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FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

HISTORY

OF THE LAST SESSION OF CONGRESS.

[CONTINUED.]

On the 11th of February, the electoral votes for President and Vice-President of the U. States were opened in the Senate chamber, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives; when it appeared that Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr had each 73 votes; John Adams 26 votes, and C. C. Pinckney 64 votes.

In obedience to the provisions of the Constitution the House of Representatives immediately repaired to their own Chamber, and proceeded to ballot for electors, the ballots being confined to Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr, who were equal in vote and the two highest on the list.

The first ballot gave 9 votes to Mr. Jefferson, 8 to Mr. Burr, and two were divided. It followed that no election was made as an absolute majority of all the votes was requisite to make a choice.

On the 24th ballot 104 members voted 53 for whom voted for Mr. Jefferson, and 49 for Mr. Burr.

According to pre-established rules the House had determined to permit no interrupt in the ballot until election had been closed.

Eight ballots were given, the result the vote, previously to a P. M. when it was agreed to suspend the most ballot at 12 o'clock, when the house, after a short separation, was resumed, and ballots were repeated, with like results, until 9 A. M. of the next day, no separation having taken place during the night.

The falter of the members during this nocturnal sitting, increased by the want of regular repose, had such an effect upon the animal spirits of many of them that the floor of the chamber of the house was strewn with individual availing themselves of the interval between the ballots to recruit their strength, or endeavoring to keep themselves in the seat of readiness to support a continuance of the present painful scene, the occasion for which was reciprocally feared on both sides of the house.

At 9 o'clock A. M. of Thursday, however, the house, having taken 27 ballots, agreed to suspend the next ballot till 12 noon; which, being ineffectually taken, a separation took place till Friday at 11 A. M. On Friday two ballots were taken, the results till continuing the same. On Saturday, three ballots, terminating in a similar manner, were taken. On Monday following the 24th ballot was taken, result the same.

On Tuesday the 17th of February the 26th ballot was taken; when it was announced that Thomas Jefferson was elected President, the ballots of 10 States being for him, viz. those of Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Four States verified in their votes for Mr. Burr, viz. Rhode-Island, New-Hampshire, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

And two States, viz. South-Carolina and Delaware, voted by blank ballots.

Thus terminated in a manner propitious to the reign of domestic tranquillity, an event, during its issue, excited the deepest national feeling. A mighty struggle had been made by contending parties, the friends of Mr. Adams's administration had brought into the political field their undivided strength, which the result of the electoral vote demonstrated to be inferior to that of the republican interest, which had triumphantly nominated Mr. Jefferson to the presidency, and Mr. Burr to the vice presidency. Owing to a defect in the Constitution, which forbore to discriminate between the two candidates, the House of Representatives became possessed of the nominal right to choose either. The federal tide of the House, from motives which

have never been developed, determined to vote for Mr. Burr in preference to Mr. Jefferson. It has been alleged that the object was to defeat the election of both; in which event it was contemplated to create a legislative President. It would perhaps be unjust to ascribe this motive to the party collectively, as it would be to withhold it from some of its leading members. The idea was avowed. The republicans, from one end of the union to the other, without concert, formed one opinion, and announced one common resolution. They declared, that, obedient to the constitution, they would acquiesce in the election of either Mr. Jefferson or Mr. Burr; but that they would oppose, if necessary, by every argument which should, in any event, be attempted. The determination, when first it was indicated; but by irrefragable and overwhelming reasons the pro-franchise party spirit forth sprang from the precipice it had reached, and permitted the voice of the people, previously expressed in the most unambiguous manner, ultimately to prevail.

