the presidency of the general government, at a moment when the aspiring and venal rulers of France convulsed all Europe with a war prosecuted for slunder and aggrandisement, it was not difficult to foresee, that every species of artifice and intrigue which talents could suggest, ambition excite, or avarice inflame, would be employed to disturb our happiness and peace, to cajole or force our country into a war prejudicial to our interests, and to render your administration painful, perplexing, and, if possible, odious to the people.

The destruction of religion, and encouragement of loose principles, were eminently calculated to create fit instruments for promoting divisions in, and paralyzing the energies of, other governments—hence the unremitting, dark and insidious exertions, practised to divide us at home, whilst a lawless, vexatious, and predatory war, plundered us abroad.

To prevent the repetition of aggressions not more flagitious than destitute of colourable pretext, and to recall the government of France to an honourable fulfilment of its political engagements in the true spirit of sincere amity, we have seen, with pride and pleasure, your ample, just, and pacific instructions to cur

ministers to demand reparation in the accustomed forms of diplomatic negotiation; instead of the Directory's meeting these amicable overtures, with pain and indignation we have beheld insults heaped on injuries—our ministers spurned with indignity—our country threatened with the fate of governments wantonly annihilated—and our citizens treated as vassals and slaves, who must basely purchase the privilege of stating their complaints. Conduct like this has torn the veil from the face of hypocrisy, and awakened the people of America from the delirium of unsuspecting friendship to rally round the government of their adoption. We have seen with satisfaction treaties declared no longer obligatory which were violated as often as the interest of individuals, or the caprice of a moment dictated; and we heartily approve of the protective measures of our government, as well as the late regulations for internal quiet. Preparation for war is preservation of peace.

Having emancipated ourselves from Britain, and secured our liberties by one revolution, we pledge ourselves not to sacrifice the blessings of freedom at the shrine of France, and we will stand prepared to encounter her open hostilities, or counteract her yet more dangerous principles and intrigues; nor will we suffer ourselves to be lulled into a fatal security by the semblance of conciliatory language or measures, the result of insidious policy. We will support the government, preserve our independence and our rights, or perish in the attempt. But we fondly trust, that so long as the enjoyment of rational liberty is secured, virtue and religion inculcated and practised, while the government continues true to the people, and the people to themselves, we may defy the assaults of any power on earth, and look forward, under the protection of Heaven, to a continuance of the prosperity and happiness of our country.

Adulation disgraces freemen, but the frank and undisguised expression of public sentiment is the most honourable reward an enlightened and virtuous statesman can receive. Accept then, Sir, our assurances in behalf of the people of Maryland, that the wise and salutary principles of your administration inspire present confidence; and a retrospective view of your long and faithful services, your ready patriotism and well tried integrity, constitutes an ample pledge for the future rectitude of your conduct; and, with wishes for your health and happiness, we earnestly hope your usefulness will long be continued to your country.

WILLIAM PERRY, President Sen.

HENRY H. CHAPMAN, Speaker Ho. Del.

The PRESIDENT'S ANSWER

To the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the STATE of MARYLAND.

GENTLEMEN,

AN eloquent address, adopted by the two houses of the General Assembly of Maryland, and signed on the fourteenth of this month by Mr. Perry, the president of the senate, and Mr. Chapman, the speaker of the house of representatives, has been presented to me by Mr. Howard, one of your senators in congress, in the absence of the other, Mr. Lloyd.

Convinced, as I have been, by an attentive observation of more than twenty years, that there is no state in this union whose public affairs, upon all great national occasions, have been conducted with more method, wisdom and decision, or whose results have been the effect of a more comprehensive and profound view of the subject, than those of the state of Maryland, I cannot receive the assurances of your entire and cordial approbation of the measures of my administration, without a singular sensation of pride and pleasure.

What shall I say to you, Gentlemen, on the subject of destruction of religion and encouragement of loose principles? I am not fond of introducing this sacred topic into political discussions. But religion is the basis of moral obligation—of the essence of all government; the only ground of confidence between man and man, and the foundation of all society. Without it the world would be an universal and perpetual war of artifice, intrigue, fraud, stratagem and violence, of all men against all men. This at least is my opinion, though I shall not persecute those who differ from me.

When religious liberty has been asserted by invincible arguments of the soundest divines, as well as the philosophers of this century and the last; when every engine of wit, satire, humour and ridicule, have been employed to discountenance intolerance, is the whole to terminate in a cruel and sanguinary persecution of all religion? In the annihilation of all the sacred foundations of morality, government and society? America will not, I trust, be willing to be converted into a perfect bedlam, whatever other parts of the world may wish it.

