

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, DECEMBER 17, 1801.

WASHINGTON CITY.

CONGRESS of the UNITED STATES.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

December 7, 1801.

THIS being the constitutional day for the meeting of congress, the house of representatives convened in their new chamber in the south wing of the capital.

At half past eleven o'clock the members took their seats, present 81 members.

A quorum being present, the members proceeded to the choice of a speaker, Mr. Grifwold and Mr. Davis were tellers.

When the ballots being taken the following result was declared.

58 votes for Nathaniel Macon,
25 for James A. Bayard,
2 for gen. Samuel Smith.

Whereupon Mr. Macon was declared speaker, and conducted to the chair.

On which he made his acknowledgments to the house for the honour conferred on him, with an assurance that it would be his endeavour to discharge the duties of the chair with integrity and fidelity.

The speaker was then qualified to support the constitution of the United States, after which he qualified the members to the same effect.

The house proceeded to the election of a clerk. The ballots being counted, it appeared that

John Beckley had 57 votes
Mr. Oswald 29

On which Mr. Beckley appeared and took the oath of office.

Mr. Otis delivered a message from the senate, informing the house that the senate had made a quorum, and had in the absence of the vice-president chosen Abraham Baldwin president pro tempore, and that they were ready to proceed to business.

On motion of general Smith of Maryland, the house resolved that a message be sent by the clerk to the senate, informing them that the house had made choice of Nathaniel Macon as speaker, and that they were ready to proceed to business.

Mr. Wheaton was chosen serjeant at arms by an almost unanimous vote.

Mr. Claxton was unanimously chosen door keeper, and Mr. Dunn assistant door keeper.

Mr. Otis delivered a message from the senate, informing the house that they had appointed a committee, to unite with a committee of the house, to wait upon the president, and inform him that the two houses had formed and were ready to receive any communication from him; and that on their part they had chosen Mr. Anderson and Mr. Jackson.

The house immediately concurred, and appointed Mr. S. Smith, Mr. Grifwold and Mr. Davis.

A message was received from the senate, informing the house that they had appointed a committee, to unite with a committee to be appointed by the house, to take into consideration a statement made by the clerk of the senate, of the books and charts belonging to congress in his hands.

The house concurred, and a committee of three members was appointed.

Resolved, that each member be permitted to receive during the session, at the public expence, three newspapers.

Resolved, that the rules of the last house, until altered by this house, remain in force.

On motion, Resolved, that a committee of five members be appointed to prepare a set of standing rules for the house.

The committee appointed to wait on the president, reported that they had executed the duty assigned them, and that the president had informed them that he would submit his communications to each house to-morrow.

December 9.

President's Message.

The following message was yesterday delivered by Mr. Lewis, the president's secretary, to the speaker of the house, and read by the clerk.

December 8, 1801.

SIR,

The circumstances under which we find ourselves at this place rendering inconvenient the mode heretofore practised, of making by personal address the first communications between the legislative and executive branches, I have adopted that by message, as used on all subsequent occasions through the session. In doing this, I have had principal regard to the convenience of the legislature, to the economy of their time, to their relief from the embarrassment of immediate answers, on subjects not yet fully before them, and to the benefits thence resulting to the public affairs. Trusting that a procedure, founded in these motives, will meet their approbation, I beg leave through you, Sir, to communicate the enclosed mes-

sage, with the documents accompanying it, to the honourable the house of representatives, and pray you to accept, for yourself and them, the homage of my high respect and consideration.

TH: JEFFERSON.

The honourable the speaker of the house of representatives.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate, And of the House of Representatives,

IT is a circumstance of sincere gratification to me, that on meeting the great council of the nation, I am able to announce to them on grounds of reasonable certainty, that the wars and troubles, which have for so many years afflicted our sister nations, have at length come to an end; and that the communications of peace and commerce are once more opening among them. Whilst we devoutly return thanks to the Beneficent Being who has been pleased to breathe into them the spirit of conciliation and forgiveness, we are bound, with peculiar gratitude, to be thankful to him that our own peace has been preserved through so perilous a season; and ourselves permitted quietly to cultivate the earth, and to practise and improve those arts which tend to increase our comforts. The assurances indeed of friendly disposition received from all the powers with whom we have principal relations, had inspired a confidence that our peace with them would not have been disturbed. But a cessation of the irregularities which had afflicted the commerce of neutral nations, and the irritations and injuries produced by them, cannot but add to this confidence; and strengthens at the same time, the hope that wrongs committed on unoffending friends, under a pressure of circumstances, will now be reviewed with candour, and will be considered as founding just claims of retribution for the past, and new assurance for the future.

Among our Indian neighbours also a spirit of peace and friendship generally prevails, and I am happy to inform you that the continued efforts to introduce among them the implements, and the practice of husbandry, and of the household arts, have not been without success: that they are become more and more sensible of the superiority of this dependence for clothing and subsistence, over the precarious resources of hunting and fishing; and already we are able to announce that, instead of that constant diminution of their numbers produced by their wars and their wants, some of them begin to experience an increase of population.

