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SPEECH

Of the Governor of Vermont.

Gentlemen of the Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

As the science of forming and administering a good government, furnishes the means of procuring to mankind the greatest possible degree of happiness, I confidently hope we shall enter on the performance of the great and solemn duties assigned to us by our constituents, with corresponding sentiments of candor and solicitude.—And as a republican government is, for an enlightened and virtuous community, the best which human wisdom has yet devised; it necessarily follows, that its ministers and legislators should consider themselves as the guardians and trustees of the people; to promote whose happiness they should on all occasions exercise their most mature judgment and unbiassed opinion. It is a trust from Providence, for the abuse of which we are highly responsible.

A due regard to considerations of this nature, will secure us against the influence of faction, the rage of party, and the undue exercise of the power committed to our charge. As freedom lies between the extremes of anarchy and despotism, it has, in every country, been impelled in the one or the other direction, by the prejudices and passions of the inconsiderate and ignorant, or the cupidity of the base and unprincipled. If we calmly and impartially recur to the struggles which have been made in the old world, to introduce and maintain free governments, and the successive changes through which they have passed, owing to the perpetual conflicts between wisdom and folly, between patriotism and unwarrantable ambition, we shall resolve them all into the lust of power, and a disposition "studious of change and pleased with novelty."—From all these, we may derive lessons of practical instruction; and realize the truth of that important political maxim —that "no free government can continue long to exist, unless the utmost harmony and most conciliatory spirit pervade its councils."—Rivalship for power produces an abandonment of principle, and ought to be guarded against by the representatives of a free people, as the cause of every species of mischief and misery.

In our local relations, no part of the globe seems to be better situated for the establishment and preservation of rational liberty, than that in which a kind Providence has placed us. Blessed with a fruitful soil, which rewards with abundance the industry of the husbandman; and engaged in commerce only so far as it furnishes the conveniences or elegancies of life, and increases the value of our productive labor, we may live independent of the national policy of Europe, and successfully cultivate the arts of peace and domestic happiness.

To adopt measures the least burdensome and invidious for the support of government;—to provide for an adequate and impartial administration of justice; the support of schools and colleges; the defence of the state, by a well organized and well armed militia; to promote the interests of religion and morality, and secure to industry its lawful acquisitions, comprise your principal duties.

While the path of duty is thus plain, and the public good the great object to which, as virtuous citizens and enlightened statesmen, you will refer all your actions;—I may reasonably draw the pleasing conclusion, that the civil officers for the ensuing year will be appointed without any regard to the wishes or jealousies of men who seek only their own advancement; or combinations of individuals, which are the prolific sources of much mischief, and general discontent. In the most improved state of society, there will always exist a diversity of opinion on speculative subjects; and every good government will adopt such general regulations as will insure, as far as possible, individuals of every shade of opinion, against even the fear of injustice or oppression. It is therefore highly just and expedient, that the civil offices of the state should be filled with men eminent for wisdom, virtue and impartiality.

I have the satisfaction to announce, that the measures taken by the legislature at their last session to ascertain the northern boundary of this state, promise a very valuable acquisition.—Conformably with the power vested in me, by the act for that purpose, I appointed Dr. Williams to ascertain the true divisional line between this state and the province of Lower Canada; which, by a course of astronomical observations made near the ancient monument at Connecticut river, he found to be nearly 14 miles south of the latitude of 45 degrees. At the lake Memphremagog the present divisional line was found to be more than 7 miles south of what it ought to be. From these observations, the result is, that this state has been out of possession (owing to the error in establishing the divisional line) of a tract of land equal to 18 townships. The acknowledged experience and profound science of the person employed for that purpose, warrants the belief, that his observations and calculations are without material error. The report which has been made to me on this subject, together with the map that accompanied it, shall be laid before you. So large a tract of land, which, on the settlement of the line, would probably fall within the jurisdiction of the state, appears to me to be an object worthy of your attention. The object can only be effected by an application to the executive of our national government.