On the 18th of February the house of Representatives appointed a committee, consisting of five members, all of whom were republicans, to report such measures as it would be proper to adopt to accommodate the President elect. The committee reported that of the sum previously appropriated there remained unexpended about 60,000 dollars, which in their opinion would be adequate to all necessary accommodation. When this report was taken into consideration, it was strenuously opposed by Messrs. Harper, Gales and Bayard, who contended that the sum remaining unexpended was entirely incommensurate to the accommodation of the President in his new apartments. Mr. Harper observed that though the president's household was neither too large nor too elegantly furnished, yet the furniture was by no means fitted to it. He therefore moved an additional appropriation of 50,000 dollars.

This motion was opposed by Messrs. Nicholas, S. Smith, Vanmum, and Mason, who were of opinion that the sum in hand would be quite sufficient to insure that the mode of life which the manner of living of the president required. Mr. Mason observed that for his part he saw no more occasion for furnishing a house for the president than for the heads of departments; it is the president who is to live in 25,000 dollars a year was quite sufficient to enable him to do so, if he could not live upon that sum, he could not upon any. Fifty-five thousand dollars had been already appropriated for the purchase of furniture.

In the course of the debate, it was further remarked that though the money applied to the accommodation of Mr. Adams had been expressly appropriated to the providing household furniture, yet a different construction had frantically been put on the law, as in the inventory of articles remaining on hand, was to be seen an item of seven horses and harness, and even a marble wagon together with harness. The motion of Mr. Harper was, left, and the report of the committee unopposed, prevailed.

On the 26th of February the H. of Representatives took up a bill for the navy re-establiishment. Both sides of the house concurred in the propriety of a considerable reduction of the existing forces, but differed in the degree to which it should be carried. Propositions to place on half pay all the dismissed officers and to continue the marine corps entire, came from the federal side of the house, but were rejected, the first proposition by a majority of one, and the second by a majority of 13.

After undergoing several modifications the bill passed both houses. It reduced the sailing force, which consisted of 97 vessels, to 13 frigates, viz. 5 of 44 guns, and 8 of 36 guns, which were directed to be kept in a state of readiness for service; 3 of 36, 2 of 32, and 3 of 24, which were directed to be laid up, and to be stored in all the other vessels should be, if required the continuance of 9 captains, 3 lieutenants, and 150 midshipmen, who are to have only half pay when not actually employed in service.

Previously to this reduction, Congress had appropriated 500,000 dollars for the expenses attending 6 frigate years, and for completing navy yards, docks and wharves.

By the provisions of this act an immediate annual saving to the United States of nearly two millions of dollars was effected, independent of the proceeds of the sales directed to be made. In many respects this measure may be viewed as the most important of the session, not only liberating the Treasury from an encumbrance, which required the imposition of heavy taxes, but it gave a check to the rapid growth of a habit of extravagance, by the experience of other countries denominated as unlimited expense and dangerous of management; and while this measure brought with it immediate benefit to the community, it was considered as a pledge of other radical economical reforms.

TRANSLATION.

Declaration of war of the King of Spain against the Queen of Portugal.

FROM THE MADRID GAZETTE.

MADRID, 31 March.

The King has been pleased to address to His Councils the following decree:—

"I formerly had peace with the French Republic, it was one of my first cares to facilitate to their Powers the same advantage, having more particularly in mind those with which France I found myself connected by the ties of blood; and the republic offered to admit my good offices, and to accept of my mediation for Portugal. From that period I have employed repeated and active endeavours to procure an advantageous peace for Portugal, conformably to the resolution in the late Treaty which I have kept in view, and to the necessity in which the King of a tranquil administration. In this, besides the duty end which I more immediately proposed to attain, the advantage of Portugal had in view the inflicting her from England, and separating her from a Country, to whom she was to be valuable from her maritime position, and thus compelling, besides, that Country to withdraw its forces, to whom she is all Europe, and which the absolute prohibitions had apparently overcome the republic, which the Portugal and England governed by that of London, had always shown an accommodation with the Republic, and their Discontentaries in Paris signed in the year 1797 a more advantageous Treaty than could have been expected in the relative situation of the two Countries. However, England, feeling that it stretched out of her hands an instrument so useful to her ambitious views, re-emboldened and abusing the credulity of that Cabinet, with ideas of criminal aggrandizement, made it take the extraordinary resolution of withdrawing its ratification, thus frustrating my hopes, and forgetting that it was to yield as well as what was due to my high mediation."

