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MISCELLANEOUS.

SPEECH

Of the Governor of Massachusetts
to the Legislature.

Gentlemen of the Senate,
and
Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

At the last session of the late general court, memorials were presented from a number of towns, complaining of the act of congress laying an embargo; they were referred to a committee, who reported that, in their opinion, the act was unconstitutional and void in divers of its provisions; but at the same time expressed their hope, that the people of this commonwealth would, as far as possible, restrain their feelings and wait patiently for the interposition of the state government for their relief. This report was accepted by the legislature; and it was thereupon resolved, that the memorials abovementioned should be delivered to the governor, with a request that he, or his successor in office, should cause the same to be laid before the then next general court at an early day in their first session. In compliance with this request I will direct the secretary to deliver them to the two houses.

Since the transactions abovementioned, the embargo and non-importation laws have been repealed; this event must afford peculiar satisfaction to the people of this state, as it seems to indicate a milder and more pacific disposition in the government; and may be considered as a final relinquishment of that restrictive system, the effects of which we have abundantly experienced in the course of the last seven years; and which however designed to operate against the people of Great-Britain, has been found to be far more injurious to us than to them.

The last act laying an embargo, interdicting the right of navigating from port to port within the limits of the state, and fishing on its coasts; from this species of restraint, we have probably suffered more than all the other states. But though those provisions, and other parts of the act, were generally thought to be infringements of the constitution, we have not heard of any violence in opposing them. Our fellow-citizens are therefore entitled to much credit, for the exercise of that forbearance which was recommended by the legislature.

From the time that war was declared, a great proportion of the people of this state have viewed that measure as unnecessary and unjustifiable; their sentiments were fully expressed by their representatives then assembled, and afterwards at every subsequent meeting of the state legislature. Our national rulers had, therefore, no reason to expect, that with these sentiments, we should do anything more in support of the war, than they had a right, by the constitution to demand; and they could not expect it, unless they supposed we were destitute of moral principle. Nor has the manner of carrying on the war, had any tendency to satisfy us of its policy or justice; it was commenced, and is still prosecuted against the unoffending inhabitants of Canada, with whom many of the people of these states are connected, by the ties of blood and by the habits of friendship. But as congress have authority, by the constitution, to declare war, and impose taxes to defray the expense, we are bound to obey the laws which are duly enacted for this purpose; and I am happy to observe, that none of the measures of the general government have been opposed by violence, and no dangerous commotions have disgraced the people, in this commonwealth. I flatter myself that our fellow-citizens will continue to maintain the same regard to order, and will confide in you, gentlemen, as

the guardians of their rights, to adopt such measures for their relief and safety, as your wisdom shall dictate, and the constitution of our country justify.

We can hardly conceive that in the present state of France and England, the members of our government can have any temptation to continue the war. We hope they will perceive the danger of being involved in the politics and quarrels of Europe—that they will provide for the common defence, and make no attempts to extend our territory either by conquest or purchase, or to allure the subjects of foreign powers to become citizens of the U. S. That they will protect the Indian tribes in their rightful possessions; and that they will seek peace in the spirit of candour and reconciliation, and impose no unreasonable restraints hereafter upon commercial enterprise. We may then hope to become once more, a prosperous and united people.

I have received a letter from the governor of Pennsylvania, which enclosed a resolution of the senate and house of representatives of that state, proposing that an amendment of the constitution of the U. S. shall be adopted, by which the term of service of the senators in congress shall be reduced from six to four years; these papers will be laid before you.

As we have been selected by our constituents to the offices in which we have now engaged, they have a right to expect that we shall pursue a disinterested, an impartial course of conduct, and guard their interest with steadiness and fidelity. Whatever claims we make to patriotism, if we appear solicitous for our own advancement, or endeavour by unfair methods to ensure the success of a party we belong to, our fellow-citizens may well doubt our sincerity, when we pretend to an anxious concern for the public good.

The real patriot makes no sacrifice of truth or duty to gain the confidence of the people, nor will he deviate from the strictest rules of integrity to effect any purpose how important soever it may seem to the interest of his country—he wishes that the state and nation may prosper whoever directs their affairs, and is content with his own proportion of the public happiness.

Divers subjects, interesting to particular sections of the state, or to individuals, were postponed at the close of the last session of the general court, from the want of sufficient time to discuss them—I presume they will now receive the attention to which they are entitled. If any matters of importance shall occur to me, of which you, gentlemen, may not be informed, or which may seem to escape your recollection, I will communicate them by a message.

CALEB STRONG.

May 30, 1814.

From the Boston Repository.

