(By Authority.)

AN ACT

Respecting claims to land in the territories of Orleans and Louisiana.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That so much of the first section of the act entitled "An act for ascertaining and adjusting the titles and claims to land within the territory of Orleans and the district of Louisiana," as provides that no incomplete title shall be confirmed, unless the person in whose name the warrant or order of survey had been granted, was at the time of its date either the head of a family, or above the age of twenty-one years, be and the same is hereby repealed.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That any person or persons, and the legal representative of any person or persons, who, on the twentieth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and three, had for ten consecutive years, prior to that day, been in possession of a tract of land not claimed by any other person, and not exceeding two thousand acres, and who were on that day resident in the territory of Orleans or Louisiana, and had still possession of such tract of land, shall be confirmed in their titles to such tract of land: *Provided,* That no claim to a lead mine, or salt spring, shall be confirmed merely by virtue of this section: *And provided also,* That no more land shall be granted by virtue of this section, than is actually claimed by the party, nor more than is contained within the acknowledged and ascertained boundaries of the tract claimed.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the claim of the corporation of the city of New-Orleans, to the commons adjacent to the said city, and within six hundred yards from the fortifications of the same, be, and the same are hereby recognised and confirmed: *Provided,* That the said corporation shall within six months after passing this act, relinquish and release any claim they may have to such commons beyond the distance of six hundred yards aforesaid: *Provided also,* That the corporation shall reserve for the purpose, and convey gratuitously for the public benefit to the company authorised by the legislature of the territory of Orleans, as much of the said commons as shall be necesary to continue the canal of Carondelet from the present basin to the Mississippi, and shall not dispose of, for the purpose of building thereon, any lot within sixty feet of the space reserved for a canal, which shall forever remain open as a public highway: *And provided also,* that nothing herein contained, shall be construed to affect or impair the rights of any individual or individuals to the said commons, which are derived from any grant of the French or Spanish government.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That the commissioners appointed or to be appointed for the purpose of ascertaining the rights of persons claiming land in the territories of Orleans and Louisiana, shall have full powers to decide according to the laws and established usages and customs of the French and Spanish governments, upon all claims to lands within their respective districts, where the claim is made by any person or persons, or the legal representative of any person or persons, who were on the twentieth of December, one thousand eight hundred and three, inhabitants of Louisiana, and for a tract not exceeding the quantity of acres contained in a league square and which does not include either a lead mine or salt spring, which decision of the commissioners when in favor of the claimant shall be final, against the United States, any act of Congress to the contrary notwithstanding.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That the time fixed by the act abovementioned, and by the acts supplementary to the same, for delivering to the proper register or recorder, notices in writing and the written evidences of claims to land, be, and the same is hereby extended, for the territories of Orleans and Louisiana, till the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and eight, and persons delivering such notices and evidences shall be entitled to the same benefit as if the same had been delivered within the time limited by the former acts; but the rights of such persons as shall neglect so doing within the time limited by this act, shall, so far as they are derived from or founded on any act of Congress, ever after be barred and become void, and the evidences of their claims never after admitted as evidence in any court of law or equity whatever.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That the commissioners appointed or to be appointed for the purpose of ascertaining the rights of persons claiming lands in the territories of Orleans and Louisiana, shall respectively transmit to the secretary of the treasury and to the surveyor general, or officer acting as surveyor general, transcripts of the final decisions made in favor of claimants by virtue of this act, and they shall deliver to the party a certificate stating the circumstances of the case, and that he is entitled to a patent for the tract of land therein designated, which certificate shall be filed with the proper register or recorder, within twelve months after date. And the register or recorder shall thereupon (a plat of the tract of land therein designated, being previously filed with him or transmitted to him by the officer acting as surveyor general in the manner hereinafter provided,) issue a certificate in favor of the party, which certificate being transmitted to the secretary of the treasury, shall entitle the party to a patent to be issued in like manner, as is provided by law for the issuing of patents for public lands lying in other territories of the United States.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That the tracts of land thus granted by the commissioners shall be surveyed at the expence of the parties, under the direction of the surveyor general, or officer acting as surveyor general, in all cases where an authenticated plat of the land as surveyed under the authority of the officer acting as surveyor general under the French, Spanish, or American governments respectively, during the time either of the said governments had the actual possession of the said territories of Orleans and Louisiana, shall not have been filed with the proper register or recorder, or shall not appear of record on the public records of the said territories of Orleans and Louisiana. The said commissioners shall also be authorised whenever they may think it necessary to direct the surveyor general, or officer acting as such, to cause any tract of land already duly surveyed to be resurveyed at the expence of the United States. And the surveyor general, or officer acting as such, shall transmit general and particular plats of the tracts of land thus surveyed to the proper register or recorder, and shall also transmit copies of the said plats to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, That the commissioners aforesaid shall respectively report to the secretary of the treasury their opinion on all the claims to land within their respective districts, which they shall not have finally confirmed by the fourth section of this act. The claims shall in the said report or reports be arranged into three general classes, that is to say: first, claims which in the opinions of the commissioners ought to be confirmed in conformity with the provisions of the several acts of Congress, for ascertaining and adjusting the titles and claims to land within the territories of Orleans and Louisiana; secondly, claims which though not embraced by the provisions of the said acts, ought nevertheless in the opinion of the commissioners to be confirmed in conformity with the laws, usages, and customs of the Spanish government; thirdly, claims which neither are embraced by the provisions of the said acts, nor ought in the opinion of the commissioners to be confirmed in conformity with the laws, usages, and customs of the Spanish government; and the said report and reports being in other respects made in conformity with the forms prescribed according to law, by the secretary of the treasury, shall by him be laid before Congress for their final determination thereon, in the manner and at the time heretofore prescribed by law for that purpose.

