

Chronicle Office

THE WILMINGTON GAZETTE.

Published every Tuesday by ALLMANN HALL, at Three Dollars a Year, payable in advance, or Four Dollars if not paid within a Year.

[NUMBER 550.]

WILMINGTON, N. C. TUESDAY, JULY 21, 1867.

[11TH YEAR.]

RICHMOND, July 1.

According to public notice, a numerous meeting of the Citizens of Richmond, Manchester and of their Vicinities, and of many other persons from distant places, was held at the Capitol in this city on Saturday Evening 4 o'clock, for the purpose of taking under their consideration the late outrage committed on the Frigate Chesapeake, by a British Squadron;—Not less than six or seven hundred persons were present. A more able or a more patriotic assembly was never convened in this city.

Mr. McRae suggested the necessity of appointing a chairman; and nominated the Hon. Spencer Roane. George Hay, esq. seconded the motion, and Mr. Roane was unanimously elected.

Thomas Ritchie was then nominated as secretary by Mr. McRae, seconded by John Mayo, esq. and was unanimously elected.

William Richardson, esq. then presented a letter addressed to "the Mayor and citizens of Richmond" from the corresponding society of Norfolk, enclosing the narrative of the outrages committed upon the Chesapeake and the resolutions adopted by the citizens of Norfolk.

Mr. John Baker moved, that the reading of the narrative should be dispensed with. He trusted that there was no man present so indifferent to the interest of his country as not to have eagerly perused the accounts which had been published of this outrageous transaction.

The resolutions having been read, a motion was made for the appointment of a committee, to take into consideration the outrages committed upon the Chesapeake, and to report immediately to the meeting their sentiments on the subject.

After some preliminary debate, the meeting came to a resolution for the appointment of a committee of seven. The chairman selected the following gentlemen.

The hon. Alexander McRae, Lieut-Governor, the hon. Creed Taylor, Chancellor—John Page, George Hay, William Foulche, William Wirt and Peyton Randolph, Esqrs.

The committee retired for about an hour when Mr. McRae, reported the following Resolutions and Address:

We, the citizens now convened, have read with horror and indignation the narrative of the attack made by the British ship Leopard on the United States frigate Chesapeake. The demand which preceded the attack was lawless in its nature and most insolent in its manner. The attack itself was not only lawless and insolent, but base and cowardly; because it was made by a ship of fifty guns, prepared for action and supported by a British Squadron, in a time of profound peace, on an unsuspected and therefore unprepared friend, a single American Frigate of six and thirty guns;—such are the glorious triumphs of the British navy! We observe that this attack flowed from a deliberate order given by the British Admiral Baskin, at Halifax: We believe that he would not have dared to compromise his nation by so bold and flagrant a breach of national law, without the previous sanction and order of his government: We consider it therefore as an act of the British government. We compare this monstrous outrage (committed in the moment of treaty,) with other acts of usurpation and aggression practised upon us by the same nation—their imprisonments of our seamen so long continued, and their gross and perpetual violation of our commerce, which they have the effrontery to advocate even from their tribunals of law; the review confirms us in the belief, that the attack on the Chesapeake is not the act either of Commodore Douglas or Admiral Baskin, any more than the act of the oriental slave who licks the dust from the foot of despotism, is the act of the slave and not of the despot; but that this attack is the act of the British government; and simply another effusion of the same spirit which produced their imprisonments and commercial spoliation. This act is of the same stamp and color with the rest. We behold in it all, a consistent picture; a nation insolent in the consciousness of her naval strength—totally regardless of the rights of others—totally regardless of all law, reason and humanity—destitute of every motive, feeling and principle which binds civilized nations together—and having no rule of action whatever, but self-aggrandizement and the gratification of her own caprices by brutal force.

We compare this bloody violence with the careles and attentions which they are even now shewing to our ministers at their feasts in London; and we behold a nation, which to the picture of black and savage piracy, adds the features of smiling treachery and mean hypocrisy! A nation which by her actions proclaims the opinion, that we are not only so feeble as to be insulted and outraged with impunity, but so weak and foolish as to be fooled forever with the perfidious semblance of negotiation for the redress of our wrongs, while she takes the shorter cut of blood & battle for the attainment of her purposes. With a nation of such principles and such practices, we wish no friendship, no intercourse; to such complicated and inexcusable wrongs, continually aggravated in proportion to our patience we are disposed to submit no longer. Wherefore:

I. Resolved unanimously, That the thanks of the citizens of Richmond, be communicated to our fellow citizens of Norfolk, for the exemplary promptitude and energy which they have displayed on this occasion; and that they be assured that we unite with them heart and hand, in all their feelings and resolutions.

II. Resolved unanimously, That while we deprecate the horrors of war and approve all honorable means of averting them, we possess the firm hope that the government of the United States will avenge this unparalleled outrage with the spirit which becomes the nation, and which the nation feels—believing as we do, that, however unequal our naval strength, our enemies have, nevertheless, vulnerable points within our reach, thro' which we may be able to strike them vitally.

