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Speech of George Tompkins to the Legislature of New York, delivered January 28.

Gentlemen of the Senate and Assembly.

You are assembled to deliberate and decide upon the important concerns of this state at a very interesting crisis of our public affairs. The public prosperity is unusually manifested and pursued by the wise and faithful administrators of the general government, has hitherto succeeded in subduing as from a participation of our calamities and miseries with which Europe is scourged. It inspired a sanguine hope that the reverses, dictated by a spirit so conflicting, would be attended with continued exemption from foreign insult, depredation or war. But the late unprovoked and unprecedented attack upon the Chesapeake by a British vessel, the unwarrantable pretensions of G. Britain to search and hover away seamen from our ships on the ocean, in intercepting delivery our lawful commerce with nations with whom she is at war, and the plausible pretensions of the establishment principles of the law of nations, avowed and practised upon by Bonaparte and G. Britain, have seriously impaired the rights, consolidated the honor and secured the independence of our country.

These events have disappointed the hope of maintaining peace, notwithstanding the seditious clamorous of just-sick & cold British towards our citizens, and have produced the necessity of resorting to energetic measures, the proceedings adopted on the emergency by our national legislature, have found, upon an unprejudiced consideration, not only imperial towards the contending belligerents of Europe, but also well calculated to protect our mariners and preserve the merchandise of our citizens, should an appeal to the sword become inevitable. In which an equal property of immense value will be secured to our country, which, not for the embargo, might have enriched the officers of the very enemy with whom we are now contend. The first effect of misunderstanding and obstacles to amicable adjustment, is the rising of prices, under blockading decrees, and from apprehension of seamen, will also thereby cease to be multiplied. The well known fact, that the commercial enterprise of France and her allies, arising from a variety of causes, become almost extinct, and that the demand is inadequate for her necessary supplies of provisions and other articles of foreign manufactures, and for the transportation of her colonial produce, upon the unrestrained convoys of American merchants, independently of the acknowledged intergrity and patriotism of our public agents, repel the absurd idea, that the present unemployed seamen, will be liable to that country, or from any subsequent change in our views.

Every liberal and candid mind will sacrifice the imposing an embargo, to a sincere desire to avoid an involvement in European broils, to protect our seamen and to secure the property of our citizens, in the event of an impolitic termination of negotiations with one of the belligerents. What patriotic citizen will murmur at the temporary privations and inconveniences resulting from this measure, when he reflects upon the vast expenditure of public treasure, the sacrifice of the lives of our countrymen, the total and unexpected suspension of commerce, the corruption of morals and the distress and misery consequent upon our participation in the war between the nations of Europe. The evils which threatens us will be a magnanimous confidence in the efficacy of our national resources to avoid them and for a firm and unanimous determination to secure everything that is dear to us, to maintain our rights and our national honor.

Trusting that circumstances, the course our duty to act assists in providing for the security and tranquility of the rights and property of the citizens of this state. The aspect of our general prosperity, for an efficient and permanent formation of the city of New York, has not failed to excite their serious attention to that subject. The plan which has been adopted, in the degree to which it has progressed, the operations contemplated to be pursued, and the measures to which your sanction is desired, will for ever consecrated to you without delay.

Although our security is alive to the practical safety of the city and of New York, and although our exertions ought to be conducted with the most important original, should continue at least and adequate to our right act, at the same time, in consideration of the general wants of our brethren upon the northern and western frontiers of the state. That enterprising portion of the community, which has generated the wilderness & extended civilization and improvement to the very borders of our expanded territory, looks to you for assistance and protection at this momentous period. The hardships and difficulties to which they have assumed, and, their dispersed situation, their remoteness from the depots of military stores, and the obstacles at which, they may be purchased, the scarcity of military incident to new settlements, their sudden attacks and merciless cruelties of unrelenting savages, and the unanimity with which, they have tendered their services, combine in giving force to their claims, to be furnished with the means of self defence.

