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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1807.

NEW-YORK, October 26. The British Packet Duke of Kent left Falmouth on the 10th of September, and brings no London papers later than the 7th, to which date they have previously been received at this office.

The Governor of New Providence has issued his Proclamation, for the admission into the different Ports of that Colony, of American vessels with lumber, provisions, live stock, &c. (as formally) until the 1st day of July 1808.

The governor of Trinidad issued his proclamation on the 26th day of August last, laying a duty of two shillings per quintal upon all salted codfish imported and sold in that Island from the United States of America in American vessels.

Captain Crosey, of the sch'r Manchester informs us, that St. Croix is in a state of blockade. The inhabitants were removing their property into the country. Two British frigates and a schooner, on the 5th instant, cut all the vessels out of the west end of St. Croix, and sent them to Tortola, with the exception of the brig Enterprise, Lovell, of Boston, a lumber vessel, who escaped with the loss of only 15 hhd of rum. Amongst those sent into Tortola, is the sch'r Silenus, Field, captured on her passage from St. Croix to Newyork.

WASHINGTON CITY, October 27.

It will be perceived by our Congressional Journal that the national legislature have assembled without the least delay. On Monday, on counting the members of the House of Representatives, one hundred and seventeen were found to be present, and one delegate from the Mississippi territory. In the Senate twenty-five members were present.

The Hall of the House of Representatives was on this day opened for the first time. We usque nothing in pronouncing it a chef d'œuvre of architectural skill. It was anticipated, by those who had paid a critical attention to the plan, and who were acquainted with the talents of the Architect, that it would be the handsomest room in the world occupied by a deliberative body. Those who have seen the rooms occupied by European public bodies attest the accuracy of the prediction. We shall not at present attempt a description of it; reserving this gratification for some future period of leisure. In the mean time we shall barely remark, that entering it, the spectator feels a new and strong sensation of pleasure, from the splendor and elegance of a hall that surrounds him.

The Vice-President yesterday took the chair of the Senate at the opening of that body. We have pleasure in stating him to be in good health. It is with regret we learn that Mr. Macon, the former Speaker of the House of Representatives, is disabled from taking his seat in the House by a severe indisposition.

CONGRESS. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. MONDAY, October 26.

This being the day fixed by the proclamation of the President of the United States for the meeting of Congress, a majority of the members of both Houses convened at the Capitol.

The assistant clerk of the House of Representatives having called over the names of the members, announced 117 members and one delegate to be present.

He then enquired if it were the pleasure of the House to proceed to the appointment of a Speaker, which being determined in the affirmative, the members proceeded to ballot for that officer, Messrs. Catts, Helms and John Campbell being named tellers.

The tellers, after examining the votes, reported that 117 were received, and Joseph B. Varnum, a representative from the State of Massachusetts, having 59 of them, was declared to be duly elected.

The votes were given as follow, viz: Joseph B. Varnum, 59; Charles Goldsborough, 17; Burwell Bassett, 17; John Masters, 8; Thomas Blount, 7; John Dawson, 4; John Smith, 4; Benjamin Talmadge, 1; Timothy Pitkin, 1; Roger Nelson, 1.

The Speaker being conducted to the chair, by Mr. Van Cortlandt and Mr. Alton, addressed the House as follows: Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, You will please to accept my most grateful acknowledgments for the honor which by your suffrages on this occasion you have conferred upon me. I am sensible of my own inability to perform the important duties you have been pleased to assign me, in the most desirable manner; but relying on your candor

and readiness to afford me your aid, I accept the trust. And be assured, gentlemen, that it will be my assiduous endeavor to discharge the duties of the office faithfully and impartially; and in a manner which in my opinion shall be best calculated to meet your wishes and afford me the consolation of an approving conscience.

The House next proceeded to the election of a Clerk. The same tellers which had been appointed on the former election having been named by the Speaker on this, the members proceeded to ballot. It appearing to the tellers, on examining the votes, that one of the members had, by mistake, voted twice, the balloting, after a few desultory remarks, was set aside, and a fresh one taken, the result of which was as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Name and Votes. Nicholas B. Vanzandt, 57 votes; Patrick Magruder, 25; James Elliot, 16; J. W. King, 16; ...

No person having a majority of votes, another balloting took place, the votes of which were, N. B. Vanzandt, 52; P. Magruder, 28; J. Elliot, 15; J. W. King, 10; W. Lambert, 7; T. Hamford, 4; C. Smith, 1.

