

Biographical Sketch of the Character of Governor TRUMBULL.

THE family of TRUMBULL was among the early settlers in New-England. Their ancestor came from England in 1643, and fixed his residence at Ipswich in Massachusetts. His son, named John, removed and established himself at Suffield in Connecticut. He had three sons, John, Joseph and Benoni, whose descendants are still living in this state. Joseph settled at Lebanon, and at his death in 1735, left but one son, his Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, our former Governor.

Providence raised up that illustrious man to preside over the state, during a period of the greatest danger and distress; which required all the wisdom and firmness of the statesman, no less than the skill and intrepidity of the warrior. The revolutionary contest found him in office, to which he was first elected in 1776, and in which he was continued till his resignation in 1784, on the termination of the war by the establishment of American independence. He was one of our earliest and ablest patriots in the revolution.

The Government of Connecticut, though subordinate before that period, was ever independent in form. All its officers were elected by the people. Completely organized as a republic, and not forced to try the experiment of political theories, the revolution occasioned no change in our Constitution. The Governor was enabled, on all emergencies, to call forth the resources of the state and to furnish assistance, both of troops and supplies, to the American army; far beyond the exertions of many other States, superior in extent, wealth and population, but embarrassed by the opposition of crown-officers, and enfeebled by the want of legal authority. His unremitting vigor, activity and success, stand recorded in the pages of history, and have left a lasting impression on the hearts of the people.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, our late Governor, was the eldest surviving son of this venerable magistrate. He was born at Lebanon on the 26th of March 1740. His genius, docility and love of learning, appeared in his early years. At the age of fifteen, he was admitted a member of Harvard College; and after completing his education, and receiving its honors in 1759, he left the university with a character, unblemished in morals, respectable for science, and peculiarly amiable in manners. He settled in his native place; and in 1766 married Miss Eunice Backus, a young lady of a reputable family in Norwich, who survives to lament his loss, and console her sorrows by the recollection of his virtues.

He was soon called into public service. He was an active and influential member of the State-legislature, as representative of the town of Lebanon, during several sessions before, and at the commencement of the American war. In 1775, he was appointed by congress, Paymaster to the army in the Northern Department. He continued in that employment till the close of the campaign in 1778. Upon the death of his elder brother, Colonel Joseph Trumbull, Commissary general of the army of the United States, the care of settling his public accounts, and administering on his estate, having been committed to his trust, he resigned his office and returned to his family at Lebanon. He was immediately re-elected to the legislature.

In 1780, he received the appointment of Secretary and first Aid to General Washington, in whose family he remained till the end of the war; honored with the highest confidence and friendship of his Commander, and the esteem and affections of the army.

On the restoration of peace and establishment of our Independence, he enjoyed a short interval of retirement from the duties of public life; happy in domestic society, and employed principally in his private concerns; till the embarrassment and confusions of the times again called for the services of every friend to his country; and convinced the American people of the necessity of enlarging the powers of the general government, and placing the union on a firmer foundation.

In May 1788, he accepted a re-election to the State-legislature, and was chosen Speaker of the House of Representatives. He retained that station in the subsequent sessions. In March 1789, he took his seat in the first Congress of the United States assembled under the new Constitution, as one of the representatives of the state of Connecticut. In that honorable assembly of patriots, destined to establish the government of a rising empire, provide by a code of laws for its internal regulation, and conduct its intercourse with foreign nations; so important were his services, and to justly appreciated his talents, that on the meeting of the second Congress, held in October 1791, he was, by a respectable majority of suffrages, chosen Speaker of their House of Representatives. At the sessions of our State-legislature in October 1794, he was appointed a Senator in Congress. He resigned that seat, on his election, in May 1796, to the office of Lieutenant-Governor of the state of Connecticut. Upon the death of Governor Wolcott, he succeeded him in May 1798, as Governor of the State. He continued in that office during the remainder of his life; annually elected by large majorities of the freemen for eleven successive years.