I shall cheerfully and cordially concur in the adoption of every measure which the wisdom of the legislature may suggest, for advancing the happiness of the people, and the dignity and character of the state.

ISAAC TICHENOR.

To the Governor's Speech the House voted the following

ANSWER.

Sir,

We are highly sensible that the duties assigned us by our constituents, are important and solemn. In the performance of these duties, we shall endeavor to promote the happiness of the community we represent, and discharge the high responsibility which we are under at all times, to consult the welfare of the people.

Whatever may be the intrigues of faction, we trust that the decided expression of opinion, made through the medium of elections for several years past, in this, and almost every state in the union, will fully counterbalance its defence, and be a sure pledge in what abhorrence enlightened Americans will hold those who attempt to subvert the constitution and government of our country. And we contemplate with satisfaction, the barrier opposed to the undue exercise of power in this state, by the annual election of its officers—enabling the people, from year to year, to designate what persons possess their confidence, and in what degree they retain it.

With your excellency, we turn our attention to the conflicts which have convulsed the old world. We see a people, who once, like ourselves, commenced a revolution upon the principles of rational liberty, since driven to phrenzy by a conspiracy of kings, and at last, in the pride of victory, establishing a military despotism, formidable to all Europe. We see governments rise on the point of the bayonet, and the rights of the citizen swallowed up in the ferocious ambition of the soldier. But when we recur to our happy country, we see a people exempt from the evils of a standing army, and flourishing under a constitution the most wise and the most free of any upon earth: We see them supporting almost unanimously, an administration which we fully believe does patronize and secure their liberties. With such cause of satisfaction, we shall endeavor to avail ourselves of the advantages, by your excellency pointed out, to promote harmony in our councils, as far as is consistent with that spirit of free enquiry which constitutes the basis of republican government: But we cannot try to avoid these changes which are conformable to our constitution, which are the dictates of wisdom and candid reflection, and which promise perpetuity to the blessings we now enjoy. In the appointment of our civil officers for the ensuing year, we shall endeavor to select from the candidates, those persons whose talents, integrity and attachment to our constitution and government, promise a discharge of their several functions.—And while we protect those who exercise but "an honest diversity of opinion on speculative subjects," we cannot but think that if any should be found who are practically hostile to our excellent constitution and government, their efforts ought not to be assisted by the influence of office.

We learn from your excellency's communication, that measures have been taken, pursuant to the directions of the legislature at their last session, to ascertain the northern boundary of this state; and that it can be established only through the medium of our national government: and from the appearance of the error to be rectified, we are led to believe that the interest of our sister state of New York, may be so far affected by the measure, as to require the co-operation of that state. Whether we would urge the enlargement of this state, at the risk of lessening the state of New-York, and perhaps of the United States, by transferring several settlements on the river St. Lawrence, is a question of the highest importance.

This, with the other objects proposed by your excellency, shall meet our most serious consideration.

To Rent,

AND possession given on the 19th November next, the two story Brick Dwelling House on the corner of F and 11th streets, at present occupied by Mr. Andrew Way. Also a two story brick dwelling houses in a central situation, of which possession may be had immediately. For terms apply to

THOs. HERTY.

Oct 17—3t & wtf

OBSERVATIONS,

Extracted from the Journals of William Dunbar, esq. and Doctor Hunter.

(Continued.)