A third balloting was about to take place, when Mr. Randolph rose, and observed that he never felt more reluctant in addressing the House than on the present occasion; but a sense of the duty which he owed to the body, and which he should always endeavor to fulfil to the best of his ability, impelled him to speak. He perceived among the candidates

for the office of Clerk of that House—a high and honorable title—a person who came before him in such a manner, and under such circumstances, that he was obliged to withhold the information, which he was about to give, from the House, and this person should be elected, he could not answer for the neglect. The person to whom he alluded had a plurality of votes on the 1st ballot. This person, the reason before the fact, was chief clerk in the office of Mr. Beckley. There was an order of the House that the doors should be closed. The Clerk is a sworn officer, bound not to divulge the proceedings of the House on such occasions. He did his duty; but the assistant clerks did not perform theirs. They pulled themselves at the gallery door, where it was found, on examination, that every word could be as distinctly heard as on the floor of the House. These clerks heard the debates which took place, and the person to whom he alluded was one of them. Mr. R. said he had heard repeated some of the expressions which he had used in the House, before he reached his lodging at Georgetown. This performance to him afterwards and apologized for his conduct. Here Mr. Vanzandt (the clerk elected) making a motion of his head, significant of his dissent from the truth of this allegation, Mr. R. said he perceived that what he said was contradicted, and was about to sit down. The speaker desired him to proceed. He said he must decline entering into a contest of this kind, and asked only, that a person who was capable of violating his duty in a subordinate trust, certainly ought not to be elevated to the important office in question.

Mr. Alton thought the House ought to adjourn in order to afford an opportunity of examining into this matter, and made a motion to this effect. This motion was negatived.

The propriety of postponing the appointment of a Clerk till to-morrow was suggested, in order that the House might proceed with other business. A motion made for this purpose was negatived.

The Speaker informed the House that he had received a letter from the person officiating as Clerk, which he was requested to lay before the House. The letter was read by the Speaker. It desired permission to be heard at the bar of the House, in order to disprove the allegations which had been made by the member from Virginia in respect to the writer's conduct at a former session.

Mr. Smith hoped no order would be taken upon this letter. He thought the request to be heard at the bar of the House a very extraordinary one, and if listened to might form a dangerous precedent.

The House proceeded to another balloting for Clerk, the result of which was, Patrick Magruder, 52; James Elliot, 27; Nicholas B. Vanzandt, 16; J. W. King, 9; Theodosius Hansford, 8; William Lambert, 5.

Fifty-nine votes being necessary to a choice, another balloting was immediately had, when Patrick Magruder was declared to be duly elected, he having 72 votes. The votes given to the other candidates were not announced.

The House then proceeded to the qualification of its members. The oath of office was administered to the Speaker by Mr. Van Cortlandt, and the Speaker qualified the members and the clerk.

A message was received from the Senate, informing the house, that they had appointed Mr. Anderson and Mr. Bradley a committee to join a committee of that house, in waiting on the President of the U. S. to inform him they were formed and ready to receive any communications which he might have to make to them.

On motion, a committee of the House of Representatives was agreed to be appointed to join the committee from the Senate. The following gentlemen were named by the Speaker to form that committee, viz. Messrs. Bassett, Goldsborough, and Mallers.

Mr. Randolph moved, that the rules of the last session should be considered as the rules of the present session, until otherwise determined. Agreed to.

The House adjourned at about half past three till 11 o'clock to-morrow.

TUESDAY, October 27. Mr. Bassett, from the committee appointed yesterday to wait upon the President of the U. S. States, to inform him Congress was formed and ready to receive any communication he might have to make to them, reported, that he would make a communication to the two Houses by message at 12 o'clock this day.

Accordingly at 12 o'clock the message of the President was delivered by his Secretary (a copy of which was inserted in yesterday's paper) which, after being read, was committed to a committee of the whole House on the State of the Union, and 1000 copies ordered to be printed.

An election took place for sergeant at arms, which after two ballots, ended in favor of Thomas Dunn.

Thomas Claxton was appointed Door-keeper, without opposition, and Jesse Edwards, assistant Door-keeper at the first ballot.

Mr. Dawson moved the appointment of the standing Committee; but a difference of opinion arising whether they should be named by the Speaker as heretofore, or elected by ballot, the appointment was postponed till to-morrow.

Further particulars of this day's proceedings will be given in the next National Intelligencer.

SHIPS, COLONIES, COMMERCE.