When we behold a character, so highly elevated in the opinion of his country; a person, whom all classes of men, with whom he was at any time connected during a long life of public service, embraced every opportunity to honour by their suffrages, and commit to his trust the most important offices in their power to bestow; our curiosity is naturally prompted to enquire, by what talents, conduct and virtues he obtained such universal confidence and respect.

The disposition of his mind, and natural tendency of his genius, led him to endeavour more to be useful, than brilliant. He wished rather for esteem, than applause; and his talents were less showy, than solid. In public debate, he never attempted to dazzle the understanding by rhetorical allusions, nor to silence opposition by the pomp and splendor of eloquence. But he never failed to please by the gracefulness of his manner and elegance of his language, and commanded respect by propriety of argument, strength of judgment and extent of information.

He presided with peculiar felicity in deliberative assemblies. His polite attention, quickness of perception, and perfect acquaintance with the rules of proceeding, facilitated the transaction of business, while with grace-

ful dignity he regulated debate, and softened the asperities of parties.

In private society his manners were peculiarly attractive. He appeared in the friendly circle with the look of cheerfulness, the smile of philanthropy, and the eye that sparkled with vivacity and intelligence. Accustomed to the best company, and skilled in all the politeness of the gentleman, he could adapt his discourse, with great facility, to the inclinations, topics and understanding of all classes of people; aiming rather to acquire, than to display information; not to dictate in opinion; but to obtain advantage from the knowledge and experience of age, and amusement from the innocent gaieties of youth; to promote the rational and elegant pleasures of life, and the satisfaction of every social party, that was favored by his presence. He never attempted to engross conversation; nor sought admiration by brilliance of fancy, or ostentation of learning and argument. He never affected to shine, and he never failed to please.

Of punctuality in attendance on business, in the exact performance of his engagements, and in all his dealings with mankind; and of faithfulness in the prompt execution of every trust committed to his charge, he afforded an uncommon example. The duties and labors of every day were entered upon in regular order, and finished by its close, without hurry, confusion or embarrassment. Every account was adjusted, and all public correspondence answered in season. None could ever accuse him, for delay or disappointment, and none ever went justly dissatisfied from his presence.

He excelled in all the duties of social life; as the consort, the parent, the neighbor and the friend; as the generous patron of merit, the kind benefactor of the distressed, and the liberal encourager of every public institution, and every useful improvement.

The enterprising ambition and political art of the statesman, the bold imagination of the orator, who rules the fate of kingdoms by his eloquence, and the intrepidity of the hero, rendered invincible by success, dazzle the eyes of the multitude with surprise and admiration, and afford the most brilliant themes of biographical eulogy. But strength of judgment and an enlightened understanding, the steady exertions of friendship and patriotism, and the virtues of a heart, regulating all its conduct by the principles of justice, morality and religion, can alone form the man of true greatness of character, and value in society. A benevolence, which all must love, and a sacred regard to honor, on which all may securely rely, can alone obtain and long preserve the esteem and confidence of the public. After a course of experience, such esteem ripens into the ardor of affection, and the long-tried confidence becomes universal and unshaken.

During the interesting period, in which he held the chief magistracy of the State, his virtues commanded the highest respect and evoked the clamorous of prejudice and opposition. In times when calumny assailed every man conspicuous in rank, and exposed with malignant invective, the faults and failings of every public character; his political adversaries, though they opposed and censured the measures of his administration, never attempted to call in question the rectitude of his intentions, or to fix a stain upon his reputation.

This State has been the subject of admiration and applause, for the steadiness, with which it hath repelled the revolutionary efforts of party spirit, and withstood the delusions of visionary policy and Jacobinical principles. Much of this merit is to be ascribed to Governor TRUMBULL. No person perhaps could have maintained his seat during that stormy period, when the violence of faction was openly encouraged, and all government shaken to the centre, but a man of his peculiar talents, & moderation; a man, who united the active vigilance and immovable firmness of the statesman, to the mildest affability of deportment, and most conciliating popularity of manners.

