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LEGISLATURE OF NEW-YORK.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, November 8, 1804.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the draft of an address to the governor, and after some time spent thereon, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair, and Mr. Van Ness, from the said committee, reported, that in proceeding on the said draft, and after the same had been read in the committee, the following clause thereof was again read, to wit;

"It is with great pleasure that we are officially informed of the ratification of the amendment proposed during the last session of Congress to the second article of the constitution of the United States, so altering the mode of voting for President and Vice President as more certainly to express their public voice, and essentially to prevent a repetition of the scene exhibited at the last election of those officers."

That Mr. Kirkland made a motion, that the committee should agree to accept a substitute for the said clause in the words following, to wit;

"We sincerely wish that the late amendment of the constitution of the United States, altering the mode of voting for President and Vice-President of the United States, may be found on experiment to afford all the benefits which its most sanguine friends have anticipated, without producing any of those evils which the opposers of the amendment have predicted."

That debates were had thereon, and the question having been put, whether the committee would agree to the said motion, it passed in the Negative—Yeas 77, Nays 12.

Friday, November 9.

The address in answer to the speech of his excellency the governor being engrossed, was read, and is in the words following, to wit:

To his Excellency Morgan Lewis, Esq. Governor of the state of New-York.

SIR,

At the opening of a session so interesting, we avail ourselves of the first opportunity to congratulate your excellency on your election to the chief magistracy. We are duly sensible of the high trust committed to us by the constitution of the general government, the act of Congress, and that of the legislature of this state, relative to the appointment of electors of President and Vice-President of the U. States.

In the execution of this important duty, we shall endeavour to select such characters as will promote the true interests of our common country, and to make adequate provision in case of the absence of an elector.

It is with great pleasure that we are officially informed of the ratification of the amendment proposed, during the last session of Congress, to the second article of the constitution of the United States, so altering the mode of voting for President and Vice-President as more certainly to express the public voice, and to prevent a repetition of the scene exhibited at the last election of those officers.

The resolutions of the legislature of the commonwealth of Massachusetts, laid before us by your excellency, having for their object an amendment to the constitution of the United States, shall receive that respectful consideration to which a proposition from a sister state is justly entitled.

The filling of the vacancy in the Senate of the United States shall engage our early attention.

The destruction of part of the state prison by fire, is a circumstance much regretted. The conduct of the inspectors, in immediately repairing the damage sustained, on their individual credit, appears to have been warranted by the necessity of the case, and it is confidently hoped that an institution, so honorable to the justice and humanity of the government, will continue to enjoy the patronage of the legislature.

The amelioration of the criminal code, recommended in your excellency's address, is a subject which claims our deliberate consideration.

The accurate definition and classification of offences, and the apportionment of punishment to crime, is a work worthy of the statesman and the philanthropist.

Your excellency's long experience in the administration of justice, has enabled you to point out the defects of the present system, and to afford us much valuable information to assist our deliberations.

The defence of our principal sea port, and the encouragement of literature, are objects of the first magnitude. We agree with your excellency, that in a government resting on public opinion, and deriving its chief support from the affections of the people, religion and morality cannot be too sedulously inculcated; that to them, science is a handmaid, ignorance the worst of enemies, and that therefore literary information should be placed in the reach of every description of citizens.

We join with your excellency in our fervent acknowledgments to a beneficent God, for the large portion of national prosperity with which he continues to bless us; and permit us to assure your excellency of our best endeavours to add to the general mass of happiness.

Ordered, That Mr. Speaker subscribe the said address in behalf of this house.

IN SENATE.

FRIDAY, November 9. 1804.

The engrossed answer to his Excellency the Governor's Speech was read and agreed to by the Senate.

To his Excellency MORGAN LEWIS, *Esq. Governor of the state of New York.*

SIR,

We avail ourselves of this first opportunity of congratulating your Excellency on your election to the chief magistracy of this state, and of expressing our sincere wishes and full confidence, that your administration may conduce to the honour and happiness of our fellow-citizens.

