

# WILMINGTON GAZETTE.

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## FROM THE AURORA.

### AMERICAN COMMERCE AND NEUTRAL RIGHTS!!

ON every side there appears to be a disposition to oppress or to disturb the prosperity of America in her national career of glory and happiness. Whether this consentaneous hostility of powers which are rivals, and at war with each other, proceeds from a common sentiment of envy or jealousy, is not of so much importance to enquire, as to be satisfied that the hostility exists, is evident, systematic, grievous and disgraceful to suffer tamely. The near approach of the session of Congress, it is to be hoped, will afford the nation some certain and satisfactory principles of action, by which the people may be called to sustain the national honor and rights—such measures of self defence and resistance as may command in future, the difference and the respect due to an independent nation.

The conduct of Spain is too evidently actuated by counsels adverse to harmony and good faith. This disposition of Spain cannot be attributed, with any reasonable foundation, to any other cause than the misrepresentations and intrigues of the Spanish Minister here—whose conduct is perhaps unexampled in the annals of diplomacy, and whose insouciance after such conduct is not to be accounted for, on principles that can be authorized by facts within the public knowledge. Under the influence of such representations, as must have been made by the author of the essays of *Graciosa Manent*; and from the affectation of contempt which the ambassador has displayed in menacing the consequence of six Spanish sail of the line blockading our harbours, it cannot be wondered at, that the Spanish cabinet should conceive very abject notions of our capacity to enforce justice.

The involvement of Spain in a war with Great-Britain must have contributed to increase her confidence in treating us with injustice. As the ally of France, engaged in a common cause, which it must necessarily be, from the relative position and connexions of Spain and France, and their enemy being the same, Spain may perhaps calculate upon the influence of the name of Buonaparte in America as capable of operating in the same mode as over the governments of Europe. This cannot be surprising, if we reflect upon the little correct knowledge which the governments of Europe possess of our real capacity, our real dispositions, or our strength;—The politicians of monarchies, argue upon their own principles, and not upon those of free states. The impulses of monarchies are momentary and capricious—they are individual, or next to individual, they are excited by the interests of a few persons whose power and influence is the succedaneum for the public opinion and interests which influence free states.

In nations where the mass of men have a common and a sacred interest, there is a prudential deliberation, a necessary regard to consequences, and a calculation of the comparative effects of a prudent or a precipitate policy; the zeal of a free nation is not subject to the palsy of a sudden impulse—but when events of such a character arise as may involve the freedom, the peace, the honor, or the prosperity of a free nation, and that the facts present themselves to the whole nation with an irresistible conviction—then the energies of monarchies are feeble indeed compared with the union of a common interest extending to every individual and to every free side of a nation. The operation is slow—but it is irresistible. "The rivulet becomes a river, and the river a torrent, mighty as the mountain flood."

Spain from herself cannot injure America, seriously but she may rouse such a spirit of indignation, that Spain may be most seriously injured—the means are in our power. But it is not from Spain alone that we experience wrongs and injuries.

The late manifesto of the British cabinet, against the commerce of the United States, amounts to very little short of a declaration of war, or of our colonial subjection to the British monarchy. It is true, that it is only an expression of that rancorous hostility which has, with little variation since the accession of the present king, actuated every act in regard to these states, both previous to our separation from his tyranny and constantly since. Impelled by his own stupidity, for the stupid are always malignant, and the intrigues of a faction at the head of which is his wife, the hatred to America instilled by Bute, and those of the same school who ingrafted the *tory* and *facobite* politics on the Hanover stock, will show itself at every opportunity, and indeed more so, than under the administration of Lord North, or during our struggle for independence.

Lord North was only the cat's paw of George and the interior cabinet. Lord North declared the American war was not his war, it was the war of his master. On the removal of North from power, his share of the hostilities to these states, totally ceased. But not so with George and the *torics*—their

enmity like the enmity of Satan to our first parents, was deadly, and at the same time eternal. Unfortunately the minister who in a short time after succeeded to the ear and heart of that infatuated monarch, an apostate himself from the principles of liberty, united with every thing that was odious and liberal, the *dress of the understrappers of North's administration*—the *Weddenburns*, the *Jenkinsons*, the *immaculate Dundas*, and every maxim which decolored and exploded the house of Stuart, has continued to support the hostility of their king. Others out of the cabinet, as *Sheffield* and the misanthropic theorists have supported them in parliament.

