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LEGISLATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Answer of the Honourable House

to his Excellency's Speech.

My it please your Excellency.

The House of representatives

directly condole with your excellency

in the loss which the Commonwealth

has sustained by the death of the

late Chief Justice, whose private

character was adorned by all the

virtues of domestic life, and whose

genius and erudition displayed in

the performance of his official

duties, form a distinguished era in the

Jurisprudence of Massachusetts.

The people of this Commonwealth,

by the reasonable assertion of their

right to investigate political

measures, have checked a disposition

manifested in some portions of our

country, to stifle fair inquiry, to

suppress the freedom of speech and

of the press, and thus to protract

the evils of misgovernment, and

screen the errors or vices of a

ruling party from exposure.

We are glad to be informed that a

portion of the arms which this state

is entitled to receive from the

general government has at length been

supplied, and shall inquire into the

causes of the neglect which has

prevented the state from receiving the

whole number intended for it by

law.

While the privations and burdens

of a war, deemed by the great

portion of our fellow-citizens to be

both wicked and unjust, and by a

still more numerous class, wanton

and inexpedient, have been sustained

with a patient respect for constitu-

tional principles; its origin ought

not to be forgotten.—It should, on

the contrary, be held in perpetual

remembrance, as a warning to a

once deluded people, against yield-

ing to the dominion of passions, of

which a weak or wicked administra-

tion may take advantage to involve

them in the deepest national calamity.

The British orders in council, &

the casual abuses arising from the

practice of impressment, have ceased

to be considered by impartial men

as the causes of the present war.

These were probably, mere pretences

for precipitating the nation into

the gulf of a fatal policy, to the verge

of which its authors had been im-

pelled by their own passions. The

real causes of the war, must be

traced to the first systematic aban-

donment of the policy of Wash-

ington, and the friends and fram-

ers of the constitution; to implac-

able animosity against those men,

and their universal exclusion from

all concern in the government of the

country. To the influence of worth-

less foreigners over the press, and the

deliberations of the national govern-

ment in all its branches.—To a jeal-

ousy of commercial states, envy of

their prosperity, fear of their power,

contempt for their pursuits, and

ignorance of their true character &

importance—to the cupidity of cer-

tain states for the wilderness reserv-

ed for the miserable aborigines—to

a violent passion for conquest, and

an insatiable persuasion that neigh-

bouring provinces were enamoured

of our institutions, and would be-

come an easy prey to the arts and

arms of raw and boastful adventu-

urers; and above all to delusive esti-

mates of the relative power and re-

der the name of an embargo, has filled our minds with great solicitude for the fate of our country and its liberty. The authority possessed by that government in relation to this subject, must be derived either from the general power "to make war" or from the clause in the constitution, which gives power to congress "to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states and with the Indian tribes." Under colour of an authority defined in these intelligible terms, a right is claimed and exercised by congress of prohibiting, not only all foreign commerce in American vessels but the coasting trade; and (so far as Massachusetts is concerned) all intercourse by water, between different parts of the same state. Such a construction is a violation of the constitution which renders it an instrument of slavery, rather than of mutual defence and security. An embargo of this character, and intended for at least one year's duration, is not a regulation, but an extinction of commerce; and it is worse than useless for the objects of war, as it destroys the resources which are indispensable for its success. It absolves from the obligations of citizens, all those who are disqualified by its arbitrary provisions from enjoying their rights, or fulfilling the duties of citizens.

In reviewing the instructions given to the officers entrusted with the execution of this act, we avow, with pain and alarm, our persuasion that they are at open variance with the first principles of constitutional and civil liberty. The inhabitants of distant parts of the Commonwealth are debarred from all communication with each other by water—the fisherman, whose humble and arduous employment is generally encouraged by the public enemy, can no longer pursue his calling. The ship owner cannot sell his ship without restraints equivalent to a prohibition, however urgent the claims of his family or his creditor.—The paltry traffick which is still permitted, is left to the mercy and caprice of custom-house officers and their substitutes—a power of seizing money and effects upon vexatious pretences, or vague suspicions, and under the most innocent circumstances, is vested in men dependent on executive favor, and too often destitute of discretion and principle—a system of perfidy, and breach of trust is explicitly recommended to the practice & adoption of the officers of banking institutions towards those who deal with them upon terms of implied honor and confidence. And to enforce these outrageous provisions and others of the same stamp, and involving great danger to personal liberty in various instances, the military and naval forces of the United States are placed at the disposal of petty officers, and the lives and property of the citizens subjected to the controul of bayonets and cannon.