III. Resolved unanimously, that in support of all measures directed to that end, "we pledge our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor," hailing with firm and joyous hearts, the auspicious omen connected with this well remembered holy pledge: What we did in the weakness of infancy, it will be strange if we cannot repeat in the vigour of manhood!

IV. Resolved unanimously, That a committee be appointed to correspond with such other committees as may be appointed in the several towns and counties in this Commonwealth, for the purpose of collecting the national sentiment on this important occasion.

V. Resolved unanimously, That the Chairman of this committee be requested to communicate a copy of these resolves to the President of the United States, one to the Executive of each State, one to the Chairman of the committee at Norfolk, and one, connected with a printed copy of the narrative of the outrage, to every General Officer and commandant of a regiment in this State, to be communicated by him in such manner as he may approve, to those under his command.

Signed on behalf of the meeting,
SPENCER ROANE, Chairman.
THOMAS RITCHIE, Secretary.

To the President of the United States.

SIR,
WE, the citizens of Richmond, Manchester and their vicinities, and of many other persons from distant places, who have assembled to take under consideration, the late hostile attack upon the frigate Chesapeake, by a British ship of war, and the murder of a number of American seamen in a time of peace, are impelled by the strongest motives to express those sentiments of indignation which the occasion must naturally inspire. When we reflect upon the uniform course of pacific conduct which has been observed by the government of the United States, towards all foreign nations; when we recollect, on the other hand, the innumerable insults and aggressions which Great-Britain has inflicted on our just and lawful commerce; we can only discover in this recent act of violence, the consummation of a system which has for its object the prostration of neutral rights, at the feet of a haughty and ambitious power. The door of negotiation is finally closed; the first blow of war has been struck; and the people of America are called upon to decide, whether they will rally around the standard of the constitution, or resign at once that glorious independence which was purchased by the valor of their fathers, and cemented with their blood. At a period of such magnitude as the present, it is peculiarly necessary that the people of America should display to the world the devotion which they feel to the free, mild and beneficent government under which they live, and their invincible determination to resist to the utmost extremity, every outrage on their rights from whatever quarter it may proceed. The persons who now address you, speak not only for them-

selves, but for their country; they feel that they deliver the sentiments of the nation; and they are confident that they will find a corresponding emotion in the bosom of the chief magistrate of the union.

When an act of unequivocal hostility has been perpetrated; when our armed vessels are not permitted to leave our own ports with impunity; when a British commander gives the signal from our very harbors, for the capture of our ships; it becomes a question not of reason, but of feeling.—Whatever may be the grounds of the contest in which we are engaged, we are compelled to close in that appeal to arms which has been made by our adversary. It is impossible to pursue a temporising conduct, without engraving an endurable stain on our national character. The reputation of our country is at stake; and it must now be decided whether we shall assume the dignified attitude of an independent state, or meanly crouch under the lash of an insolent foe.

No nation upon earth has so many cogent reasons for maintaining a friendly intercourse with the rest of the world, as the U. States. Far removed from that bloody scene of ambition, which Europe has exhibited for centuries; pursuing the even tenor of honest industry; regardless of that illusive glory which is only to be obtained at the expense of happiness; anxious only for that solid renown, which springs from an undeviating course of justice and virtue; too simple for the insidious arts of courtly intrigues, and too refined for the exertion of lawless power; they might have flattered themselves with the hope, that they should escape the ravages of those conflicts which have desolated the old continent. America has every thing to deprecate from peace, and every thing to deprecate from war. But her growing commerce and rising prosperity, cherished by the genial warmth of freedom, were objects too tempting to the rapacious eye of a power who arrogates to herself the exclusive dominion of the seas. From the moment when our independence was established, Great-Britain regarded with malignant jealousy, the progress of a nation whom she had once held in bondage. From that moment until the present, she has waged an open or concealed war against our indisputable rights. It would be superfluous to dwell on the various crimes which she has committed against the law of nations; but may it not be proper to enumerate, a few more prominent than the rest, which mark the spirit which has pervaded her whole conduct. She has occupied posts within our territory which ought to have been surrendered by treaty; she has enlarged the law of contraband, beyond the most liberal construction of the law of nations; she has seized our vessels laden with provisions; she has invented a new system of blockade, which extends not merely to single ports actually invested, but to whole countries with whom she might be at war; she has modified, restrained and enlarged the rights of neutrals according to her interest or caprice, while her courts of admiralty have carried her edicts into rigid execution; she has denied to neutral nations the incontestible right to re-export to a belligerent power the commodities which they have fairly purchased from a colony of the same power—and she has blockaded our ports and impressed seamen from our vessels within our lawful jurisdiction. But atrocious as these acts may seem, they are insignificant when compared with the flagrant outrage lately committed on the frigate Chesapeake. The most humble scyphant of Great-Britain has never yet asserted her right to search a ship of war belonging to a neutral nation. A vessel of this description is as sacred as the territory itself—its flag is a passport throughout the world—and an insult offered to it is a direct attack upon the sovereignty of the State to which it belongs. A conduct like this can neither be defended nor palliated—and it is necessary to meet the approaching conflict with the decision becoming freemen.