The affairs of the world are now ours; because the current of worldly affairs has taken such a course as to leave us no choice but to play along with it smoothly and gaily and triumphantly.

Every event in political transactions in modern times, is preceded by a phrase, or accompanied by a motto or an epigram—what a time was contained in the sentiment, that nothing in the present, that is to be in the preceding century—it was a first taken as a bold saying, a figure of rhetoric, and it is already a matter of history—and by and bye it will be history altogether.

Who can forget the offers made to the king of Prussia before the battle of Jena—and the offer that was produced by the crowder reply of the king of Prussia—"We will reply to it in a letter in a month in Berlin." Who can forget the conduct of the war in Prussia at Saratoga—that Saratoga is now a French fortress on the Rhine.

Who can forget British industry for the past half century for the future—what a failure on human industry is the security of Britain now.

About ten or twelve months ago we were told to hazard that Bonaparte would find resources in Spain, Greece, and elsewhere in the East. We gave our readers a series of letters on the commerce of the Levant, and promised other letters on the commerce of the East—the five parts of the British empire, Arabia, at Constantinople—and the occupation of Malabar by the British, deprived us of a portion of the motive for this examination, because the matter of readers do not derive any gratification from the contemplation of speculations that are remote in their accomplishment, as they do from the examination of events that are in the course of existence.

The French are now, in fact, in the East, and allied with us—and we may take up the speculation with more advantage in the course of the winter than we could at a period previous to the battle of Friedland—We had but observed, in a former paper, that by the basis of Nicholas, France obtained the most important conquests—that is, naval bases—that are to be found on earth, by opening the Bosphorus.

Since that period also Dalmatia and the whole coast and harbors of Greece are opened to France. The harbors of Macedonia and Bulgaria—the Gulf of Lebanon—the Bay of the Bosphorus, the timber and the tar and turpentine and hemp of the Tartary, are opened to her vessels.

May we without flattery think those who never forgetted not to forget, and to be in a state of uncertainty any thing—say we refer to a case in which we ventured to make a prediction, probable, but is now about to become reality.

It is notorious that the discipline of the Spanish navy is beyond all comparison the best in the art of building they have no fleets, Spanish valor and Spanish honor have never been doubtful as they concern the maintenance of the apathy of the nation has become a barrier in military and naval affairs, that a vigorous effort is required to revive the national character for enterprise, and achievement.

It now appears that this plan is on the tapis, and that the ocean kingdom in the project of the western empire, may be filed up with the name of Naevre.

It is now probable that the Spanish provinces of Galicia from the mouth of the river Minho, will be formed into this new kingdom, under an old title, with Asturias, Oviedo, Biscaya, Aragon north of the Ebro, and Catalonia to the mouth of the same river will be ceded by Spain in exchange for Portugal.

These cessions in relation to the great scheme of ships, colonies and commerce are of the greatest consequence. On the Mediterranean they give Barcelona, Tortosa, and Martorel, and that hardy race of men whose character is the fame as their neighbors of Rouillon.

On the Atlantic the acquisition is immense, it gives to the western empire, by on the Minho, the important and defensible position of Vigo, the ports of Galicia, Encobras, Vila Major, and Muros, Finisterre, Dea Coruña, Ferrol, and Orreaga, Bares, St. Giphian and Aviles, Vila Viciosa, St. Andro, Santillana, Castro, and Bilbao, and the snug ports of Houdara, Deva, St. Sebastian and Fontarabia.

By the possession of the coast from St. Jean de Luz to Vigo—Cape Clear in Ireland, and Cape Finisterre in Galicia, both in 8 degrees well longitude from Paris, become the actual extremes of the great Bay of Biscay. But the occupation is not so much the point as the advantage, by the occupation of this coast the equipment and the dispatch of fleets are both rendered facile, and less subject to be affected by weather, at the same time that they multiply the means of building, equipping, and manning of fleets.

These territories, whether in superficial extent or population are about equal; but the provinces of the new kingdom are incomparably better for the purposes of naval equipment and commerce.

We entertain no doubt that such a disposition is to be made—because it affords one of the very necessities into which France has been forced—it is with her and England who shall?—Home of Carthage.

W. L. & J. Barney, Have imported per ship Strafford, from Bremen, 30 bales of LINENS; Consisting of Hempen and Flaxen, Ofsenburg, Tickenburg, Meians, Brown Rolls, Burdaps, &c. Which they offer for sale on the usual terms.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1807.

FOR THE AMERICAN.