Sec. 9. And be it further enacted, That the following allowances and compensations, shall be made to the several officers hereinafter mentioned, that is to say, to the principal deputy of the surveyor general, for the district of Louisiana, at the rate of five hundred dollars a year, from the time he entered into the duties of his office, in addition to the fees which he is entitled to receive by law. To the register of the western district of the Orleans territory, and to the clerk of the board of commissioners for that district, one thousand dollars each, for their service as commissioners and clerk respectively, during the year one thousand eight hundred and six. To each of the deputy registers of the territory of Orleans, five hundred dollars in full, for their services subsequent to the first day of January last, in addition to the fees to which they are legally entitled. To each of the commissioners at the rate of two thousand dollars a year; to each of the clerks of the boards, and to each of the agents employed by the secretary of the treasury, at the rate of fifteen hundred dollars a year, and to each of the translators, at the rate of six hundred dollars a year, to commence from the first day of July next, in the district of Louisiana, and from the first day of January next, in the territory of Orleans, and to continue to the time when each board shall be respectively dissolved: *Provided,* That no more than eighteen months compensation be thus allowed to the said commissioners, clerks, and translators, and that the compensation of any such officer absenting himself from his district or failing to attend to the duties of his office, shall cease during such absence or failure.

NATHL. MACON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

S. SMITH,
President of the Senate, pro tempore.

March 3, 1807.

APPROVED,

TH: JEFFERSON.

NOTICE.

THIS is to give notice, that the subscriber Shromerset county in the state of Maryland hath obtained from the Orphans' Court of Worcester county in said state, letters of administration, with the will annexed, on the personal estate of Joseph Bounce, late of Worcester county aforesaid deceased—All persons having claims against the said deceased are hereby hereby warned to exhibit the same with the vouchers to the subscriber at or before the 1st day of September next, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate.

Given under my hand this 10th February 1807.

LEVI PELLITT, Adm'r of Joseph Bounce.

February 26—UG6t

ORLEANS LEGISLATURE.

ANSWER

Of the Legislative Council of this Territory to the Governor's Speech.