From that time the Conduct of that Government from a more marked character, and not contented with furnishing me, England, with all the means in its power to attack me and my ally, the French Republic, its delirium has even gone so far as to injure diversely my subjects and to offend my dignity by a perfidious refusal to ratify my salutary Councils. Thus has all Europe seen its Ports ceaselessly become the life of the Enemy's Squadron, and the advantage of a nation from which their cutters might probably exercise hostility against my vessels and those of my ally the Republic. Portuguese fleets united with those of the enemy have been performing parts of a perfidious refusal to give them the transport of provisions, and aiding them in all their operations of war against me. We have seen their officers, and crews of their ships of war inflicting French citizens in the very port of Cadiz, and the Court of Portugal function with proceedings by refusing to give

proper satisfaction; in Ferrol they committed similar outrages against my own subjects. The harbours of Portugal are become public markets for Spanish and French prizes made on their very coasts and in sight of their Forts by the enemy's privateers, nay, their admiralty even contemns prizes which my subjects have taken on the high seas and have carried into their ports for sale. My ships of war have met with a cold reception in their ports. In the late Campaign Portuguese soldiers have committed outrages against my peaceable subjects, firing on and wounding them in time of war, without the Portuguese Government having shown any marks of disapprobation. In a word, Portugal it may be said, has under the mask of friendship, acted hostily against my Kingdoms in Europe and the Indies, and the evidence of her conduct differs with a reference to the multitude of facts which might be cited in support of the charge.

And what has been my conduct in the midst of so many outrages! I the French Republic, and with well founded indignation, desired to take a just satisfaction, and her sense, every where victorious, would on a thousand occasions, have spread delusion throughout her provinces, if my fraternal regard for her, my voice, only fought to Portugal, to peace by gentle means, to prevent her in her lively colors the dangers to which she was exposed, and to employ, in the defence of my hearts the interesting language of fraternal love and of the most sincere friendship to attain that object.

The obliquity of Portugal obliged me, in the sequel, to assume a more allying style, and with well founded indignation, with threats of my anger, and with resolutions which ought to have been reflected, I thought to bring her back to her true and just position. But the court of Lisbon, always deaf to my voice, only sought to gain time, making idle promises, sending over and over again plenipotentiaries without power, or with limited ones, protracting the business, and referring to all the miserable subtleties of a false and unsteady policy. The blindness of the prince renews his evasions for as to call the King of Great Britain his ally, in a letter which he addressed to me—thus forgetting what he had pledged to the faculty of his ties with me, and the respect due to my person, and thus calling an alliance that which in truth was nothing more than an indecent abuse of the faculty of which England has acquired over him.

Under such circumstances, having exhausted every means of gentleness—having completely acquiesced myself of all the duties of a just prince, injured in their person and my affection for the prince of Portugal, I have availed of the inability of further efforts, and finding that the prince rejected his fidelity to his royal word, given on various occasions respecting peace, and had thus compromised my fidelity to France, and also to gratify my enmity, England—I thought that a further acquiescence would be incoherent with the welfare of all people, injured in their person by an unjust aggressor, would be a forgetfulness of my own dignity, neglected by a King, who sought to break the respect of all people, injured in their person by an unjust return, which had no other end, French republic, which had no other end, except a vengeance for repeated injuries in front, a contradiction to their principles of justice, which regulated my conduct as sovereign. Now, therefore, I have finally resolved to return to the painful extremity of war. I was desirous, for my part, to renew my propositions to her, but she refused to do so, and accordingly I have very unambiguously declared to her my intentions, which she has refused to accept of. I have, with the different result of this protracted negotiation, reprinted