NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER,

AND

WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

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FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNUM. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12th, 1804. *PAID IN ADVANCE.*

At a meeting held at Hodskin's Tavern, of the Republican citizens of Alexandria, AMOS ALEXANDER was called to the Chair and RICHARD DINMORE *appointed Secretary.*

IT was *Resolved*, 1st, That as at a town and county meeting, held pursuant to public notice in both the papers, a delegation of six persons, was appointed to meet similar delegates from the county of Washington, now in session in the city thereof, and for the purpose of considering the general interests of the district of Columbia.

Resolved 2d, That the gentlemen elected by the above meeting, as their Delegates possess our entire confidence.

Resolved, 3d, That the meeting called by the Mayor and intended to be held to-morrow, appears to us to originate in party mortification, as the citizens of Alexandria would neither submit to, or tolerate the contemptuous refusal of the council to co-operate with our fellow citizens on the east side of the Potomac.

Resolved, 4th, That as the recession of this part of the district is made a pretence, for calling the contemplated assembly; this meeting is willing to leave it to the consideration of their Delegates, well aware that so important a subject will receive from them due attention.

Resolved, 5th, That any further meeting on subjects already acted upon would be both unnecessary and improper, and that the republicans of Alexandria town and county, therefore will take no part in that proposed, but decline by their absence, sanctioning an assemblage of persons considered by them the offspring of party violence and disappointment.

Resolved, 5th, That the proceedings of this meeting be printed.

AMOS ALEXANDER, Chairman.
Alexandria, Dec. 4, 1804.

At a numerous meeting of the citizens of the town and county of Alexandria, convened at the court house in the said town the fifth day of December, 1804, agreeably to public notice thereof given by the mayor.

ELISHA C. DICK, Mayor, in the Chair,
JOHN HOOF, sec'ry.

The following resolutions were offered, and unanimously adopted—to wit.

1st. *Resolved*, That an American citizen may not be passed away by one sovereign state to another as an article of property, and that the Congress of the United States, who in the exercise of their power are bound to regard as sacred the inestimable principles of American liberty, cannot of right cede and transfer the people of the county of Alexandria, without their consent, to the state of Virginia, or to any other state whatever.

2d. *Resolved*, That a cession of the people and territory of Alexandria county, to the state of Virginia would be injurious to their prosperity and ought not to be made.

3d. *Resolved*, That the foregoing resolutions be communicated in the most respectful manner for the information of Congress by the mayor of Alexandria.

4th. *Resolved*, That the plan of a convention of Delegates at the city of Washington, two to be appointed by each of the cities of Washington, George-Town, and Alexandria, two by the levy courts of each county, and two by the people of each county is unequal and derogates from the essential rights of the people, and that it belonged not to the common council of Alexandria or to the levy court of the county of Alexandria to appoint Delegates to such a convention.

5th. *Resolved*, That the people of the county of Alexandria ought not to have delegates in that convention, but that a certain number of representatives ought to be chosen by the people of the county of Alexandria, with authority to meet certain other persons to be chosen by the people of Washington, as their representatives in assembly, who shall have power to discuss, consider, and propose measures relative to the affairs and concerns of each county.

6th. *Resolved*, That before any measure proposed in assembly shall be considered and reported as the act of said assembly it shall have received the consent and approbation of a majority of the representatives from each county.

7th. *Resolved*, That the inhabitants of Alexandria who are entitled to vote by the charter of incorporation for members of the common council be requested to assemble at their respective wards, at the places heretofore appointed for the purpose of electing members of the common council, on Saturday next, to vote by ballot for five persons to represent the said town in the proposed assembly, and that the inhabitants of the county, not resident within the limits of the corporation, possessing the same qualifications, be also requested to assemble, for the above purpose at such time and place as they may choose, and elect two persons to represent them.

8th. *Resolved*, That the following persons, or any two of them, be appointed to superintend the elections in their respective wards—to wit:—John Muncaster, William Harper, and Aaron Hewes, in the first ward; Andrew Jamieson, George Gilpin and Joseph Riddle in the second ward; John Dundas, Edmund I. Lee and John M'Kenny in the third ward, and Samuel Craig, David W. Scott, and Abel Janney in the fourth ward, who shall make their several returns to the mayor, to be by him compared in the presence of the common council, and the result made known in the public papers.