We have inserted in our paper today a letter from Matthew Lyon to the President, relative to one Thornton Posey, a Lieut. Colonel in the United States army. Because we do not wish to give currency to so undefined a charge, either against Posey, or the President for appointing him, we here give a statement of the story on which the charge is founded, that the friends of either may have an opportunity to refute it. The editor of this paper has in his possession a narrative of the circumstances in which Posey is implicated, handed to him by a friend in whose integrity he places perfect confidence, and who has at least had an opportunity to be acquainted with the current belief of the place where the transaction is said to have happened. In the narrative it is stated, that more than two years ago, at Vincennes, Posey, then a captain, had put Lt. Jennings under arrest, for an alleged disobedience of orders, and confined him with criminals, where he was treated with great indignity and cruelty. On trial, by a court-martial, Jennings was honourably acquitted, and the court further declared that they considered most of the charges groundless and vexatious.

In his turn Posey was arrested by Lt. Wheelock, on several very serious charges, but on various pretences his arrest was for some time suspended. Jennings was a material witness, and in the meantime was confined by severe sickness. "One day," the narrative states, "his waiter had not left him more than 5 minutes according to his account, lying on his bunk, before he heard the report of two pistols one directly after the other. He immediately went to the door, and met Thornton Posey going out at it, who exclaimed, "I know what I have done," and rushed out of the quarters, mounted his horse, and had not been heard of in that quarter for 16 months. On entering the room, Jennings was found stretched on the floor, dying, having received two wounds, one in the breast and the other in the side. The pistols were lying on the floor."

Jennings was at that post, in the public service, at a great distance from his friends, and it was not there even known where they resided. For this reason, probably, less inquiry was made than would otherwise have been. The grand jury of the place, however, found an indictment against Posey for murder, and Lt. Wheelock forwarded a new set of charges against him, among which was one for the murder of Lt. Jennings; and it had been ascertained by the writer of the narrative that these charges had been received at the War Department. The narrative adds, "I have since been informed, that a sham trial has been had on the charges against Posey, without summoning the officer who arrested him, or any of his witnesses." He was afterwards promoted to the rank of Major, and April 30, 1813, was appointed Lt. Colonel.

MR. LYON'S LETTER.

From the Spirit of '76, May 17.

Copy of a letter to the President of the U. States, dated Eddyville, (Kentucky,) April 16, 1814.

SIR,

Last evening Thornton Posey, who holds your commission as Lt. Colonel in the army of the U. S. arrived here.

I think it not more than two years since this wretch, when a captain, perpetrated a most atrocious and cowardly MURDER on a brother officer under his command at Vincennes, a town in Indiana Territory, not far from this, (now under the government of his father) and then deserted his post. Until very lately he has not been heard of in this neighbourhood since, unless by the news-paper accounts of his promotion, previous to which it was understood his name was struck off from the list of the officers of the army, and he had taken refuge in some foreign country. It was improper to appoint the father to a station where he might protect or pardon his murderous son, or where a painful duty might oblige him to bring that son to justice. You could not be ignorant of all those circumstances—Was it, sir, with a view to insult the feelings of the people of this country, who think murder a crime which ought not to be pardoned, or pass unnoticed, that this monster was sent among them with regimentals and plumage furnished from the hard earnings of the American people? Sent, I say, because I understand six official letters waited for him in the post-office, mostly backed by men in high stations.

If sir, this assassin was sent here to promote the recruiting service, I can assure you whoever sent him will be disappointed. We frequently hear the preachers talk of regiments more fit for this recruiting officer. However depraved the people of this country may be thought, their sense of decency, propriety, honour and morality, will always teach them to detest and abhor the villain who slyly goes to his unarmed fellow-officer and blows his brains out.

In that country whose want of morality we so much complain of, an Earl of Ferris was executed for the murder of his servants. It is not uncommon to read accounts from there, of men of great property and

high station suffering death for murders they had committed some of them long before. However we may detest the conduct and character of George III. he has not been charged with being the patron of the sly, cowardly murderer of his officers.

I am, sir, as I ever have been, a friend to the nation's honour and happiness.

M. LYON.

FOREIGN.

DETAILS

From Halifax papers received at Portsmouth.

London Gazette Extraordinary.

Sunday, April 10.

Foreign Office, April 9, 1814.

Despatches have this day been received from Lord Cathcart, announcing the ABDICATION of the crowns of France and Italy, by Napoleon Buonaparte, in terms of which the following is a translation:

"The allied powers having proclaimed that the Emperor Napoleon was the only obstacle to the re-establishment of the peace of Europe, the Emperor Napoleon, faithful to his oath, declares, that he renounces for himself and his heirs, the thrones of France and Italy; and that there is no personal sacrifice, even that of life, which he is not ready to make for the interest of France.

"Done at the Palace of Fontainebleau, the — day of April, 1814."

The Imperial Court of Paris.

Decree, that they adhere unanimously, to the dethronement of Buonaparte and his family, pronounced by a decree of the senate of the 3d instant, and that faithful to the fundamental laws of the Kingdom, they desire with all their heart, the return of the head of the house of Bourbon, to the hereditary throne of St. Louis.

