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[By Authority.]

THOMAS JEFFERSON,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
To all and singular, to whom these presents shall come, GREETING:

WHEREAS a certain convention between the United States and the Chacktaw nation of Indians, was concluded and ſigned at Fort Confederation on the Tombigby river, on the 17th day of October laſt paſt, which convention is as follows:

A proviſional convention entered into and made by brigadier general James Wilkinſon, of the ſtate of Maryland, commiſſioner for holding conferences with the Indians ſouth of the Ohio river, in behalf of the United States on the one part, and the whole Choctaw nation, by their chiefs, head men and principal warriors, on the other part.

Preamble. For the mutual accommodation of the parties, and to perpetuate that concord and friendſhip, which ſo happily ſubſiſts between them, they do hereby freely, voluntarily, and without conſtraint, covenant and agree.

Article 1. That the Preſident of the United States may, at his diſcretion, by a commiſſioner or commiſſioners, to be appointed by him, by and with the advice and conſent of the Senate of the United States, retrace, connect, and plainly remark the old line of limits, eſtabliſhed by and between his Britannic majeſty and the ſaid Choctaw nation, which begins on the left bank of the Chickaſawhay river, and runs thence in an eaſterly direction to the right bank of the Tombigby river terminating on the ſame, at a bluff, well known by the name of Hacha Tiggeby, but it is to be clearly underſtood, that two commiſſioners, to be appointed by the ſaid nation, from their own body, are to attend the commiſſioner or commiſſioners of the United States, who may be appointed to perform this ſervice, for which purpoſe, the ſaid Choctaw nation ſhall be ſeaſonably adviſed by the Preſident of the United States, of the particular period at which the operation may be commenced, and the ſaid Choctaw commiſſioners ſhall be ſubſiſted by the United States, ſo long as they may be engaged on this buſineſs, and paid for their ſervices, during the ſaid term at the rate of one dollar per day.

Article 2. The ſaid line, when thus remarked and re eſtabliſhed, ſhall form the boundary between the United States and the ſaid Choctaw nation, in that quarter, and the ſaid Choctaw nation, for, and in conſideration of one dollar, to them in hand paid by the ſaid United States, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby releaſe to the ſaid United States, and quit claim for ever, to all that tract of land which is included by the beforenamed line on the north, by the Chickaſawhay river on the weſt, by the Tombigby and the Mobile rivers on the eaſt, and by the boundary of the United States on the ſouth.

Article 3. The chiefs, head-men and warriors, of the ſaid Choctaw nation, do hereby conſtitute, authoriſe and appoint, the chiefs and head men of the upper towns of the ſaid nation, to make ſuch alteration in the old boundary line near the mouth of the Yazou river, as may be found convenient, and may be done without injury to the ſaid nation.

Article 4. This convention ſhall take effect, and become obligatory on the contracting parties as ſoon as the Preſident of the United States, by and with the advice and conſent of the Senate, ſhall have ratified the ſame.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto ſet their hands and affixed their ſeals at Fort Confederation, on the Tombigby in the Choctaw country, this 17th day of October in the year of our Lord, 1802, and of the independence of the United States, the twenty-ſeventh.

JAMES WILKINSON, (SEAL.)

In behalf of the lower towns and Chickaſawhay.

Tuſkona Hoopoia, his mark,	x
Mingo Pooſkoos, his mark,	x
Mingo Pooſkoos 2d, his mark,	x
Pooſh a Mattahaw, his mark,	x
In behalf of the upper towns.	
Oak Chummy, his mark,	x
Tuſkee, Maiby, his mark,	x
In behalf of the six towns and lower towns.	
Latela homah, his mark,	x
Mook-la-hoo-ſoo-pai-[illegible]h, his mark,	x
Mingo, Hom, Aſtubly, his mark,	x
Juſſiahomah, his mark,	x

Witneſſes preſent.
SILAS DINSMORE, Agent to the Choctaws.

JOHN PITCHLEYNN,
TURNER BRASHEARS,
PETER H. NAISALIS,
JOHN LONG,
} Interpreters.

NOW BE IT KNOWN, THAT I THOMAS JEFFERSON, Preſident of the United States of America, having ſeen & conſidered the ſaid Convention, do, by and with the advice and conſent of the Senate thereof, accept, ratify and confirm the ſame and every clauſe and article thereof.

(L. S.) IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have cauſed the ſeal of the United States to be hereunto affixed, and ſigned the ſame with my hand. Done at the City of Waſhington the twentieth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thouſand eight hundred and three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the twenty ſeventh.

TH: JEFFERSON.

By the President,
JAMES MADISON,
Secretary of State.