Mr. Pechin,

I observe that the principal topic of the day, respecting the business of the approaching legislature, appears to be that of an energetic militia law, and by way of contributing my mite to so desirable an object, beg leave to offer, through the medium of your paper, such remarks upon such sections of the present law, as I conceive most deficient; should they or any part of them, meet the approbation of the legislature, my vanity may be, in some measure, gratified; and should they be totally rejected, and better adapted, I shall be well pleased.

The 6th section of the present law, says, that no free white male citizen, between the ages of 18 and 45, shall be exempt from military duty, unless he shall obtain a Certificate of inability from the surgeon of the regiment to which he belongs, or from some other reputable physician of his neighborhood, &c. This clause I have found by experience to be (in my opinion,) very deficient. Having had the honor of commanding a small portion of the militia of Maryland, it fell to my lot to draft 7 men for the western expedition, after which (to wit, in 1804) two or three of them, whom I had known for many years, and viewed as happy, able bodied men, produced me certificates from a respectable physician of Baltimore (Dr. G. since deceased) of their inability for military duty. Being to see these certificates, from a quarter so little acquainted, I cannot scarcely have been surprised to find others praying an exemption, for fear that a trip to camp might produce a disease of that dreadful nature called the itch.

Therefore to void the imposition of such occasional cripples; in future I would propose that the surgeon of the regiment (and no other physician) together with two or three respectable neighbors (who will know the applicant for exemption) should form a court of inspection to decide his competency to bear arms; for how easy is it for a man (whose manners outweigh his force) to neglect his person, put on a long face, a feigned countenance, and with his arm in a sling, or his knee bound up in greasy white crapes, off shy to a physician, who never saw him, or heard of such a person before; and with a mournful tale, under the graceful mask of a pining, obtain a certificate of inability, then slip home, take off the mask, put on his other face again, boast to his family of his miraculous escape from death, and say himself at his ease, laughing at others while they are agonizing for his property.

Suppose a man's leg or his arm to have been once broken—doctors say when recovered they are stronger than ever; and such men be exempt from military duty, because accident has not shewn a disposition to be more injured? The idea is ridiculous, unless remedied, and has been the consequence.

There is no notion of a man's being exempt from military duty, merely because he might have been troubled with worms in his infancy, or shed his hair in a spell of sickness twenty years ago; but think that men generally, who are bold and willing, at a moment's warning, to turn out and take a severe single combat with an antagonist, a tour for hours together in a ball alley, or perform all kinds of hard labor on a farm, or elsewhere, to procure property, should be made willing to turn out in its defence when emergency calls. Should these remarks be thought worthy of publication, you will probably be troubled with others of a similar nature by your old friend.

GUSTAVUS.

[The following extract was written and published in England by the Rev. Edward Young, rector of Wolvinton, Bedfordshire in 1739, and in 1728 was a chaplain in ordinary to King George II and in 1761 was one of the closet to the princess dowager of Wales.]

"If causes should not fail of their effect; if our national dilemma, far from being cutaneous at present, should reach the vitals of our state, how applicable to this opulent, proud, profane metropolis (which calls the sea her own, and whose vices, more diffuse, are without a shore) would be the prophetic sacred dirge over ancient Tyre; whose sea-born wealth and hell-born inquiry, let it not be said, was but a prelude to our own. And yet if we proceed in our infernal career, that most infamous reproach may become too true.

"The sublime and most memorable wars run thus, and I cannot but think that at present they must have a formidable sound in a British ear.

"Is this the joyous city, whose antiquity is of days remote, whose Merchants were Princes, and her traffickers the honorable of the earth, whose revenue was the harvest of rivers, and her exchange the mart of Nations; who ant as a Queen, stretched out her hand over the seas, and shook the kingdoms; but she is fallen! she is fallen! Heaven has flung the pride of all her glory, how sorely quell you be pained at the report."

"Has not Britain reason to be more deeply struck with this part of Scripture than the rest of mankind. The prophecy, as yet, indeed, (though memory is unfulfilled in us; but if Britain continues, like Tyre, to sing, as a harlot, to take the harp, to make herself merry, to sing many songs, turn to her hire, and to commit fornication with all the kingdoms of the world—her fall is to be feared, unless she be of soft former empires—bury us into oblivion, and that national poison, which has ever proved mortal, if fatal no more."

If the fate of kingdoms is lodged in a just and impartial hand, what but the greatest light that can banish our fears; and if our fears are banished, leave it not unobserved, that our very want of fear is a proof of our danger, for Heaven infatuates when it determines to delude.

