

that the withdrawal of a favor, the grant of which manifested so strongly the attachments of the U. S. far from justifying the resentments which have been expressed in consequence of it, can only be attributed to the solicitude of the American government to render perfectly unexceptionable its observance of that neutrality which it professes to maintain.

It has been shown unequivocally to have been the opinion of the contracting parties, that the treaty of commerce of the 6th of Feb. 1778, did not give to either, being at war, a right to sell its prizes in the ports of the other being at peace. It is not pretended that this is one of the rights accruing without special stipulation under the laws and usages of nations.

It is not then a right at all. If granted it is a voluntary favor. But a voluntary favor essential in the prosecution of the war if granted by a neutral to one belligerent power, and of necessity refused to the other, affords to that other at least a more plausible pretext for complaint than has been given by any other act of the government of the United States. What in such a situation would have been the language of France? Would this republic permit a neutral nation not bound thereto by any obligation whatever, to allow in its ports as a voluntary favor, the sale of prizes made on French citizens, while the same favor was of necessity denied to the cruisers of France?

It is believed that such an use of neutrality would not be permitted, and the undersigned felicitate themselves and their country, that the government they represent has never intentionally given to this republic any cause of dissatisfaction as serious as this would have been.—You will not fail to observe, citizen minister, that this heavy accusation, when analyzed, is nothing more than the refusal of a mere favor on the part of the American government, the grant of which might have been dangerous to itself, might have drawn it from that neutral station which it is its duty to observe and which favor France had previously, in the most explicit terms, declared its determination not to grant under similar circumstances to the U. S.

2d. Your second allegation is "that the journals known to be indirectly under the control of cabinet, have redoubled their invectives and calumnies against the Republic, its Magistrates and its Envoys; and that pamphlets openly paid for by the Minister of G. Britain have reproduced, under every form those insults and calumnies without having ever drawn the attention of the Gov. to a state of things so scandalous, and which it might have repressed."

The genius of the Constitution and the opinions of the people of the United States cannot be overruled by those who administer the Government. Among these principles deemed sacred in America; among these sacred rights considered as forming the bulwark of their liberty, which the Government contemplates with awful reverence, and would approach only with the most cautious circumspection, there is no one of which the importance is more deeply impressed on the public mind than the liberty of the press. That this liberty is often carried to excess, that it has sometimes degenerated into licentiousness, is seen and lamented; but the remedy has not yet been discovered. Perhaps it is an evil inseparable from the good with which it is allied: perhaps it is a shoot which cannot be stripped from the stalk, without wounding vitality the plant from which it is torn. However desirable those measures might be which might correct without enslaving the press, they have never yet been devised in America. No regulations exist which enable the Gov. to suppress whatever calumnies or invectives any individual may choose to offer to the public eye; or to punish such calumnies and invectives, otherwise than by a legal prosecution in courts which are alike open to all who consider themselves as injured. Without doubt this abuse of a valuable privilege is matter of peculiar regret when it is extended to the government of a foreign nation. The undersigned are persuaded, it never has been so extended with the approbation of the gov. of the U. S. Discussions respecting the conduct of foreign powers, especially on points respecting the rights and interests of America, are unavoidably made in a nation where public measures are the result of public opinion, and certainly do not furnish cause of reproach; but it is believed that calumny and invective have never been substituted for the manly reasoning of an enlightened and injured people, without giving pain to those who administer the affairs of the union. Certainly this offence, if it be deemed by France of sufficient magnitude to be worthy of notice, has been confined to this Republic. It has been still more profusely lavished on its enemies; and has even been bestowed with an usurping hand on the Federal Government itself.

