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SPEECH

of the Governor of Massachusetts.

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

I am induced by the respect, I entertain for you and by a wish to comply with the usage of this government, to request the indulgence of this meeting.

An attempt, to lay before you, the consideration of particular measures, which, in my opinion, might tend to the advantage of the commonwealth, would appear, as a piece of ostentation. The time that has elapsed, since I was introduced to the chair, has not been sufficient for a minute review of our internal police. I shall, therefore, by special messages, suggest to you, such matters, as shall appear to me to deserve your legislative attention.

Though I do not make a communication to you on the business of this session, yet, my constituents at this interesting crisis, have a right to expect from me, without reserve, or equivocation, a declaration of my sentiments on the duties of the office, they have called me to sustain. In complying with this, I must, of course, express my ideas, of some of the most important, general principles of our government.

The constitution is formed on principles, to guard the legislature from an interference of the executive department; yet, in order to prevent those errors, which might otherwise happen, from the hurry of business, or from a change of members in either house, it is made a part of the governor's duty, carefully to revise the acts passed by the legislature, and to propose such objections, as he may have to any bill they shall lay before him. In the performance of this important duty, I shall always treat you with the respect due to the legislature of the state. And, as I can have no object in view, but the true interest of the commonwealth, you will receive my objections, should I make any, as offered with an intention to preserve the happiness of the state, and to promote the public welfare. Should a question happen to arise on the constitutionality of a bill, I must submit myself, explicitly, to your candor and justice: for however we may differ in opinion, on the application of the constitution, in this we shall always agree, that on an entire reservation of the social compact, by which we exist as a commonwealth; and which is the Supreme law of the legislature itself, the safety, and prosperity of the people depend.

The Judiciary department of our government, will, invariably claim the first regard of patriotism. Upon the wisdom, and purity of that department, freedom, property, and all the valuable possessions in civil society, depend. In all countries, the principles, and feelings of the magistrates, and judges, ought to be in a coincidence with the nature of the government; this is its principal source of energy. The judiciary department being so necessary, and important, is an expensive branch of the administration. In a state, where an inquiry by grand juries, and trials by petit juries, are fixed, by the constitution, as the strong barriers of the people's rights, the modes of punishing crimes, and of obtaining justice on private demands, are more expensive still. A cheap, ready, and plain manner of obtaining remedies for wrongs, and of compelling the execution of contracts, by fixed, established rules, forms the strongest lines of a good government. Under this impression, the people, in forming the constitution, declared, that all the Judges should hold their offices as long as they should behave themselves well, and that the judges of the Supreme Judicial Court should have permanent and honorable salaries established by law.

The office of jurors, may be thought by some, to be a burthen, but if that institution should be abolished, there would no longer be freedom or property. It ought to be guarded by laws, not only against corruption, but against all undue influence and party prejudice.

There is no doubt but that improvements may be effected in the Jurisprudence of the commonwealth; and therefore, the attention of the legislature will not be withdrawn from it. But in all alterations, a sacred regard will be had to the constitution; while the plans adopted, shall have such a degree of perfection, as to render them respectable and permanent. The governor being commander in chief of the militia, when they are not in the actual service of the U.S. must have a duty devolved upon him, which is of no less consequence to the other states in the nation, than it is to this commonwealth. When we contemplate the immeasurable shores we give to the sea; the vast extent of territory our national dominion spreads itself over, we are obliged to confess the error of a reliance on a standing army, for an effective defence against the invasion of a foreign enemy. To preserve the forms of war, with the principles and feelings of military discipline, some regular troops are necessary; but our defence must remain with the militia. They are, a perpetual guard against internal commotions, an invincible power to shield a country against its external enemies. The soil must be protected by its owners. This description, includes all the people, because all have an equal right to acquire, and possess fee simple estates. Impressed with these sentiments, the militia shall have my unceasing attention throughout the year.

Peace with all the world, is the great object of our national councils; yet, if we would maintain so invaluable a blessing, we must be prepared to meet every hostile aggression, and to repel every invading insult. A dependence, on any other power for assistance, will finally involve us in difficulties, from which, we cannot extricate ourselves, without great expence and danger. A treaty of alliance must open a wide door to the influence of a foreign nation: it would weaken the natural pillars of our national independence

Europe, as the illustrious Washington has told us, "has a set of primary interests, which to us, have none, or a very remote relation. Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns." These cautious sentiments have been carefully adopted by the present President. From the wisdom, firmness and moderation of his measures, under the favor of God, we remain the quiet spectators of those wasting wars, which, the situation of European powers, may have rendered expedient, or necessary, amongst them; but by which, they are deluged in blood, and oppressed with expences.

