

VIRGINIA ARGUS.

[XIVth YEAR.]

A FREE PRESS MAINTAINS THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PEOPLE

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TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 1806.

[12 1-2 Cent Single.]

SALES AT AUCTION.

On Wednesday the 21 of July next, will be sold by Auction, on the premises, if not previously disposed of at private sale, that valuable BRICK TENEMENT on Shockoe hill; opposite to Mrs. Page's, now occupied by Mr. James H. Lynch—Terms of payment, one and two years credit, the purchaser to give a deed of trust on the property, to secure the payment of the purchase money.

TAYLOR & BROWN, Auctioneers.
June 5th 1806.

AN ACT

More effectually to provide for the payment of taxes upon lands within this commonwealth.
[Passed January 29th, 1803.]

WHEREAS numerous inconveniences and losses have accrued so this commonwealth, from the want of an adequate mode for the collection of lands to the payment of taxes; and whereas it is a principle in well organized governments, that property should be held subservient to the purposes thereof:

Sec 1. Be it enacted, That when the taxes upon any tract or survey of land, shall have remained unpaid for the space of two years, such tract or survey of land, shall be forfeited to the commonwealth, and subject to location, according to the terms prescribed by an act, entitled, "An act for reducing into one, the several acts, concerning the land office, ascertaining the terms and manner of granting waste and unappropriated lands, for settling the title and bounds of lands, directing the mode of proceeding, and prescribing the duty of surveyors," so far as the said act applies to waste and unappropriated land and not to forfeited land; and title thereto shall be acquired by the said location, and by the payment of the taxes due upon such tract or survey of land; Provided nevertheless, that the tract or survey of land so as aforesaid forfeited, shall be subject to the redemption of the former rightful and proper owners, at any time within one year after such forfeiture shall have accrued, upon the payment of the taxes due thereupon, with interest upon the same from the time they became payable.

Sec 2. And be it further enacted, That at any time within six months after the annual return of the list of insolvents or delinquents for the non-payment of the taxes upon land into his office, the auditor of this commonwealth shall cause this act to be published for three several times in the gazette of the printer of this commonwealth, and in some newspaper of general circulation, published at the seat of the general government: Provided always, that nothing in this act shall be so construed as to authorize the location of any land within the purview of this act, before the expiration of the time limited for the redemption thereof; nor to affect the rights of infants femina covert, or persons of unsound mind, until one year after the disabilities shall have ceased.

Sec 3. All acts and parts of acts within the purview of this act, are hereby repealed.

Sec 4. This act shall commence and be in force from and after the first day of March next.

A copy from the roll—Teste.

J. PLEASANTS, Jr.
Keeper of the Rolls.

AN ACT

Giving further time to the proprietors of certain lands, forfeited for the nonpayment of taxes, to redeem the same.

[Passed February 1st, 1806.]

BE it enacted by the General Assembly, That the proprietors of lands forfeited to, and vested in the commonwealth, by the nonpayment of taxes, agreeably to the act, in this behalf, "An act more effectually to provide for the payment of taxes upon lands within this commonwealth," may redeem the same, by paying into the treasury of this commonwealth, on or before the first day of March, in the year eighteen hundred and seven, all arrears of taxes due thereon.

Sec 2. This act shall commence and be in force from and after the passing thereof.

A copy from the roll—Teste.

J. PLEASANTS, Jr.
Keeper of the Rolls.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, April 7.

SPANISH AFFAIRS.

Debate on the motion of Mr. J. Randolph to publish the President's Message.

[CONTINUED.]

Mr. J. RANDOLPH. It is not my wish, Mr. Speaker, to trespass on the patience of the House. But I think it necessary to explain what I am sure the House has not well understood; for my positions have been grossly perverted, whether intentionally or not I will not undertake to say. Gentlemen opposed to us act a very strange and inconsistent part. They will not give credit to a private individual as to a conversation had with a head of department. I do not wish them. I only stated that conversation as a reason for saying that I had withdrawn my confidence. And will gentlemen say I am bound, when evidence has come to my private knowledge, which is sufficient to damn any man, to legislate on a principle of confidence. When I find misrepresentations made to the public and insinuations of the most despicable kind on this floor, I come out, and call on any man to deny what I have stated. They cannot—they dare not—For I take it for granted no man will declare in the face of the nation a willful falsehood. But while gentlemen will not give credit to what has fallen from one individual, they have no hesitation in giving credit to an individual member for the whole course of the government. My opinion is that

