

No one can be ignorant of the enormous debts of England. The principal treasures of that country flow in from the East-Indies, where Tippoo Saib, it is thought, will finally prove too mighty for them. Should this second Alexander the great succeed in his splendid design of driving the British out of India, the East-India company will become bankrupt. It can be proved that a three years maritime war would drain the Treasury of London to the last farthing; and if a revolutionary spirit should seize the people, universal confusion would be the issue in that Island. The finances of Holland are in but a poor condition. The main sources, that formerly rendered this republic so flourishing, are now dried up; and their East-India company is in a forlorn condition. All their misfortunes arise from the failure of their revolution. In respect to Prussia, her finances are yet in tolerable good order, thanks to the economy of the late King; but his maxims and prudential rules of government are too much neglected by his successor. There are in his treasury about 90 millions of rix dollars, out of which the present state of his affairs will oblige him to expend eighteen millions in less than two years to come; and one more year of war would prodigiously reduce the capital.—The House of Austria must exert the strictest economy to put its finances in any thing of a respectable situation, the war with the Turks and intestine revolutions having a good deal exhausted their treasury. They have re-conquered the Belgic provinces, it is true; but the vast military force they are obliged to keep up in those provinces, consumes, not only the three millions annual tax paid by them, but also a great deal more in addition thereto. The purses of most of the German Princes are empty—Each individual among them counts too much upon his rank as a great sovereign to think of economy in their expenditures.—Upon the whole, a European league of powers against France may be considered as a visionary project, contrived by persons who are ignorant of the real character of the French Nation, and who would wish to compound with us for the enjoyment of certain privileges, and at the same time persuade us to interweave in our New Constitution the seeds of feudal tyranny.

LEGISLATURE of PENNSYLVANIA.  
THE ADDRESS of the SENATE to THOMAS MIFFLIN, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

SIR,  
WE are happy in the information that the measures pursued by the late general assembly have contributed to the welfare of this state; and the satisfaction arising from a consciousness of having endeavored to perform their duty, is the most grateful recompense those concerned in public affairs can receive for their labors.

Amidst the various important subjects contained in your address, we dwell with pleasure on your communications relative to roads and canals, and the consequent probability of an easy and safe communication between the most distant parts of the state, inasmuch as the undertaking of works of such extent and public utility affords an incontrovertible evidence of the wealth of the state, the patriotism of its citizens, and the efficacy of its government. To the completion of these great objects we look forward with a degree of solicitude proportioned to their influence on the public prosperity.

The consideration of the subjects recommended to the notice of the legislature in your address will engage our early attention; and we shall esteem ourselves peculiarly happy, if the result of our deliberations shall meet the approbation of our constituents, and contribute to the happiness of our country.

We cannot refrain, on this occasion, from expressing our sense of the advantages, which have been derived from the diligent and patriotic discharge of the duties of the executive; we assure you, sir, that no exertions shall be wanting on our part to enable you to discharge the constitutional functions of your important station with deliberation and dignity.

By order of the Senate,  
RICHARD PETERS, Speaker.  
Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1791.

A few Copies of the Report of the Secretary of State on the subject of the Cod and Whale Fisheries—may be had at the office, No. 239, High-street.

MONDAY, Dec. 12.

A report was read from the Secretary of the Treasury on the memorial of George Webb.

Petitions of sundry inhabitants of Northumberland county, in Pennsylvania, were read, praying a repeal of that part of the excise act that respects the duty on spirits distilled from the produce of the United States—Referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

A petition of Thomas Smith was read, praying settlement of a claim against the United States for services during the war—Referred to the Secretary at war.

A petition of Gilbert Dench was read, praying reimbursement of monies paid by him during the war, for transporting military stores on account of the United States—Referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

A petition of Charles Hatley, of S. Carolina, was read, praying an exclusive prior right of patent in a machine of his invention for cleaning rice—Referred to the Secretary of State.

A message was received from the President of the United States, by Mr. Lear, his Secretary, relative to the Western Expedition against the hostile Indians, under Gen. St. Clair.

The papers referred to in the message were read, and ordered to lie on the table.

The house then proceeded to consider the amendments proposed by the Senate to the bill for apportioning the representation of the people of the United States according to the first enumeration.

Some progress being made in considering the amendments, the house adjourned before any question was taken thereon.

TUESDAY, Dec. 13.

Petitions of Obadiah Gore, administrator of the estate of Lieut. Timothy Pierce, deceased, and of William Wirtz, praying compensation for services performed, were read and referred to the Secretary at War.

A petition of John Frederick Amelung, proprietor of the glass manufactory at New-Bremen, in the state of Maryland, was presented to the house and read, praying the patronage of Congress to his undertaking, and that government will assist him with a loan of money, or other means to further the same.