When, upon the determination of the American Cabinet to compel obedience to the embargo by military force, the Secretary at War, by the direction of the President of the United States, applied to him, as Commander in Chief of the militia of this State, and requested him to appoint some officer at each port of entry, with orders, on every application of the collector of the district, to assemble immediately a sufficient force of the troops under his command, and employ them efficaciously in maintaining the authority of the laws, respecting the embargo; on mature consideration he declined a compliance, and refused to contribute his agency to the appointments. He declared his opinion, that the law of Congress for the more rigorous enforcement of the embargo was, in many of its provisions, unconstitutional; interfering with the powers reserved to the State-sovereignities, endangering the peace, property and safety of the community, and subversive of the rights, privileges and immunities of the people; and that neither the constitution nor statutes of the United States, or of Connecticut, had given authority to the President to call on the executive of the State to make such appointments, nor to the commander in chief of the militia to issue such orders to his subordinate officers, and place them under the controul and direction of the district-collectors of the revenue. His answer on that occasion affords ample proof of his wisdom as a statesman, and his decision as a magistrate; and demonstrates that, however in his general conduct he might wish to conciliate all parties, he pursued no middle or dubious line of action; and that no cautious timidity, nor dread of censure, could deter him from performing what he esteemed his duty, or from asserting the rights of the state and people, over whom he presided. At this important crisis of national danger, he convoked an extraordinary session of our state-legislature in February 1809. His speech at the opening of that assembly, with their resolves, expressing the warmest approbation of his conduct, and declaring their decided opinion of the ruinous impolicy of the embargo, and the unconstitutionality of the laws enacted for its enforcement, have been long before the public. The general union of sentiment on this subject, in the northern and other commercial States, had a decisive influence in procuring a change in that system of measures, and a repeal of those obnoxious laws.

Again elected by an unexampled majority of suffrages, Governor Trumbull presided, at the sessions in May 1809, with his usual dignity, and an increase of public favor and esteem. Thousands, who before this period only respected him as a magistrate, and loved him as a man, now regarded him with veneration as the most able guardian of the rights and independence of the state.

This was the closing scene of his political life. He had for many months perceived the symptoms of declining health and internal debility; but retained his wonted activity and cheerfulness, and concealed all melancholy forebodings from his friends. In the beginning of July, he was attacked by a disorder, which it was beyond the power of medicine to relieve, and which eventually terminated in death. It was a dropsy of the heart.

Such was the nature of his disorder, as to leave his mind perfectly clear, amid the severest paroxysms of bodily distress; and to enable him, for four successive weeks, during which every day was expected to be his last, to exhibit an example of fortitude and cheerfulness under suffering, of pious hope and christian resignation, never to be exceeded, and of which, few instances have ever been recorded.

He was convinced from the first that his disease was mortal. Yet in the constant view of speedy dissolution, and under the agonies of expiring nature, the serenity of his mind never forsook him for a moment. He conversed, not only with composure but satisfaction, on the subject of his approaching death; administering counsel and comfort to his surrounding friends, and with tender affection, endeavouring to reconcile his distressed family to the thoughts of the parting hour.

He expressed his firm reliance on the divine mercy, through the merits of the christian atonement; and declared that from the consolations of religion he experienced a hope which he would not resign for the wealth of worlds. With pious sensibility and patriotic ardor, he implored blessings on his country, his family and friends; and with patient expectation awaited the final instant, when he should exchange the frailties and miseries of mortal life, for the eternal happiness, holiness and society of the blest.

He expired on the 7th day of August 1809. His death spread a general gloom, and filled the public mind with deep anxiety and regret. His funeral was attended by a concourse of gentlemen of the first rank and character, with a solemnity never before witnessed in the state. Patriotism and friendship wept over his bier: Party forgot its opposition and asperity, and united to honor the sepulture of his remains.

Situation of the Armies in Spain.

MALAGA, September 19. The corps of Soult is in the highlands of Estremadura; its Head Quarters at Placentia and Galisteo.

The French corps of Victor, Mortier, and Sebastiani are united in the vicinity of Toledo. Their out-posts extend on the frontiers of Estremadura and La Mancha.

