NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER,

AND

WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

WASHINGTON CITY, PRINTED BY SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. No. CCCXLV.

LLS. PER ANN. FRIDAY, JANUARY 5th, 1803. PAID IN ADVANCE.

RNOR MONROE'S
LETTER
TO THE
F THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES OF
IRGINIA.

ond, *December* 6, 1802.

ting of the General Affem-
ch fo aufpicious to the pub-
, cannot otherwife than be
ful to the members who
In making the following
on, I derive much fatisfac-
furvey of the objects which
ttention. In the affairs of
d of the United States, in
member of the union, as
the fame family, we are
efled, there is much caufe
ourfelves on the bleffings
w enjoy, and to entertain
nfidence that they will long
to us.
efs of the public buildings
as in a great meafure veri-
diction that was made of it
ffion. The jail or peniten-
which before that period,
fubfervient to all the objects
tion, is now almoft finifh-
anufactory of arms in that
mbraces mufkets, fwords,
is advanced nearly to the
The edifice has been long
the interior of the front and
finifhed. The foundery for
been neceffarily poftponed
nt. This part of the infti-
gh very important, appear-
urgent than that which was
the manufactory of fmall
as deemed a primary object
with thefe, fince the infan-
ftrength of every army, and
a comprizes the mafs of the
he foundary however may be
he courfe of the next year.
any portion of the building
ation to admit it, a fuitable
rtifts who had been previ-
d, were called into fervice
ufactory commenced. This
obferved fince. Some dif-
ally attend new eftablifh-
ially of this kind, in their
nt, which yield to the in-
nowledge of the agents af-
put in motion. Such have
n felt on the prefent occa-
helefs the experiment made,
a refult as favorable, as our
ation fuggefted. A num-
ete ftands are made of the
In comparing them with
s of other countries, which
hofe moft diftinguifhed for
e are led to conclude, that
all equal to any. I fubmit
the Superintendant, of the
uildings, the fum requifite
them, the number of arms
eir coft per ftand, alfo the
ublic warehoufe in this ci-
intended as a depofitory for
ple of our country.
I prefume, be otherwife
factory to our conftituents,
ion of fuch vaft importance
comnenced and advanced
o maturity, under their
The firft of thefe, the
fyftem is founded in a
though not unknown, was
er reduced to practice, in
t and with like advantage in
hemifphere. It was referved
and free governments of the
r thofe of the United States,
nciples it is peculiarly cha-
make a fair experiment of
nt fyftem; a fyftem which
er any circumftances an
lation of a fellow citizen:
tes the doctrine, that in
mes, the fociety or rather
nt ought not to indulge the
enge: that makes example
t being fanguinary: that
rmation in the correction
—I am happy to add that
xperiment has gone, it has
wifdom of the policy which
By a report of the keeper
the number of criminals
fent to the jail by the dif-
fince the inftitution was efta-
not, on a comparifon of terms
ncreafed of late: that not one
ifcharged from confinement
een returned to it; that fe-
were difcharged had acquired
nduftry and ufeful trades:
ly had efcaped, and that or-
rved without feverity.
er eftablifhment, the manu-
ms, though founded apparent-
te principles, is neverthelefs, in

the prefent ftate of the world, of the utmoft importance to fociety. While war is a practical fcience, and the deftruction of the human fpecies, an ordinary purfuit of the ambition of moft powers, we ought not to prefume that we fhall be at all times exempt from its calamities. Our diftance and love of peace are not a fufficient fecurity to us. Where powerful navies and armies are kept in fervice they muft be occafionally employed, however flight the pretext. Inaction gives time for reflection, which is unfriendly to eftablifhments, the more burthenfome and oppreffive, while they are apparently ufelefs.

A defencelefs ftate invites to infult and invafion, and no fituation is fo much fo, as that of a people unarmed. The experience of our revolution fufficiently demonftrated that we ought not to rely on obtaining a fupply of arms from foreign countries. An independent nation fhould always poffefs within itfelf the means of its own prefervation. It is an improvident, indeed a criminal overfight, to leave to hazard the obtaining objects of fuch vital importance. It is fometimes the policy of other countries to prohibit the exportation of arms altogether; this might happen at a period of the greateft emergency to us.—At no time will they difpofe of any but the refufe of their arfenals, fuch as were probably taken in war from different nations, old, variant in caliber and inferior in quality. Happily our manufactory promifes at no very diftant period of time, if it is purfued with vigor, to put us in a ftate of defence by arming the whole of our militia, and furnifhing fupplies for our arfenals. A reliance on this refource is the more patriotic and expedient, as it will call into fervice our own artifts, and create a demand for our own materials, fuch as iron, coal and other articles.