The water in the river Washita rising, the party are enabled to pass the numerous rapids and shoals which they meet with in the upper country; some of which are difficult of ascent. The general height of the main banks of the river is from six to twelve feet above the level of the water; the land is better in quality, the canes, &c. shewing a more luxuriant vegetation. It is subject to inundation, and shews a brown soil mixed with sand. Near Cache Macon (Maison's hiding place) on the right, they stopped to examine a supposed coal mine; doctor Hunter, and the pilot, set out for this purpose, and at about a mile and a half north west from the boat, in the bed of a creek,* they found a substance similar to what they had before met with under that name, though more advanced towards a state of perfect coal. At the bottom of the creek, in a place then dry, was found detached pieces of from fifty to one hundred pounds weight, adjoining to which lay wood changing into the same substance. A stratum of this coal, six inches thick, lay on both sides of this little creek, over another of yellow clay, and covered by one foot of gravel; on the gravel is eight inches of loam, which bears a few inches of vegetable mould. This stratum of coal is about three feet higher than the water in the creek, and appears manifestly to have been, at some period, the surface of the ground. The gravel and loam have been deposited there since, by the waters. Some pieces of this coal were very black and solid, of an homogeneous appearance, much resembling pit coal, but of less specific gravity. It does not appear sufficiently impregnated with bitumen, but may be considered as vegetable matter in the progress of transmutation to coal.

Below the "Bayau de l'eau Froide," which runs into the Washita from the right, the river is one hundred and seventy yards, flowing through tolerably good land. They passed a beautiful forest of pines, and on the 28th fell in with an old Dutch hunter and his party, consisting in all of five persons.

This man has resided forty years on the Washita, and before that period, has been up the Arcansa river, the White river, and the river St. Francis; the two last, he informs, are of difficult navigation, similar to the Washita, but the Arkansa river is of great magnitude having a large and broad channel, and when the water is low, has great sand banks, like those in the Mississippi. So far as he has been up it the navigation is safe and commodious, without impediments from rocks, shoals, or rapids; its bed being formed of mud and sand. The soil on it is of the first rate quality. The country is easy of access, being lofty open forests, unembarrassed by canes or under growth. The water is disagreeable to drink, being of a red color and brackish when the river is low. A multitude of creeks which flow into the Arcansa furnish sweet water, which the voyager is obliged to carry with him for the supply of his immediate wants. This man confirms the accounts of silver being abundant up that river; he has not been so high as to see it himself, but says he received a silver pin from a hunter, who assured him that he himself collected the virgin silver from the rock, out of which he made the epinglete by hammering it out. The tribe of the Osages live higher up than this position, but the hunters rarely go so high, being afraid of these savages, who are at war with all the world, and destroy all strangers they meet with. It is reported that the Arcansa nation, with a part of the Choctaws, Chickasaws, Shawneese, &c. have formed a league, and are actually gone, or going, 800 strong, against these depredators, with a view to destroy or drive them entirely off, and possess themselves of their fine prairies, which are most abundant hunting ground, being plentifully stocked with buffaloe, elk, deer, bear, and every other beast of the chase common to those latitudes in America. This hunter having given information of a small spring in their vicinity, from which he frequently supplied himself by evaporating the water, doctor Hunter, with a party, accompanied him, on the morning of the 29th Nov. to the place. They found a saline, about a mile and a half north of the camp from whence they set out, and near a creek which enters the Washita a little above. It is situated in the bottom of the bed of a dry gulley. The surrounding land is rich, and well timbered, but subject to inundation, except an Indian mount on the creek side, having a base of eighty or a hundred feet diameter, and twenty feet high. After digging about three feet, through blue clay, they came to a quicksand, from which the water flowed in abundance; its taste was salt and bitter, resembling that of water in the ocean. In a second hole it required them to dig six feet before they reached the quicksand, in doing which they threw up several broken pieces of Indian pottery. The specific gravity, compared with the river, was, from the first pit, or that three feet deep, 1,02720, from the second pit, or that six feet deep, 2,02104, yielding a saline mass, from the evaporation of ten quarts, which, when dry, weighed eight ounces: this brine is, therefore, about the same strength as that of the ocean on our coast, and twice the strength of the famous licks in Kentucky called Bullet's lick, and Mann's lick, from which so much salt is made.