Nothing can be more notorious than the calumnies and invective with which the wisest measures and the most virtuous characters of the U. S. have been pursued and traduced. It is a calamity incident to the nature of liberty, & which can produce no serious evil to France. It is a calamity occasioned neither by the direct or indirect influence of the American Government. In fact that Government is believed to exercise no influence over any press. You must be sensible, Citizen Minister, with how much truth the same complaint might be urged on the part of the U. S. You must know well what degrading and unworthy calumnies against their Government, its principles, and its officers, have been published to the world, by French journalists, and in French pamphlets. That Government has even been charged with betraying the best interests of the nation, with having put itself under the guidance of, nay more,

with having sold itself to a foreign court. But these calumnies, atrocious as they are, have never constituted a subject of complaint against France. Had not other cases infinitely more serious and weighty, interrupted the harmony of the two Republics, it would still have remained unimpaired, and, the mission of the undersigned would never have been rendered necessary. (To be concluded in the next Gazette.)

The Alien Act.

[PASSED JUNE 22, 1798.]

SECT. 1. BE it enacted, &c. That it shall be lawful for the President of the United States at any time, during the continuance of this act, to order all such aliens as he shall judge dangerous to the peace and safety of the United States, or shall have reasonable grounds to suspect are concerned in any treasonable or seditious machinations against the government thereof, to depart out of the territory of the United States, within such time as shall be expressed in such order—which order shall be served on such alien, by delivering a copy thereof, or leaving the same at his usual abode, and returned to the office of the Secretary of State, by the marshal or other person to whom the same shall be directed. And in case any alien so ordered to depart, should be found at large within the United States, and after the time limited in such order for his departure, and not having obtained a licence from the President to reside therein, or having obtained such licence, shall not have conformed thereto, every such alien shall, on conviction thereof, be imprisoned for a term not exceeding three years, and shall never after be admitted to become a citizen of the U. States.

Provided always, &c. That if any alien so ordered to depart, shall prove to the satisfaction of the President, by evidence to be taken before such person or persons as the President shall direct, who are for that purpose hereby authorized to administer oaths, that no injury or danger to the United States, will arise from suffering such alien to reside therein, the President may grant a licence to such alien to remain within the United States for such time as he shall judge proper, and at such place as he shall designate. And the President may also require of such alien to enter into a bond to the United States, in such penal sum as he may direct, with one or more sufficient sureties to the satisfaction of the person authorized by the President to take the same, conditioned for the good behaviour of such alien during his residence in the United States, and not violating his licence—which licence the President may revoke whenever he shall think proper.

SECT. 2. That it shall be lawful for the President of the United States, whenever he may deem it necessary for the public safety, to order to be removed out of the territory thereof, any alien who may or shall be in prison, in pursuance of this act; and to cause to be arrested and sent out of the United States such of those aliens as shall have been ordered to depart therefrom, and shall not have obtained a licence as aforesaid, in all cases where, in the opinion of the President the public safety requires a speedy removal. And if any alien, so removed or sent out of the United States by the President, shall voluntarily return thereto, such alien, on conviction thereof shall be imprisoned so long as, in the opinion of the President, the public safety shall require it.

SECT. 3. That every master, or commander of any ship or vessel which shall come into any port of the United States after the first day of July next, shall immediately on his arrival make report in writing, to the collector or other chief officer of the customs of such port, of all aliens, if any, on board his vessel, specifying their names, age, the place of nativity; the country from which they shall have come, the nation to which they belong and owe allegiance, their occupation, and a description of their persons, as far as he shall be informed thereof, and on failure, every such master or commander shall forfeit and pay three hundred dollars—for the payment whereof on default of such master or commander, such vessel shall also be holden, and may by such collector or other officer of the custom be detained. And it shall be the duty of such collector or other officer of the customs, forthwith to transmit to the office of the department of State, true copies of all such returns.

SECT. 4. That the circuit and district courts of the United States, shall respectively have cognizance of all crimes and offences against this act—And all marshals and other officers of the United States, are required to execute all precepts and orders of the President of the United States, issued in pursuance or by virtue of this act.

SECT. 5. That this act shall continue and be in force for and during the term of two years from the passing thereof.