Sir,

The Legislative Council have listened with due attention to the address delivered by your excellency to the general assembly.—They are happy to hear that you have had occasion to convince yourself that the different districts under your government, contain a population highly estimable for their virtue and industry, and that you have found the territory in a flourishing state. But the legislative council partake your anxiety on its future destinies, and your astonishment as to the cause which threatens to trouble its tranquility. It is indeed difficult to believe that in the bosom of a government, the most free that exists on earth, plots, the success of which must be fatal to liberty, should have been formed. If, however, it be true, that the ambitious and depraved men, who have conceived such criminal projects, have found proselytes, the legislative council are convinced that it was not among the inhabitants of this territory; and that notwithstanding the dissatisfaction which they ever manifested openly when they thought themselves aggrieved, there is no perfidy nor treason to be apprehended from them by the general government.—If they do not yet possess all the privileges enjoyed by the American citizen, they already set so much value on the rights which have been granted to them, that their late privation of those rights, in the present stormy circumstances, has created among them the most serious alarm.

The legislative council think as your excellency, that in the critical situation in which we now stand, the session of the general assembly must not and cannot be long. The tranquility necessary to legislative deliberations, does not exist amidst warlike preparations. The council, however, is of opinion that it will be requisite to dispatch the most urgent matters; amongst which are, the amendments to the militia law, and the alterations to be made to the judiciary system in the several districts of the territory.

It will probably be found impossible to proceed during this session, to the examination of the civil code, which a committee of the legislature, aided by two jurisconsults, have been authorized to prepare; but recommendation must be given to the committee to continue that important work, which according to their report, is far advanced. The legislative council agree with your excellency in the opinion that the preservation of the civil laws, now existing in this territory, is all-essential to the security of property and to the tranquility of the citizen; but your excellency need not apprehend that the general assembly will ever attempt to revive any law which would tend to bar the introduction of those great political and legal principles, which are cherished throughout the United States, since those principles have already been established among us by an authority superior to ours, and that even if they were not supreme laws over us, the experience which we have already acquired of their benefits, has made them as dear to us as they are to other inhabitants of the United States.

The legislative council have heard with satisfaction that tranquility is restored on our frontiers, that there are hopes of an honorable accommodation of our differences with Spain, and that the negociations entered into with England, are likely to be soon happily terminated. In so favorable circumstances, it is to be lamented that our repose should be disturbed by internal foes, and that a horrid civil war should threaten to desolate our country. But whatever be our situation—in war or in peace, amidst political tempests, or in the bosom of tranquility, the legislative council think themselves warranted in assuring your excellency that the fidelity of the inhabitants of this territory to the federal government will remain unshaken.

(Signed)

JULIEN POYDRAS,
President of the Legislative Council.
New Orleans, 22d Jan. 1807.

TO
HIS EXCELLENCY
THE
GOVERNOR
OF THE TERRITORY OF ORLEANS.

Sir,

The representatives of the territory of Orleans have heard, and read with attention, the communication which your excellency gave them at the opening of their present session. They could not learn without the greatest indignation that Americans, that members of the government the most free which ever existed upon earth, may have been blind and perfidious enough to conspire the dismemberment of their own country, the invasion of the dominions of a sovereign in amity with the U. S. and the entire subversion of the happiness and prosperity of this territory. We hope, however, that those nefarious plots will be speedily defeated by the wisdom of the measures taken by the general government, and that their effects will be confined to the anxieties and to the alarm which their discovery has spread upon every part of this territory.

With regard to the extraordinary measures which have taken place for some time past in this territory, although your excellency has not thought proper to reveal to the legislature the reasons which have led to them, yet this House considers it as a sacred duty which they owe to themselves and their fellow citizens, fully to investigate these measures and the motives which have induced them, and to represent the same to the Congress of the U. States.