It affords me sincere satisfaction to inform you, gentlemen, that the detachment of militia, which consists of one hundred thousand men has been accomplished, and a return thereof for the war department received, yesterday. The patriotism displayed on this occasion, in every division of our fellow citizens, merits the greatest applause. All the artillery of the detachment, and most of the cavalry and infantry are equipped and prepared to join the corps of complement required have tendered their services with promptitude and zeal. This patriotic conduct, is a pledge evidence of the sincerity of our affections, in advancing to the defence of our country, and of the value which they will display in supporting its dignity and freedom.

The difficulties encountered by militia officers in the business of organizing this quota, suggests the propriety of some alterations in the laws respecting the militia of this state. By the 31 and 4th section of the act, relative to the militia, cavalry and artillery shall parade for annual review, twice in each year, under the major-generals of infantry—It does not require the inspections of infantry to be attended with the presence of the cavalry and artillery officers. When the inspections are attended with the attach any of their men, their ignorance of the service, and inattention to the several corps, precludes the possibility of an immediate compliance with the order, the officers may be required either by appointing brigade officers of cavalry and artillery, to attend and make inspection returns of their brigade, or by appointing them equal necessary regiment with other uniform troops, suggests the expediency of extending to the cavalry and artillery, the act of the military.

The officers appointed by an act of the last session, to code to the United States the principal rivers, with the depth of land, have not met for that purpose; as their power did not extend to those rivers, which, by jurisdiction has been requested, it became unnecessary to appoint, in the first instance. To remedy this request relates, will be specified in the subsequent resolutions.

(After noticing various local affairs, Gov. Tompkins concludes thus:)

The improvement of agriculture, manufactures and commerce will, at all times, and in the present instance, contract the attention, and command the support of the legislature of this state, and, in our present situation, extraordinary exertions will be called forth and offered when it is not impossible, that an appeal to arms will soon be made, it is possible, that we may be called all measures in our power, in order to maintain our rights and support our selves, and to encourage those arts which are the most, the best, and the comfort of human life; to facilitate interior communication, and to invigorate the spirit and energies of our country. Nor will the great and important duty, of promoting the cause of knowledge, at any time or in any crisis, escape the attention of the legislature of a state, so enlightened and patriotic legislature.

May this, wise and benign Providence which has dispensed its richest favors to our country, make us wise enough to discover and virtue to pursue, the best means of perpetuating the blessings we enjoy.

DANIEL D. TOMPKINS.

4000 BUSHELS
BEST RICHMOND COAL.
NOW landing from on board the Sloop Lucrece, Charles Krop master, at the wharf George Town. Apply to Wm. O'Neale, square 70, city of Washington, or to Josiah Taylor, on board. Those who are indebted to W. O'Neale may be supplied, if they pay off their former accounts, and not otherwise.

WM. O'NEALE.

March 4—2

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEBATE.

On the bill concerning courts martial and deserters.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3.

(Mr. Taylor's Speech concluded.)

The gentleman from Kentucky has objected to the jurisdiction of the civil courts, and the propriety of the bill, I can man decide it once that if a man shall be accused of a crime, a conviction of which subjects him to a punishment of five hundred lashes, or to the shot or hung, he shall be deprived of the privilege of trial by jury, which is his birthright. Can he doubt it? He cannot. With them, if we take it for granted that it is absolutely necessary that we should not in that way immediate justice, but allow a delinquent, to be tried, and to be got off If this bill proposed to authorize a court martial to be convened among the habitation of the country, I should be in favor of the bill, but I do not, I do not, revolt at it? I think there is not. It is necessary that these courts should have power to call and examine witnesses, and swiftly shall parade for annual review, twice in each year, under the major-generals of infantry—It does not require the inspections of infantry to be attended with the presence of the cavalry and artillery officers. When the inspections are attended with the attach any of their men, their ignorance of the service, and inattention to the several corps, precludes the possibility of an immediate compliance with the order, the officers may be required either by appointing brigade officers of cavalry and artillery, to attend and make inspection returns of their brigade, or by appointing them equal necessary regiment with other uniform troops, suggests the expediency of extending to the cavalry and artillery, the act of the military.

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