GOVERNOR CLINTON'S *Speech to the Legislature of New-York, delivered the 25th ultimo.*

Gentlemen of the Senate and Assembly,

I have the ſatisfaction to inform you, that nothing has occurred, in the receſs of the Legiſlature, to diſturb the public tranquility, or to impede the growing proſperity of the ſtate; for a continuation of theſe ineſtimable bleſſings our unfeigned gratitude is due to the Supreme Diſpoſer of all events. You muſt, however, have heard with regret, of the late unwarrantable conduct of the Spaniſh Intendant at New-Orleans, calculated to deprive the people of the United States of the free navigation of the Miſſiſſippi—but notwithſtanding the ſenſibility ſo generally and juſtly excited on this occaſion, there is every reaſon to believe, that the wiſe and temperate meaſures adopted by the Preſident, will remove all cauſe of complaint;—Should this not be the caſe, and a more vigorous courſe become proper and neceſſary, I feel confident it will be purſued; and that this ſtate, which ſo eminently exerted itſelf in the eſtabliſhment of American Independence, will diſplay equal firmneſs and patriotiſm in vindicating our national rights, from whatever quarter they may be aſſailed.

Our fellow-citizens attached to our happy conſtitution, from a conviction that it is wiſely calculated, under Divine Providence, to inſure all the eſſential benefits of civil ſociety, without any unneceſſary abridgement of their natural rights, generally manifeſt a diſpoſition to pay due obedience to the laws, which they juſtly conſider as the expreſſion of their own will, and to give to government that genuine energy and ſupport, which are only to be derived from their confidence and affection. It is alſo with pleaſure I mention, that the duties aſſigned to the different departments, as far as my obſervation extends, continue to be performed with wiſdom and fidelity.

With reſpect to the various matters committed to my more immediate direction, I flatter myſelf you will find them executed in a manner that will meet your approbation.—Treaties have been held with the Oneida and Seneca nations of Indians, and the objects contemplated by the laws authoriſing thoſe negociations, accompliſhed. Copies of the treaties will be laid before you, with an eſtimate of the ſums which remain to be provided for, to comply with the ſtipulations contained in them. It may be proper to remark, that as no proviſion was made for the payment of the ſums mentioned in the agreement entered into with the Oneidas, under concurrent reſolutions of the Senate and Aſſembly of laſt ſeſſion, nor for defraying the expences of the treaty, directed to be held with that nation, it became neceſſary to ſupply theſe deficiencies by private credit. I avail myſelf of this firſt opportunity of fulfilling my engagement to the Seneca Indians, by recommending that legiſlative proviſion be made for ſecuring to them certain privileges ſpecified in the treaty with that nation. I conſidered their claims reaſonable, and would have confirmed them, had not doubts exiſted reſpecting my authority.

The annual report of the Commiſſary of Military Stores, with the papers accompanying it, will communicate all uſeful information relative to that department, and diſcloſe to you how far the different ſervices enjoined on him by the act of laſt ſeſſion, deſignating his duties, have been performed. Notwithſtanding I have reaſon to believe this buſineſs has been conducted with a ſtrict regard to economy, yet it is probable the expences incurred may exceed the ſum at which they were eſtimated, owing to the extenſive repairs which the arſenals required, and to the ruinous condition in which the ſmall arms and accoutrements were found; as it could not have been conjectured, that whilſt large ſums were expending in defenſive preparations, articles of the firſt utility would have been ſo much neglected. This effort to put our Magazine of Military Stores in a ſtate of repair is an uſeful one, but as it will appear from the returns that the ſupplies fall far ſhort of thoſe enjoined by the conſtitution, it would be injuſtice to the wiſdom of the Legiſlature to doubt that ſuch farther appropriations will be made as the ſtate of our Treaſury may warrant, for a more perfect compliance with a conſtitutional injunction dictated by a regard for the public ſafety. The danger of placing a dependance on theſe ſupplies from abroad, and the difficulty of procuring them when moſt wanted, point out the expediency of embracing the preſent favorable opportunity which peace affords, for repleniſhing our magazines;—In doing this, however, a preference ought to be given to articles which the ingenuity and induſtry of our own citizens can furniſh, as thereby an additional object will be attained; encouragement will be given to American artizans.

With the returns of the reviews and inſpections of the laſt year, I ſhall alſo cauſe to be laid before you thoſe of the preceding one; by a compariſon of them you will have the ſatisfaction to diſcover an increaſing attention to duty, honorable to the militia, and at the ſame time evincive of the beneficial effects produced by the amendments made at the laſt ſeſſion to the militia law.—It is ſubmitted to your judgment to deviſe ſuch farther improvements in the ſyſtem as ſhall be beſt calculated to promote diſcipline and encourage military ardour.

Although it was to have been expected crimes would have multiplied with the increaſe of our population, it is with peculiar pleaſure I obſerve, that from the documents in my poſſeſſion it may be inferred with a degree of certainty, that for the laſt three years their number has been gradually diminiſhing. This circumſtance, whilſt it is highly gratifying to philanthropy, and reſpectable to the community, demonſtrates the wiſdom of the alterations made in our criminal code, by the rejection of ſanguinary puniſhments, and the ſubſtitution of a ſyſtem more congenial with the mild ſpirit of our free government.