A memorial of James Wilson and others, in behalf of the land companies of the Illinois and Oubache, was presented to the house and read, praying to be permitted to exhibit the titles of the companies to certain western lands, heretofore purchased by the said companies under the sanction of lawful authority; and also to make certain proposals for a reasonable compromise between them and the United States.

The said memorial was referred to Mess. Livermore, Fitzsimons & Clarke.

A message in writing was received from the President of the United States, by Mr. Lear, his Secretary, as follows:

United States, Dec. 13, 1791.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives.

I PLACE before you the plan of a City that has been laid out within the district of ten miles square, which was fixed upon for the permanent seat of the government of the United States.

G. WASHINGTON.

A message from the Senate was delivered by Mr. Secretary Otis, giving information, that they had passed (with certain amendments) a bill, sent to them from the house, "for the relief of D. Cooke and T. Campbell," and requesting the concurrence of the house in the said amendments.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, and proceeded to the consideration of the amendments proposed by the Senate to the re-creation bill; and after some debate, disagreed to the first, by which it was proposed to alter the ratio of representation—and agreed to the other, which is merely a verbal alteration.

The committee having risen, and made their report, the house adjourned.

The following message from the President was on Monday presented by his Secretary, Mr. Lear, to both Houses of the Legislature of the United States.

United States, Dec. 12, 1791.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

IT is with great concern that I communicate to you the information received from Major-General St. Clair, of the misfortune that has befallen the troops under his command.

Although the national loss is considerable, according to the scale of the event, yet it may be repaired without great difficulty, excepting as to the brave men who have fallen on the occasion, and who are a subject of public as well as private regret.

A further communication will shortly be made of all such matters as shall be necessary to enable the Legislature to judge of the future measures which it may be proper to pursue.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Fort-Washington, October 6, 1791.

SIR,

I Have now the satisfaction to inform you that the army moved from fort Hamilton, the name I have given to the fort on the Miami, on the 4th at eight in the morning, under the command of General Butler. The order of march and encampment I had regulated before, and on the third returned to this place to get up the militia. They marched yesterday, and consist of but about three hundred men, as you will see by the enclosed abstract of the muster. I have reason to believe, however, that at least an equal number will be up here by the 10th, and I have left orders for their following us. The monthly return should have accompanied this letter, but it was not ready when I left camp, and has not been forwarded since. I have hitherto found it impossible to reduce the officers commanding corps to punctuality with respect to their returns, but they are mending. Our numbers, after deducting the garrisons of this place and fort Hamilton, are about two thousand, exclusive of the militia. I trust I shall find them sufficient; and should the rest of the militia come on, it will make the matter pretty certain. But the season is now so far advanced, that I fear the intermediate posts, which would indeed have been highly necessary, it will be impossible to establish: in that, however, I must be governed by circumstances, of which I will take care that you shall be apprized in due time. Should the enemy come to meet us, which seems to be expected, and be discomfited, there will be no difficulties; but if they expect us at the Miami villages, the business will wear another face, and the intermediate posts become more essential.

I am this moment setting out for the army, which I hope to overtake to-morrow evening, and will write to you as soon after as may be.

With great regard and respect,

I have the honor to be,

Sir, your very humble servant,  
ARTHUR St. CLAIR.

The Honorable

Major-General KNOX,  
Secretary of War.

Camp, 31 miles advanced of fort Washington,  
Nov. 1, 1791.

SIR,

SINCE I had the honor to write to you on the 21st instant, nothing very material has happened, and indeed I am so unwell (and have been so for some time past) that I could ill detail it, if it had happened,—not that that space of time has been entirely barren of incidents; but as few of them have been of the agreeable kind, I beg you to accept a sort of journal account of them, which will be the easiest for me.

On the 22d, the indisposition that had hung about me for some time, sometimes appearing as a bilious cholic, and sometimes as a rheumatic asthma, to my great satisfaction changed to a gout in the left arm and hand, leaving the breast and stomach perfectly relieved, and the cough which had been excessive, entirely gone. This day Mr. Ellis, with sixty militia from Kentucky, joined the army, and brought up a quantity of flour and beef. 23d, Two men, taken in the act of deserting to the enemy, and one for shooting another soldier and threatening to kill an officer, were hanged upon the grand parade, the whole army being drawn out. Since the army have halted, the country round this and a head for fifteen miles has been well examined: It is a country, which had we arrived a month sooner in it, and with three times the number of animals, they would have been all fat now. 24th. Named the fort Jefferson (it lies in lat. 40. 4. 22. N.) and marched, the same Indian path serving to conduct us about six miles, and encamped on good ground and an excellent position—a rivulet in front, and a very large prairie, which would at the proper season afford forage for a thousand horses, on the left. So ill this day that I had much difficulty in keeping with the army. 25th, Very hard rains last night—obliged to halt to-day on account of provision; for though the soldiers may be kept pretty easily in camp under the expectation of provisions arriving, they cannot bear to march in advance and take none along with them. Received a letter from Mr. Hodgson by express; 13000 wt. flour will arrive on the 27th. 26th, A party of militia sent to reconnoitre, fell in with five Indians, and suffered them to slip through their fingers: in their camp, articles to the value of twenty-two dollars were found and divided. The Virginia battalion is melting down very fast; notwithstanding the promises of the men to the officers, thirteen have been discharged by colonel Darke to-day. 27th, Gave