With these impressions, we are under a solemn conviction that the time has arrived, in which it is incumbent on the people of this state, to decide whether these burdens are not too grievous to be borne; and to prepare themselves, for the great duty of protecting, by their own vigor, their unalienable rights, and of securing for themselves at least the poor privilege of mutual intercourse by water as well as by land.

Amidst the gloom which surrounds our once happy country, we cannot forbear to congratulate your excellency, upon the probable emancipation of the continent of Europe from the tyranny which has so lately overwhelmed that fair portion of the globe—a tyranny which has proved fertile in trouble to our own country, and whose influence had become the subject of the most distressing apprehension to our best citizens and statesmen. We trust that this influence which had beguiled the affections of the deluded people of so many nations, and enervated the courage and corrupted the hearts of their rulers, will soon cease to be formidable, and that its delusion will be universally followed by the ascendancy of ancient maxims, and the adjustment of that balance of power in which it is now apparent that this

ation cannot be entirely uninterested. It is indeed a subject of humbling and bitter reflection, that the United States have lost a fair occasion of demonstrating to the old world their capacity of keeping aloof from its conflicts, and of commanding the respect instead of incurring the censures of nations engaged in a struggle for the rights of mankind. While liberty and peace, and the interchange of comforts and conveniences of life are restored to those desolated nations, and their hearts overflow with gratitude and joy for their deliverance from oppression; we are excluded from this happy community, and must appear in their eyes as a self-imprisoned nation; willing to receive the chains which they have broken, and to impose upon ourselves from choice, miseries which drove them to exert the energy of despair.

By the astonishing reverse of fortune, which has befallen the emperor of France, Great Britain is raised to an elevation of power, which no event within the reach of any probable calculation can endanger or impair. It should afford satisfaction to those, whose hostility has been influenced by the belief, that moderation in her councils could be expected only from misfortune and defeat; to perceive that this commanding attitude has not impaired her disposition to an accommodation with our country; that in the day of her most splendid triumph, her magnanimity keeps pace with her power, and that she offers to give us that peace, which she conquers from all other enemies. We sincerely rejoice to be informed, that her pacific overtures have been embraced by our government, and that a negotiation for peace will soon be commenced.

This pacific measure would afford us encouragement, if the circuitous course and needless delay attending the Russian mission, and the present warlike preparations, of immense loans and bounties and new levies of troops, did not compel us to fear that the desirable event of peace is yet at a distance.

For a successful issue, however, we do not conceal our most ardent wishes, nor can we doubt of the event, if conducted in a spirit of sincerity and good faith; and it is only after the failure of an attempt to negotiate, prosecuted with evidence of these dispositions on the part of our administration, that any voluntary support of this unhappy war can be expected from our constituents.

The various local subjects referred to our consideration by your excellency, shall receive the attention which their importance requires.—And we most cordially unite in your sentiments of reverence and gratitude of the Supreme Author of all Good under whose smiles the labor of the husbandman has prospered, and the internal tranquility of the state has been preserved.

From the Portsmouth Oracle.

A SINGULAR DREAM.

One night, this winter, when the embargo act came to town, in all its terrific majesty, displaying its whole length, from its horrid face to its cloven foot—I had with much fear & anxiety contemplated all its dreadful means of annoyance, and like children, after hearing tales of "ghosts and goblins damn'd," found my mind so disturbed, and so fearfully impressed with the tyrannical principles embraced by the act; that for a long time I could not sleep; at length exhausted reason refused her further attendance upon imagination, and gave up the reigns to her flighty sister, who soon drove me through all the murky regions of Democracy until she set me down in Congress Hall. Methought I saw on one side of the house, a great number of respectable men, whose countenances exhibited every thing excellent in human nature, but at the same time strongly marked with anxiety, bordering on despair; they kept their eyes fixed on a large map which hung up against the wall, with the same eager gaze, that we may suppose the Israelites did in the time of their pestilence, on the brazen serpent hung up by Moses. My curiosity led me to ex-

amine this apparent object of all their hopes, when I was forcibly struck with a beautiful map of NEW-ENGLAND, covered with handsome towns and villages, with fine roads, intersecting it in all directions, and near the centre of it, on a beautiful peninsula, was written in letters of gold "THE CRADLE OF LIBERTY." These words seemed to thrill through every nerve of me, and I like them could scarcely withdraw my eyes from the delightful spot, until I was aroused from my reverie by a hoarse, ruffian-like voice, from the other side of the house, where sat a great number of people, whom this name dignified by the names of "the majority," "the ruling party," and sometimes would call them "the people." I looked and beheld a countenance of the most diabolical nature, strongly impressed with passion, urging the immediate passage of a bill, the outlines of which he held in his hand, and although his vehemence rendered his utterance indistinct, I could now and then catch the words "free trade;" "sailors rights;" "England must yield to our demands by force of this bill;" "Strong arm of government;" "traitors have no rights;" "better punish ten innocent men than let one guilty escape;" "hemp and confiscation will ensure obedience;" and much more, that led me to think he had just arrived from France with his pockets full of instructions from BUONAPARTE and his minister of police.