At the time when, under every discouragement, I was called by the suffrages of very little more than half of the nation to the presidency of the general government, I was fully aware of the dangers that surrounded us, and of the perplexities that awaited my administration. A responsibility which might be determined, as my election had been, by two or three votes, presented itself before me, enough to have appalled a heart possessed of more fortitude than mine. But as the course of my life had led me for twenty years through scenes which afforded me, perhaps more than any other American, opportunities of weighing the probable effects of the spasms, convulsions and agonies of a great nation, broke loose from all restraint, in the centre of Europe, I thought it might be as difficult for me as for any other to excuse myself from the trial. The affectionate and ardent support which I have received from my fellow-citizens, has

appeared much earlier, and more unanimous, than my most sanguine hopes had ever anticipated. In the generous and general declarations of satisfaction and approbation of my fellow-citizens, in all parts of the union, I have received a reward which I esteem above all other personal consideration in this life. Nothing of the kind has excited my gratitude more sincerely than this magnanimous address from the general assembly of Maryland. Most cordially I wish you all health and happiness.

JOHN ADAMS.

Philadelphia, December 23, 1798.

Congress of the United States.

HIGH COURT of IMPEACHMENT.

SENATE, December 24.

The senate being formed into a court for the trial of William Blount, and the managers on the part of the house of representatives for conducting the impeachment, and Messrs. Ingersoll and Dallas the defendant's counsel, having taken their seats,

The president having also declared the court ready to proceed with the trial,

Mr. Harper wished the gentlemen who appeared as counsel for Mr. Blount, would exhibit to the court the authority under which they appeared.

Mr. Dallas said, himself and Mr. Ingersoll had been appointed by Mr. Blount as his counsel, by two different letters, that these letters contained other matter relative to the cause, which it might not be proper to expose; but they should have a trouble in confiding the letters to the president of the court, in order to satisfy the court, they were duly authorized.

Mr. Harper said, all that the managers wished was, that the court might be satisfied as to this point, that Mr. Blount might not have it in his power hereafter to avail himself of the plea, that he had not authorized counsel to plead for him.

The president put the question to the court, whether the court should be cleared, in order to determine this fact. The question being carried in the affirmative, the court was cleared.

In about an hour, the doors of the senate were again opened, and the president declared the court duly appointed.

The counsel then put in their plea against the charges exhibited against Mr. Blount, which was as follows:

United States vs. William Blount.

Upon impeachment of the house of representatives of HIGH CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS.

In SENATE of the UNITED STATES, December 24, 1798.

The aforesaid William Blount, having and referring to himself all exceptions to the imperfections and uncertainty of the articles of impeachment, by James Ingersoll and Alexander James Dallas, his attorneys, comes and defends his force and injury, and says, that he to the said impeachment preferred against him by the house of representatives of the United States, ought not to be compelled to answer, because he says that the eighth article of certain amendments of the constitution of the United States, having been ratified by nine states, after the same was in a constitutional manner proposed to the consideration of the several states in the union, is of equal obligation with the original constitution, and now forms a part thereof, and that by the same eighth article it is declared and provided, that

"In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, to be confronted with the witnesses against him, to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favour, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defence."

That proceedings by impeachment are provided and permitted by the constitution of the United States, only on charges of bribery, treason, and other high crimes and misdemeanors, alleged to have been committed by the president, vice-president and other civil officers of the United States, in the execution of their offices, held under the United States, as appears by the fourth section of the second article, and by the seventh clause of the third section of the first article and other articles, and clauses contained in the constitution of the United States.

That although true it is, that he the said William Blount was a senator of the United States, from the state of Tennessee, at the several periods in the said articles of impeachment referred to; yet that he the said William is not now a senator, and is not, nor was at the several periods so as aforesaid referred to, an officer of the United States; nor is he the said William, in and by the said articles, charged with having committed any crime or misdemeanor, in the execution of any office held under the United States, or with any mal-conduct in office, or abuse of any public trust, in the execution thereof.

That the courts of common law, of a criminal jurisdiction of the states, wherein the offences in the said articles recited are said to have been committed, as well as those of the United States, are competent to the cognizance, prosecution and punishment of the said crimes and misdemeanors, if the same have been perpetrated; as is suggested and charged by the said articles; which, however, he utterly denies. If which the said William is ready to verify, and prays judgment whether this high court will have further cognizance of this suit, and of the said impeachment, and whether he, the said William, to the said articles of impeachment, so as aforesaid preferred by the house