This, with other wiſe improvements which have from time to time been made in our laws, and the recent judicious reviſion and amendment of them, have given to our juriſprudence ſuch a degree of perfection as to induce a belief that any material alterations are at preſent unneceſſary. Beſides the obvious advantages attending the ſtability of laws, it is eſſential to their due obſervance, that they ſhould be generally known and accurately underſtood, but this is impracticable whilſt they are ſubject to frequent changes; ſince time is required to aſcertain by judicial deciſions, the legal import of ſections admitting of different conſtructions; and ſuch are too frequently to be found even in amendatory ſtatutes. Should you, gentlemen, concur in this opinion, a greater portion of your time than uſual may be devoted to other objects.

The improvement of our fiſcal concerns will naturally preſent itſelf to you as of ſuperior moment, and the details contained in the Comptroller's annual report, will aſſiſt in your deliberations on this important ſubject by ſuggeſting meaſures for rendering the funds of the ſtate more productive of revenue. The ſalutary effect reſulting from the economical ſyſtem and judicious arrangements of the general government afford an inſtructive leſſon, and if we purſue an example of ſuch high authority and ſo worthy of imitation, there is reaſon to believe that the finances of the State may be placed in a condition competent to all the exigencies of government, without the neceſſity of recurring to taxation.

The tract of land belonging to the State adjoining the Niagara river, including that ceded by the recent Treaty with the Seneca nation of Indians, comprehends the carrying place in the line of communication between the Great Weſtern Lakes. This, and other intereſting conſiderations ariſing from its frontier ſituation, render it highly important that meaſures be taken for its ſpeedy and regular ſettlement. The intereſt of the State alſo requires more effectual meaſures than have hitherto been adopted to prevent waſtes and intruſions on the public lands. It is to be feared that the indulgent conduct of government has only tended to increaſe thoſe pernicious practices. Moſt of the offenders are ſtrangers, ignorant of our laws, and it is time they were taught that trangreſſions are not to be rewarded with favors; Wholeſome ſettlers will not riſk their labor in improving lands held by ſo unjuſtifiable and precarious a tenure, and ſound policy as well as juſtice forbid our encouraging thoſe of a different deſcription.

There is perhaps no object connected with the internal commerce of the State of greater conſequence to its proſperity than the Navigation of Hudſon's River, and under this impreſſion the Legiſlature have at different times granted conſiderable ſums which have been applied to its improvement and extenſion. It is obvious, however, that the advantages to be derived from theſe expenditures can be of but comparative ſmall value, unleſs the public aid ſhall be extended to the removal of the obſtructions below this city, which greatly impede the paſſage of the river, and are found to be annually increaſing. If it ſhould be deemed expedient to patronize this intereſting undertaking, you will perceive the propriety of directing preparatory meaſures for aſcertaining the beſt manner of accompliſhing it, and of committing its execution to agents of your own appointment, as attempts on an injudicious plan might, without effecting the object, be productive of injurious conſequences.

Some defects which had been diſcovered in the laws eſtabliſhing Turnpike Road Companies, were ſuggeſted to the Legiſlature at the opening of the laſt ſeſſion. But altho' the evils apprehended from theſe defects were guarded againſt in the incorporating acts paſſed ſubſequent to that period; yet no remedies were extended to the imperfections of the then exiſting laws. And as in theſe no mode is preſcribed to exact a compliance from the companies with the intentions of Government, the trouble, expence and hazard of vindicating public rights devolve on individuals. It is ſubmitted whether it would not be expedient to confer the power of enforcing thoſe laws on ſome of the eſtabliſhed officers, at the public expence, and at the ſame time to preſcribe the manner in which ſuch power ſhall be executed. The difficulties which occur in deviſing amendments to acts of this kind, without invading corporate rights, ought to ſerve as an admonition to great care and circumſpection in framing future ones.—How far it will be prudent to increaſe the number of theſe incorporations, before the advantages to be derived from them by the public, ſhall be more fully aſcertained by a courſe of fair experiment, is a queſtion worthy of your ſerious conſideration.

The eſtabliſhment of common ſchools has at different times engaged the attention of the Legiſlature; but altho' its importance is generally acknowledged, a diverſity of ſentiment reſpecting the beſt means has hitherto prevented the accompliſhment of the object. The diffuſion of knowledge is ſo eſſential to the promotion of virtue and the preſervation of liberty, as to render arguments unneceſſary to excite you to perſeverance in this laudable purſuit: Permit me only to obſerve, that education, by correcting the morals and improving the manners, tends to prevent thoſe evils in ſociety which are beyond the ſphere of legiſlation.