[This law now being in force, it is the duty of every man to come forward, when in his power, and assist in rendering it effectual to preserve the internal peace of the country, and to frustrate the projects of its external enemies.—There are vast numbers of ALIENS, who are of a character something more than suspicious. There are many Frenchmen who have had, and who yet have, shares in privateers. Those persons, and even those who harbour them, and are intimate with them, should be pointed out to the government, either by a communication to the Attorney General, or in the public papers.—But, the Aliens from Great Britain and Ireland are still more dangerous, particularly those from Great Britain.—Those are villains that understand the trade of sedition as well as any shoe-maker understands his trade, after a seven years apprenticeship.]

THE GAZETTE.

Portland.

American Independence.

Last Wednesday was celebrated the anniversary of our National Birth. Much may be said on this occasion; but the voluntary feelings of the heart, cannot be expressed. The universal festivity of the day, while it augurs favorably to our country, will serve to dismay and confound our enemies. Long may the God of wisdom preserve in us that spirit of union, which blasts the hopes of intriguers, and is a sure bulwark against invasion—Long may the undaunted spirit of Americans secure that independence which they dared to assert in the face of every danger, and to support during a long and dubious contest. This anniversary renews the pledge of fidelity to the nation and government. It should be considered as no ordinary transaction—no trifling occasion of unmeaning mirth: but as the laudable patriotism of a great and insulted people, reminding each other of their former vows, and adding another clause, in support of the sovereignty and independence of the Western Empire.

Prompted by similar sentiments, the inhabitants of this town observed the day in a manner becoming freemen; and every action declared

"That never shall the sons of COLUMBIA be slaves,
While the earth bears a plant, or the sea rolls its waves."

The welcome morn was ushered in with the thunder of our cannon—the display of our flags—and the ringing of bells. The pleasure inspired by the day, reflected from each countenance. The voice of discord was not heard—all was harmony, harmony, and joy.

The Portland Artillery, commanded by Capt. Weeks, ever ready to display their patriotism, performed the military honors of the day, much to their own credit, and the gratification of the spectators.

The Oration was unfortunately omitted, by the absence of the Rev. Mr. Warren, who was chosen orator of the day.

The inhabitants assembled at the Columbian Hall, where they were joined by the judges, &c. of the Supreme Court; and, forming a procession, were escorted by the Artillery, to the Assembly hall, at which place they partook of a sumptuous entertainment, prepared by Mr. Graffam.—Nathaniel F. Fildick, Esq. presided at this festival of reason.

After dinner, the patriotic song of "Adams and Liberty," was sung by Mr. Fildick, with a spirit and justice to its noble sentiments, that entitled him to a share of the applause.—The subsequent toasts were then received with that approbation which is now attached to every thing federal. Several other songs were sung.—Let it be said to the honor of the day, that nothing Frenchified was admitted.

1. THE DAY, which gave birth to American Independence:—May its anniversary be commemorated, till the great globe itself is buried amidst the ruins of nature.

2. JOHN ADAMS, President of the United States:—May his life be as precious in the sight of heaven, as it has been useful and ornamental to the world.

3. CONGRESS:—May they evince the excellence of Representative Government.

4. THE PEOPLE and the GOVERNMENT of the United States:—One in principle, and undivided in energy, may they crush the serpent of foreign influence.

5. The illustrious FARMER of Mount Vernon: May the name of WASHINGTON, strike terror into the hearts of the enemies of America.

6. The AMERICAN NAVY:—May the pride of the nation inspire it with a principle of honor that will render it invincible.

7. The AMERICAN ARMY:—Like the needle to the magnet, may it always leap to the point of invasion or insurrection, and settle to its proper pole when the danger is past.

8. The AMERICAN ARTILLERY:—May it fall victorious in the face of every invading foe.

9. INCREASE SUMNER, Governor of Massachusetts: As his virtues command our highest veneration, may they meet grateful returns from his fellow citizens.

10. The GENERAL COURT of Massachusetts: Considered as an example through the Union, may they never forget the immense consequence of their well earned reputation.

11. CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY, JOHN MARSHALL and ELBRIDGE GERRY: Faithful to excellent instructions, and having nobly vindicated the insulted honor of their country, may the return from a triumph of candor & justice, over meanness and villany, and read their eulogy in every American face.

12. Agriculture and Commerce: Like twin-sisters may they live and thrive together.

13. The Arts and Sciences: May their light dispel the prejudices of the human mind, as the rays of the sun disperse the shades of night.

14. ETERNAL DEATH and OBLIVION to JACOBINISM!

(A thunder of applause shook the hall for minutes.)

15. GOOD GOVERNMENT: which we have painfully acquired, and deliberately modified.

16. The DAUGHTERS of COLUMBIA:—May their smiles beam on those only who defend the sovereignty and honor of their country.

VOLUNTEERS, after the Court retired.

The Supreme Judicial Court: Every pleasure to it, which can result from the universal belief, that ours is a government of Laws and not of Men.

The Militia of the United States: May they rally round the standard of their country in the hour of danger, and bravely repel her foes, or nobly perish in the attempt.

TIMOTHY PICKERING, Secretary of the United States: Shame and chagrin to his calumniators.

The Star of Liberty, that arose in the west: May it never set until the last day.

The American Eagle: May he ever preserve his plumage; his wings their full length of feather; may the glory which surrounds him never suffer the delicacy of his crown to be sullied.

"Freeport, July 5.

"The people at large, who have hitherto spent little of their time in the celebration of independence, are now rallying round its standard in proportion as they discover its dangers.

We were unwilling to put the President to the trouble of reading and answering an address at this busy season of his affairs. But we met yesterday to encourage each other, and pledge ourselves to our country and its government in the present dangers.

The artillery company in uniform paraded; an oration was pronounced by the Rev. Mr. JOHNSON, and after dinner the usual number of Federal toasts were given, with firings, cheers, and patriotic songs.—As a specimen of our sentiments, we select the following toasts and song:

The PRESIDENT. May his eloquence and authority long support that independence, for which he was the first to speak in the Congress of '76.

TIMOTHY PICKERING; and all those who have assisted our councils of peace, in or out of office.

Our ENVOYS extra. to France. May their cordial reception at home compensate them for their unpleasant situation abroad.

Our infant NAVY. May it be nursed by the cares and resources of the country, till our insulted flag shall ride respected in all the seas.

WASHINGTON forever.

SONG.

Composed and sung by Mr. BURRILL.

Guardians of our nation, stand firm in your station;
While Europe is all in commotion;
We'll let the world see that America's free,
Our flag shall ride safe on the ocean.

Since France doth aspire to set us on fire,
And fill our Grand Court with distraction,
Then firm let us be, united and free,
In spite of proud France and of faction.

We'll ne'er have a king, tho' of ADAMS we'll sing,
And chant to our children his story;
We'll let the world see Columbia is free,
And fight for our country and glory.

Our Navy shall ride on the ocean so wide,
With all the proud billows in motion,
No tyrant shall dare his ensigns to rear,
And pirates shall fly from the ocean.

The pirates of France, have dar'd to advance
To our seas, and the mouths of our harbours;
But Frenchmen shall see our States will be free,
We'll clear all our coasts of such robbers.

Now let us unite to stand for our right,
And protect our commerce from plunder:
Their rovers at sea, shall begin now to flee,
When Ganges discharges his thunder.

"New Gloucester, July 5.

"The inhabitants of this town, anxious to express their federalism, and love of country, met yesterday (July 4) at the Traveller's Repose Tavern, to celebrate the anniversary of American Independence. The day was ushered in with the discharge of musketry by some volunteers who turned out on the occasion, and the American flag was displayed, for the first time, to evince our respect for the American commerce.—A decent collation was prepared, and the day spent in rational mirth and festivity. A general joy pervaded the whole scene; and all seemed to renew