To this state of general peace with which we have been blessed, one only exception exists. Tripoli, the least considerable of the Barbary states, had come forward with demands unfounded either in right or in compact, and had permitted itself to denounce war, on our failure to comply before a given day. The style of the demand admitted but one answer. I sent a small squadron of frigates into the Mediterranean, with assurances to that power of our sincere desire to remain in peace; but with orders to protect our commerce against the threatened attack. The measure was seasonable and salutary. The bey had already declared war in form. His cruisers were out. Two had arrived at Gibraltar. Our commerce in the Mediterranean was blockaded; and that of the Atlantic in peril. The arrival of our squadron dispelled the danger. One of the Tripolitan cruisers having fallen in with and engaged the small Schooner Enterprize, commanded by lieut. Sterett, which had gone out as a tender to our large vessels, was captured, after a heavy slaughter of her men, without the loss of a single one on our part. The bravery exhibited by our citizens on that element, will, I trust, be a testimony to the world, that it is not a want of that virtue which makes us seek their peace; but a conscientious desire to direct the energies of our nation to the multiplication of the human race, and not to its destruction. Unauthorised by the constitution, without the sanction of congress, to go beyond the line of defence, the vessel being disabled from committing further hostilities, was liberated, with its crew. The legislature will doubtless consider whether, by authorising measures of offence also, they will place our force on an equal footing with that of its adversaries. I communicate all material information on this subject, that in the exercise of the important function, confided by the constitution to the legislature exclusively, their judgment may form itself on a knowledge and consideration of every circumstance of weight.

I wish I could say that our situation with all the other Barbary states was entirely satisfactory. Discovering that some delays had taken place in the performance of certain articles stipulated by us, I thought it my duty, by immediate measures for fulfilling them, to vindicate to ourselves the right of considering the effect of departure from stipulation on their side. From the papers which will be laid before

you, you will be enabled to judge whether our treaties are regarded by them as fixing at all the measure of their demands, or as guarding against the exercise of force, our vessels within their power; and to consider how far it will be safe and expedient to leave our affairs with them in their present posture.

I lay before you the result of the census lately taken of our inhabitants, to a conformity with which we are to reduce the ensuing rates of representation and taxation. You will perceive that the increase of numbers, during the last ten years, proceeding in geometrical ratio, promises a duplication in little more than twenty-two years. We contemplate this rapid growth, and the prospect it holds up to us, not with a view to the injuries it may enable us to do to others in some future day, but to the settlement of the extensive country still remaining vacant within our limits, to the multiplication of men, susceptible of happiness, educated in the love of order, habituated to self government, and valuing its blessings above all price.

Other circumstances, combined with the increase of numbers, have produced an augmentation of revenue arising from consumption, in a ratio far beyond that of population alone; and though the changes in foreign relations, now taking place so desirably for the whole world, may for a season affect this branch of revenue, yet, weighing all probabilities of expence, as well as of income, there is reasonable ground of confidence that we may now safely dispense with all the internal taxes, comprehending excises, stamps, auctions, licences, carriages and refined sugars; to which the postage on news-papers may be added to facilitate the progress of information: and that the remaining sources of revenue will be sufficient to provide for the support of government, to pay the interest of the public debts, and to discharge the principals in shorter periods than the laws, or the general expectation had contemplated. War, indeed, and untoward events may change this prospect of things, and call for expences which the imposts could not meet. But sound principles will not justify our taxing the industry of our fellow-citizens to accumulate treasure for wars to happen we know not when, and which might not, perhaps, happen, but from the temptations offered by that treasure.

These views, however, of reducing our burthens, are formed on the expectation, that a sensible, and at the same time, a salutary reduction may take place in our habitual expenditures. For this purpose, those of the civil government, the army and navy, will need revival. When we consider that this government is charged with the external and mutual relations only of these states; that the states themselves have principal care of our persons, our property, and our reputation; constituting the great field of human concerns, we may well doubt whether our organization is not too complicated, too expensive; whether offices and officers have not been multiplied unnecessarily, and sometimes injuriously to the service they were meant to promote. I will cause to be laid before you an essay towards a statement, of those who, under public employment of various kinds, draw money from the treasury, or from our citizens. Time has not permitted a perfect enumeration, the ramifications of office being too multiplied and remote to be completely traced in a first trial. Among those who are dependent on executive discretion, I have begun the reduction of what was deemed unnecessary. The expences of diplomatic agency have been considerably diminished. The inspectors of internal revenue, who were found to obstruct the accountability of the institution, have been discontinued. Several agencies, created by executive authority, on salaries fixed by that also, have been suppressed, and should suggest the expediency of regulating that power by law, so as to subject its exercises to legislative inspection and sanction. Other reformations of the same kind will be pursued with that caution which is requisite, in removing useless things, not to injure what is retained. But the great mass of public officers is established by law, and therefore by law alone can be abolished. Should the legislature think it expedient to pass this roll in review, and to try all its parts by public utility, they may be assured of every aid and light which executive information can yield.

Considering the general tendency to multiply offices and dependencies, and to increase expence to the ultimate term of burthen which the citizen can bear, it behooves us to avail ourselves of every occasion which presents itself for taking off the surcharge; that it never may be seen here that, after leaving to labour the smallest portion of its earnings, on which it can subsist, government shall itself consume the residue of what it was instituted to guard.

In our care too of the public contributions intrusted to our direction, it would be prudent to multiply barriers against their dissipation, by appropriating specific sums to every specific purpose susceptible of definition; by disallowing all applications of money