

New Orleans, from Havana, was burnt, by the French frigates Medusa and Nymph, Nov. 29. Brig Comet, Allen, of New-Bellford, from Savannah, for England, has been taken by a French privateer, and lost near Bee-Camp, France. The ship North Star, of Bath, from St. Mary's for England, was taken by a French privateer and retaken.

The captain of the North Star, his son, and the chief mate, were taken on board the French privateer and carried to France.

Brig Pallas, Holbrook, of Boston, from Baltimore for Cadiz, with 2800 bbls. flour, and the brig Fame, Porrington, from Bath, with lumber, for Cadiz, were both taken by the French in February, carried into Lnear, cargoes sold, vessels offered for sale and the crews imprisoned, and treated with much inhumanity.

Brig Hannah, Dawson, of New-York, from Savannah for England, has been taken by a French privateer, and retaken. The American captain was stabbed twice by the French, and the crew barbarously treated.

Ship Arun, from Boston, for France, was plundered by two French frigates and its brig, and afterwards taken by the English.

The ship Atlantic was taken when bound to a port of an ally of France, and condemned by Bonaparte. The capt. Jaynes, has returned to New-York.

Congress.

MR. QUINCY'S SPEECH,

On the Embargo, delivered in secret session of the House of Representatives, April 3.

Mr. Quincy expressed in strong terms his abhorrence of the measure, [embargo.] He said, that if he believed it to be a preparation for war, he should have a less indignant sense of the injury, than he felt now, as he deemed it a pure, unsophisticated, re-instated embargo. The limitation of 60 or 90 days, gave little consolation or hope to him; because he knew how easily the same power which originated could continue this oppressive measure.

He said that his objection was, that it was not what it pretended to be; and was what it pretended not to be—that it was embargo, preparatory to war—but that it was embargo as a substitute for the question of declaring war. It was true that it was advocated as a step incipient to a state of war, and by way of preparation for it, by gentlemen whose sincerity he was bound to respect. He could not, however, yield the conviction of his senses and reflections, to their asseverations, nor declare in compliance to any, let them be as respectable as they might, that he saw in this measure, more or less, than its features indicated.

Is this embargo what it pretends to be, preparation for war? In the first place, no sudden attack is expected from Great Britain. It is not suggested that we have a tittle of evidence, relative to any hostility of her temper, which is not possessed by the whole community—the president has not communicated to us one document, or reason, for the measure. His message merely notifies us, his will and pleasure.

An embargo, as preparatory to war, presupposes some new and hidden danger, not known to the mercantile community. In such case, when the government see a danger, of which the merchant is unapprised, it may be wise to stay the departure of property, until the nature and extent of it can be explained, but not a moment longer. For, let the state of things be that of war, or peace, the principle is precisely the same, the interest which the community has, in the property of individuals, is best preserved by leaving its management to the interest of the immediate proprietor, after he is made acquainted with all the circumstances, at the time, which have a tendency to increase its exposure.

The reason of an embargo, considered as an incipient step to war, is either to save our property from depredation abroad, or keep property which we want at home.—Now it happens that the nature of the great mass of our exports is such, that there is little danger of depredation from the enemy, we pretend to fear abroad, and little want of the articles, most likely to be exposed at home. The total export of the last year amounted, as appears by the report of the secretary of the treasury, to 45 millions of dollars. It also appears by that report, that our exports to Great Britain and her dependencies, and also to those of Spain and Portugal, were thirty eight million five hundred thousand dollars—nearly seven eighths in value of our whole exports have been, and continue to be, to the dominions of that very power, from which so much is pretended to be apprehended.—Now, it is well known, that these articles are of very great necessity and importance to her, and whether, even in the case of actual war between the two countries, Great Britain might capture them, might be questionable. But that she would capture them on the mere preparation, before any really hostile act was committed on our

part, is not only unreasonable, but absolutely absurd, to expect. This very commerce, which by the passing of this bill, you indicate, it is her intention to prohibit or destroy, it is her obvious and undeniable policy to invite and cherish; besides, the articles are, in a very great proportion, perishable, which by this embargo are to be prohibited from going to market. Which is best? To keep them at home, to a certain loss and probable ruin, or adventure them abroad, to a possible loss and a highly probable gain? Ask your merchant, and ask common sense.

But it is said "we must protect our merchants." Heaven help our merchants from a *laissez-passer* protection! It is also said that "the present condition of things has been brought upon the country by the merchants—that it was their clamor in 1805 and 1806, which first put congress upon this system of coercive restriction, of which now so much complain." It is true that in those years the merchants did petition—not for embargo—not for commercial embarrassment and annihilation—but for protection. They, at that time, really thought, that this national government was formed for protection; and that it had at heart the prosperity of all the great interests of the country. It is a grievous fault, grievously have the merchants answered it. They asked you for relief, and you sent them embarrassment. They asked you for defence, and you imposed embargo. They asked "bread," and you gave them a stone. They asked a fish, and you gave them a serpent. Grant that the fault was great; suppose that they did mistake the nature and character of the government; is the penalty they incurred by this error never to be remitted? Permit them once to escape and my word for it they will never again give you an apology for this destructive protection; if they do they will richly deserve all the misery, which under the name of protection you can find means to heap upon them. Your tender mercies are cruelities, he merchants hate and spurn this ruinous defence.

