

RESOLUTIONS.

CHAPTER I.

THE present is a period replete with national occurrences as momentous as ever marked the annals of the world. That collision of kingdoms and empires, which has deluged Europe with blood, borne down the *practice*, and nearly extinguished the *principles* of justice and humanity, is not, in its effects, confined to that unhappy quarter of the globe. The unparalleled prosperity, the enterprising spirit, and the expanding commerce of the United States of America, have rendered them, to the two mighty belligerents, an object of envy, and a medium of retaliation, pretended, as to one, and iniquitous in both.

The emperor of the French has yet much to do, before the just claims of our country can be satisfied : but he has annulled those decrees which were the only legal obstruction to a friendly and commercial intercourse, with his dominions. He has annulled those very decrees, on which the British government solemnly declared its orders in council to be suspended. To the British government and to the world, he has evinced the extinguishment of those decrees, by the united evidence of solemn profession and uniform practice.

But have the orders in council expired with the French decrees ? No. Compared with their *prior*, their *subsequent* operation has been as life from the dead. They have been executed with redoubled rigor. Our seamen are impressed : our citizens robbed : our flag prostrated : our own waters infested : our coasting trade annoyed : our harbours blockaded.

While maritime oppression has thus risen to its summit, an envoy extraordinary is sent to our government, not (as might have been reasonably expected) to soften our irritated country, by conciliatory language : not to offer atonement for offences and indemnifications for wrongs that are past. These, with a single exception, he passes over as things beneath the notice of the British government or its envoy ; or as injuries to which the inexhaustible forbearance, the presumed timidity, or the abject debasement of the American government, would ensure her silent submission. He commences a new species and system of insult. He prescribes to the president what *he* shall recommend, and what the *National Legislature* shall enact. He demands a law which shall admit the products and manufactures of Great Britain into the ports of the United States ; although, American manufactures are, even in time of peace, excluded from the British dominions. He commands the American government to procure, of Napoleon, an abandonment of his continental system, and the

admission of British products and manufactures into his own, and the ports of his allies.

A compliance with the first of these demands, is a relinquishment of sovereignty. To fulfil the latter, the United States have neither right, nor power, nor the folly to attempt. The first is degrading: the second, impossible. And yet a submission to these royal mandates, is menacingly declared to be the only condition on which the orders in council shall be repealed, and the violation of our neutral rights discontinued.

Solemnly impressed with these considerations, and contemplating demands so unjust, so unreasonable, so disrespectful to the intelligence, and so insulting to the sovereignty of an enlightened, free, and independent people: Therefore,

1. *RESOLVED*, by the senate and house of representatives of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in general assembly met, that the policy of the British government, as exhibited by her naval power on the high seas, and expressed by her envoy near the United States, merits the reprobation, and cannot but rouse the virtuous indignation of every friend to this country and its government.

2. *Resolved*, that when submission or resistance, to the unjust demands of a tyrant, is the alternative, the latter only can be chosen by the freemen of America.

3. *Resolved*, that though we would rejoice in that adoption and practice of justice, which would secure, to Great Britain and to the world, our friendship and friendly intercourse, we will, in order to repel aggression and obtain reparation, vigorously exert all the powers which we possess to accelerate the accomplishment of such military preparations, as the wisdom of our national legislature may require.

4. *Resolved*, that it is our duty, as legislators, to employ a suitable portion of the finances of this commonwealth, in promoting the growth and prosperity, and in securing the permanence of our infant manufactures: that as individuals of the community, we will, as much as possible, abstain from wearing any thing in our apparel that is not the product of these manufactures: and that we will recommend the same patriotic practice to our constituents.

5. *Resolved*, that the question merits serious consideration, whether, in order to suppress the system of plunder and imprisonment on the high seas, it would, or would not, be a just, humane, and efficient retaliation to lay hold on property of the British government or of its subjects, wherever such property can be found, to an amount sufficient to indemnify the plundered American: and, for every impressed American citizen, to seize a subject of his Britannic majesty, wherever such subject can be found, and to subject him to imprisonment and

labour corresponding to the condition of the impressed American, on board of a British ship of war.

6. *Resolved*, that the wisdom, patriotism, and firmness of the executive and councils of the general government, entitle *them* to our perfect confidence, and their *measures* to our prompt and zealous co-operation : and in case an appeal to arms should be deemed necessary, we will support them at the risque of our lives and fortune.

