

into a war prejudicial to ~~the~~ 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 recal the government of France to an honourable fulfilment of its political engagements in the spirit of sincere amity, we have seen, with pride and pleasure, your ample, just, and pacific instructions to our 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 heap'd 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 staying 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 the annulment of a treaty, violated as often in the interest of individuals, or the caprice of a moment dictated; and we heartily approve of the respective 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 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 perhaps insidious policy. We will support the government of our choice, 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 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 past long and faithful services, your steady patriotism and untried 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.

Which was read.

ORDERED, That the said address have a second reading on Tuesday week, and that the printer to the state strike two hundred copies of the same for the use of the general assembly.

On motion, Leave given to bring in a bill to prevent the firing of woods in the state of Maryland.

ORDERED, That Mr. Carroll, Mr. Brown, Mr. Brome, Mr. Pattison, Mr. Winder, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Ridgely, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

A petition from the inhabitants of the village of Hillsborough, in Caroline county, praying an act may pass to prevent geese and swine from going at large in said village, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Young, Mr. Clarke and Mr. Thomas, to consider and report thereon.

A memorial from David Kerr, of Talbot county, stating, that the auditor-general passed an account in his favour for the sum of £. 200; that an endorsement made on the said account by the late auditor prevented him from receiving the same, and praying relief in the premises, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Wallace, Mr. Edmondson, Mr. E. K. Wilson, Mr. R. Magruder and Mr. Sherwood, to consider and report thereon.

Mr. Bruce, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker the following report: THE committee to whom was referred the petition of sundry inhabitants of the upper part of Annapolis county report, that they have taken the same into consideration, and finding the facts therein stated to be true, are of opinion that relief in the premises ought to be granted. All which is submitted.

By order,

R. K. WATTS, clk.

Which was read.

Mr. Carroll, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker a bill, entitled, An act to prevent the firing of woods in the state of Maryland; which was read the first time, and committed for amendment.

Mr. J. Magruder, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker the following report:

By the COMMITTEE of CLAIMS.

YOUR committee report, that it appears by a certificate from John Read Magruder, junior, clerk of Prince-George's county, that a certain negro man named Edward, the slave of Morris James McDonough, of Charles county, was convicted of felony, and sentenced by a special court of oyer and terminer and general gaol delivery, held in Prince-George's county on the twenty-third of August last, to be hanged; and that the said negro man was valued by the court to one hundred and twelve pounds sterling current money. Your committee further report, that the punishment of said negro was afterwards commuted by the governor, and that doubts have arisen with them as to the propriety of the state paying the same; they therefore submit the following resolution to the house.

Whereas it has been represented to this general assembly, that negro Edward, the slave of Morris James McDonough, of Charles county, was convicted of felony at a court of oyer and terminer and general gaol delivery, held in Prince-George's county on the twenty-third day of August last, and that sentence of death was passed upon him by the justices of said court, who valued said negro at one hundred and twelve pounds sterling current money;