The appointment of electors to choose a President and Vice-President of the United States, is a duty of the highest importance, which we shall endeavor to perform with a scrupulous attention to the description of characters you have so correctly and properly delineated and recommended.

And we shall also make the necessary provision for the contingency of the absence of electors from the meeting enjoined by law, for voting at future elections for President and Vice President.

Being fully convinced of the utility of a full and able representation of this state in the Senate of the United States, the filling the vacancy occasioned by General Armstrong's mission to France, will be among the first objects to engage our attention.

We warmly participate in the pleasure which is afforded by the amendment of the constitution of the United States which we trust will in future prevent any disagreeable consequences in the election of those officers.

The resolutions of the two houses of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, recommending an alteration of the third clause of the second section of the first article of the constitution of the United States, will, during the present session, receive that deliberate and respectful consideration, which a proposition from such high authority deserves.

The other interesting matters referred to in your Excellency's speech, as they justly merit, they shall receive, our mature consideration and dispassionate examination.

Uniting cordially with your Excellency, in grateful acknowledgements to the Almighty, for the national prosperity with which our country is blessed, permit us to add our assurance, that we will readily support every measure which may appear to us calculated to ensure and advance the welfare and happiness of our fellow citizens.

By order of the Senate,
JNO. BROOME, *President.*
Senate Chamber, Nov. 9, 1804.

ANSWER.

GENTLEMEN,

Accept my warmest acknowledgments for your polite congratulations on my election to the chief magistracy of the state. Aided by your councils, and seconded by your endeavors, which, I am confident will not be withheld as long as they shall be merited, I shall not despair of accomplishing the great ends for which my fellow-citizens have honored me with my present station.

That you attach the same ideas of importance to the various objects recommended to your consideration that they impress on my mind, confirms me in my opinion that I had not mistaken their true character; and the assurances you give of affording them a dispassionate examination, is the sure presage of a happy result.

That the advancement of the public weal, will be the sole object of your exertions, and that your session will terminate honorably to yourselves and advantageously to your country, are events I look forward to with unshaken confidence.

MOR'N LEWIS.

From the London Morning Chronicle.

CONTINENTAL CO-OPERATION.

Nothing can more strongly characterise the unprecedented state of this country, and the singular nature of the present war, than the varying, contradictory, and absurd rumors respecting the intentions of some of the continental powers. They prove how much men feel, when they affect to deny, how little has hitherto been done to produce any impression upon the enemy, or to obtain any purpose for which we went to war. Whether the object of the contest was the reparation of an injury, the maintaining a right, or the establishment of security against extravagant ambition, it is admitted in fact, if not in words, by the ministerial writers, that nothing has yet been done by those who have wielded the strength and directed the efforts of Great Britain, to secure any one of those points. It indeed affords some novelty of matter, some change in the languid uniformity of a defensive system, to turn our attention even to Sweden and Russia for the hope of vigorous efforts, for the chance of reducing the power of France, and raising the security of our empire on the weakness of our enemy, instead of the precarious foundation of parchment treaties. People cannot deceive themselves any longer into the belief that the colonel and his mass of ministers will do any thing to advance the object and to accelerate the conclusion of a glorious war. No, no, that is a delusion too gross for the dullest and the most bigotted partisan. Sickening hope is contented with any change of its diet, and now it is to feed on the expectation that Sweden and Russia are to overturn the throne of the Emperor of the French, and re-assert the rights of Europe! But how can wise men lull themselves with such reveries?