(Signed) SECUIER, DUPLES.

Foreign Office, April 16.

A despatch of which the following is an extract, has been this day received from Lord Viscount Castlereagh, addressed to Earl Bathurst:

PARIS, APRIL 13.

I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that Monsieur made his public entry yesterday, and was received with the utmost cordiality by the whole population of Paris. It was deemed more expedient that the solemnity should be purely French, the allied sovereigns did not therefore attend, nor did any of their troops join the cortege; but as the Bourbon family had been a long time resident in England, I thought I should neither incur the displeasure of the prince regent, nor give occasion to any injurious comment, by meeting his royal highness at the barrier, and accompanying him into Paris. The whole of the British mission here present attended, and with the field marshals of the empire were close to his person, whilst he traversed the town amidst the applause of the people.

LONDON, APRIL 19.

This morning's mail arrived at post office in Lombard-st. direct from Paris. The utmost possible tranquility prevailed in that capital. Great harmony among all ranks. Adhesions to the new government flow in daily. Sir C. Stewart had left Paris on a special mission to M. Soult and Ld. Wellington, Buonaparte continues at Fontainebleau—his excuse is a cutaneous disorder, which requires the use of the bath. The Arch Duchess of Austria, Maria Louisa, has not joined him, she is at Rambouillet, with her son, and is about to have an interview with her father, the Emperor of Austria.

Courier, April 19.

The first mail, from Paris direct, arrived this morning. We received Paris papers to the 17th, containing intelligence of great interest & importance.

The provisional government is dissolved, and by a decree of the senate, the government of the kingdom has been conferred upon Monsieur, until the arrival of Louis XVIII. and his acceptance of the constitution.

The decree was presented to him by the senate in a body, on the evening of the 14th. M. Talleyrand made an appropriate speech, to which Monsieur replied.

The emperor of Austria entered Paris in style on the 15th. He was met by the emperor Alexander and king of Prussia, and the Crown Prince of Sweden, and received at the barrier by Monsieur and an immense concourse of persons. His imperial majesty took up his residence at the hotel Charost, since called the Borghese palace.

Many of the attendants of Buonaparte have refused to accompany him, even his favorite Mamelukes—Generals Bertrand and Desnouettes, and one more officer, go with him.

Part of the Allied troops from Paris, left France to recross the Rhine.

Sieyes, Champagny, Savary, Maret, and many other civil and military officers, have sent in their adhesion. Addresses and dispatches flow into Paris from all parts of France.

Monsieur holds a Levee every morning, and inspires, by the affability of his manner, the mixed grace and dignity of his demeanor, and by his talents, universal confidence and enthusiasm.

The gallant Blucher has been obliged from ill health, to retire from the command of the Silesian army.

The Mars, French vessel, arrived yesterday at Portsmouth, with two deputies, sent to invite Louis XVIII. to take his departure for France in the Polonoise. The deputies set off immediately for Hartwell.

"Champaign, Duke of Cadore; Savary, Duke of Rovigo; and Count Molt, are at Paris, and have signified their adhesion.

PARIS, April 6.

H. M. the Emperor of Russia, as soon as he was informed of the change in the French Government, produced by the Senate, proposed in the name of the allied powers, to Napoleon Buonaparte, to choose a place of residence for himself and family. The Duke of Vicenza was directed to carry this proposal to him. It has been dictated chiefly by the desire of the allied powers to stop the effusion of blood, and by conviction, that if adopted by Napoleon, the work of general peace, and the re-establishment of the internal repose of France, would be but the work of a day.

PARIS, April 14.

"Monsieur has received to-day, at eight in the evening, the Senate and the Legislative Body.

"The Senate was presented to His Royal Highness by the Prince of Benevento, its President, who said—

"Monseigneur—The Senate brings to your Royal Highness the offering of its most respectful submission. It has invited the return of your august House to the throne of France.—Too well instructed by the present and the past, it desires in common with the nation, to forever to found the royal authority on a just division of power, and on public liberty, which are the only securities for the happiness and liberty of all. "Monseigneur—The Senate, in the moments of public joy, obliged to remain apparently more calm in the limits of its duties is not less a partaker in the universal sentiments of the people. Your Royal Highness will read in our hearts through the reserve of our language: each of us, as a Frenchman, has joined in those feelings and profound emotions, which have accompanied you, ever since your entrance into the capital of your ancestors, and which are still more lively under the roof of this palace, to which hope and joy are at length returned with a descendant of St. Louis and Henry IV.

"For myself, my lord, allow me to congratulate myself on being the organ of the Senate, which has chosen me to be the interpreter of its sentiments to your royal highness. The Senate, knowing my attachment to its members, has been pleased to reserve for me a delightful and honorable moment—The most delightful in fact are those in which