the government knowing the caveat entered by Spain, and knowing that Lausset was not authorized to receive the country from Spain, which they claim, and that France refused to deliver it by metes and boundaries—I say, my opinion is that the claim of Spain to the country between the Mississippi and the Perdido is a good claim; and I adduce this as one instance of misconduct on the part of the government. But this is only an opinion of my own. The government, on the contrary, lay claim to the country, and press their claim abroad. When the executive says we have a right to the country, the question is whether, when they have taken that ground, you will give them money to buy the country, or in other words, to buy peace. I say no. If on the contrary, the government had shown the validity of the claim of Spain, I should not, perhaps, have hesitated to give money. I do not absolutely say that I should. While gentlemen say the opinion of an individual is not to be relied on, they justify the government by that opinion, at the same time that the government tells you their opinion is directly opposite. If the government had acted on those principles, the case would be directly the reverse of what it is. But they decided that the country did belong to the U. S. and they are bound to act on this principle, or magnanimously abandon it. I hope, therefore, hereafter that gentlemen will justify the government in its foreign relations on the principles avowed by it, and not on principles of a hostile nature.

In my opinion it is of the first importance that the message should be published on a material fact which took place in this House. A member in his place told you that the course recommended by a particular individual was consonant with the secret wishes of the executive. I did then reprehend that language as the most unconstitutional and reprehensible ever uttered on this floor. I did believe that the people of the United States possessed as free a constitution as the British people, and I had hoped freer; and I knew that such language had in the British Parliament been considered as reprehensible, and had brought forward a vote of indignation in that body. I allude to the case where the king's name was used for the purpose of throwing out Mr. Fox's India bill. I then reprobated that back-sair's influence, this double dealing, the sending one message for the journals and newspapers, and another in whisper to this House. I shall always reprobate such language, and consider it unworthy of any man holding a seat in this House. I had always before flattered myself that it would be a thousand years hence before our institutions would have given birth to these Charles Jenkinson's in politics. I did not expect them at this time of day, and I now declare it important, in my opinion, that the message should be published, that the public may be enabled to compare the official, with the unofficial message which decided the vote.

There is another reason for its publication. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has said there is no mention of France on the journals; and that we have no cause of complaint against France. I wish the publication of the message to prove what causes of complaint we have against France. Let men of sense take a view of all the papers, and I am willing to abide the issue—It is said France has done us no injury—that the bubble is burst. We are told that this is a plain answer to all the speeches made on this floor. Permit me to say, the gentleman (Mr. Eppes) has given a plain answer to all the speeches delivered on this floor—it was impossible to have given a plainer answer to them. He says I will vote with you, but I will make a speech against you. Permit me to say, this is the first time I would not rather have had his vote than his speech. After this speech there can be no doubt as to the issue of the question. I will go further—After the adjournment on Saturday there could be no doubt, Saturday, it seems, is an unfortunate day, on which no expedition is to be undertaken, no forlorn hope conducted.

The same gentleman has said that we pursued precisely the same course in 1803 as in 1805, & for obtaining the same object. He says the same course is now pursued—and yet he says he will not undertake to say the cases are not dissimilar—Put this and that together, and what do you make of it? The cases are decidedly dissimilar. In 1803 there was no existing misunderstanding between the American and French governments with regard to our differences with Spain. Those differences had started up like a squib in the night. We made an appropriation to purchase the Floridas—To buy them—from whom?—from their rightful owner. The circumstances would have been similar, if the United States, had given money to France to compel Spain to form a treaty with us, then the national

honor would have received a deadly wound. But there was nothing of this sort in the formation of the treaty then made. Spain, under the operation of causes, in which we had no agency, transferred Louisiana to France, and France transferred it to us. But this is not now the case. We are told that Spain is no longer an independent power, but is under the control of France. What follows? That France is the aggressor on us, which proves every thing I have alleged.

There is another thing to be observed. The public have been given to understand that two millions have been appropriated for the purchase of the Floridas. This is not so—the appropriation is only towards doing something; but what that is, is not defined by law. Now if in 1803, we appropriated two millions for the purchase of the Floridas, and did not get them, what security is there now that by making an appropriation in the same language we shall obtain them? Although the persons making the appropriation are not the same identical beings, those applying the sum appropriated are. I do not believe that we shall get the Floridas, in this I may be mistaken. I hope I shall be—for after having descended to prostitute the national character, let us at least receive the wages of iniquity.

But gentlemen inquire, will you become the guardians of Spain? This is a mistake which has run through every attempt at a argument I have heard. We never professed to be the guardians of Spain. We profess to be the guardians of our own honor. We care not for France trampling on Spain. Let her pick her pockets for what we care; but if we instigate her to it, it is no longer a mere question between France and Spain, but a question in which our own honor is engaged, which is at once mortgaged and gone.