Should a suitable proportion of our militia, in the U. S. be trained to a proper degree of discipline, and be properly armed, though the first column of an invading enemy, might not be instantly repelled, yet the decisive appearance of victory would be soon exhibited on the standard of our union. It is true, that the art of war, like other arts, is to be most perfectly learned from practice and experience: but this is a bloody and an expensive method of acquiring knowledge. In a nation, where it is not received, as an established truth, that war is the natural state of man; in a country where no invasion is to be expected, but from the error or rashness, not from the interest of a foreign power, the art of war may be sufficiently cultivated, at a moderate expence, by military schools, and otherwise, in time of peace. Each state in the nation has the same interest in the discipline of the militia of the others, as it has in that of its own; and therefore, there can be no impropriety in contemplating this, as a subject of national concernment. Whether you, gentlemen, will conceive it to be your duty, to use your influence with Congress, on an affair of such magnitude, as far, as it shall comport with the national and state constitutions, or whether, you will turn your attention to the militia of your own state alone, I cheerfully submit to your wisdom. But this I venture to affirm, that all neglect or delay in the business, is incompatible with the safety of the country.

No foreign power, will dare to invade our country, in a project of conquest, unless the U. S. like the ancient republics, by controversies and animosities, amongst themselves, shall furnish their enemies with the hopes, as well as the means, of success. To preserve an union of interest, and sentiment, so absolutely necessary to our existence, as a nation, jealousies are to be laid aside, charity cherished, and a reciprocity of affection, and civility, to be exhibited. All the states must be the country of the citizens of each; and each state the country of all. Our national union, glowing on the public opinion, is the best defence of our sovereignty: and those, who would check it there, would sever the root, from whence the tree of liberty draws in copious streams, its principal nourishment.

The chief magistrate of the nation, being an elective officer, the voice of the majority, taken according to the form of the constitution, must be decisive in the choice: it is the voice of all. To treat the election with disrespect, it is to treat the constitution with contempt. Nothing can tend more to derogate from the respect due to us, as a nation, than an appearance of uneasiness, and dissatisfaction at the forms, and principles, of our own governments.

Gentlemen,

The great improvements, in agriculture, the increase of commerce, and the encouragement of the arts, in our country, furnish the most satisfactory proofs of the perfection of our political institutions. But the path of public as well as private prosperity is to be trodden with care. Governments, depending, for their execution, in so great a measure, upon the will of the governed so frequently expressed by their suffrages, demand, for their preservation, great intelligence in the body of the people. To maintain this, our institution of town schools is admirably adapted. These, with the academies, and colleges, are rendered indispensible by the nature of our governments, and claim the constant attention of the legislature, for their support, and encouragement.

The sentiments, in regard to public worship, piety, religion, and morality, interwoven with the constitution of the commonwealth, so far as we have a right to decide have had great influence on the people. We observe with great pleasure, the erection of edifices for public worship of various denominations in christianity. Teachers every where settled, and supported; and public devotion generally attended upon. These circumstances, under an established form of government, which excludes all persecution & intolerance, on principles of religion and modes of worship, to give our state a very honorable appearance in the view of the enlightened part of the world. The principles, and precepts of the Gospel, if they are attended to, and improved for religious, and moral purposes *only*, will always make good men, and good men can never be bad citizens. Upon the literary, and religious institutions of the state, our happiness, as a people, essentially depends: & I shall rejoice in seeing the legislature attentive to their encouragement & support: While at the same time, that freedom of opinion, and those rights of conscience, which are solemnly recognized in the constitution, are sacredly maintained.

Gentlemen,

Government, in it nature, is a concentration of public opinion to a certain form of public rule. This may be maintained in a despotism, by terror; but in a republic, it must be supported by an attachment of the people to their country. By public virtue—To produce this attachment the powers of the government must be exerted, to give equal advantages to all its subjects; not to create wealth, or exclusive privileges to any; but in securing to all, respectively, as far as it can be done by general laws, well executed, the enjoyment of the various gifts which God bestows upon them.—For to use the language of our declaration of rights, "no man, or corporation or association of men, have any other title to obtain advantages, distinct from those of the community, than what arises from the consideration of services rendered to the public." Where the laws secure to every man the same privileges to acquire and hold property, the wish to accumulate wealth by fair means and honest industry, is inseparable from patriotism. Enterprize and industry are in the class of public virtues, because they are the unfailing source of wealth to a nation.

A respect to the civil authority a correct regard to the rights of others, & a ready obedience to the laws, confer, on a people, a dignity of character, which is intimately blended with the social virtues; and habitually becomes the strength of a civil community.