To carry thefe inftitutions to the greateft degree of perfection of which they are capable, it may be deemed worthy the wifdom of the legiflature to revife them, and introduce into each fuch amendments as experience fuggefts the propriety of adopting. The judges of the general court have turned their attention to the criminal law, and will, I am taught to believe, prefent to the legiflature, through this department, in the courfe of the feffion, their fentiments on this fubject. No perfons are fo capable of judging correctly of the merit of any fyftem as thofe, who, being employed in the execution, are in the daily habit of witneffing its effect. And by no perfons can opinions be given, efpecially on fuch a fubject, which are entitled to fo much confideration as from the enlightened, patriotic, and virtuous judiciary of our country. I therefore take the liberty to refer the legiflature to the propofed communication from that department, for fuch remarks as are applicable to the penitentiary fyftem. With refpect to the manufactory of arms, two ideas occur which I think proper to fubmit to your confideration. It is important that the artifts fhould remain uninterrupted at their labour. The care of the building, of the inftruments, materials and arms depofited there, require their continued prefence. If incorporated with other militia corps the ordinary duties would take them away and leave thefe objects expofed to danger. It is fubmitted whether it might not be proper to form themfelves into a diftinct corps, under its own officers, fubject to the order of the executive alone? Such a corps always embodied as this would be in effect, would contribute much to ftrengthen the police of the town, while it would add to the fecurity of the public property in it. The other idea contemplates an improvement in the œconomy of the inftitution, without affecting the product. It is important to carry it on with the leaft poffible expence to the public; it is equally fo to diffufe a knowledge of the art of making arms throughout the community. Both thefe objects may be obtained by inftructing the youth if an opportunity is furnifhed for the purpofe. It may happen that a fufficient number of young men may offer their fervices there, as the reward of their inftruction; but as that may not be the cafe, may it not be expedient to promote the object by legiflative provifion? It is the duty of the overfeers of the poor in the feveral counties, by a wife and humane provifion of the law, to take charge of orphans, who are otherwife unprovided, and bind them for certain terms to fuitable perfons, to be inftructed in ufeful trades. Might it not be proper for the legiflature to direct the attention of the overfeers, in the difcharge of that duty, to this inftitution? If fuch an arrangement is found eligible in other refpects, it cannot be doubted, that it would promote effentially the fpecial objects that are propofed by it.

The important object of arming the militia according to law, has been purfued in the mode which was communicated to the legiflature at the laft feffion. The tranfportation by water is preferred in all cafes where it leffens the expenfe. The counties are arranged into diftricts, in reference to fome town or other place of depofit in each, where agents are appointed, who receive the arms deftined for the regiments in fuch diftricts, and forward them to their refpective commandants. But as the legiflature with a view to fofter our infant manufactory, wifely prohibited the purchafe of more arms, at its laft feffion, the number fince diftributed is comparatively inconfiderable. It confifts only of fuch as were apportioned among the feveral regiments at that time. In the interim the executive has endeavoured to haften as far as circumftances permitted, the delivery of the arms already contracted for, which is nearly accomplifhed. I fubmit a return of thofe diftributed or fubject to diftribution under a former apportionment; of thofe depofited in the public arfenal in this city; and of thofe which are yet to be received by contract. Suppofing that a knowledge of the attention which had been paid to this great national object by the other ftates, would be fatisfactory, and even ufeful to the general affembly, I take the liberty to annex a communication which I have received from the Secretary of War on the fubject. The legiflature will, I am perfuaded, find in it much caufe to commend the wifdom and patriotifm of fome of our fifter ftates, who have already armed the greater part of their militia; much caufe to approve the meafures which have been taken here in purfuit of the fame policy.

In compliance with a refolution of the 10th of February 1800, authorifing the executive to appoint commiffioners to meet fuch as might be appointed on the part of Tenneffee, to fettle the boundary between the two ftates, that truft was committed, by the advice of the council, to Gen. Jofeph Martin, Creed Taylor and Peter Johnfton, of which information was given in due time to the Governor of Tenneffee. It is underftood, that in conformity to a previous arrangement between them, a meeting of the commiffioners took place at Abingdon on the firft Monday in October laft, and that they entered on the execution of the important duty affigned them. I have not fince heard from our commiffioners, but have no doubt that they will fettle the boundary in queftion on principles of juftice, in a manner that will prove honorable to themfelves and fatisfactory to the legiflature, and in time to report the refult to the prefent feffion.