While we are sensible of the evils which must result from war, we are prepared to encounter them, in defence of our dearest rights. We are but confident that but one sentiment pervades the American people—and that, however, they may be divided as to points of domestic policy, they are actuated by one soul in repelling the aggressions of a foreign power. It remains for the wisdom of the constituted authorities, to direct with efficacy the energies of the nation. It is our part to declare to you and to the world, that we are prepared to support, with our lives and fortunes, the government of our choice against every power upon earth.

SPENCER ROANE, Chairman.
THOMAS RITCHIE, Sec'y.

From the Newbern Herald of July 9.

AT A MEETING
Of the Inhabitants of the town of Newbern on Monday the 6th instant, called to take into consideration certain Resolutions of the Citizens of Norfolk, transmitted by their Committee,
General THOMAS A. GREEN, Chairman—
JOHN SEARS, Secretary—
Resolved, That Edward Pastour, Daniel

Garth, Thomas P. Irving, James McKinty, Edward Harris, Francis L. Martin and Edward Graham, be appointed a Committee to prepare and report, without delay, resolutions expressive of the sentiments of the meeting on the subject submitted to them.

The Committee having retired for a few minutes, returned, and reported the following, which were unanimously adopted to wit:—

Resolved, That it is the settled opinion of this meeting, that no foreign power has a right to stop, board, or search the National vessels of the United States, on any pretence whatever, and that we will unite and contribute, by every means in our power, to resist and defeat all attempts to violate this principle.

Resolved, That the repeated insults and injuries, which have been of late offered to the flag and citizens of the United States, by British Commanders, presumed to act under the sanction of their government, have excited our indignation and resentment to a pitch that scarcely admits of control.

Resolved, That to preserve our national honour, and to protect the citizens of the United States in the enjoyment of their lives, liberties and property, is among the first and most essential duties of Government, and that for the security of these invaluable privileges, our only reliance, near to Heaven, must be in the energy of our Counsels, and the resources, strength, and spirit of the People.

Resolved, That the attack made on the 22d of June last upon the United States frigate Chesapeake, Commodore Barron, by the Leopard ship of war, in concert with a squadron under the orders of Commodore Douglas, and the premeditated murder of American citizens on board the said frigate, is a high handed and daring aggression on the sovereignty of the United States; grossly insulting to our character as an Independent People; an unequivocal act of war, unprecedented in the usages of civilized nations on terms of peace, and demanding a firm attitude of resistance and vengeance on the part of our citizens and Government, and that the attempt, arrogant and unjustifiable in itself, was executed in a manner no less insidious and barbarous, than disgraceful to the character of the British navy.

Resolved, That the insolence of the British navy, exercised towards us on our coast, and in our very ports and harbours, ought to be checked; and that foreign armed vessels ought not to be permitted to blockade our harbours, and to stop, search, and impress and murder our citizens, and that we will cheerfully and with alacrity unite in the support of any measures, and submit to any sacrifices that may be deemed necessary and efficient, to prevent or revenge these evils, preserve our national character from disgrace, and our commerce from wanton and lawless depredations; and we do in an especial manner, solemnly and zealously, pledge our persons, lives and fortunes, and whatever else is dear to us, in aid of our Government, and in co-operation with them and our Fellow Citizens, in the prosecution of redress for the grievous and insupportable injuries of which we now complain.

Resolved, That this meeting cordially approves of the Resolutions entered into, and conduct pursued on this occasion by their brethren in Norfolk, and will do all in their power to give them effect within the sphere of their influence.

Resolved, That the officers of the Militia and the Volunteer Corps of this Town and its vicinity, be requested to hold their men in readiness for actual service, and to have them so disciplined and equipped, as to be able at a moments warning to obey the call of their country.

Resolved, Although in the opinion of this meeting, the conduct of the Commander of the Chesapeake, in not being prepared to resist, and in not making a spirited resistance to the attack of the Leopard, is mortifying to our pride, and requires explanation; yet from a respect to the example of the Inhabitants of Norfolk, and from principles of humanity towards the unfortunate victims of this melancholy affair, that a subscription be opened at the Office of the Collector of this port for the relief of the wounded and of the families of the killed on board of the Chesapeake;—the proceeds to be remitted to the Committee at Norfolk having the direction of that fund.

Resolved, That the Collector of this port be requested to join the above Committee in answering in behalf of the Citizens of Newbern, the letter of the Committee of Correspondence of the Inhabitants of Norfolk and Portsmouth, and that he enclose a copy of these Resolutions to them, to the President of the United States, the Governor of this State, and cause them to be published in the Newbern Herald.

THOMAS A. GREEN, Chairman
JOHN SEARS, Secretary.

On the evening of Saturday last, a confirmation of the fate of the Chesapeake reached this place. It may afford our read-