Notwithstanding the earnestness of this speaker, those on his side of the House did not appear to listen with any attention, but on the contrary kept their eyes steadfastly fixed on the image of a little old man who had his hands extended towards them, holding out a long scroll of parchment, beautifully decorated with a blue ribbon, and the great seal of the United States; on the parchment was written in large letters of gold, what at first appeared to me, to be a list of the American titles of nobility, but on closer examination I found it to be a list of the offices of honour and profit in the gift of the President of the United States, such as collectors of the customs, commissioners of loans, governors of territories, judges of courts, army contractors, generals, colonels, and almost an infinite number of new offices created by the war. In his other hand he held a Map of Virginia, on which I saw written in a French hand, "This is a common centre, towards which all other states must gravitate." As soon as I discovered this, I turned from it in disgust to attend the person speaking, who by this time almost foamed with rage, and his utterance had become so indistinct that I thought it necessary to approach nearer to learn the object of his harangue, which I should have found great difficulty in doing; but just at that moment he laid down on the table behind him, the paper which he had held in his hand. I thought I sat me down with great eagerness to read this paper, when the first thing that struck my eye, were the following words, written in Court hand:—

FUNDAMENTAL SECTIONS OF AN EMBARGO LAW.

Be it enacted, that an EMBARGO be and hereby is laid on all ships and vessels in the ports and places within the limits or jurisdiction of the United States and the Territories thereof, and on all gondolas, scows, boats, canoes, rafts, and other water crafts, and on all carts, wagons, trucks, wheelbarrows, sleds, sleighs, coaches, phaetons, chaises, carriages, sulkeys, and other land carriages, or vehicles whatsoever; and on all persons, old and young, male, female, or neuter, black, white, or red; and on all specie, goods, wares, merchandise, produce, provisions, naval or military stores, and live stock of all kinds, within the same.

Be it further enacted, that for carrying the foregoing section into full and complete effect, we, having full trust and confidence in the PRESIDENT of these free and United States, do hereby transfer and make over to him for the above mentioned purposes all the wisdom, prudence, cunning, power, privileges, and authority, that we have each of us received from God and our constituents, and therefore we do order and

direct that all and any instructions, and regulations devised and contrived from time to time, by the President for the purpose of carrying the foregoing section into complete and full effect shall have and possess all the power and authority of Law.

Be it further enacted, that all judges of courts, district attorneys, marshals, collectors, naval officers, surveyors, & other custom-house officers, & officers and crews of revenue cutters, and all military and navy officers, be and hereby are directed to consider the said Presidential instructions and regulations issued from time to time, as fully and completely binding upon each and every of them as if they were, particularly expressed and embodied in this act.

And be it further enacted, that as it is expected that many unthinking people, not having the fear of God and the President before their eyes, may evade, contravene, and obstruct the due fulfilment of this law, we do hereby empower the President to empower his Secretaries or Acting Secretaries of the Treasury, Navy, and War Departments, to empower the several subordinate officers under them to make use of the army, navy, or militia, to coerce the refractory and disobedient citizens, wherever and whenever they may deem it necessary for the purposes of this act; and for the purpose of strengthening the arm of government, and for giving confidence and security to all and each of the officers aforesaid, we hereby authorise them, in case of prosecution to plead the general issue, and give this act in their justification.

N. B. This law may, for form sake and to save appearances, be made to consist of nineteen or twenty sections, but take care that these fundamental articles are not weakened thereby. You may perceive that the operation of the act will be upon New-England only.

"Better sink the ship, than give up the helm."

I had just finished reading this paper when a great roar of "Previous Question," "Previous Question," waked me in a state of mind, too horrid to be described, which I did not get rid of until I arose from my bed and found to my great joy that I was still in the CRADLE OF LIBERTY.

Legislature of Maryland.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Monday, Jan. 21.

On motion by Mr. J. H. Thomas, Ordered, Unanimously. That the thanks of this body be presented to the Hon. John C. Herbert, Speaker of the House, for the attentive, judicious, and dignified manner, in which he has discharged the duties of the chair during the present session.

The resolution authorising an augmentation of the loan negotiated under the resolution of May session was read the second time, and blank having been filled up with "one hundred and fifty thousand," was assented to, and sent to the Senate.