We feel, as your excellency, the necessity of revising and altering the provisions of the law respecting the establishment of the county courts. This shall be the object of our immediate attention. We shall, in the mean time, endeavor to disengage the service of the militia from the obstacles which now attend it; and to give to the battalion of the free men of color the activity which their zeal solicits. Your excellency may be assured, that this House will always deem it a duty to procure to the civil executive authority, the means of employing and of disposing efficaciously of all the forces of this territory, persuaded as this House must be, that the executive authority will never employ those forces but in a manner warranted by law and by the constitution.

We shall examine with attention the other subjects which your excellency recommends for the consideration of this House. The happiness of our fellow-citizens, shall uniformly be the end of our deliberations; and as their happiness is essentially connected with the principles of the constitution, you need not fear that those principles will ever be forgotten or misunderstood by the representatives of this territory.

May Divine Providence, Sir, dissipate the blindness of the European powers, and make them sensible, by the example of the Northern Americans, that the true happiness of nations consists in peace, and their real strength in justice.

Permit us, Sir, to request your excellency to renew to the general government the oath of our love, of our devotion, and of our fidelity to the constitution and to the people of the U. States.

By order of the House,

JOHN WATKINS,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,

Attest,

ELIGIUS FROMENTIN,
Clerk,

NEW BOOKS,

Just received and for sale at Duane's Book-Store, Pennsylvania avenue.

Tooke's Diversions of Purley.	2 Vols.
Carr's Stranger in Ireland, with Dermody's Life,	1
Charnock's life of Nelson,	1
Cumberlands' Memoirs, 12 mo.	1
Ferguson's Astronomy,	1
Pleasures of Hope,	1
Buller's Nisi Prius,	1
Powell on Devises,	1
St. Pierre's Studies of Nature,	1
Dufief's Nature Displayed,	2

March 11—3t

JOHN OTT,

DRUGGIST, CHYMIST and APOTHECARY, has received by late arrivals a fresh supply of genuine Drugs, Medicines, Chymical Preparations, and every article useful in Pharmacy, such as have met the approbation of eminent practitioners. Genuine patent medicines of every description, shop furniture, paints, dye stuffs, spices and perfumery; all of which he will dispose of on as low terms as the quality and original cost of the article will admit of. Physicians' and family recipes put up with the utmost care and attention, and all orders from city, town or country put up with accuracy and dispatch.

In addition to the above, he has just received a supply of

PRESERVES, CONFECTIONS, FRUIT, &c. viz.

Preserved Limes, Pine Apple, Oranges, Strawberries, Citron, Quinces, Peaches, Lemon Peel,

Currant Jelly, Green Gage Marmelade, Lemon, Hoarhound, Cream and Mint Candy, Noyau Cordial, Syrup of Currant and Raspberry Vinegar, Rose and Orange Flower Water, Lemons, Oranges, Raisins, Currants, Almonds, Filberts, Malaga Grapes, Olives, Capers and Anchovies—London Mustard Cayenne Pepper, Refined sweet Oil, Macouba Snuff, Havanna Segars, Improved shining liquid Blacking for Shoes and Boots, &c &c.

George Town, Dec. 29—2awzw&wtf

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60 DOLLARS REWARD.

RANAWAY from the subscriber living in Prince George's county on Sunday, the 29th ult. the three following slaves—a molatto young man who calls himself BILL STEWART, he was born at Montgomery court house, was once the property of Honore Martin, was purchased of him by the late Wm. Coutee who sold him to me; he is a likely well made fellow about 21 years of age, 5 feet 10 inches high, his hands and feet are large; the evening before he absconded he had his hair cut close, he had with him a variety of clothing, viz 1 blue coat and overalls, one light colored bearskin coat and overalls, 2 swansdown waistcoats, 3 fine Irish linen shirts and some coarse shirts, three muslin neckcloths, a fine hat, price 7 dollars; he took away a prayer book, in the first page of which is written Mary Duckat.

JOE who calls himself Joe Grimes, alias Graham, and HARRY, both young negro men about 21 years of age—the clothing of these cannot be described. Joe has one of his arms broken near the wrist, which makes it longer than the other; when he is spoken to he speaks last as if his tongue was too large for his mouth. Harry, I am informed, has several large scars on his body and one of his thighs occasioned by burns when he was young.