Until the gentleman from Virginia got up, I confess that, what with my exhausted state, the badness of the air, and tenacity of the arguments of gentlemen, so excessively light that they at once vanished in this air,—that I had not a word to say—for it is not to be supposed that I intended to reply to any thing offered by the gentleman behind me. If I was so fall, let me fall in the face of day, and not be betrayed by a kiss—I mean no profane allusion. I shall do my duty as an honest man. I came here prepared to cooperate with the government in all its measures. I told them so. But I found there was no choice left, and that to cooperate in them would be to destroy the national character—I found I might cooperate, or be an honest man—I have therefore opposed them. Is there an honest man disposed to be the gaffer, and to carry down secret messages to this House? No—it is because men of character cannot be found to do this business, that agents must be got to carry things into effect, which men of compromised character will not soil their fingers or sully their characters with.

One word on the subject of voting on unofficial notice, on the representations of individuals, in the place of communications officially received from the officers of the Executive department. I have always considered the Executive in this country as standing in the same relation to the two Houses, that the minister or administration bore to the legislature under governments similar to our own. I have always considered that the responsibility for public measures rested more particularly on them. For those measures they are answerable to the people—and to me it has been a subject of peculiar regret (I do not speak of the general character of the constitution) that they have not a seat on this floor. For whatever may be supposed to be my feelings as to the members of the administration, I am ashamed when I see their name and characters committed to such hands, as we are in the daily habits of witnessing. If their measures are susceptible of justification, I should like to have a justification at their own hands, instead of hearing Yazoo men defend them. Much less did I expect on such an occasion, to hear a Yazoo man, assigning his motives for a vote on a totally different subject, and this in justification of a man with whom he is connected by ties of consanguinity. This reminds me of the intention imputed to me to bring forward an impeachment against a great officer of state. This, however, is so far from being the truth, that I appeal to those who heard me, whether I did not declare that I washed my hands of impeachments—that I was done with them. No—I will neither directly nor indirectly, have any thing to do with them. But I will in all questions that shall come before this House, discuss the public character and conduct of any public agents from a secretary to a constable; and I will continue to do it until it shall be admitted by the constitution, that the king can do no wrong. I say I wish the heads of depart-

ments had seats on this floor. Were this the case, to one of them I would immediately propound this question. Did you or did you not, in your capacity of a public functionary tell me, in my capacity of a public functionary that France would not suffer Spain to settle her differences with us, that she wanted money, that we must give her money, or take a Spanish or French war? And did not I answer, that I was neither for a war with Spain or France, but in favor of defending my country? I would put that question to him—I would put that question to another head of department. Was or was not an application made to you for money to be conveyed to Europe to carry on any species of diplomatic negotiation there? I would listen to his answer, and if he put his hand on his heart, and like a man of honor said no, I would believe him, though it would require a great stretch of credulity. I would call into my aid faith, not reason, and believe where I was not convinced. I would then turn to the first magistrate of the nation, and say, did you not buy Louisiana of France? Has France acted in that transaction in a bona fide manner? Has she delivered into your possession the country you believed you had bought from her? Has she not equivocated, perjured, and played off Spain against you, with the view of extorting money? I will answer for the reply. There cannot be the smallest doubt about it. I will put the whole business on this issue. All the difficulty has arisen from that quarter.

Yes, the bubble has burst! It is immaterial to us whether you publish the President's message or not. But it is material to others that you should; and let me add, the public will not rest satisfied with the conduct of those, who profess to wish it published, while they vote against the publication. The public will not confide in such professions. Gentlemen may show their bunch of rods, may treat them as children and offer their sugar plums; but all will not avail them so long as they refuse to call for the dispatches of our ministers, and other documents, which, if published, would fix a stamp upon some men in the government and high in office, which all the waters in the ocean would not wash out. Gentlemen may talk of our changing, and chopping about, and all that. What is the fact? We are what we profess to be—not republicans, but republicans, acting on the broad principles we heretofore professed—applying the same scale which we measured John Adams to the present administration. Do gentlemen shrink from this, and pretend to be republicans? They cannot be republicans, unless they agree that it shall be measured to them, as they measured to others. But we are, perhaps, to be told that we have all become federalists—or that the federalists have become good republicans. This, however, is a charge, which, I am convinced, the federalists will not be more anxious to repel, than we to be exonerated from. No, they will never be good republicans. They never did, they never will act with us. What has happened? They are in opposition from system, & *de quo ad hoc*—as to this particular measure. Like men, who have ruffed it together, there is a kind of fellow feeling between us. There is no doubt of it. But as to political principle, we are as much as ever opposed. There is a most excellent alkali by which to test our principles. The Yazoo business is the beginning and the end, the alpha and omega of our alphabet. With that our differences began, and with that they will end, and I pray to God, that the liberties of the people may not also end with them.