Mr. Stevens from the committee delivers the following report:

The committee to whom leave was granted by this house to bring in a bill to build barges for the protection of the Chesapeake Bay, beg leave to state, they have received information that the general government have built, and are now building, a number of barges, particularly to be stationed in the upper part of the Chesapeake, and conceiving it not requisite for the State of Maryland to build an additional number at this time, beg leave to be discharged from any further consideration of the subject.

By order.

Wm. K. Lambdin, Clk.

Which was read the first and second time by special order and concurred in.

On motion by Mr. Causin, the following resolution was read, assented to, and sent to the Senate:

Whereas, those who dedicate their time, abilities and labor, to the public, ought to receive a reasonable and adequate compensation for their services; Therefore,

Resolved, That such of the staff officers in the militia of the state who have been or may be, called into actual service, receive the same pay,

New Novel.
Just received and for sale by
GEORGE SHAW,
Price in boards one dollar.
SAINOLAIE,
the Victim to the Arts and Sciences,
OR
HORTENSE,
the Victim to Novels and Travel.
In two volumes, translated
from the French of Mad. Genlis—
BY A. MARRALSON.
which is prefixed, a Tale of the celebrated M. FROSTAN—Entitled,
Claudine, or the Savoyards.
Perhaps it would be saying enough, to commend this work to the American reader, to announce it as the production of the prolific mind of Madam Genlis, whose writings, by the mere rhapsody of genius, maintain a distinguished post at the summit of French literature. It is not, however, by the arms of style, or that correct delineation of character, so manifest in the writings of this lady, that they have found their way to the public admiration; it is by the fine precepts of morality which they inculcate, the art she shows of rendering every incident in the conduct of a novel subservient to useful and instructive aim, and of imparting to the whole that fervid glow of oral enthusiasm, which sets off in such high relief the gross and hideous aspect of vice."
ALSO,
TALES OF REAL LIFE,
new work by Mrs. Opie. The Life of John Dawes Worgan, an interesting piece of Juvenile Biography.
The Year, a Poem in 3 cantos, containing the Review, The Mob, and The War.
January 19.
B. CURRAN,
Respectfully informs his friends and the public generally; that he has moved his Store to the house formerly occupied by Mr. Gideon White, where he has on hand a variety of
DRY GOODS,
and will constantly keep a good supply of
SPUN COTTON
for sale on Monday, November 11, 1813. at
ANNAPOLIS & WASHINGTON STAGE.
The subscribers propose running a line of stages from this city to Washington and George-town, to commence on the first Monday in November next. The stage will leave Crawford's Hotel in George-town, every Monday and Friday morning at 6 o'clock, and arrive in Annapolis at 3 o'clock P. M. Returning will leave Parker's Tavern, Annapolis, at 6 A. M. every Tuesday and Saturday, and arrive at Crawford's at 3 P. M.
The proprietors are determined to spare neither pains nor expense in this establishment, and respectfully solicit encouragement from the public.
Fare of passengers, four dollars, with the usual allowance of baggage. All baggage at the risk of the owners.
WM. CRAWFORD,
ISAAC PARKER.
Oct. 21, 1813.
A LIST OF THE
American NAVY,
WITH
STEEL'S LIST OF THE
British NAVY.
For Sale at GEORGE SHAW'S Store,
and at this Office.
—Price 12 1-2 Cents.—
J. HUGHES,
Having succeeded Gideon White as Agent in Annapolis for the sale of
MICHAEL LEE'S
Family Medicines
So justly celebrated, in all parts of the United States, for twelve years past, has on hand and intends keeping a constant supply of
Lee's Anti-Billious Pills, for the prevention and cure of Bilious Fevers, &c.
Lee's Elixir for violent colds, coughs, &c.
Lee's Infallible Ague and Fever Drops.
Lee's Worm Destroying Lozenges.
Lee's Itch Ointment, warranted to cure by one application (without Mercury).
Lee's Grand Restorative for nervous disorders, inward weakness, &c.
Lee's Indian Vegetable Specific, for the Venereal.
Lee's Persian Lotion, for Itch and eruptions.
Lee's Essence and Extract of Mustard, for the Rheumatism, &c.
Lee's Eye-Water.
Lee's Tooth-Ache Drops.
Lee's Damask Lip Salve.
Lee's Corn Plaster.
Lee's Anodyne Elixir, for the cure of Headaches.
Lee's Tooth Powder.
To detect counterfeiters, observe each article has on the outside wrapper the signature of Michael Lee & Co. At the place of sale, may be had gratis, pamphlets containing directions of cures, whose length prevents their being inserted.