They have had their adherents and their echoes here—nay their emissaries, the federalists have constantly from 1794 echoed the *friendship of Great-Britain*. They have constantly asserted that her interests and ours were mutual; that nothing could from that period even induce the former to act unjustly towards the United States. Such arguments could only be brought forward by persons, who had never heard of the American revolution, or who were willfully or corruptly blinded; were not the interests of both mutual before that period? and did not that king "whose every act defined the tyranny," forget that interest and induce him to send *fire and sword* through these states, to hire soldiers from the shambles of *Hesse* to assist his own murderers, in the work of death and destruction? Do our merchants think the disposition of the British monarch at all changed? Do they think his disappointment of enslaving these states, has tended to allay that tiger thirst for blood and carnage, which was so deplorably exhibited on the then unhappy plains of America? Do they think the scenes in Ireland for some years past, exhibit remorse for the scenes acted in America? Do they see in any one act an exchange of the dispositions for war and tyranny, for those of peace and good will—do they see it in the massacres of millions of innocent *Hindus*. What have the *Mahrattas* done? Their frontiers was too extensive—and British usurpation was endangered by a warlike neighbor. We tell our merchants that during the reign of George the III. the influence of his wife, and the administration of Pitt, which indeed is synonymous, they must expect nothing but hostility to their commerce secretly or openly—we foretold upon the re-accession of Pitt, what the consequences would be—and behold the prediction is realized. Such have been always our opinions, such have been constantly the acts of the British cabinet—they have been plain enough to every person, whose interest did not blind his love to his country. Such has been their conduct during the last war, in Europe, and in the West-Indies—in their restrictions and in their commercial regulations with the West-India Islands—now they are only trying one step further. The hostility of an idiot turned editor induces him to attribute all those arts to the "contempt entertained by Great-Britain for our present executive." We can tell the major, if *inflated vanity* has blinded him so that he cannot discern beyond his nose—that his malicious rancour has rendered him the pity of many who still continue his paper; we appeal to the merchant's coffee house, let the major enquire there. We will tell the major what encourages the British government, it is the writings of fools like him. It is the rhapsodies and infatuations of too many of our native merchants (for British merchants are put out of the question) in favor of every thing and every act of aggression of Britain to other nations—Constantly defending every act of the British government when they were ruining the innocent merchant of Holland, Spain or France—and now forsooth, because it comes and will come nearer, home, (for this is only the beginning—recollect the Aurora has given you warning) now it is discovered that the British can do wrong—now it is discovered that the virtuous monarch of Britain can be unjust—That the navy of Britain may be used for the worst of purposes! There are merchants who have constantly defended even the piracies of Britain when inflicted on their brother merchants who walked in the same coffee house in this city, but whose commerce lay more in the reach of British cruizers—they have always blamed the innocent. They have always defended the robber—but what now? Why now they suffer and are likely to suffer—and their tale now is altered—we appeal confidently to some if it is not so—we rejoice indeed that their eyes are opened, though we regret that *suffering only could effect* it.

There are other causes which encouraged the British. The publication of the federal papers—the same means which were employed by a Liston on a Fenne and on a Cobbett, may now be equally efficacious on a Parke at Boston, and a *Calles* at Charleston—else how can many of their arguments be accounted for—the same means which carried through the infamous British Treaty, perhaps Mr. Merry expects may allay the opposition to the present measure of

Britain but we trust he will find himself mistaken.

Perhaps which is not at all unlikely, Mr. Merry following the cunning example of the Spanish minister, may have procured counsellors opinions—perhaps Mr. Merry may first in the face of the secretary of state, the redoubtable authority of lawyers—he may send to his court the opinions of a governor's son, or of two or three who had been attorney generals, as an answer of the remonstrance and resolutions of congress.—The Spanish convention business may be re-acted—and are our merchants still mean enough to sit still, and by no public act enter a protest against this lawyer legislation—this is *imperium in imperio*, a proceeding of itself sufficient to encourage every act of injustice from any nation.

However much we deprecate war yet when the honor of our country is involved as we consider it now to be, we shall not object to some retaliation—not by tilting at shadows, nor by creating taxes, excise-men, 8 per cent loans, contractors and other means for laziness to grow rich upon—but, a retaliation at the expense of our enemy, and which will soon bring them to reason—if the property of our merchants is to be seized at sea, merely because Britain can do it—we say, let our merchants be indemnified by British property on land—this is within our reach completely—this, with a short embargo, and a non importation act of British manufactures, will effectually do the business without line of battle ships.

If Spain will not do us exact justice we recollect well that Mount Vernon owes its name to an expedition in which Americans, then only colonists, signalized themselves. That the road to the Havana, or to Mexico, is not too difficult for those, who in the dead of winter, encountered the frozen regions of Canada, penetrated her forests, and stormed her proudest fortresses.

A few resolves of congress would soon put an end to the tax which Britain now levies, exclusively of 4 per cent, on goods exported to the United States, more than she does to any other part of the world—such an act would soon make the English manufacture turn counsellor in opposition to Messrs. M'Kean, & Co. and the whole herd of American lawyers, even were their opinions procured—they would plead in terms which even Pitt would attend to, or we know nothing of the situation of Britain.

From the United States Gazette

### AMERICAN COMMERCE AND NEUTRAL RIGHTS.

Having perused what appeared yesterday morning under this head in the Aurora, a few ideas occurred to my mind which are offered with great diffidence to the public.