LONDON, April 24.

STATE PAPER.

PRUSSIAN PATENT.

We, Frederick William, king of Prussia, &c. &c. make known and declare as follows:

"The wish to secure our faithful subjects and the neighboring states of the north of Germany during the war, and to preserve and confirm the duration of the blessings of peace, was at all times the intention of our indefatigable endeavors. These wholesome measures were made known, upon some recent occasions, as the object of our late Patent, dated January 27, 1806; according to which the electoral states of Brunswick-Lunenbourg in Germany were taken possession of by our troops, when the administration of the same passed into our hands. But in consequence of the exchange of the electorate of Hanover, in consideration of the decision of three of the provinces of our monarchy, and for the permanent tranquillity of our subjects and the neighboring states, we have found it indispensably necessary to enter into and conclude a convention with his majesty the emperor of the French and king of Italy, and as the electoral states of the house of Brunswick, situated

in Germany were obtained by the Emperor Napoleon by right of conquest, we hereby declare, that the right of possession of the territory of that house has passed over to us, in consideration of the cession of three of our provinces; and is now subject to our power only; consequently from the present time, the government and the administration of these countries will be administered simply in our name alone, and under our supreme authority.

"We therefore call upon all persons, whatever may have been the functions assigned them, to execute those functions only in our name, and under our authority."

"Count Schulenberg Kehner, and the commissioners who are attached to him, expect no less than that all the Princes, the Burgers, and the inhabitants in general, will obediently conform themselves to the order of things, which a new era had rendered necessary for their tranquillity and well being; and in so doing they will afford his majesty a proof of their devotion to their country."

"So, on our part, nothing shall be neglected to confirm them in the persuasion of our paternal affection, and our sincere wish to render them happy."

(Signed) FREDERICK WILLIAM,
SCHULENBERG,
HAUGWITZ.

April 1, 1806."

IMPORTANT STATE PAPER.

DECLARATION

GEORGE THE THIRD, by the grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain & Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, Duke of Brunswick and Lunenburg, Arch Treasurer and Elector of the Holy Roman Empire, &c. &c.

The court of Prussia has avowed hostile designs, which she thought concealed by her friendly professions. The Note Verbal delivered on the 4th of April, by the Prussian Envoy, Baron Jacob Klost, to the British minister, announces that the electorate of Hanover has been taken possession of, and that the ports of the German sea, and of Lubbeck have been closed against the British flag. This declaration gives the lie to all those assurances by which the cabinet of Berlin has hitherto endeavored to cloak its proceedings to which it moreover adds the pretension that his Prussian majesty has acquired, by his system of policy, claims to the gratitude of all the northern powers.

Thus actually dispossessed of the ancient inheritance of my family, and insulted in my rights as a sovereign, I have ordered those measures to be taken which the honor of my crown requires; but I still owe it to myself, to Europe, and to my subjects, to make a public declaration of my sentiments as elector of Brunswick-Lunenbourg, upon the unjust usurpation of my German possessions.

It is not necessary to prove how contrary this act is to the rights of nations, or to the laws of the German empire. Their infraction is too evident to be required to be proved. It is the most sacred principle of good faith, of honor, and, in fact, of all the obligations upon which the reciprocal safety of different states among themselves, and of each civil society in itself, repose, which are trodden under foot in such a manner, that the world would have difficulty in believing it, if I did not call the facts to be laid before them, which are authenticated in the narrative which I have ordered to be prepared.

The proceedings of the court of Berlin, when the electorate was occupied by its troops in 1801; its conduct, far from being friendly during the negotiation for the indemnities which followed the peace of Lunenburg; the declaration which it made, when France prepared to invade the electorate; and, lastly, the burdensome conditions under which it endeavored to cause it to be evacuated, to substitute her own troops, instead of France, had given too many proofs to the government of Hanover, not to oblige it to endeavor to avoid all sort of intervention on the part of this power, even at the moment that it was on the point of engaging in a dispute with France. The events which retarded the arrival in Hanover of the expedition, concerted between Great Britain, Russia and Sweden, gave the Prussian troops an opportunity of anticipating the evacuation of French army.

This step was accompanied by the most friendly protestations on the part of Prussia. She invited the Hanoverian government to resume its functions in my name, and to collect the wreck of the army.

The country, already so unfortunately doubly felt the weight of the numerous requisitions extorted by the Prussian corps, without the least regard to the situation in which the French left it.

After the unfortunate result of the campaign of the allies in the south of the empire, an attack in the north was to be expected. His imperial majesty of Russia,