9th. *Resolved*, That Charles Alexander, Sen. Thomas Darnes and Carlyle F. Whiting, or any two of them, be commissioners to superintend the election out of the limits of the corporation, to be holden also on Saturday next.

10th. *Resolved*, That the delegates appointed at the meeting of the people last week ought not to meet in the convention at Washington, and that their power as delegates to that convention, of whatsoever nature they may be, are hereby revoked, and shall from this day cease.

11. *Resolved*, That the foregoing resolutions be published in each of the counties—and that the chairman of this meeting forward copies to the mayor of Washington and George-Town.

ELISHA C. DICK, Chairman.
(Test,)
JOHN HOOF, Sec'ry.

Speech of Thomas M'Kean to the Legislature of Pennsylvania, delivered December 6, 1804.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and Gentlemen of the house of Representatives,

The constitution of the state, by directing an annual session of the legislature, recognises the policy of frequent enquiries into the operation of the existing system of our laws, and into the means suggested by experience for promoting the welfare of the community. It is our lot however under the auspices of a beneficent Providence to find that whether we view what has been done, or consider what remains to do, there is little to lament in the past, or to apprehend from the future. As a member of the union, Pennsylvania eminently participates in the estimation which the American character has attained abroad, and in the prosperity which the national government has produced at home.—As a distinct commonwealth, her institutions offer ample encouragement to virtue and industry; afford perfect security to person and property; exact from her magistrates the essential qualifications of probity, and wisdom; and confer upon her citizens the inestimable blessings of liberty and order. This scene, the practical developement of the principles of our revolution, every republican must contemplate with gratitude and delight, every patriot will be solicitous to preserve and perpetuate.

The succesful labours of your predecessors having thus, gentlemen, matured the subjects and diminished the cares of legislation, it is our less arduous, though important task to guard with vigilance, prudence and fortitude the palladium of our political and social happiness. The necessities of an expanding population, the varying influence of external commerce, the gradual augmentation of internal wealth, and in short the inevitable vicissitudes of human affairs, will forever claim from the guardians of the public weal a pure and zealous attention. The good works of our ancestors should not be suffered to moulder into decay.—The imperfections of our legal code should be amended with a respectful though steady hand. The charms of novelty should not be permitted so far to fascinate as to give to mere innovation the semblance of reform. And in transacting the business of ages, in framing laws for posterity as well as for ourselves, we shall disregard the precepts of wisdom, interest, and honor, unless we dismiss the desultory passions and prejudices of the day.

Under just impressions of public duty, I am confident, gentlemen, you are now assembled, and in obedience to a constitutional injunction I proceed to communicate more particularly such information of the state of the commonwealth as appears to merit a place in your deliberations.

The affliction to which Philadelphia has been repeatedly exposed, naturally excited a sympathizing interest at the opening of every legislative session for several years; and therefore I derive peculiar pleasure from the present opportunity to announce that the health of our commercial capital has been uninterrupted by any pestilential calamity during the late summer and autumn. The circumspection and firmess of the board of health have undoubtedly contributed in a great degree to prevent and to repel the approaches of disease; and the plans of the board, which are still in operation, will, it is hoped, justify at a period not very distant (at least as soon as the wars of the nations with whom we trade shall terminate) a relaxation in the rigour of the existing law of quarantine. In the mean time a prompt and uniform acquiescence in so severe, but so necessary, a restraint upon commerce affords an additional proof of the public spirit of our merchants.

The commission which issued under the authority of an act of the general assembly to settle the claims of property and commutation, within the seventeen townships of Luzerne county, will soon be brought to a fair, a satisfactory, and a salutary conclusion. The reasons which lead to that conciliatory course of proceeding do not however exist in the case of the lawless attempts throughout the neighbouring country, under a spurious title, to seize the soil, and brave the authority, of the state. It has indeed been intimated that a returning sense of honesty and duty promises to supercede the obligation of enforcing in that quarter obedience to the law by the power of the government; but if this hope is not speedily realized, I shall again press the subject upon your attention, least a longer forbearance should be deemed a dereliction of the right, or an acknowledgement of the imbecility of the commonwealth.