The above reward will be paid for confining the three in jail, or 30 dollars for confining him in jail so that I get him again.

WALTER BOWIE.

July 7—4awtf

HOUSE OF LORDS, DECEMBER 19.

The Earl of Jersey rose, and in a very neat and elegant speech, which recapitulated the heads of his majesty's speech, moved an address in the usual terms.

Lord Somers seconded the address.

Lord Hawkesbury then rose, he said, there were circumstances connected with the speech to which he could not avoid calling the attention of their lordships. It was not his intention to question the king's power to dissolve parliament: But this, like every part of the prerogative, should be exercised with a wholesome and sound discretion. What was there in the state of the country to have justified the late unexpected and premature dissolution of parliament—of a parliament which had only sat four sessions, and which had nearly three years to run? There was also, his lordship said, another measure of ministers, of which he could not approve; he meant the declaration which had been issued pending the suspension of parliament. The country was not in a condition to judge of that declaration, except it were accompanied by the documents upon which it was founded. If the rupture of the negociation overwhelmed ministers with any apprehension of difficulty, the fair mode would have been, not to have dissolved parliament, but to have called the existing parliament together, and submitted the whole grounds of the negociation to it. He would next come to the most material point alluded to in the speech from the throne. With respect to the disasters which had fallen upon Prussia, he had agreed with his noble friend, that there could be but one feeling in the house. With respect to the cause of these disasters, it was impossible that any two men could differ. It arose from the narrow policy in which Prussia had encircled herself. He approved as much as any of his majesty's ministers of the proceeding which had been adopted toward Prussia, though he could not account for the delay which took place in communicating with her. No direct communication with Prussia appears to have taken place until hostilities were on the eve of commencing. This was to him a subject of great regret. As to the negociation, he should say nothing upon it, until the papers were laid before parliament. Whatever difference of opinion might exist as to particular parts of it, with respect to the main question there could be but one general and unanimous sentiment, and that was to concur in giving his majesty every support that should enable him to prosecute the war with vigor and effect. As to the address proposed by his noble friend, it was not his intention to give it any opposition.—He assented to it, because it did not pledge their lordships to any of those points which might possibly become the subject of future inquiry.

Lord Greenville said that the first point of discussion selected on this occasion, had excited in him no small degree of astonishment. It was not now necessary for ministers to shew why, at this critical time, the sanction of the country was sought to the measures of government; it was rather for the noble lord and his friends to explain, why this harmony should not be obtained between the people and the servants of the crown, when unanimity amongst all ranks appeared to be indispensable to the public security. The noble lord said, that when the measures with respect to Prussia were first submitted to the attention of their lordships, he was most solicitous to express his concurrence with them. But, he says, matters are now differently situated. Prior to the appointment of lord Morpeth, there was no possibility, by any means, of acting in concert with that power. Not all the dangers with which it was threatened, could produce any union or cordiality. No co-operation could be effected, either to resist France, or for any other purpose. The minister of the court of Berlin remained here until August; he was encouraged to continue, and the means of intercourse and communication were thus anxiously preserved. Towards the conclusion of that month he was peremptorily recalled, and not the smallest disposition was manifested on the part of Prussia to unite with Britain against the common enemy. The fact was, that this court was not acquainted with its real danger, and it went on from week to week, believing it could obtain from France, not only security but a large accession of territory, and abundant means of aggrandizement. The folly of Prussia, in the final effort, was less than in her former conduct, and by this series of errors she brought on the dreadful catastrophe. Respecting the late negociations with France, for the purpose of terminating the distresses of war, it would not be proper that he should now say much on that subject; the period would soon arrive, when it would be in a regular course of inquiry he would, however, say, that if the nation was, after a protracted series of wars, anxious for repose, it was unanimous in the sentiment that no peace was desirable which was inconsistent