All parties appear to agree as to the *British manifesto against our fair trade, acknowledged by that government in 1801*. How to defeat so daring and unprovoked an attack or to retaliate & compensate the sufferers, appears a question of no small moment; many ways offer, but to select the best and most effectual is not so easy; if our merchants would be unanimous, the course is plain, safe, easy and certain—Let general meetings be called in each city, and resolutions be entered into, not "to import any goods of the growth, produce or manufacture of Great-Britain, until the official publication of security for all American property, not being contraband of war or bound to or from blockaded ports, publicly and officially announced to be so, previous to the sailing of the vessel, and full compensation to the owners of all such American property taken under any order of the British government." This would not be going too far, it is merely "to secure indemnity for the past and security for the future."

It has been hinted that our minister at the Court of St. James's may have winked at the new system of application, for that the French did the same, upon his advice and assurance that he would give them effectual aid, and though it could not well be done by the United States, there was a method of doing it, and which they hit upon just in the same manner the British are now doing. But this is not to be believed!—If he did advise the French to do so, certainly he would not advise the English to the same act!

As to the Spaniards, we can pay ourselves. There are gentlemen now in this city, from the westward, who will make contracts whenever Congress authorize it, to pay every just claim of our citizens upon them, and will engage to do it, free of any expense to the United States, and also, not to injure any private property in Mexico.

### A KENTUCKY MAN.

### Late Foreign News.

LONDON, Aug. 24.

Yesterday the Funds experienced a very considerable rise, and various reasons were assigned for the sudden and favourable change which took place in the mar-

ket. It was known early in the morning that Mr. Elsworth, one of his majesty's messengers, had arrived at Lord Mulgrave's office, in Downing-street, from Petersburg, and it was generally understood that his dispatches were of a most satisfactory nature. But, in addition to this fact, there was a report that his majesty's ministers, in consequence of pacific overtures from Buonaparte, had thought it advisable, in concert with the cabinets of St. Petersburg and Vienna, to propose to the French government the assembling of a general congress, to take into consideration the interests of the different states of Europe.

August 26.

The dispatches brought last Friday by Mr. Elsworth, the messenger, are now understood to be of the highest importance. They are stated to contain not only the ratification of the treaty between this country and the Emperor Alexander, but an account of the demand by Austria, of the latter for assistance, and the determination of the court of Petersburg to march a considerable army into the hereditary dominions, to co-operate against France. It is even mentioned in private letters, that 60,000 Russian troops had, on the 30 ult. commenced their march for Brun. The same accounts add, that his Prussian Majesty has declared his unalterable resolution to adhere to his favourite system of neutrality, and that Russia and Austria are not without hopes of prevailing upon him ultimately to join their confederacy against Buonaparte. In these statements we cannot but think there is a considerable degree of exaggeration.—We not only doubt the actual march of a Russian army; but we can discover nothing in the past conduct of the King of Prussia, or in the general line of politics to which he is attached to warrant the idea that he will not take part with France.—It is, however, very probable, that the ratification of the treaty with Russia has been received by government. If Russia be determined upon carrying into effect with vigour and cordiality operations against France, it is time she should declare herself in a decisive tone; but whatever may be the conditions of the treaty, it is not at all likely that they will be allowed to transpire until the meeting of Parliament.

Government was occupied the whole of last week and is still employed in taking up a great number of transports. They are probably intended for the conveyance of Russian troops to the Mediterranean, or to any other point where their services may be required; and we can learn, that a Russian squadron, of ten fail of the line, is shortly expected to co-operate with us in the North Seas. The transports are to rendezvous at the Nore.

The most active exertions are making to reinforce our grand fleet, and Admiral Cornwallis will shortly have thirty fail of the line under his command, exclusive of the twenty dispatched with Sir Robert Calder. Admiral Stirling failed on Saturday in the *Glory*, 98 guns, from Plymouth, and five more line of battle ships were nearly ready to sail from Cowslad Bay. At Portsmouth the *Victory* of 100, *Beionz*, *Saturn*, *Hero*, and *Repulse*, of 74 guns, will sail in the course of a few days. We understand that Lord Nelson will proceed to Plymouth to hoist his flag on board the *San Josef*, of 112 guns. His Lordship is to resume his command in the Mediterranean, with unlimited orders.

The following letter, with which we were this morning favoured; from an experienced officer belonging to our squadron off Boulogne, contains several interesting particulars worthy of notice. It is dated New Romney, Aug. 24.

"We arrived last evening from off Boulogne, where every thing remained in statu quo, except that about the enemy's vessels under Dutch colours formed a junction with the Boulogne flotilla on the 21st inst. from the eastward. Several neutrals which we have spoken corroborate each other in the report that eight line of battle ships are ready for sea in the Texel, and 400 transports, with about 2,000 cavalry already embarked. About 20,000 troops are also ready near Amsterdam and its vicinity. I really think a fleet, ere next month is expired, will come up the Channel to give us a little glory, when, probably, the craft in Boulogne may attempt an invasion. There are two or three difficulties, however, that the attempt of their's will most evidently have to contend with, be their attempt made when it may, so far as which, is not, thank God, exactly at their command.—In the first place we have ascertained that,