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V I E W
OF THE
UNITED STATES

OF
A M E R I C A,

IN A SERIES OF PAPERS,

WRITTEN AT VARIOUS TIMES, BETWEEN THE YEARS
1787 AND 1794;

By *TENCH COXE*, of PHILADELPHIA;

INTERSPERSED WITH

AUTHENTIC DOCUMENTS:

THE WHOLE TENDING TO EXHIBIT THE PROGRESS AND PRE-
SENT STATE OF CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY, POPU-
LATION, AGRICULTURE, EXPORTS, IMPORTS, FISHE-
RIES, NAVIGATION, SHIP-BUILDING, MANUFAC-
TURES, AND GENERAL IMPROVEMENT.

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1794.



DISTRICT of PENNSYLVANIA, to wit :

SEAL. *****
BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the twenty-fourth day of October, in the nineteenth year of the Independence of the United States of America, WILLIAM HALL, and WRIGLEY and BERRIMAN, of the said district, have deposited in this office, the Title of a Book, the right whereof they claim, as proprietors, in the words following, to wit :

“ A View of the United States of America, in a series of papers, written at various times, between the years 1787, and 1794; by TENCH COXE, of Philadelphia; interspersed with authentic documents: the whole tending to exhibit the progress, and present state of civil and religious liberty, population, agriculture, exports, imports, fisheries, navigation, ship-building, manufactures, and general improvements.” in conformity to the act of the Congress of the United States, intituled, “ An act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts and Books, to the Authors and Proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned.”

SAMUEL CALDWELL, *Clerk of the*
District of Pennsylvania.

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BOOK I.

A

PREFATORY NOTE

ADDRESSED TO THE
CITIZENS OF PENNSYLVANIA.

AFTER the following pages were delivered from the press some observations upon those parts of their contents, which relate to our particular state, occurred with very considerable force. These were accompanied by interesting reflections upon the existing circumstances of the country. It appeared useful to introduce them in a prefatory note, that they might encourage our perseverance in the ancient line of policy and conduct, which have produced effects so transcendently favourable to our local interests, without injustice to our sister states, or to the foreign world.

It appears by the return on the 476th page, that the state of Pennsylvania (or the city of Philadelphia) exported in the year, ending in September, 1793, of foreign and domestic goods, nearly seven eighths of the sum exported by New-York, Con-

necticut, Rhode-Island, Massachusetts, and New-Hampshire; and that those exports of Philadelphia were 1,717,572 dollars, more than all the exports of New-England. At the same time, it is well known, that Baltimore received a considerable part of the produce of this state, and that some of it is usually sent out by land to the Patowmac, and by water through the river Ohio. The migrators from New-England, New-York, New-Jersey, Delaware and Maryland, from Europe and in that year, from the West-Indies, were consuming largely of articles, which would otherwise have greatly increased the value of our exportations.

Having reference to the number of tons and to the quality, it will be found, that we built new vessels in the same year to an amount double that of any other port in the United States.

The increase of the exports of the United States in flour, since the year 1786, has been about 800,000 barrels. This article is received by New-England, the Carolinas and Georgia, in a much greater degree from the middle states, than it is exported from the former seven. This very great increase is therefore confined to Pennsylvania, New-Jersey, New-York, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia; and it is not the principal staple of the two last states, which export more in value of tobacco than of flour. The difference in the value of the flour shipped from those six states, in 1786, and that in 1793, is about six millions of dollars, calculating as well upon the increase of price as of quantity. The whole increase of the exports of the union, since March 1789, is about eight millions of dollars, of which more than two millions were in foreign goods.

Pennsylvania, and Maryland (which exports considerably for Pennsylvania) shipped, of domestic and foreign goods, in 1792,
Dollars, 6,370,904

The same two states shipped in 1793, 10,645,855

The difference in favour of the latter year was 4,274,951 dollars. This was about seventeen twentieth parts of the increase of the exports of the United States in the same time.

The whole exports of New-York, in 1793, were 2,934,370

The mere increase of the exports of Pennsylvania, between 1792 and 1793, was 3,138,090

The exports of Pennsylvania, for the half year only, ending on the 30th March, 1794, were, Dols. 3,533,597

The increase of the exports of the United States, in 1793, beyond those of 1792, was about 5,000,000 dollars, of which the above increase of Pennsylvania alone, in that time, was thirty-one fiftieth parts : or more than three fifths.

The population of Pennsylvania appears to have increased, in 23 years, nearly in the proportion of 39 to 91, though the whole term of a revolutionary and invasive war of seven years was included. This considerably exceeds Dr. Franklin's estimate of doubling in twenty years. Now, that all New-England is full, except Main and Vermont, the contiguous states of New-Jersey and Delaware are overstocked, and Maryland*

* See page 481.

nearly so; and above all, now that Europe is full and much disturbed, a curious rapidity of population is to be expected in a state with so much unimproved land, disposition and capacity for manufactures, wealth, foreign intercourse, energy and enterprise as Pennsylvania. The surplus population of New-England, New-Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland, at five per cent. is above 60,000 persons per annum; and the surplus of the old settlements of this state is above twenty-two thousand per annum.

The plenty of pit-coal in Pennsylvania will very soon give it an immense advantage over all the interior-country north and east of it, in which, though colder than Pennsylvania, it is not known, that there is one coal mine open, or that there is any considerable appearance of that invaluable fossil. Wood and timber are very much decreased in the principal part of New-England and in New-Jersey, but is abundant in Maine and Vermont, and in many parts of New-York.