7. *Resolved*, that the governor of this commonwealth, be instructed to transmit an authenticated copy of these resolutions, to the president of the United States, with a request that he communicate them to congress.

JOHN TOD, *Speaker*
of the House of Representatives.

P. C. LANE, *Speaker of the Senate.*

In the House of Representatives December 20th, 1811—
Read and agreed to.—Attest,

GEO. HECKERT, *Clerk*
of the House of Representatives.

In Senate, December 14th, 1811 ; read and adopted—Attest,
JOSEPH A. M. JIMSEY, *Clerk*
of the Senate.

CHAPTER II.

Certain duties enjoined upon the secretary of the commonwealth. *RESOLVED*, by the Senate and House of Representatives, That the secretary of the commonwealth be, and he is hereby directed to furnish each member of the present legislature; each of the judges of the circuit court of the United States, in and for the district of Pennsylvania, in the third circuit; the compiler, and the sergeant-at-arms of the house of representatives, with a copy of the laws of Pennsylvania, published by John Bioren, (excepting those members who have already been supplied;) and that he shall also furnish to each of the said judges, a copy of the laws passed at the present and each succeeding session of the legislature.

JOHN TOD, *Speaker*
of the House of Representatives.

P. C. LANE, *Speaker of the Senate.*

APPROVED—the twenty-first day of December, one thousand eight hundred and eleven.

SIMON SNYDER.

CHAPTER III.

RESOLVED, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in general assem-

bly met, That the senators from this state in the congress of the United States, be instructed, and the members of the house of representatives be requested, to use their utmost endeavors, to procure for the several States, the aid of congress, in opening canals and facilitating a free and general intercourse between the different parts of the United States. Instructions to the senators and representatives of this state in congress.

Resolved, that the governor be requested to forward a copy of the foregoing resolution to each of the senators and members of the house of representatives from this state, in the congress of the United States.

JOHN TOD, *Speaker*
of the House of Representatives.
P. C. LANE, *Speaker of the Senate.*

In Senate, February 10th, 1812 ; read and adopted.

JOSEPH A. M'JIMSEY, *Clerk*
of the Senate.

In the House of Representatives, February 21st, 1812 ; read and adopted.

GEO. HECKERT, *Clerk*
of the House of Representatives.

CHAPTER IV.

RESOLVED, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, That the governor be, and he is hereby required to request the attorney-general of this commonwealth, during the recess of the legislature, to draft and prepare a bill consolidating the whole of the penal laws of this commonwealth, and suggesting what additions, alterations and changes should take place in the system for the purpose of being laid before the next legislature. Attorney-general to perform certain duties.

JOHN TOD *Speaker*
of the House of Representatives.
P. C. LANE *Speaker of the Senate.*

APPROVED—the third day of March, one thousand eight hundred and twelve.

SIMON SNYDER.

CHAPTER V.

RESOLVED, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in general assembly met, That the auditor-general and state treasurer, be authorized and required to settle and adjust the accounts of John Bioren and Charles Smith, so far as respects the four volumes already delivered, and the balance due on said settlement, the Auditor-general and treasurer to settle certain accounts.

treasurer is directed to pay out of any money in the treasury, on warrants drawn by the auditor-general in the usual manner: *Provided always*, that the money so paid shall be considered as advanced on account, until the work be approved of, as directed by the act of the thirteenth February, one thousand eight hundred and eleven.

JOHN TOD, *Speaker*
of the *House of Representatives*.

P. C. LANE, *Speaker of the Senate*.

APPROVED—the sixth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and twelve.

SIMON SNYDER.

CHAPTER VI.

WHEREAS Charles Smith, esquire, has in the late edition of the laws of Pennsylvania, given various extracts from the books and files of the offices of the secretary of the commonwealth, secretary of the land-office, and surveyor-general, shewing the terms, and certain other regulations of the proprietaries in granting and securing titles to lands purporting to be the usages of the land-office under the proprietary government, and as these regulations were the only law under which titles were then derived and held, and as titles so derived have been confirmed by an act relating to proprietary estates, passed the twenty-seventh of November, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine, according to such estate or estates, rights or interest, and under such limitations and uses, as in and by the several and respective grants and conveyances thereof are directed and appointed: and by another act establishing a land-office, passed the ninth of April, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one, patents were directed to issue to persons entitled either in law or equity, to any lands held under proprietary rights, by paying the purchase money, interest and fees, according to the proprietary terms and usages; it therefore becomes important that these terms and usages of the land-office during the proprietary government, should be fully known, that they may be referred to in cases where the titles depend on the evidence of such proprietary record: Therefore,