Gentlemen,

I ſhall occaſionally communicate, by meſſage ſuch other matters as may appear to deſerve your notice, without detaining you any longer at this time, than to aſſure you of my beſt endeavors to render your ſeſſion agreeable; and that I ſhall always conſider a cheerful co-operation with the Legiſlature, in every meaſure calculated to promote the honor of the ſtate and the happineſs of our conſtituents, among the firſt of my duties.

GEORGE CLINTON.
Albany, January 25th, 1803.

ADVERTISEMENT.

This is to give notice, that the ſubſcriber hath obtained from the Orphans Court of Calvert County in the ſtate of Maryland, letters teſtamentary on the perſonal eſtate of capt. [illegible] Gover, late of Calvert County, deceaſed, are hereby warned to exhibit the ſame with the vouchers thereof to the ſubſcriber at or before the eighth of July next, they may otherwiſe by law be excluded from all benefits of the ſaid eſtate. Given under my hand this 8th day of January, 180[illegible].

MARY GOVER, Executrix

National Intelligencer.

Congreſs of the United States.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 2, 1803.

(Debate Continued.)

On Mr. Bayard's Motion respecting French spoliations.

Mr. Huger had no heſitation in ſaying this was a queſtion of great moment, and one well worthy of the deliberate attention of the Houſe. To be ſure if there was a great preſs of important buſineſs, we would acquieſce in its poſtponement. But this was not the caſe. There was no buſineſs before the Houſe of preſſing importance. He was in favour of a fair and full inveſtigation of the ſubject. The motion to make it the order of the day for the laſt day of the ſeſſion when the preſs of other buſineſs would abſolutely preclude an attention to it was tantamount to a refuſal of all inveſtigation whatever. Unleſs the motion was withdrawn, he would therefore call for the yeas and nays.

Mr. Bacon ſaid his mind preponderated againſt the claim. But to him it appeared that a poſtponement to ſuch a day would be the ſame as declaring the claim ſhould not be attended to. If the claim ſhould be ſuſtained by the vote of the Houſe, it would ſurely require more than one day to make the neceſſary arrangements for carrying it into the ſhape of a law.

Mr. Bayard. No doubt the obſervation of the gentleman from Maſſachuſetts is correct, that a poſtponement to the laſt day of the ſeſſion is in effect preciſely the ſame as to reject the claim altogether. Gentlemen ought to conſider that our ſole object is to bring into diſcuſſion the claims of our citizens. I do not undertake to expreſs any opinion of the validity of the claims. No member on the floor is leſs perſonally or locally intereſted than I am. But I [illegible] think that no claim whatever of the meaneſt nature ſhould be decided upon until the party is heard. Many of our citizens, who have incurred loſſes, ſuppoſe they have an equitable claim on the government. The claims have been announced in the public papers, and in petitions on the files of this Houſe. Is it then for this Houſe to ſay they will not attend to the petitions of our citizens? For what do we aſk? Simply, for a diſcuſſion, and that a deciſion ſhall not be made, until thoſe, who conſider themſelves aggrieved, ſhall be heard. Are gentlemen unwilling to truſt themſelves, leſt their own conſciences ſhould compel them to an act of juſtice? But I will abſtain from going into the merits of the ſubject. I will only repeat that there is no petition, however worthleſs, but the Houſe pays it a decent reſpect; by referring it, and allowing time for its examination. Will they then, in a caſe of ſuch magnitude as this, where there are ſo many claims, ſo variouſly characteriſed; will they refuſe this ordinary meaſure of reſpect. I will expect a different deciſion from the juſtice and candour of the Houſe.

Mr. R. Williams ſaid he would withdraw his motion, and move that the ſubject ſhould be made the order of the day for the 1ſt day of March, which would allow ſufficient time ſo a full and fair inveſtigation.

Mr. Smilie did not know what the gentleman from Delaware meant, when he ſaid we were not willing to truſt our conſciences. He hoped every gentleman had as good a conſcience as the gentleman himſelf. For his own part, if there was time to diſcuſs this ſubject, he would be willing to hear it diſcuſſed, and it would then appear who brought the merchants into their misfortunes, and who occaſioned their loſſes. But as he believed there was not now time, he thought it beſt to poſtpone the conſideration of the ſubject until the next ſeſſion, when it would fully appear who had been the friends, and who the enemies of our merchants. In the mean time, he would only add that he would never be one of thoſe who would conſent to tax the agricultural intereſts of the country to pay the merchants.

Mr. Rutledge obſerved that it was important that our merchants ſhould be extricated from their preſent embarraſſments. They wiſh to know the diſpoſition of Congreſs on their claims. This cannot be done if the preſent motion obtain: for the ſubject, in that event, will be preciſely diſpoſed of this ſeſſion as it was the laſt. It was then referred, at an early period, to a committee,