To the 12th September, nothing new had occurred in La Mancha; the H. Q. of the Spanish General [Venegas] were in La Carolina.

The French corps under Ney had separated from that of Soult, and marched towards Salamanca; where the Duke de Parque had arrived; and who finding a strong garrison in Salamanca, sallied out to attack Ney, who retreated, according to some accounts to Valladolid, and to others, as far as Burgos.

BADAJOS, September 4. Yesterday General Wellesley, commander in chief of his Britannic Majesty's troops arrived here; and immediately received the compliments of their Excellencies, Don Gonzalez Pacheco, and Don Mendoza, (the Commissioners of the Supreme Junta;) and other demonstrations of respect due to the hero of Talavera.

The members of the Supreme Governing Junta in this city, are taking energetic measures to furnish the armies with supplies of all kinds.

CADIZ, September 5.

The Marquis de Romana has been recalled from the command of the armies of Galicia and Austrians, to take a seat in the Supreme Junta, to give that body the most correct information of the state of affairs in that kingdom and principally; obscured as they have been by many contradictory reports. The Field Marshal Don Mendizabel, has been appointed to the command of the united army lately commanded by Romana; with whom the Field Marshal the Count de Norona, (who commands in Galicia) acts as second in command. The Marquis Romana, on taking leave of his army, addressed them in a very spirited and encouraging manner.

Armies in the South.

MARSA, August 25.

Gen. Blake's and the Marquis de Laxos's corps marched from hence the 22d and 23d. Gen. Blake will attack the besiegers of Girona, with 7000 men. The divisions of Aragon and Valencia are taking the same direction; and these troops, when united, will amount to 20,000 men.

VICH, August 29.

The head-quarters of Gen. Blake are in this city. He yesterday issued a general order, calling on the brave Catalans to unite with him in a spirited effort to relieve the immortal defenders of Girona.

August 30.

General Angereau has published in Perpignan, an account of the reduction of Girona, to encourage the conscripts to advance to the relief of the corps of St. Cyr.

PHILADELPHIA, October 19.

At a meeting of the Merchants and underwriters of this city, interested in the vessels and property captured, in Europe by Danish cruizers, held this day at the Merchants Coffee house, the following resolutions were unanimously agreed to:—Resolved, that a committee be appointed to prepare a representation to the President of the U. States, of the facts and circumstances attending the late enormous and alarming depredations committed by Danish cruizers on the property of citizens of the United States, lawfully navigating the high seas, and actually destined for ports in Denmark, Sweden, or Russia.—And of the vexatious proceedings and unjust condemnations of such property in courts not under the authority of Denmark—not only in violation of the law of nations (in the maintenance and defence of which that government has hitherto been distinguished), but in contempt of those documents and evidences of neutrality, which have hitherto been deemed sufficient—

Respectfully requesting that such measures may, be speedily adapted as the wisdom

of the executive may advise, and the magnitude and emergency of the case require.

Resolved, that the committee be instructed to collect all the testimony which the nature of the case may require, or the parties interested may furnish, together with satisfactory evidences of the neutrality of the property, and the other documents which accompanied it in each case, with the nature and amount of their several claims.—

That memorials be signed by the parties interested, and together with a certified copy of the proceedings of this meeting, (signed by the Chairman) be forwarded without delay to the Secretary of State, to be laid before the President.

That the Chairman, T. Fitzsimons, W. Jones, Henry Pratt, Stephen Girard, and Charles Pleasant, be a committee.

THOS. FITZSIMONS, Chairman.

NEW-YORK, Oct. 27.

IMPORTANT.

The ship Thomas, Capt. Lay arrived at the mouth of the Eyder in 32 days from N. York. A letter from the Supercargo, dated the 4th ult. to his owners in this city says,

"Off the Texel, was boarded by the United States schooner Enterprize (sent there some time since by government) and was informed that the ports of Amsterdam were shut against American vessels; and that all vessels that had entered the Texel had their papers returned to the commanders of the several ships (except those that had been spoken by the British cruizers) were ordered to proceed to sea; but were ultimately prevented from sailing by an embargo which has lately been laid on ALL American vessels."