During your recess I have transferred the sum of three hundred thousand dollars of the six per cent. stock of the United States the property of this state, to the Philadelphia bank, in conformity to the act of the fifth of March last.—Fifteen field pieces of brass have been purchased for the militia; and generally the duties devolved upon the executive magistrate by acts of the legislature have been punctually performed. A communication from the governor of Massachusetts transmitting a legislative proposition for an amendment to the constitution of the United States and a communication from the governor of the state of Kentucky relative to the improvement of the navigation of the river Ohio, have been received by me, and will be presented for your consideration.

There are many other subjects upon the journal of the two houses that will undoubtedly engage your attention, but it is incumbent on me to intreat the most favourable interposition of your authority for those cardinal institutions (I mean the courts and the militia) from which principally result the happiness and the independence of the people. It is impossible to add to the sense, or to my former declarations of the sense, that I feel of the necessity to invigorate the administration of justice by a radical change in the organization of the county courts; by an immediate augmentation of the number of the judges of the supreme court and by a consequent abolition of the high courts of errors and appeals. While these improvements are wanting it is unjust to ascribe to any other cause the embarrassment or the clamor of suitors, the delay or the oppression of the laws.

Of the conduct of the militia it would be ungrateful to speak in any terms but those of respect and praise. Exertions more spirited and efficient could not be displayed by individuals aware of the importance of their services, and anxious to merit the confidence of their country. I am persuaded, indeed, that with an adequate pecuniary aid from the public treasury to furnish the necessary equipments & implements of war, Pennsylvania will be ready on every emergency to support the standard of the union with her full quota of armed and disciplined freemen. I will only add on this subject that it rests with you to comply with the requisitions of the act of congress passed the second day of March, 1804.

The act for the inspection of butter exported from the river Delaware is now in succesful operation, permit me to suggest the propriety of subjecting lard to the like inspection, and of extending the law to the river Ohio.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

The proper officers have been directed to exhibit to the legislature an estimate of the expences that were incurred in the course of the current year, to maintain the government and to meet the public engagements; particularly in relation to the compromise with the Pennsylvania patentees of land in the seventeen townships of Luzerne county.—and I am happy to inform you that from a comparative view of those expenses, with the product of our present revenues, it will appear that no auxiliary fund will be necessary.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and Gentlemen of the House of Rrepresentatives,

In manifesting the gratitude we feel for the prosperous condition of our public affairs, nothing can be more acceptable to Divine Providence: nothing more beneficial to our country: nothing more honorable to ourselves than the cultivation of "peace on earth, and good will towards men." In the complete possession of civil and religious liberty as a community, and entitled to equal right of opinion and of action as individuals, we can only endanger or impair the enjoyment of such advantages by indulging petty jealousies, dissentions and feuds.—At this period of republican triumph and splendor, a rational mind can hardly indeed conceive a motive for discontent or animosity: though it trembles at the probable consequences of distrust and disunion (by whatever cause produced) among the genuine friends of American independence. Elevated however, gentlemen, as you are by popular confidence to a station of high trust and responsibility, our fellow citizens justly hope from your wisdom not only a faithful performance of an ordinary task of legislation, but a parental influence to inculcate by precept and example, the principles of mutual deference & respect; so that social and political concord may be permanently established on the basis of a common interest. In this and every other work that you shall undertake for the public good, be assured of my respectful and zealous co-operation.

THOMAS M'KEAN.
Lancaster, December 6, 1804.

National Intelligencer.

MEMORIAL of the Citizens and Inhabitants of the Indiana Territory, praying for the interposition of Congress to relieve them from certain oppressions and embarrassments.

To the Honorable the Senate, and the Honorable the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled.

We, the undersigned memorialists, citizens and inhabitants of that district of the Indiana territory, situate North of an east and west line, extending thro' the southerly bend of lake Michegan, humbly pray the speedy interposition of Congress, in relief of the oppression and embarrassments under which we at present labor, originating in local causes, and which your memorialists endeavored to point out and impress with force, by their petitions, presented to Congress, at their last session, praying for a separate territory. Notwithstanding the unhappy fate which those petitions met with, and the consequent disappointments your memorialists experienced, on failure of their wishes, yet our present situation is too distressing to justify our silence upon a subject of such infinite consequence to the government, to ourselves, and to our posterity.

