

abundant to and returning from Portuguese South America, should first come to a port in the United States; discharge and pay us such a tax on their cargoes, as our congress should deem proper to impose.

That Britain would deign for a moment to entertain; much less submit to such degrading, such humiliating propositions, no man of common information will presume.

Unwilling also to believe that any man enjoying the high privilege of an American citizen could recommend submission to the operation of these regulations imposed upon us; we have hitherto confined our observations solely to their principle; it may not however be amiss to examine their oppressive effects; their destructive tendency if submitted to, even in a pecuniary point of view.

The tax on cotton is 16 cents a pound, on rice 45 cents a hundred, on timber three dollars and eighteen cents a ton, on tobacco 2 cents a pound, on tar ninety-five cents a barrel, on turpentine 78 cents a hundred and other articles in proportion. Among the taxes on return cargoes from the continent, that on the article of Gin is 27 cents a gallon—add to all this the loss of time, additional insurance, in consequence of the deviation from the direct track to the port of destination, and the heavy port charges of unloading, re-shipping, light money, tonnage duty, &c.

Rathbone Hughes & Duncan, one of the first houses in England in the American trade, and as respectable as any house there, in any other trade, have computed that on submission to the operation of these orders of council, the town of Baltimore alone would annually pay Britain a tax of one million and two hundred thousand dollars—the tax only on a cargo of cotton of twelve hundred bags, weighing two hundred and a half each, would amount to fifty thousand dollars, besides the additional charge of insurance, freight, &c. The amount however of this tax is unimportant, for if the principle be admitted, the power that can tax us one cent, may extend it to any amount. This letter being by no means intended to excite irritability towards any particular nation, but merely as a correct delineation of the actual state of affairs at the time the embargo was laid; we shall barely mention the attack on the Chesapeake as an outrage for which at that time, and as yet as far as we know, except in the bare mission of Mr. Rose, no atonement has been made.

Then sir, at the time the embargo was laid, this is the detail; The honor of the nation had received a deep wound by the attack on the Chesapeake and the murder of our citizens on our own shores, for which no adequate satisfaction had been made—Great Britain by interpolations of the law of nations, on the subject of neutral rights, had furnished Buonaparte with a pretext for his gasconading decree, issued at Berlin; which, in its ultimate construction, and by its adoption also by Spain, proved as far as these powers had the means to enforce it, a complete inhibition of our trade with every port of the Bri-

tish dominions—Great Britain on the other hand, as if the commerce of independent nations might be sported with at pleasure, issued orders of council retaliating these decrees of France and Spain, interdicting our commercial intercourse (except on inadmissible conditions) with every port on the continent of Europe, from which her flag was or might be excluded. *In a crisis so peculiarly embarrassing, what was the proper course for the guardians of our commonwealth to pursue?*

All the expedients practicable from which we conceive a choice could have been made, were either A BASE SUBMISSION—IMMEDIATE WAR IN VINDICATION OF OUR NATIONAL HONOR AND COMMERCIAL RIGHTS, OR AN ATTEMPT IN THE FIRST INSTANCE by negotiation, to effect THOSE OBJECTS, WHICH ALONE, WOULD CONSTITUTE THE PURPOSE OF WAR. On the points of submission, we trust no comments are necessary; we would not insult the feelings of any of our fellow-citizens, by presuming that any one of them of any party would succumb, and be prepared, tamely to resign for their country all pretensions to the character of an independent nation. The next expedient suggested was war—Feeling as we do equal indignation at the commission of outrages and violations on our rights, whether it be by France or Britain, we view the conduct of both towards us, as affording just grounds of war. But we cannot consider it sound policy rashly to have plunged into the horrors of war, whilst a possibility existed that its object might be obtainable by negotiation; we therefore admire the sound wisdom evinced by the constituted authorities, in their choice of the last expedient suggested, namely NEGOCIATION.

An adoption however of this prudent step, rendered some precautionary measures necessary; not only to meet the consequences of an unfavorable result; but also against the intermediate destructive ravages that would be committed on our commercial property, under the sanction of the French and Spanish decrees, and British orders of council. A TEMPORARY EMBARGO, PENDING THESE NEGOCIATIONS, now presented itself as a measure best calculated to preserve unsullied the honor of the nation, by such submissions to these orders and decrees as at all risks the pecuniary cupidity of individuals might induce; to preserve our mercantile capital generally from the depredations of French, Spanish and British cruizers; and if unfortunately we should be disappointed in our ardent hopes of a favorable issue to these negotiations, it was the only measure that could have been adopted successfully to secure our ships, seamen and property, from the grasp of those who unavoidably on our part might become our enemies. Unwilling to attribute to the republicans the sole merits of a provident politic measure, to which they are not exclusively entitled; candor induces the admission that though recommended by Mr. Jefferson, it met in Con-

gress the warm support of many federalists, as well as the opposition of many republicans. Among those federalists who did support it was John Q. Adams, son of the late president Adams, and senator from the state of Massachusetts; a gentleman universally admitted of the first talents in the party, and who from his travels and diplomatic experience abroad, may without derogation, be presumed at least as competent a judge of the expediency, of any measure of commercial policy, as any gentlemen in this district.