orders for enlisting the levies, with the condition of serving out their time in their present corps. Pyramingo arrived in the camp with his warriors: I was so unwell, could only see him and bid him welcome, but entered on no business. Considerable dissatisfaction among the levies about their enlistments. 28th, Some clothing sent for to fort Washington for the recruits arrived, was begun to be distributed, and will have a good effect; but the enlisting the levies does not meet with the encouragement that might have been expected: it is not openly complained of by the officers, but it is certainly privately by some of high rank, and the measure of tempting them with warm clothing condemned. Mr. Hodgson writes me that he is sending forward a quantity of woolen overalls and socks by General Butler's orders: I have ordered them to be deposited at fort Jefferson. Some few Indians about us, probably those the militia fell in with a day or two ago. Two of the levies were fired upon about three miles off, one killed: two of the militia likewise, one of them got in, and the other missing, supposed to be taken. 29th, Pyramingo and his people, accompanied by captain Sparks and four good riflemen, gone on a scout; they do not propose to return under ten days, unless they sooner succeed in taking prisoners and scalps. 30th, The army moved about nine o'clock, and with much difficulty made seven miles, having left a considerable part of the tents by the way; the provision made by the quartermaster for that purpose was not adequate—three days flour issued to the men to aid the horses that carried it to his arrangements; the Indian told still with us—the course this day N. 25. W. 31st, This morning about sixty of the militia deserted—it was at first reported that half of them had gone off, and that their design was to plunder the convoys which were upon the road—detached the first regiment in pursuit of them, with orders to major Hamtramck to send a sufficient guard back with Benham whenever he met with him, and follow them about twenty-five miles below fort Jefferson, or until he met the second convoy, and then return and join the army. Benham arrived last night, and to-day Nov. 1st, the army is halted to give the road-cutters an opportunity of getting some distance ahead, and that I might write to you—I am this day considerably recovered, and hope that it will turn out what I at first expected it would be, a friendly fit off the gout come to relieve me from every other complaint.

Yesterday I was favored with yours of the 28th and 29th September, I have enclosed my communications with the old and new contractors, and their answers—My orders for the posts to them are not yet definite, but they will be very soon, in the mean time I expect they are both at work.

With great respect I have the honor to be,  
Sir, your most obedient servant,  
ARTHUR St. CLAIR.

The Honorable

Major-General KNOX,  
Secretary of War.

Fort Washington, Nov. 9, 1791.

SIR,

YESTERDAY afternoon the remains of the army under my command got back to this place, and I have now the painful task to give you an account of as warm and unfortunate an action as almost any that has been fought, in which every corps was engaged and worsted, except the first regiment—that had been detached upon a service I had the honor to inform you of in my last dispatch, and had not joined me.

On the third instant the army had reached a creek about twelve yards wide, running to the southward of west, which I believe to have been the river St. Mary, that empties itself into the Miami of the lake; arrived at the Miami village, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, having marched near 9 miles, and were immediately encamped upon a very commanding piece of ground in two lines, having the above mentioned creek in front. The right wing composed of Butler's, Clark's and Patterson's battalions, commanded by major-general Butler, formed the first line, and the left wing consisting of Bedinger's and Gaither's battalions, and the second regiment commanded by lieutenant-colonel Darke, formed the second line, with an interval between them of about seventy yards, which was all the ground would allow. The right flank was pretty well secured by the creek, a steep bank and Faulkner's corps; some of the cavalry and their piquets covered the left flank. The militia were thrown over the creek, and advanced about one quarter of a mile and encamped in the same order. There were a few Indians who appeared on the opposite side of the creek, but fled with the utmost precipitation on the advance of the militia. At this place, which I judged to be about fifteen miles from the Miami village, I had determined to throw up a slight work, the plan of which was concerted that evening with major Ferguson, wherein to have deposited the men's knapsacks, and every thing else that was not of absolute necessity, and to have moved on to attack the enemy as soon as the first regiment was come up; but they did not permit me to execute either—for on the 4th, about half an hour before sunrise, and when the men had been just dismissed from the parade (for it was a constant practice to have them all under arms a considerable time before day-light) an attack was made upon the militia—those gave way in a very little time, and rushed into camp through major Butler's battalion, which, together with part of Clarke's, they threw into considerable disorder, and which, notwithstanding the exertions of both those officers, was never altogether remedied, the Indians following close at their heels. The fire, however, of the first line