The "fourche de Cadaux" (Cadadoquis fork) which they passed on the morning of the 30th, is about 100 yards wide at its entrance into the Washita, from the left: immediately beyond which, on the same side, the land is high, probably elevated three hundred feet above the water. The shoals and rapids here impede their progress. At noon they deduced their latitude, by observing, to be 30 deg. 11 min. 37 sec. N. Receiving information of another salt lick, or saline, doctor Hunter landed, with a party, to view it. The pit was found in a low flat place, subject to be overflowed from the river; it was wet and muddy, the earth on the surface yellow, but on digging through about four feet of blue clay, the salt water oozed from a quicksand. Ten quarts of this water produced, by evaporation, six ounces of saline mass, which, from taste, was principally marine salt; to the taste, however, it shewed an admixture of soda, and muriated magnesia, but the marine salt greatly preponderated. The specific gravity was about 1,076, probably weakened from the rain which had fallen the day before. The ascent of the river becomes more troublesome, from the rapids and currents, particularly at the "isle du bayau des Roches" (Rock creek island) where it required great exertions, and was attended with some hazard to pass them. This island is three fourths of a mile in length. The river presents a series of shoals, rapids, and small cataracts; & they passed several points of high land, full of rocks and stones, much harder and more solid than they had yet met with.

The rocks were all silicious, with their fissures penetrated by sparry matter. Indications of iron were frequent, and fragments of poor ore were common, but no rich ore of that, or any other metal, was found. Some of the hills appear well adapted to the cultivation of the vine; the soil being a sandy loam, with a considerable proportion of gravel, and a superficial covering of good vegetable black earth. The natural productions are, several varieties of oak, pine, dog wood, holly, &c. with a scattering undergrowth of whortleberry, hawthorn, china briar, and a variety of small vines.

Above the Isle de Malion, the country wears another prospect, high lands and rocks frequently approach the river. The rocks in grain, resemble free stone, and are hard enough to be used as hand mill stones, to which purpose they are frequently applied. The quality of the lands improves, the stratum of vegetable earth being from six to twelve inches, of a dark brown color, with an admixture of loam and sand. Below Deer Island they passed a stratum of free stone, 50 feet thick, under which is a quarry of imperfect slate in perpendicular layers. About a league from the river, and a little above the slate quarry, is a considerable plain, called "Prairie de Champignole," often frequented by buffaloes. Some salt licks are found near it, and in many situations on both sides of this river, there are said to be salines which may hereafter be rendered very productive, and from which the future settlements may be abundantly supplied.

About 4 miles below the "*chuttes*," (falls) they, from a good observation, found the latitude 34 deg. 21 min. 25. 5 sec. The land on either hand continues to improve in quality, with a sufficient stratum of dark earth of a brownish color. Hills frequently rise out of the level country, full of rocks and stones, hard and flinty, and often resembling Turkey-oil stones. Of this kind was a promontory which came in from the right hand, a little below the chuttes; at a distance it presented the appearance of ruined buildings and fortifications, and several insulated masses of rock conveyed the idea of redoubts and out-works. This effect was heightened by the rising of a flock of swans which had taken their station in the water, at the foot of these walls. As the voyagers approached, the birds floated about majestically on the glassy surface of the water, and in tremulous accents seemed to consult upon means of safety. The whole was a sublime picture. In the afternoon of the 3d of December they reached the chuttes, and found the falls to be occasioned by a chain of rocks of the same hard substance seen below, extending in the direction of north east and south west, quite across the river. The water passes through a number of branches worn by the impetuosity of the torrent, where it forms so many cascades. The chain of rock or hill on the left, appears to have been cut down to its present level by the abrasion of the waters. By great exertion, and lightening the boat, they passed the chuttes this evening, and encamped just above the cataracts, and within the hearing of their incessant roar.