But such a general face of affluence and gaiety are these signs of ruin—not signs only, but causes of it too. Not Babylon alone has been smitten at a banquet and perished in its joys—nations have been given water near to their end, and like paper in the tincture, have blazed as they expired."

MILITIA NOTICE.

The citizens enrolled in the several companies of the 27th regiment, between Charles-street, east, and South-street, west, and running northerly and southerly to the precincts, will please to take notice that a regimental muster and inspection, by order of the brigadier general, will take place, according to law, on Federal Hill, near the Observatory, on Saturday morning next, the 31st instant, when all persons, so enrolled, not appearing in their respective companies, with arms and accoutrements in good order, will be fined as the law directs.

By order of the Lieut. Col. FRANCIS FORSTER, Act. Adjut. d4t

MILITIA NOTICE.

SIXTH REGIMENT. All able bodied white male citizens, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years, residing in the district allotted to the 6th regiment of Maryland Militia, (comprehending all that part of the city of Baltimore Southward of Great York street including all Fell's Point and as far Eastwardly as the city extends, and westwardly as far as Jones Falls) will attend accordingly to the Militia Law of Maryland, a Regimental Muster to take place on Saturday next, 3 o'clock P. M. the 31st of October inst. at the Fell's Point market house, agreeably to the orders of the Brigadier-General. All absentees will be dealt with according to law.

By order of the Col. W. G. D. WORTHINGTON, Adjut. October 29.

COLUMBIAN VOLUNTEERS.

You will meet at the court-house on Saturday next, the 31st instant, at 3 o'clock, P. M. in full uniform, with arms and accoutrements, in military order. Absentees will be fined.

JOHN COMEGYS, Capt. oct. 28 d4t

To Baltimore Mechanical Volunteers, are ordered to parade at the court-house on Thursday next, at 2 o'clock, in common dress with arms and accoutrements in complete order; roll will be called, and absentees fined.

By order of the captain, JOSEPH K. STAPLETON, Secy. October 27.

Ordered, That the Baltimore Independent Blues meet in Col. Howard's Park, This Evening, at half past two o'clock, with 6 rounds of blank cartridges each.

JOHN HUTCHINS, Secy. October 27.

Sale by Auction.

The following articles, belonging to the estate of Mr. James Long, deceased, that were not offered at the Vendue on Wednesday the 26th will be sold on THURSDAY, the 29th inst. at the Vendue Warehouse, at the corner of Second & Frederick streets, about half past 1 o'clock: A very handsome Coach, nearly new, with harness complete. A pair of Horses. 1 Sleigh and Harnes. 1 Cart. A parcel of new Sash & Window Frames. A pinchbeck Watch. Silver Buckles, Bras Andirons, Shovel, Tongs, &c.

THOMAS CHASE, Auct'r. oct 18

Sale by Auction.

THIS DAY, The 29th instant, at 10 o'clock, at the Vendue Warehouse, at the corner of Second and Frederick streets, will commence the sale of a large and general assortment of

Dry Goods.

And at 12 o'clock, 37 hhd. Guadalupe Sugar. 15 hhd. New Orleans do. 20 boxes white do. 210 bags Coffee. 25 casks Rice. 14 p p 4th proof Cogniac Brandy. A few pipes excellent Holland Gin. 50 cask Raisins. 21 boxes Hyson Tea. 20 do. Superior Hyson Skin. 13 do. Young Hyson. 150 boxes Spanish Segars. ALSO, 36 barrels of Apples, New Town, Catings, &c. carefully packed up for families use.

THOMAS CHASE, Auct'r.

Sale by Auction.

On FRIDAY, The 30th inst. at 10 o'clock, at our auction room, head of Frederick-street dock, will commence the sale of

A Variety of Dry Goods:

And immediately after. A large assortment of Earthenware, Consisting of Jugs, Pots, Pitchers, Baking Pans, &c. &c. VAN WYCK & DORSEY, Auct's. oct 28

REPOSITORY FOR THE RECEPTION AND SALE OF FURNITURE.

Sale by Auction. Cole & I. Bonsal Auct'rs, Will offer for sale on FRIDAY, 30th instant, at their Warehouse back of the Union Bank of Maryland, (entrance from S. Charles street,) a variety of

MAHOGANY HOUSEHOLD AND KITCHEN FURNITURE.

Sale to commence at half past 11 o'clock. oct. 28