The negotiations.—The New-York Gazette of this morning informs us, that a letter from a respectable democratic house in Baltimore, had been received in town stating as a report founded on the first authority, that Mr. Jackson had officially informed the Secretary of State, that if the United States would so far give their non-intercourse act a perfectly impartial operation, as to extend it to Holland as well as to France, he would, in pursuance of his instructions to that effect, ratify the very arrangement concluded with Mr. Erskine.

If this be so, nothing can be more fair and liberal on the part of Great-Britain, and nothing we conceive ought to stand any longer in the way of an adjustment between the two countries, so much for the interest of both, and so sincerely wished for by all true friends of both. Such an arrangement on our part, however, though so much desired by Mr. Madison, cannot be made until Congress meet and pass a law for that purpose, as the President has no power adequate to the object. The negotiation must consequently be suspended for the present.

As to the negotiation in France, the Aurora of this morning contains a most curious article. Duane informs us that a treaty was sent to Bonaparte in August last and that his Royal master will probably agree to it: one article of which graciously permits—what do you think reader?—why truly that American bottoms may safely carry the produce of their own country to French ports. Thus after talking to us for years of restoring the freedom of the seas, and free bottoms exempting all goods in them, from seizure, it turns out at length that our commerce is to be subjected to a French navigation law more strict than the old English navigation law in its utmost rigour. And to crown the whole, this is to take place of a treaty stipulating for a free and unrestrained commerce, both in peace and war. Bravo!

From Tunningen.

The ship Montesquieu arrived at Philadelphia from Tunningen, left there 5th Sept. at which time no account had been received of a Peace between Austria and France.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

JOHN TREADWELL, Esq.

Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the State of Connecticut,

A PROCLAMATION.

AS all power is of God, and every good and perfect gift cometh down from him as the Father of Lights, it is the indispensable duty of sovereign States to acknowledge him as the fountain of power and enjoyment, and in the discharge, of this duty, at proper seasons, to call upon the people subject to their authority publicly to praise him for all the good which they, as members of society, or individuals, enjoy.

I HAVE therefore thought fit, with the advice of the Council, and at the desire of the House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, to appoint, and I do hereby appoint, THURSDAY, THE THIRTIETH DAY OF NOVEMBER next, to be observed as a day of public THANKSGIVING to ALMIGHTY GOD, throughout this State: and do call upon all the people, of all denominations to praise him for his manifold mercies, to our ancestors and to us; particularly, for a happy constitution of government and that it has, to such an extent, been preserved entire—for the blessings we have hitherto enjoyed under its administration, and for the grounds we have to hope, that our invaluable privileges, secured by it, may be transmitted to posterity—for an equal administration of the laws in our courts of justice—for exemption from the horrors of war, while the European nations are convulsed by it, in its most terrible forms—for bread for the eater, and seed for the sower, though the hopes of the husbandman, with respect to the latter harvest, are much disappointed—for the general health enjoyed the year past, at the same time, deploring with humility and awe, the ravages of death, by means of a malady, new and uncommonly fatal, in some of our towns; and particularly deploring the death of our late CHIEF MAGISTRATE of happy memory—above all to praise God for the continuance of the means of grace, and of Gospel ordinances amongst us, accompanied in many places with the special and manifest agency of the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven—and for the generous and pious efforts of the wise and good, on both sides of the Atlantic, to cause the gospel of the kingdom to be preached, and the bible to be published, to all nations.