Should any one be daring enough to suggest the idea, that the people of Massachusetts are not, in the enlightened situation God has bestowed upon them, under the advantages they are favored with, and the habits acquired from the manner of their education, competent to the support of a free government, by their suffrages, frequently exercised, such person ought to be restrained as a dangerous incendiary —because it is as essentially wrong to speak as to act treason. Every citizen has an unalienable right to express his opinion upon the administration of the government, and the conduct of his rulers. But there are certain primary principles, which constitute the leading, essential, distinguishing features of an elective republic. These are to be treated with solemn reverence and supported by a religious respect.

Gentlemen,

I embrace this opportunity to express the sense I have of the honor done me by my fellow citizens, and to assure them of my attachment to the principles of the commonwealth. They may rely, with safety, that it is my determination to exert myself uniformly to maintain the dignity and faith of this state, and to strengthen and consolidate the national union, on the principles of the national government. At the same time I assure you, gentlemen, that on my part nothing shall be omitted, which will render this session pleasant to you, and beneficial to your constituents.

JAMES SULLIVAN.

June 3d, 1807.

From the Literary Magazine.

LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL INTELLIGENCE.

Great Britain.

The important and interesting science of physical geography seems to be every where making rapid advances to the utmost perfection of which it is capable. In England, the most extensive work ever published upon this subject may shortly be expected from the press. It consists of a plate, engraved by Merigot, of Paris, from a drawing by Mr. Riddell, in which all the principal mountains on our globe are represented in their proportions of actual height above the level of the sea, with every possible attention to accuracy of form, with the varying boundary of perpetual congelation which determines the height to which vegetation reaches, in every degree of latitude. In the intervals between the mountains are introduced the heights of all the different cities, inhabited places, and sources of rivers, which indicate the general level of each continent, and enable the observers to ascertain the elevation of the principal mountains above their own bases, as above the level of the sea. The plate contains, upon the whole, upwards of 750 objects, so grouped as to form a very interesting picture. It is explained by a scale graduated in feet, which slides along the surface of the plate, and contains the name of every mountain opposite to its respective height. This is more than twice the size of any plate ever engraved on one piece of copper, or printed on one sheet of paper, being four feet eight inches by three feet, exclusive of margins, and has consequently required both the presses and paper to be made on purpose, at a very great expence. It will be accompanied by a geographical and physical account of mountains, their mineral composition, &c. &c. in three quarto volumes, by Mr. Wilson, which will concentrate in one work all the best ascertained geological facts, as well with regard to those mountains which have been measured, as those whose height has not been ascertained. Messrs. Humboldt, Buck and Tralles have recently taken up the same idea at Berlin, and are employed upon a plate which will represent about 150 mountains; but their work is connected with a theory on the general elevation of strata.

Miss Owenson, whose Novice of St. Dominick*, and Wild Irish Girl, have proved the title of her genius to the attention of the public, is about to exhibit new claims to respect in a volume of original poetry, which will speedily be published, under the title of the Lay of an Irish Harp.

Mr Thomas Burnet is about to publish the Sweets of Solitude, and other poems, by subscription.

The late John Russell, Esq. R. A. celebrated amongst men of science for the production of the lunar globe, left at his death two lunar planispheric drawings, the result of numberless telescopic observations, scrupulously measured by a micrometer: one of which drawings exhibits the lunar disk in a state of direct opposition to the sun, when the eminences and depressions are *undetermined*, and every intricate part, arising from color, form, or inexplicable causes, is developed; the other, of precisely the same proportion, represents the eminences and depressions of the moon, *determined* as to their form with the utmost accuracy, producing their shadows when the sun is only a few degrees above the horizon of each part. The former of these was correctly engraved by Mr. Russell, who had likewise very considerably advanced in the engraving of the latter, when death terminated his labors: it is, however, left in such a forward state, that it will be finished with the greatest exactness.

The Rev. James Cordiner, A. M. chaplain to the honorable Frederick North, during his late government of Ceylon, is about to publish a description of that island, containing an account of the country, inhabitants, and natural productions, with a tour round the island, a journey to Ramisseram, and a detailed narrative of the late warfare with the king of Candy; embellished with twenty four engravings, from original drawings: in two volumes, 4to.—This work contains much new information, and gives a view of every subject which is interesting in the island of Ceylon: the manner of ensnaring and taming the wild elephants, the mode of diving for the pearl oysters, the stripping of the cinnamon bark, and the process of collecting natural salt, are all minutely described from actual observation and authentic documents. The plates exhibit the costume of the country, the most striking scenes along the coasts of the island, as well as some expressive features of the inland districts, executed by eminent artists, from drawings made on the spot. Descriptions of the forts and towns, the rural scenery, the dresses and manners of the natives, and the state of the English society, enter into the plan. To which is added, a list of the present civil and military establishment in Ceylon.