But one sentiment prevails within this district, upon the expediency as well as necessity of a separate territory; it is but too evident, that upon the success of this single measure, depends the happiness, good order, and prosperity of the citizens of this district, whilst its failure cannot but produce consequences of a serious and alarming nature, tending to all the horrors of outlawry, oppression, and anarchy.

Impressed with a full belief, that our government are desirous of increasing the happiness of the citizen, regardless of the quarter of the union he may inhabit, we are again induced earnestly to solicit Congress, that our situation may not be passed over in silence, but that Congress will, at an early period in the approaching session, take up and reconsider the prayer of your memorialists, presented at the last session, and if possible, and consistent with sound policy, grant to your memorialists a separate, distinct, and independent territory, as prayed for in said memorial, and for the causes therein named.

Did your petitioners conceive it necessary to enumerate new and additional reasons, shewing the expediency of granting their prayers, many might be adduced. One in particular, we beg leave to state, which shews forcibly the impossibility of the present government to extend law to us.

From good authority we state, that in the month of September, A. D. 1803, the legislature of the Indiana territory adopted several laws, altering, amending and repealing those then in force, yet those laws, although adopted more than twelve months past, have never yet been seen in this place, of course have not come into operation in this district; by stating this fact, we do not intend to attach any blame or censure upon our governor, but to demonstrate the impracticability of communicating with the seat of government.

We beg leave further to state, that active measures are now on foot through the territory, for entering upon the second or representative grade of government; this step if succesful, will greatly add to the burthens under which we now labor, by an increase of taxes, without any possible chance of having a proportional degree of benefit.

Your petitioners, therefore, do again renew their prayer, that Congress will erect into a separate territory, that district of land north of the above mentioned line, and grant your petitioners a government, similar to the one contemplated by the ordinance of Congress of 1787, for the organization and government of the late North West Territory. And as in duty bound, will ever pray.

JAMES MAY, and
Others.
Detroit, 24th October, 1804.

REPORT.

In obedience to the directions of the House of Representatives, of the 20th and 21st of November, the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures have had under consideration the petition of THOMAS PARKE *and others in behalf of the* Library Company of Philadelphia, *and the memorial and petition of the board of trustees of the* College of New-Jersey, *by Joseph Bloomfield, their President, and thereupon submit the following*

REPORT.

THE directors of the Library Company of Philadelphia state to the House, that they have lately received a valuable collection of books and prints, bequeathed to their institution by the reverend Samuel Preston, of the county of Kent, in Great Britain, on the importation of which at Philadelphia, the sum of four hundred and ninety-eight dollars and twenty cents is demanded for duties, agreeably to the laws of the United States.

The president of the board of trustees of New-Jersey college informs Congress that after replenishing their library, (which had been destroyed by fire) in part, by donations and purchases of books, they have been obliged to import a large number of books from Europe, on the importation of which, duties have been bonded at New-York, under the laws of Congress, to the amount of four hundred and fifteen dollars and sixty-two cents.

The object of the petitioners, in both instances, is to be exonerated from the payment of duties on their respective importations, and they pray that the bonds given at the custom-house may be cancelled.

It is not within the knowledge of the committee that any duties which have accrued upon any importation whatever have been restored to the importers. To grant exemptions from duty to any institution, or to free any class or body of our citizens from the obligations of their bonds for money due to the United States, would be going beyond what the committee could venture to recommend to the House. "All duties shall be *uniform* throughout the United States," is the peremptory language of the constitution, and the committee are well persuaded, that the petitioners themselves would not, after mature reflection, hesitate to acknowledge, that the constitution is the *paramount* law, and that in granting a privilege to them to import books free of duty, while the right is denied to others, would be a violation of that justice, which is so eminently due to the whole people of the United States, and as, from a late decision of the House, involving the same principle there can be no reasonable expectation, that the petitioners could obtain the exemptions prayed for, the committee recommend that they have permission to withdraw their respective petitions.

[*This report has been agreed to.*]