Soon after the rifing of the laft Affembly I tranfmitted to the Governor of Maryland a copy of the refolution of the 26th of January laft, on a propofition of that ftate, to appoint commiffioners to fettle its weftern and fouthern boundary with this commonwealth. I alfo informed him that the Executive was authorifed and prepared to appoint commiffioners for the adjuftment of the weftern boundary of that ftate, it being reprefented that it was not defignated with fufficient accuracy; but that as the fouthern boundary was fo diftinctly marked and well known, and had been fo long eftablifhed and acquiefced in by both ftates, the General Affembly thought it confiftent with its duty to poftpone a decifion on fo much of the propofition as refpected that object, until a ftatement of the nature and extent of the claim of Maryland was received and duly confidered, which I requefted he would be pleafed to communicate to me for your information. The Governor did not hefitate to tranfmit the document requefted, but declined proceeding to the adjuftment of the line to which our powers extended, and in confequence the Executive took no ftep on its part in reference to the object. A copy of the ftatement of the claim of Maryland and of my correfpondence with the Governor accompanies this communication.

I have the pleafure to fubmit to the General Affembly reports from the Prefident and Directors of the feveral companies inftituted for the improvement of our interior navigation, ftating the progrefs which has been made in it by each fince your laft feffion. By thefe reports you will perceive that this bold and ufeful undertaking continues to be purfued with activity and zeal by thofe to whom it is entrufted: that the work is advanced in every branch, and in refpect to the principal rivers nearly accomplifhed. After removing the great and more durable obftacles in the James and Potowmack (in which latter we have a joint intereft with our fifter ftate of Maryland) from their falls almoft to their fources, the attention of the Directors has been turned to fuch as are occafional, arifing more efpecially from rare and extraordinary droughts, for which they are providing remedies, by contracting and deepening the beds of the rivers, which cannot fail to produce the defired effect. A profit has accrued on the tranfportation of produce and other articles on thefe rivers, which was fubject to diftribution, and in the cafe of James river, has been diftributed among the ftock-holders: but in that of the Potowmack, where the impediments referred to were greater, the Directors, in the true fpirit of the undertaking, feemed difpofed to prefer the application of it to the more important object of the affociation, the greater improvement of the navigation. The demonftration is however fatisfactory, that according to the fums depofited, it will become a very productive fource of revenue.

Due attention has been paid to the act of the laft feffion, which propofes to open a road from the upper navigation of James to that of Kanawha river. Andrew Moore, John Prefton and Samuel Vance were appointed commiffioners to view the country between the head waters of thofe rivers, and report the moft convenient route for the propofed communication. Thefe gentlemen have been fome time engaged in that interefting duty, and will I am perfuaded execute it with the judgment and propriety that was expected from their appointment. Their report will be prefented to the Legiflature as foon as it is received.

I fubmit to the General Affembly a return of the militia of the Commonwealth, comprifing the infantry, cavalry and artillery. The ftrength of the infantry is believed to be about 75,000, the cavalry 3,000, and the artillery 2,000. The returns however are incomplete, although due exertions have been made to obtain them. It is proper to add that the deaths of Major General Morgan and Meade, very meritorious officers of our revolution, and the removal of Major General Clarke to the ftate of Kentucky, have created vacancies in their refpective offices, which the Legiflature will have to fupply. I alfo fubmit a ftatement from the Auditor of public accounts, of the receipts and expenditures of the public revenue for the laft year, ending on the firft of October 1802, with a lift of balances due from public collectors.

By this view of the objects which claim your attention, it appears that the affairs of the commonwealth are in a regular courfe of increafing profperity.

Its interfering claims with other ftates are in a train of fair and amicable adjuftment. Its laws in thofe cafes which are a fubject of this communication, feem to be directed to proper objects, and to produce their defired effect. Too much commendation however cannot be beftowed on the wifdom of thofe meafures which tend to facilitate, by means of canals and roads a communication between the eaftern and weftern parts of the commonwealth. It is a courfe of proceeding which is due to the intereft of our weftern brethren, if it was prompted by no other confideration. Our weftern fettlements, efpecially thofe beyond the Alleghany mountain, are comparatively in an infant ftate, and require the foftering hand of the government. Their diftance from navigation, fubjects them to difadvantages which ought to be remedied in all cafes where it is practicable. By fuch improvements the Legiflature anticipates the wants and fatisfies the juft claims which a part of the community has upon the whole. An enlarged policy never fails to produce a correfpondent effect in the bofom of a juft and generous people; while it is the invariable and well merited fortune of a narrow and felfifh one, to counteract its object and throw things into confufion. But the good effect of thefe meafures will not be confined to our weftern brethren. It will be felt equally by thofe on the eaftern waters, and in many refpects by the United States.