Also to add their fervent prayers to ALMIGHTY GOD, that he would be graciously pleased for CHRIST'S sake to forgive all our numerous and aggravated sins and provocations—to preside in our national and state councils, and in our courts of justice—to rule in the hearts of our magistrates supreme and subordinate, cause them to feel the spirit of their stations, and to act with a single eye to his glory, and the common good, in the discharge of their several functions—to inspire the people with the fear of God, and with reverence for the laws, and for magistrates and ministers of State and religion—to smile on the interests of religion and learning, and bless our university, seminaries and schools—to continue by their means a pious and learned ministry in these churches, and an able and virtuous magistracy in the State, throughout all generations—to give us fruitful seasons—health in our habitations, and peace in our borders—to succeed our useful labour and enter prize, and remove whatever tends, without just cause, to obstruct or embarrass them—to prosper all lawful means and efforts to spread the knowledge of divine truth, thro' the land, and through the world; and in general, to continue to us, and the whole Israel of God, the blessings which we this day commemorate, and to bestow such further blessings as may be consistent with his own glory, and the interest of his universal kingdom,

All servile labour and recreation, on said day, are by law forbidden.

Given under my hand, at the Council Chamber, in New-Haven, this 24th day of October in the year of our Lord 1809, and of the Independence of the United States of America the thirty-fourth.

JOHN TREADWELL.

By his Excellency's command, THOMAS DAY, Assistant Secretary.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

CHRISTOPHER GORE,

Governor and Commander in Chief,

A PROCLAMATION

For a Day of public Thanksgiving and Praise throughout the State.

WHEREAS it is the first Duty and the highest Privilege of rational Beings, and especially of the Citizens of this Commonwealth, to unite in Praise and Glory to God, for the manifold Blessings received from his hands, and to testify their humble Gratitude for the unmerited Mercies by which they have been, and continue to be distinguished:—

I, therefore, according to the "constant usage in this State, and with the advice and consent of the Council," do appoint THURSDAY, the THIRTIETH DAY OF NOVEMBER next, to be observed as a Day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise—And the Ministers and People of the respective Religious Societies in this Commonwealth, are requested to meet together on that Day, that we may unite in Adoration and Homage to Almighty God the beneficent Parent of Mankind, and the Giver of all Good—that we may render to Him our unfeigned Thanks for the numberless Blessings He has been pleased to bestow upon us;—and, above all, for the Light of the Gospel, and His inestimable Love, in the Redemption of the World by our Lord Jesus Christ—for the Civil and Religious Privileges by which the United States are distinguished—for the maintenance of public Peace and Order—for the uncommon measure of Health which the People of this State have enjoyed during the last year—for His Smiles on the labor of the Husbandman; that, although He has permitted a Dearth of Corn in our Fields, yet so plentifully has been the Harvest in other good things, as abundantly to administer to our Necessities and Enjoyments—that, notwithstanding various and multiplied obstructions, our Commerce, Manufactures and Fisheries have yielded us the Comforts and the Conveniences of Life.

AND while we endeavor to render our Tribute of Praise and thanksgiving acceptable to the most high, let us humble ourselves before his Holy Name, for our innumerable and aggravated Offences, and beseech Him, that He would graciously condescend upon us a mind duly to appreciate and rightly to use the peculiar Favours by which He has marked the People of this Land—that He would prosper the Administration of our Public Affairs—that our National and state Governments may be guided by the Councils of Fidelity and Truth; and directed by his unerring wisdom to establish the Peace of the Nation, and advance the Prosperity of all the People—that He would bless the means of Public Instruction and Education—that He would destroy the Influence of malignant Passions, and enable us to transmit to future Generations the Liberty which He has vouchsafed to us, and to our Forefathers—that He would mercifully hear the Cry of the Oppressed, where-soever they may be, and break the Rod of their Oppressor—that He would graciously succeed the efforts of pious and good Men to extend a knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, that their benign influence, and a Spirit of Christian Charity and Benevolence, may universally prevail—that Wars may cease unto the ends of the Earth, and His Will be obeyed throughout the World.

AND the People of this State are requested to abstain, on the above mentioned Day, from such Labour and Recreation, as are inconsistent with the Devotional Services hereby recommended.

Given, at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this seventeenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and nine, and in the thirty-fourth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

CHRISTOPHER GORE.

By his Excellency the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council.

WM. TUDOR, Sec'y of State.

GOD save the Commonwealth of MASSACHUSETTS!