Every day's experience must satisfy the intelligent and reflecting politician, of the entire want of system with which our affairs, particularly in regard to foreign relations, have been conducted. To live from day to day with our eyes completely shut to the future, may be flattering and delightful, while no accident disturbs the thoughtless enjoyment of the hour, because it excludes every thing that shall excite wise fear and prudent precaution. The castle of indolence is indeed for a while a pleasant habitation. But those, who, as public or as private men, live from day to day, will find in the end that they have spent their time without gaining any solid establishment of life. Nor is that the worst, for the moment in which provisions should have been made for the future is lost, and every adverse event finds us unprepared. It certainly is a wonderful thing, that those who admitted that their peace of Amiens was a peace of experiment, and that the state of the continent was "unsatisfactory," did nothing whatever that might contribute to our safety, or to our strength at home or abroad. Another contest, therefore, came upon us wholly unprepared for it. We professed to wage war against the ambition of France, and had made no provision for alliance and co-operation. There was no system whatever in our conduct; and having formed no plan, we have been forced to calculate upon accident. We at first affected to despise the continent. Mr. Pitt's methodists pharisaically exulted that we were not like other nations of the continent, that we were too honest for them. Now people look to the continent, and the bleakest of it too, for a ray of hope. The northern powers will be quite honest enough to receive our money, and the methodists in the Russian trade will have no objection to the benefit of the exchange in remitting it.

It is quite melancholy to see people thus putting their country and its honour upon the hazard of their foolish expectations. They flatter themselves rather that the insolence, the cruelty, the vices of our enemy will fight for us, than that it will be necessary to fight for ourselves.

If there had been any thing concerted in our measures, any thing of foresight in the views of government, would not our ministers have laboured to form and to direct against France a confederacy, upon principles calculated to promote the independence of Europe, instead of merely trusting that we shall obtain a co-operation from the momentary resentment of a court which acts upon principles which it must be extremely difficult for this country to support.

Has any circumstance indicated the slightest disposition of Russia to enter into a contest with France, on views of a common cause for Europe or for us? Does she enter into the war as the ally of England, unjustly attacked and dangerously menaced? Has she said, that the contest between England & France, if it was to involve the destruction of England, was one in which no great European power could be indifferent?

Had she declared, as the powers of the continent, had we stood well with them, ought to have declared, that she would not suffer the existence of England to be brought into question; our government ought, and might have produced such a feeling, towards this country, in the principal states of Europe, as would have made it dangerous for France to avow the intention of extinguishing England, almost forever: for undoubtedly, no event could be more fatal to every other nation in the civilized world. The rest of Europe, however, thinking us in no danger, or careless to our fate, have left us to ourselves, till the petulance of a writer in a newspaper, it seems, is to procure us the support of Sweden and Russia.

It is undeniable that any symptom of hostility to France, which has arisen, has arisen on grounds peculiar to Russia and to Sweden, and there is not the shadow of proof that they would make a common cause for the independence of Europe, or strenuous efforts for England as an ally. There is, at present, no common principle of action between this country and those powers, and their efforts, if they act at all, must be disconnected, partial and inefficient.

We have said that there can be no steady, and no effectual effort made for Europe, on the grand principles of the common interest of Europe and a balance of power by Sweden and Russia—In order to act with decisive effect against France, on the continent, those great continental powers, that from position and from interest are a counterpoise to France, should be brought into action. Great as Russia is, she can only be an auxiliary against France, because she has no point of contact with France. She cannot go to fight France, till she goes as an auxiliary of Prussia or of Austria, in whose dominions she would be sure of assistance, resources or retreat.

She has never acted in the west of Europe, but in that manner—she was the ally of Austria against Prussia, in the seven years war, and then a defeat or severe battle, disposed of her army for a whole campaign, or as the ally of Austria against France, when one defeat annihilated their armies for the campaign, and in its consequences estranged her altogether from the cause. In what other character can she act now? Can she go alone to meet the armies? It is ridiculous to talk of it.

Notwithstanding the pompous enumeration of the Russian forces, (in the manner of that brilliant and solid statesman Lord Castlereagh,) in which they are rated as above 600,000 we have no hesitation in asserting, that no such plan of attack is even in contemplation at St. Petersburgh. It would be frantic in the highest degree, and indeed is attended with so many various difficulties, that it may fairly be accounted impracticable. As to Sweden, her acting or not acting, her nominal war or nominal peace, will produce nearly the same effect to change or improve the state of Europe.