It cannot be too much enforced and reiterated, that the interior and western counties of Pennsylvania, and the western country in general, ought to procure, at any expence, the most valuable breeding animals, which can be obtained—Horses, mares, horned cattle and sheep: because their distance from the sea-ports dictates the most intelligent and particular attention to the grazing husbandry. Horned cattle have been driven to Philadelphia, from Massachusetts and North-Carolina, and mules from Connecticut to Baltimore. The journey from the Ohio to Philadelphia, is not more difficult.

The practice of the eastern states, in regard to schools deserves the most serious attention of the wise and good. It

appears to have resulted in New-England from their settling in townships of four, five and six miles square. Perhaps it would be most easily accomplished in Pennsylvania by dividing the state into such townships. The utmost distance from a school, in the centre of a division of four miles square, would be very little more than a mile.

It is obviously of the greatest importance to this country and to Pennsylvania, that its citizens should continue to be firmly attached to the union of the American states. An opposite disposition would be an error the most fatal and the most extreme.

There was never applied, to the improvement and advancement of Pennsylvania, so great an aggregate of money as is employed directly or indirectly at the present time. The improvements at the falls of Delaware, at Alexandria on the same river, opposite to Bucks, at Wilsonville on the Walenpaupack, at Assylum on the Susquehannah, at Connewaga by that company, at the Brandywine, Schuylkill and Tulpehocken canals, at the Lancaster turnpike road, at the Black Friar falls of Susquehanna, in the private buildings at Pittsburg, the mills, work-shops and dwelling houses in every town and every quarter of the state, together with the expenditures upon roads, bridges and rivers, amount to a prodigious sum, have attracted artists, mechanics and labourers from other states, and even from Europe, and have caught the stream of emigration ere it passed from east to west, and from north to south. It may be truly said, that the profits, not only of agriculture, but of trade, manufactures, funds and banks are turned, to a great amount, to the promotion of the landed interest, by Pennsylvanians, by many other Americans and foreigners of several nations.

The manufactured imports of the state of Pennsylvania, are somewhat less than those of New-York; though the exports of this state are so much greater. This is a clear proof of the magnitude of the manufactures of Pennsylvania. Gunpowder, linseed oil, glue, paper, books, engravings, carriages, brazery, copper ware, tin and pewter wares, iron castings, saddlery, hats, carriages for pleasure and work, paper hangings, pasteboards, boots, shoes, tanned and tawed leather, parchments, earthen and stone ware, cedar ware, corn-fans, Windsor and rush bottom chairs, household manufactures of woollen, cotton and-linen, set work, gold work, silver plate, rolled and slit iron and steel, and manufactures thereof and of lead, leather breeches, whips, gloves, horsemen's caps, cartouch boxes, canteens, sword blades, bayonets, musquets, rifles, drums, boats, ships and vessels, beer, distilled spirits, and many other articles to a great amount indeed, are manufactured in the city of Philadelphia, in the boroughs, and in the counties of Pennsylvania; are transported, in many instances, by land and water, to several other states; and, in many instances, are exported to foreign countries. This is the real cause of a difference, which has attracted some observation; and this important circumstance is conceived to be one of the strongest points in favour of the resources, powers and efficiency of Pennsylvania. From this solid truth it is obvious, that upon an accurate and comprehensive statement of her commerce, foreign and domestic, by sea and land, a great balance would appear in favour of this state.

The people of Pennsylvania owe very little money indeed, to their American brethren, but on the contrary, have always much due to them on all sides. They partake more largely in the ready money branches of foreign commerce, because of

their own valuable staples and of the extent of their capital and their habits of exporting to foreign countries, from the southern ports, the productions of those states. In the credit trades, they take a very large share and are second to none in punctuality of payment.

The citizens of Philadelphia consume in their arts, trades and families, and export to foreign countries so much of the produce of the fisheries, that they appear to have a strong interest to participate in them. While the British and French partake in the American fisheries, and in the whale fishery of every sea, it will continue to be a matter of certainty, that the enterprizing ship owners and mariners of Philadelphia may at any time make the experiment.

The facts and ideas in this note, relative to the state of Pennsylvania, together with those in the 4th chapter of the first book and in the 6th chapter of the second book will tend to prove to us, who are of that prosperous state, its very deep interest in maintaining just government and public order.

V I E W
OF THE
UNITED STATES.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

THE progressive course of things, in young countries, renders the task of those, who undertake to treat of their affairs, particularly difficult. The incessant changes, produced by public operations and private industry, occasion the representations of one year to be imperfect and dissimilar pictures, in those which follow soon after. In no country have these observations been more strikingly exemplified, than in the United States of America. The actual situation of many parts of their affairs is nearly *the reverse* of what it was at times within the memory of children. This circumstance has suggested the idea, that collections of papers, which have been published at the different stages of American affairs during the existing peace, (like those, which occupy this volume) introduced in each instance by concise explanatory remarks, and closed by such brief observations on its particular subject,

as arise in the present time, would be of considerable utility to those, who may desire to know, and thoroughly to understand the situation of the United States. The publications, now disposed in that form, were all produced in America by the state of things at the moment, and were given to the world without any reservation as to the writer's name. It is an interesting presumption, therefore, to persons abroad, that considerable dependance may be reasonably placed by them upon facts, which have been, in most instances, brought forward with a view to the use of the inhabitants of the United States, and which have been stated, and asserted, in the most public manner, before the best informed people of the country. Gross deceptions, or many erroneous representations are not very likely to be found in such a collection. It is, however, prudent and necessary to observe, that the field of information and enquiry in the United States is so extensive, diversified and variable, that many very interesting facts remain unknown to their most attentive inhabitants. There is no doubt, therefore, that those, who are well acquainted with any portion of the United States, will perceive many instances of advantages, which are not contemplated in this collection. All that is intended to be affirmed, in regard to the matter they comprize, is, that the various allegations they contain were really warranted by truth or by sincere belief at the time when they were written.