Being a federalist, its recommendation by Mr. Jefferson could not be supposed to impress on his mind a bias in its favor; he says "the embargo was the only shelter from the storm, the last refuge of our violated peace;" again speaking of the orders of council, he says "if once submitted to, and carried to the extent of their principle, they would not have left an inch of American canvass on the ocean, but under British taxation."

This measure sir, met also the unqualified approbation of very many wealthy and well informed merchants, both in and out of Congress. Of those who have borne public testimony in its favor, we would mention William Gray of Salem; a federalist, and elected by the federalists to the senate of Massachusetts; a man whose ships traversed every sea, and whose credit and commercial importance is known in every port of the civilized world—a man who alone has a much larger capital vested in shipping, than is so employed by all the merchants of North Carolina. This gentleman, to his honor be it spoken, disdained to join in the whoop of party, against a measure, which in his enlightened opinion, was so well calculated to effect the objects we have ascribed to it; and rendered indispensable as an alternative of immediate war, to secure the rights and independence of his country. When therefore persons are heard expatiating against the embargo, admitting their sincerity, and that thereby they have no view to the advancement of electioneering purposes; may it not well be asked, are these persons as competent judges as John Quincy Adams? do they possess as comprehensive knowledge of American trade in all its details and ramifications, as to entitle their opinions on commercial subjects, to much weight, when opposed to those of such men as William Gray?

This gentleman having an immense capital in trade, must be friendly to its prosperity; being a Federalist he can be influenced by no political prejudices in his support of the embargo; but being also a good citizen, he is not disposed to forward the views of his party at what he conceives a risk of sacrificing the independence, and the solid and permanent commercial interest of his country.

Aware sir, that not fully informed of that state of our political affairs which rendered the embargo eligible; many worthy and well disposed citizens have been prejudiced against it, as an act of oppression, wantonly imposed upon us by the constituted authorities; therefore deemed it proper to

trace its various causes through all their windings, and thus explicitly to point out its objects and effects—That its pressure falls heavy on every class of citizens we well know; we very sensibly feel it ourselves; but we firmly believe that of all those evils, some of which, in the existing juncture of our political affairs we must have suffered, it is infinitely the least. THE EXTREME ANXIETY OF THE CONSTITUTED AUTHORITIES WITHOUT LOSS OF TIME, TO RELIEVE THE COUNTRY FROM ITS INCONVENIENCES, AS SOON AS THAT RELIEF CAN BE EXTENDED, CONSISTENT WITH THE PARAMOUNT CONSIDERATION, OF THE PRESERVATION OF OUR RIGHTS AND INDEPENDENCE, IS UNEQUIVOCALLY EVINCED, BY THEIR VESTING THE PRESIDENT WITH AUTHORITY, DURING THE RECESS OF CONGRESS, IN CERTAIN EVENTS, TO SUSPEND THE EMBARGO BY PROCLAMATION.

(To be continued in our next.)

(It is requested that our readers and Fellow-Citizens will before they begin the continuation, recur back to the train of argument as unfolded in this paper, so that a want of connection or forgetfulness may not diminish the effect which the discussion of so important a subject should make.)

#### AMERICAN HEMP.

THE Secretary of the Navy will receive until the 1st November next, proposals for furnishing water rotted Hemp of the growth of the United States, to be delivered at Portsmouth, N. H. Boston, New-London, New-York, Philadelphia, New-Castle, Baltimore, Norfolk, Wilmington, N. C. Charleston, S. C. Savannah, Georgia, and New-Orleans.

For well water rotted and well cleaned American Hemp, the Secretary of the Navy is disposed to allow a liberal price beyond the usual price of such Hemp when dew rotted.

Any person transmitting proposals for furnishing a supply of water rotted Hemp will be pleased to state the price per ton—the place where and the time when it would be delivered.

Navy Department,  
3d May 1808.

#### Ashes & Grease.

THE subscriber being about to connect the manufactory of Soap, with his Tallow Chandlery, will purchase, Ashes of a good quality, and all kinds of Grease Slush from shipping, kitchens, &c. he will shortly send a cart through the Town at regular periods, for the reception of Ashes, and hopes that families will see their interest in saving those articles. It may also be an object to those convenient to market, who are clearing lands, to save their Ashes. He flatters himself in a short time to be able to supply the best of Soap as well as the best of Candles at moderate prices.

A. LAZARUS.

July 5.

#### FOR SALE,

Received by the brig *Charleston Packet* from New York, and the schooner *Almira* from Portsmouth, N. H.

500 Bush. Coarse Liverpool Salt

9 Puncheons 3d proof Rum

3 Hhds. Sugar

8 Bbls. ditto.

10 Bbls. N. E. Rum

1000 Yards Tow Cloth

2 Pipes 4th proof Brandy

3 ditto Gin

20 Half barrels prime Beef, suitable for family use.

Also by the schooner *Isabella*, from Turkey Island

2,500 bushels Salt.

HANSON KELLY.

September 20.

#### FOR SALE

Received by the brig *Virginia* from Charleston,

36 hds. Molasses

3 do. prime Sugar

10 bags Green Coffee

HANSON KELLY.

August 2.

WILMINGTON, N. C.

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