It is important to the towns and counties in this quarter, that the bulky and valuable productions of the weftern country fhould find market here.—It is equally fo that the bond of union between the feveral parts of the ftate fhould be made as ftrong as poffible; and it is certain that no fyftem of policy can be devifed, fo effectually to accomplifh that end, as one, which by facilitating the communication and promoting the intercourfe between the citizens in every quarter, connects them together by the ftrong ties of intereft, acquaintance and affection. What the weftern part of this ftate is to the commonwealth, the weftern ftates and territory are to the union. They are important parts of a great whole whofe rights and interefts merit the protection which they receive. They comprize a fertile country whofe population is rapidly encreafing, whofe productions will be vaft, and military force very refpectable. The acceffion which that country will make to the commerce, navigation and political importance of the United States, when it obtains its juft meafure of population, and equal ftation in the union is incalculable. It is highly expedient therefore to ftrengthen the bond of union between the weftern and Atlantic ftates, in all cafes where it is practicable, by a juft, a generous and foftering policy. It lies without the fcope of this communication to purfue the fubject farther. I thought it my duty to advert to it fo far as it was connected with that before you, the beneficial effect of the improvements referred to will be felt throughout the whole extent of the weftern country, and in the degree, on the principle above ftated, by the United States. The advancement of the intereft of the union by a ftate, is at all times not only a legitimate but a patriotic motive of action. It is one to which I truft the General affembly of this commonwealth will always give its fanction.

If you turn your attention to the affairs of the United States you will I am perfuaded find equal caufe of fatisfaction. So completely and happily is our fyftem of union incorporated, that although the national government is organized on principles entirely diftinct from and independent of ftates, yet as it acts on the people who compofe the ftates, we are affected by its meafures and deeply interefted in its fortunes. The national profperity or adverfity conftitutes that of the members which compofe the nation. On a view of what has occurred fince your laft feffion, I am happy to have it in my power to add, that I confider our fituation under that government effentially improved, in many points that are intimately connected with the public welfare. The military force is diminifhed without endangering our fecurity: the internal taxes are repealed fome of which were burthenfome and vexatious, without hazard as we have reafon to believe, to the public faith; the adminiftration of juftice is placed on an eligible and œconomic footing: our amicable relations with foreign powers are preferved with dignity and effect: our liberty is cherifhed; and what is alfo very important, there has taken place in the public mind, a degree of tranquility and peace which are highly conducive to the public happinefs. Thefe meafures have a tendency to reft the government on the people, by whom, and for whofe benefit it was founded. A ftrong military force, heavy taxes, and extenfive patronage, are contrary to the fpirit of free government and often prove the means of fubverting it. Circumftances may fometimes require a recourfe to fuch expedients, but the urgency fhould be great and apparent to juftify it in any cafe, and they fhould be difpenfed with as foon as the occafion ceafed. The ftrength of free government confifts in that of the people, in their population, their patriotifm, their ability and promptitude to difcharge all the duties which the public exigencies demand. Whenever the government collects a force or otherwife acquires an artificial ftrength, diftinct from and independent of the people, there is juft caufe for apprehenfion and alarm; lefs it is admitted, in thefe ftates than elfewhere, yet principles are eternal and ought never to be loft fight of.

The United States occupy an extenfive and important fection of the globe, happy in its foil, its climate, and diftance from the old world. With a population already confiderable, which encreafes with an unexampled rapidity, we are deftined to be a great people, and if we are not the moft blind and worthlefs of mankind, we muft be a happy one. Our political inftitutions are in many refpects new, and carried, efpecially in government, to greater perfection than was ever known before. More fortunate than Greece or Rome, we enjoy a greater portion of true liberty, than exifted under thofe celebrated republics of the ancient world, while by means of a better organization we are exempt from the turbulence and anarchy to which they were fubject.—More fortunate than monarchies of ancient or modern times, our governments poffefs their greateft energy, with a degree of liberty which is incompatible with the hereditary fyftem. Protected by the union, the bulwark of our fafety, let us unite, on found principles, in exertions to confirm our republican fyftem, to amend its defects where it has any, and to encreafe the fpirit of harmony fo neceffary to the welfare of focieties and the happinefs of individuals.

In my communication to the General Affembly at the laft feffion, I took the liberty to recommend to its attention fome defects in exifting laws on importan