In order to make any impression on France, and to avoid the pernicious consequences of consolidating her power, by partial, ill-concerted attempts to reduce it, no continental schemes should be thought of without Austria or Prussia. Of the latter there is no hope. The former seems altogether disinclined, at the present moment to act, and this proves her policy to be pacific, the more strongly that an opportunity of obtaining the co-operation of Russia now seems to have occurred. But, from this disinclination, it is justly inferred that Austria does not depend on a steady co-operation and effectual support from Russia on the continent.

The state of disunion, jealousy and rivalship, so manifest in the conduct of the continental courts towards each other, is indeed deplorable, and seems to cut off all hopes of limiting a power like France, the policy of which is ascendency, dominion and aggrandizement.—But, if the power of France is to be limited on the continent, it can only be done by a continental war, in which the principal neighbours of France shall take the lead, and it must be conducted on some principal common to all. Hitherto, notwithstanding the motive of union, they have suspected one another as much as they have suspected Bonaparte, and they will continue to do so till their petty interests and petty passions are restrained by the ascendant of a genius, like that which in a former war made an army consisting of thirty different nations act as one man, and turned the counsels of so many different courts into one direction, as much as if they had been the deliberations of a single minister.

These reflections would be unnecessary, were it not evident that the pains of government to draw public attention to vain, crude and impertinent schemes of continental operations, might deceive us with regard to our real situation and prospects. Ministers are conscious that they themselves have done nothing, and cannot even claim any merit from the turn which Russian politics have taken. The event will shew that they are incapable of drawing any advantage from it.

REPORT

Of the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures, to whom was referred, on the twelfth instant, the petition of the President and Directors of the New York and Duchess County Slate Companies, in behalf of themselves and their associates.

REPORT,

The committee of Commerce and Manufactures respectfully submit their report on the memorial of the President and Directors of the New York Slate Companies.

TWO associations of individuals in the state of New York were formed, one in the year 1800, and the other in 1803, for the purpose of exploring and opening quarries of slate within Duchess county in the said state. After expending considerable capital, they state that they have been successful in finding slate of an excellent quality.—This they have brought to market in great quantity, and offer for sale at a reduced price of fifty per cent. They alledge that they are capable of supplying the whole domestic demand for this useful article of building, and could easily furnish slate of various sizes and thickness, for exportation. But they complain of the rivalship and competition of the importers of slate from foreign countries; who, by means of superior numbers and capitals, can without sensible inconvenience submit to temporary losses, undersell the petitioners, and interrupt the regular course of their domestic industry. For the sake of preventing these discouraging embarrassments, they solicit an increase of impost on the importation of slate from foreign parts.

In the preamble to the act "making further provision for the payment of the debts of the United States," passed August 10th, 1790, it is declared that duties were laid on goods, wares and merchandize imported, for the discharge of the debts of the United States, AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF MANUFACTURES. By the first section of that act, slate was charged with a duty of 10 per cent. ad valorem. Afterwards by the act, "for raising a further sum of money for the protection of the frontiers, and for other purposes therein mentioned," passed May 2d, 1792, an additional 2 1 2 per cent. was added; but this ceased at the end of two years by its own limitation. Then again an additional five per cent. ad valorem was laid upon imported slate, by the first section of the "act for laying additional duties on goods wares, and merchandize, imported into the United States," passed June 7th, 1794.

A further impost of 2 1 2 per cent. was laid by the first section of the "act further to protect the commerce and seamen of the United States against the Barbary powers," passed March 25th 1804, upon all goods, wares, and merchandize chargeable with an ad valorem duty. Slate comes within this class of articles. The money collected goes to "the Mediterranean fund;" and this additional 2 1 2 per cent. will not be discontinued until three months after a ratification of a treaty of peace with Tripoli.

Hence it appears that the existing duties on slate, imported from foreign ports, amount to 17 1 2 per cent. if imported in ships or vessels of the United States; and computing the 10 per cent.