

5th CONGRESS.]

No. 111.

[3d SESSION.

REPRINT OF THE JOURNALS OF CONGRESS UNDER THE CONFEDERATION, AND OF OTHER PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FEBRUARY 26, 1799.

Mr. RUTLEDGE, from the committee to whom was referred a motion relative to the printing of the journals of Congress under the confederation, together with such reports of heads of Departments, and of committees of both Houses of Congress under the present constitution, as are out of print, or are of importance for explaining and understanding the acts of Government, made the following report, in part:

That, upon inquiry, they find the journals of Congress under the confederation are out of print, and that a subscription has been opened in this city for the publication of them. In the opinion of your committee the reprinting of so valuable a record is highly desirable, and, as it will be greatly facilitated by some legislative aid, they therefore recommend the following resolution:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives be authorized and directed to subscribe, on such terms as they may deem eligible, for the use of the Senate and House of Representatives, for four hundred copies of the journals of Congress, which are proposed to be published by Richard Folwell.

6th CONGRESS.]

No. 112.

[1st SESSION.

INSURRECTION IN PENNSYLVANIA.

COMMUNICATED TO CONGRESS, DEC. 5, 1799, BY MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Letter from the District Judge of Pennsylvania.

Sir:

PHILADELPHIA, March 11, 1799.

I cannot longer omit transmitting to you some documents which are enclosed, showing that a daring combination, and treasonable opposition to the laws of the United States, has recently been brought to a crisis, in Northampton county, in this district. I had some time ago issued my warrants against sundry offenders in that county who had been charged, on oath, with misdemeanors in entering into unlawful combinations to resist the law commonly called the house-tax law, and rendering it unsafe for the officers appointed under that act to perform their duties. The marshal endeavored to execute my warrants, and had proceeded in the business as far as is related in the papers enclosed. The result may be gathered from these papers. But I have directed the marshal to make a more accurate statement, which, with other proofs I daily expect, I will transmit. I shall proceed, when furnished with the necessary testimony, to issue warrants against those who took up arms and rescued the prisoners. But I fear the process cannot be executed without a military force: this, at least, seems to be probable from the opinions given in the enclosed papers, and from the facts therein stated. The same spirit exists in some parts of Montgomery and Bucks counties, though it has not yet arrived to the violent extreme exhibited in Northampton. I shall issue a number of warrants against offenders in those latter counties forthwith; and if any resistance should there happen, I will duly inform you, that you may lay the information before the President, to whom, I pray you, to transmit that herein given.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

RICHARD PETERS,

*Judge of the Pennsylvania district of the United States.*Colonel TIMOTHY PICKERING, *Secretary of State.**Report of the Marshal of the district of Pennsylvania.*

Sir:

PHILADELPHIA, March 11, 1799.

On the 20th of February last the honorable Richard Peters, Esq. issued warrants against sundry persons residing in the county of Northampton, who had given opposition to the execution of the law of the United States laying a tax on lands and houses, and a number of subpoenas for witnesses there and in the county of Montgomery. The writs were put into my hands on the 23d; on the 26th I set out, and got to Norristown that night; on the next morning (the 27th) I set out from thence, and on that day served all my subpoenas in Montgomery, and on the 28th got to Emaus in Northampton county. I was informed there that an express had arrived from Philadelphia with despatches informing them of my business, which created some alarm amongst the people in opposition in Millerstown and its vicinity. A meeting of a troop of horse was called there, of which a Mr. Jarret, a justice of the peace, was the captain. Messengers were sent to sundry places for purposes of which I was unacquainted. Next day I proceeded to Nazareth, saw Judge Henry and Mr. Eyerly, and on Saturday morning, the 2d instant, Mr. Eyerly and I rode into Lehigh township, where I arrested eleven persons, and on the next day took security from them that they would appear at Bethlehem, at the public inn, on Thursday morning, the 7th instant, to march with me to the city of Philadelphia, there to enter into recognizance to appear at the next circuit court to answer, &c. Five others came in and signed the obligation. This being accomplished, we came to Bethlehem, set out for Macungy township in company with Colonel Stephen Balliot. We lodged that night at Emaus; next morning, the 5th instant, we set out for Millerstown; on our way I stopped at the house of George Seider to serve a subpoena on him as a witness on the part of the United States. His wife came to the door; on being asked for her husband, she abused me and the gentlemen with me. He came to the door, (with a club in his hand of green oak, which seemed to have been procured for the occasion,) and called us every abusive name the German language can afford,