Mr. Quincy then took notice of an intimation which had been thrown out in relation to an express which had been sent off on the day preceding the message of the President, giving information that an embargo would be proposed the ensuing day. He said that there was no necessity of speaking of that matter by distinct allusion as if there was any thing that sought concealment. This is not an affair said Mr. Quincy that shuns the light. I had the honor and happiness, in conjunction with another member of this house from New York (Mr. Emmott) and a senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Lloyd) to transmit that intelligence to Philadelphia, N. York and Boston, by an express which started on Tuesday afternoon; in doing of this we violated no obligation even of the most remote and delicate kind. The fact that the committee of foreign relations had decided that an embargo should be proposed on Wednesday was openly avowed here on Tuesday by various members of that committee to various members of this house. Among others I was informed of it. I shall always be grateful to the gentleman who gave me that information. Indeed the whole commercial community are under great obligations to the members of the committee of foreign relations for their feeling and patriotism in resolving on that disclosure. It enabled us by anticipating the mail, to give an opportunity for great masses of property to escape from the ruin our cabinet was meditating for them. Yes Sir—to escape into the jaws of the British Lion and of the French Foe, which are places of refuge, of joy and delight, when compared with the grasp and fang of this Hyena Embargo. What was the effect of this information? When it reached Philadelphia, the whole mercantile class was in motion and all that had it in their power were flying in all directions from the coming mischief as though it were a plague and a pestilence. Look, at this moment, on the river below Alexandria—the poor seamen towing down their vessels against wind and tide, anxious only to escape from a country which destroys, under the mask of preserving.

It is said that this embargo is 'mere notice' to the merchant. If this were the case, why all these pains and penalties? Why these grievous bonds imposed on our coasting trade? If you really intend war, if this measure is timely preparation, and not a substitute for it, lay your embargo—but let it be mere general prohibitions, without penalty. You will then have done your duty. If they go and are captured, they have no cause of complaint. But it is said "shall we feed our enemies?" That question unravels the whole plot. It is an embargo for coercion and not for preparation. In reply, I say yes. Feed your enemies; if they are in no danger of being reduced by famine, and if the article of food you do not want, and it will perish without a market.

The gentlemen who advocate this bill seem to be much offended that some of us do not believe that it is their intention to

declare war at the end of the time limited. They treat the suggestion as a reflection on their personal veracity. I question not either the sincerity or veracity of the gentlemen who make these declarations. But those gentlemen must excuse me, if I prefer to reason concerning future events, rather from the nature of things, than from the state of their minds. I make no suggestion concerning the intentions of the gentlemen on this floor; but concerning the intentions of our cabinet, and concerning their ability in relation to actual war, I shall not hesitate both to make suggestions and to state reasonings. And I shall not deem myself precluded from the use of my understanding concerning the result of measures, because my calculations contradict any man's declared intentions. The public has little concern about what you may intend. It has much in what you may execute.

I say then, distinctly, I do not believe that this embargo is preparation for war; but I do believe that it is a refuge from the question of declaring war. My reason tells me that war is not intended, because of your want of preparation, and of your neglect of it. If war were intended, would the men at the helm have employed the five months past in a way so utterly inefficient, and inconsistent with such an anticipated state? What have you done during this long session, to put this country into that armor and attitude so ostentatiously recommended at the opening of it? What have you done? Why you have THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND MEN UPON PAPER; and in five months you have added about ONE THOUSAND NEW RECRUITS TO THE OLD ESTABLISHMENT. That is to say, you have SIX THOUSAND MEN, now on your army rolls. You have officers in abundance, but where are the soldiers? We were told last December, that on the first day of April we should be before Quebec. And where were we on that day? Why—RETIRED BEHIND EMBARGO—What prospect is there that your enlistments will be so rapid as will enable you to raise more men in ninety days which are to come, than in the one hundred and fifty which have past? I know there is on the carpet a grand scheme, of enlistments, by reducing the time of service from five years to eighteen months. But how does this prognosticate as to the efficacy of the force? This proposition is perfectly characteristic—You want an embargo and not a fighting army. Ever since you appointed a Collector of a Northern sea-port, Major-General, I have been satisfied what you intended was, an army to fight smugglers and not Canadians.

You prepare to go to war for commercial rights, in ninety days? Where? How? A navy is out of the question—And as to the purpose of arming our merchantmen, although that resolution was passed with as much, I believe more unanimity than any other of all those proposed by the committee of foreign relations, it has been laid asleep in the committee; and not a man has ventured to suggest, even that it was to be put into Parliamentary form, much less that it was to be carried into effect.