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in general assembly met, That it shall be the duty of the secretary of the commonwealth, the secretary of the land-office, and surveyor-general, to compare with the originals all extracts that said Charles Smith, esquire, has or may take from any book or document deposited or filed in their respective offices, and which have or may

Certain duties enjoined on the secretary of the commonwealth, secretary of the

be inserted in the volumes of the laws printed and now printing by John Bioren, and make out such other extracts and notes as with the notes and extracts already made, may be necessary to shew the whole usages of the land-offices, in granting and confirming titles to land under the said proprietaries and their officers; and all such extracts being compared and certified, to be correct by the said secretary of the commonwealth, secretary of the land office, and surveyor-general, may thereafter be read in evidence, and have the same force and effect, as certified copies of such documents and records could or might have, if certified by the proper officer, and the seal of his office were thereto affixed.

land-office,
and surveyor-
general.

What may be
read in evi-
dence, &c.

JOHN TOD, *Speaker*
of the House of Representatives.

P. C. LANE, *Speaker of the Senate.*

APPROVED—the twenty-seventh day of March, one thousand eight hundred and twelve.

SIMON SNYDER.

CHAPTER VII.

RESOLVED, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in general assembly met, and it is hereby resolved by the authority of the same, That the sum of eight hundred dollars is hereby appropriated, and placed at the disposal of the state treasurer, to be used in such way, as his discretion may direct, in order to bring to a conclusion certain disputes now existing between the accounting officers of this commonwealth, and sundry persons who purchased land as the property of John Nicholson, on which the state had a lien; and the treasurer aforesaid is hereby required to account to the next legislature in what manner he has expended the same, or any part thereof.

\$ 800 appro-
priated for
the settle-
ment of cer-
tain disputes.

JOHN TOD, *Speaker*
of the House of Representatives.

P. C. LANE, *Speaker of the Senate.*

APPROVED—the twenty-seventh day of March, one thousand eight hundred and twelve.

SYMON SNYDER.

CHAPTER VIII.

RESOLVED, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in general assembly met, That it shall be the duty of each and every person, holding any office or appointment under the governor of this commonwealth, and they are hereby enjoined and required, respectively, to make out a complete list or schedule, therein

Certain du-
ties enjoined
upon officers
appointed by

the governor, to which offices there are perquisites attached.

stating all the different kinds or varieties of fees and perquisites, as well those authorized by law, as those taken under any usage whatever, and received in his office; and the alderman and justices of the peace respectively, shall add thereto, a list or schedule, containing every kind and variety of fees received under law or usage, to the best of his knowledge, by any constable acting under him, specifying in every case the service performed, entitling him to the receipt of such fees, and enclose and transmit the same, by mail, to the office of the secretary of the commonwealth, on or before the first Monday of December next, who shall immediately lay the same before the legislature; and if any officer shall neglect or refuse to comply with the duties herein enjoined and required, he shall on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay the sum of fifty dollars, one half to the use of the poor of the ward, township, county, or district, wherein the offender shall reside, and the other half to the use of the person giving information of the same, to be sued for and recovered, as debts under one hundred dollars, are by law recoverable.

Penalty for neglect of duty.

JOHN TOD, *Speaker*
of the House of Representatives.

P. C. LANE, *Speaker of the Senate.*

APPROVED—the thirtieth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and twelve. SIMON SNYDER.

CHAPTER IX.

WHEREAS by a resolution of the legislature, dated March twentieth, one thousand eight hundred and eleven, it is directed, that the new edition of the laws of the state, in four volumes, by John Bioren, shall be disposed of by the secretary of the commonwealth, to the members of the legislature, and to certain officers therein mentioned; and whereas, the said edition has since been extended to five volumes, and may yet receive a further extension Therefore,

Explanation of a prior resolution.

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in general assembly met, That the said resolution of March twentieth, one thousand eight hundred and eleven, shall be understood to extend to one full and complete copy of the said edition of the laws, one of which shall also be distributed to the deputy secretary of the commonwealth, who has not hitherto been provided for; and the secretary of the commonwealth is hereby authorized and directed, to make the disposition of said laws accordingly.

JOHN TOD, *Speaker*
of the House of Representatives.

P. C. LANE, *Speaker of the Senate.*

APPROVED—the thirty-first day of March, one thousand eight hundred and twelve. SIMON SNYDER.