Dr. Percy, nephew to the bishop of Dromore, is preparing, with his approbation, a fourth volume of the Reliques of Ancient English Poetry.

Mr. Joseph Nightingale is preparing for publication an Impartial View of the Origin, Progress, Doctrines, Discipline, and Singular Customs of the Wesleyan Methodists, in a series of letters, addressed to a lady. This work is intended to include several interesting particulars relative to the divisions which have taken place among the methodists, since the death of Mr. Wesley, and will be interspered with a variety of curious anecdotes.

* It is an anecdote which deserves notice, that the late Mr. Pitt employed the last hours of his life in the perusal of this elegant novel.

Mr Francois Hue, one of the attendants of the late king of France, and who, after the 10th of August, was selected by his majesty to remain with the royal family, has a new work in the press, entitled "The last Years of the Reign and Life of Louis the Sixteenth."

Mr Pratt has in preparation a work of the novel kind, called Great and Little Folks.

Mr. Bennet, of Pythouse, in Wiltshire, is preparing to lay before the public a number of original letters of Charles I. and his friends, which have been preserved in his family.

The Rev. Mr. J. Joyce, author of Scientific Dialogues, will shortly publish two volumes on the first principles of chemistry, on the same plan.

A volume of sermons, from the pen of the late Dr. Horsley, prepared by the author for the press, will shortly appear.

The method most in use for discovering the very injurious mixture of litharge with wine, is by pouring into it some pure sulphuric acid, which causes a white precipitate to fall to the bottom of the vessel. This is not so accurate a test of lead as water charged with sulphurated hydrogen, which is thus prepared: put into a phial a paste of sulphur and iron filings, pour on it a little sulphuric acid, and pass the gas produced into a flask of water by a bent tube. This water, poured on wine mixed with litharge, renders it black and flakey, and produces an abundant precipitate, which soon falls to the bottom of the vessel.

Sir Joseph Banks has laid before the Board of Agriculture a very valuable paper on the culture of spring wheat, which is much practised in Lincolnshire. Besides other details, we are informed that Mr. William Showler dibbled four pecks and a half of spring wheat on one acre and two roods of middling land, which had borne turnips the winter before, and had no extraordinary preparation for this crop; the rows were eight inches asunder, and two inches deep: two grains were put into each hole. The produce was seven quarters, which was as much, at least, as could have been expected from eighteen, or even twenty-one bushels, sown broadcast on the same land.

Dr. Wollaston has invented a new portable blow-pipe for [illegible] experiments. It consists of three parts, so adapted to each other that they may be packed together, one within another. The interior tube is longer than the exterior, and the upper edge of the large end is turned outward, to diminish the effort of the lips requisite for retaining it in the mouth. The small extremity is placed obliquely, that the flame may be carried to a convenient distance from the eye.

Mr. F. S. Stuart, of Billericay, in Essex, announces that he was brought to the verge of the grave by a consumption of the lungs, and restored to perfect health, by eating three or four pints per day of ripe currents, white and red; and he mentions other persons who have been recovered from the same disease by the same means.

J. Pierson, esq. read the Cronian Lecture on Muscular motion to the Royal Society last winter. It occupied the greater part of two evenings, in the course of which the lecturer entered into an elaborate detail concerning the heat and pulsations of animals in different latitudes, in order to shew their effect on their muscles. As an instance: in Britain, the pulse of horses beat 36 times in a minute, that of cows 48, and that of men about 72; in Lapland, and other high northern latitudes, the human pulse does not beat more than from 45 to 50 times in a minute. Mr. P. has made numerous experiments on the muscles, in all which he found the muscular irritability completely destroyed by plunging them in water at the temperature of 96 deg. electricity, after such immersions sometimes gave slight symptoms of excitability, but no human effort could ever again restore the muscular fibre to its proper tone and vigor. Cold produced similar effects on the muscular fibre, by instantly destroying its irritability. Hence the necessity of great caution in applying warm water to the surface of bodies recently immersed in water, in cases of suspended respiration, as heat may be equally as bad as cold with regard to its effects on the muscular fibre, which by Mr. P. is considered in some degree the organ of life. Blood he regards as essential to life only as a stimulus to muscular irritability, and the abstraction of blood occasions death through the want of its stimulating powers to the muscles. The stomach he considers as the most important organ of the human frame, and its irritability is so excessive, that a blow on it will instantly destroy life, though the heart can support a wound some days.

By a careful analysis by professor Davy, the following results have been obtained from different kinds of wheat:

From 100 parts of	gluten.	starch.	insoluble parts.
Sicilian wheat	21	75	5