When I see a palpable failure in all the means, natural and necessary, for carrying on the war: when I see the exposure of your seaboard; when I see the actual military force instead of being increased in efficiency, in fact reducing; neither promises, nor asseverations, nor oaths, shall make me believe that you will go to war, at the end of 90 days. OPPOSIT NATURA. Nature has decided against you. Instead of that 'feast' of war to which we were invited at the beginning of the session, we have served up to us the old dish of restrictions. There is no need of the spirit of prophecy to tell the result. At the end of ninety days you will find that your preparation is not sufficient. The horrors of war will be preched up very assiduously during our recess—Familiarity with embargo will diminish its dread—The restrictive system becomes identified with some personal, local, paltry interest. The navigating states are sacrificed; and the spirit and character of the country are prostrated in the dust, by fear or by avarice.

This embargo will not serve the American people; but I will tell you whom it may serve, it will serve the French Emperor—His interest is apparent—It operates on his enemy, by denying of produce to her armies. But where is the American interest? Coercion on Great Britain is not pretended. If war with this power be really its purpose, then much of this very property ought to be got out of the country. It is useless, and must perish if it remain in it; and the resources of the country and its ability for war are augmented, by the whole amount of the returns which its sale would produce.

In every point of view, I look on this measure as a cruel abandonment of our national rights; as impolitic, as deceptive; as calculated to impress on the American people, an idea that it is your intention to maintain commercial rights, which, its true effect is to abandon. Here is another effect which it is calculated to produce, and which of all others ought, at a crisis of this

kind, to be avoided. Its tendency must be to raise a jealousy between the Southern and Eastern and Middle States. The flour and produce of the Southern States, have had, during the whole winter, an open trade and free market. Those of the Middle and Eastern States, have been restrained by climate and winter. Nature is just opening for our relief, and the palsying hand of government is now to be extended, to give a death blow to our hopes. Is it by a course of policy of this kind that you intend to conciliate affection, or excite confidence? Will it not be said, that your own products being sold, you were indicating what became of ours?

Let me not be understood as objecting to this embargo, as a preparation for war; although even as such, its utility is dubious. I object to it, because it is no efficient preparation; because it is not a progress towards honorable war, but is a subterfuge from this question. If we must perish, let us perish by any hand except our own. Any fate is better than self-slaughter.

BOSTON, APRIL 25.

Arrived. (In the Bay, waiting orders,) the fast-sailing ship Milo, Glover, 22 days from Dublin, and 18 from Tory Island.—She brings London dates to the 28th ult. and Dublin to the 1st inst. The king was still alive.

Lord Boringdon made his motion in parliament, March 19th, having in view a change of ministers. The majority against him was very great.

Petitions against the orders in council continued to be presented to parliament.

The Swedish troops in Pomerania had been disarmed by the French. The king of Sweden sent transports to bring them home, and an officer to confer with the French commander; but the latter would not suffer him to land, nor have any conference with him, nor allow the troops to embark. An agent from Sweden had arrived in England, and a treaty was expected. A British fleet was about to sail for the Baltic.

The conservative senate was in session, and reports had been made to it by the ministers of war and of foreign affairs. The latter minister said, "free ships make free goods," alludes to the British orders in council as violating this principle, and the Berlin and Milan decrees as the remedy; that to have the desired effect they must be every where enforced, and disposable troops must be sent to wherever the British flag may be expected to enter. The minister of war says, "The greatest part of the troops have been called out of the empire, to defend those great interests, which insure the preponderance of the empire, and maintain the Berlin and Milan decrees, so fatal to England."

Of Russia, nothing is said in the official French articles. Not a word of Sweden.

It is said, all the male population of France, divided into four classes, are called out.

The Dublin Freeman's Journal says, "it is worthy of remark, that the Berlin and Milan decrees are re-nated with all their fury. What will America say to this?"

DUBLIN, March 30.—Regarding the news of the North, we have nothing more recent than what the reader collected from Napoleon's state documents. There is one circumstance, however, which we deem it worthy to notice. It is said that at Napoleon's levee, which is described as highly magnificent, the ambassadors from all nations were present, except the Russian plenipotentiary. A strong fact, and worthy serious reflection.

Letters from Paris of the 18th, mention that Bonaparte still remained in the capital, but his departure was shortly expected.

Lord Melville is officially announced First Lord of the Admiralty.

The hottest press that has taken place for some years in Dublin, was on the river on Thursday night; and a number of fine able-bodied seamen were procured for the service.

It is again said Bonaparte has left Paris, appointing a regency, and sending the empress and his son to Vienna.

By the dispatches of Ballasteros, it appears he has repulsed at Pradol de Rey a division of the enemy.

Some additional letters have been received from Corunna, of the date of the 17th instant; from these we learn, that a considerable quantity of arms have been delivered to the chiefs of the forces in Galicia and its neighborhood, and that the activity of the English, in this important particular, had given great satisfaction to the provincial government.

Shipwrecks along the coast of England have been unusually numerous during the late storm.

The prince regent of Portugal has given the grand order of the cross to general Hill, Graham and Spencer.

Eleven thousand frame work netters of the town and county of Leicester, have petitioned Parliament for a repeal of the Orders in Council.