Immediately above the chuttes the current of the water is slow, to another ledge of hard free stone; the reach between is spacious, not less than 200 yds. wide, and terminated by a hill, 300 feet high, covered with beautiful pines: this is a very fine situation for building. In latitude 34 deg. 25 min. 48 sec. they passed a very dangerous rapid, from the number of rocks which obstruct the passage of the water, and break it into foam. On the right of the rapid is a high rocky hill covered with very handsome pine woods. The strata of the rock has an inclination of 30 deg. to the horizon in the direction of the river descending. This hill may be 200 or 250 feet high; a border or list of green cane skirts the margin of the river, beyond which generally rises a high and sometimes a barren hill. Near another rapid they passed a hill on the left, containing a large body of blue slate. A small distance above the bayau de Saline they had to pass a rapid of 150 yards in length, and 4 feet and a half fall, which, from its velocity, the French have denominated "La Cascade." Below the cascade there are rocky hills on both sides, composed of very hard free stone. The stone in the bed of the river, and which has been rolled from the upper country, was of the hardest flint, or of a quality resembling the Turkey oil stone. "Fourche au Tigre," (Tyger's creek) which comes in from the right, a little above the cascade, is said to have many extensive tracts of rich level land upon it. The rocky hills here frequently approach the Washita on both sides; rich bottoms are nevertheless infrequent, and the upland is sometimes of moderate elevation and tolerably level. The stones and rocks here met with have their fissures filled by sparry and chrystaline matter.

Wild turkies become more abundant and less difficult of approach than below; and the howl of the wolves is heard during the night.

To the "Fourche au Calfat," (Caulker's creek) where the voyage terminates, they found level and good land on the right, and high hills on the left hand. After passing over a very precipitous rapid, seemingly divided into 4 steps or falls, one of which was at least 15 inches in perpendicular height, and which together could not be less than 5 1-2 feet, they arrived at Elles's camp, a small distance below the Fourche au Calfat, where they stopped on the 6th of December, as the pilot considered it the most convenient landing from whence to carry their necessary baggage to the hot springs, the distance being about 3 leagues. There is a creek about two leagues higher up, called "bayau des sources chaudes," (hot spring creek) upon the banks of which the hot springs are situated at about two leagues from its mouth. The banks of it are hilly, and the road less eligible than from Elles's camp.

On ascending the hill to encamp, they found the land very level and good, some plants in flower, and a great many evergreen vines; the forest oak with an admixture of other woods. The latitude of this place is 34 deg. 37 min. 31. 5 sec. The ground on which they encamped was about 50 feet above the water in the river, and supposed to be 30 feet higher than the inundations.—Hills of considerable height, and clothed with pine, were in view, but the land around, and extending beyond their view, lies handsomely for cultivation. The superstratum is of a blackish brown color, upon a yellow basis, the whole intermixed with gravel and blue schistus, frequently so far decomposed as to have a strong aluminous taste.—From their camp on the Washita to the hot springs, a distance of about 9 miles, the first 6 miles of the road is in a westerly direction, without many sinuosities, and the remainder northwardly, which courses are necessary to avoid some very steep hills. In this distance they found 3 principal salt licks, and some inferior ones, which are all frequented by buffaloe, deer, &c. The soil around them is a white, tenacious clay, probably fit for potters' ware; hence the name of "glaise," which the French hunters have bestowed upon most of the licks, frequented by the beasts of the forest, many of which exhibit no saline impregnation. The first two miles from the river camp is over level land of the second rate quality; the timber chiefly oak, intermixed with other trees common to the climate, and a few scattering pines. Further on, the lands on either hand rise into gently swelling hills, covered with handsome pine woods. The road passes along a valley frequently wet by the numerous rills and springs of excellent water which issue from the foot of the hills. Near the hot springs the hills become more elevated, steeper of ascent and rocky. They are here called mountains, although none of them in view exceed 4 or 500 feet in altitude. It is said that mountains of more than five times the elevation of these hills are to be seen in the north west, towards the sources of the Washita. One of them is called the glass, chrystal, or shining

* Called Coal mine creek.