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## Congress of the United States.

From the Philadelphia Register.  
SECRET DEBATE ON THE EMBARGO,  
CONTINUED.

Mr. Randolph said he had listened with attention to the observations of the gentleman from New York, Mr. Mitchell. The gentleman's reasons, if there is any weight in them, are in favor of letters of marque and reprisal, but not in favor of the ruinous measure now under consideration. When the gentleman justifies himself, in shielding himself under authority, in his approbation of the measure, he should have supposed he ought to have been influenced by the authority of a respectable gentleman, (meaning the vice president) first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen, within the state of New York, who is now insensible to the distresses of the country. The gentleman says, we ought to take our stand among the belligerents. We cannot take this stand. We are but a young people.—We are just emerging from a revolution—a revolution which was soon succeeded by an European war, which has been to us, like the drainings of a farm yard, which has enriched us beyond measure, which has raised our hamlets and villages to first rate cities. To this we owe our present greatness. To this we owe the language the gentleman has this evening used. Sir, what has been the fate of those nations who have undertaken to take their stand among the belligerents. They have become like humble gun boats, in the wake of European belligerents. What has become of Prussia? she is extinct. What of Austria? she is crippled. What of Russia? she with a territory and population far beyond ours, has been anxious to take the stand which the gentleman wishes, but she dare not. Sir, we may come to the war under the name of allies: but we shall be the first servants of those whose cause we espouse. We may escape this conflict with honor. What is honor in a nation? is it honor to cope with those who are so greatly our superiors? It is our duty and interest to wait. He very well knew, that in times of feverish anxiety and impatient restlessness, nothing is more irksome than to preach up patience, and that we ought to wait for events.

Mr. R. said, he did not pay much regard to the argument, that the belligerents calculate upon our divisions. It is an old, and if he might be permitted to say, a silly argument. The minority is, which is often made against the minority is futile. It is ridiculous for them to urge it. The president of the United States can indisputably carry his measures in congress, as much as any minister ever did. No minority is or ever has been, of any effect. All experience proves it. He would exhort both houses of congress to follow the dictates of their own minds, and not adopt the sentiment of the gentleman from New York. There is no danger from an opposition. The president of the United States for fourteen years has been omnipotent. The evil has not been from the minority, but from gentlemen not pursuing the dictates of their own understandings.

Mr. R. then brought to the view of the house the diminutive trade of the country to France, and which has been diminished by her own regulations, in comparison with our trade to all the rest of the world. He said, if we are called upon to resist, he would wish to shew our resistance where it is important and necessary. As to the observation of his friend from North Carolina (Mr. Macon) that our only alternative now is war—that no proposition had been or could be made as a substitute; osition had been or could be made, and he would pledge his head one might now be made, if both belligerents were viewed with the same eye by our government. Where asked Mr. R. is the reciprocity, while the armed vessels of one only are admitted? As to the existence of the French decrees, the burning of our property on the high seas is damning proof that they have not been revoked.

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. Boyd) the other day proposed 120 days for the period of the embargo, which was negatived. If we agree now to the amendment of 90 days, it is a confession that our argument the other day was right, and that those who opposed us were wrong; and and that those who opposed us were wrong; and that confirms the opinion of the chairman of the committee of foreign relations (Mr. Porter) that it was unexpedient to lay an embargo for 60 days, until we were within 60 days of preparation for war, and who said he was in favor of an embargo as a preparatory measure.

He said there could be nothing more cruel to the merchant, who has given 10 dollars per barrel for flour, and who has incurred the expence of shipping, &c. to carry it to market. It will also be the ruin of the planter. He intreated the house to defer it, until the merchant, who has bought on credit of the planter, can turn himself. There is no alternative—the merchant must be ruined and the planter greatly injured.

He wished that we might think of the mills at Brandywine and Petersburg. There is no calculating the benefit which would arise from deferring it a week, and no possible good can arise from hurrying it. If it is to ruin the allies upon the Peninsula, upon the argument of gentlemen, it cannot answer, as no one can suppose they have not 90 days supply on hand.

Mr. Widgery spoke with much passion and warmth in favor of the embargo and war. Mr. Stewart said, if it was in order, he would ask the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Widgery) a few questions. He would ask that gen-

if he was during the last embargo a ship? If so, did he not go to England during the embargo? If so, how did he go?

Mr. Widgery answered that he went by water. Mr. Speaker said, these questions were not in order.

Mr. Stewart said if they were not in order, he would sit down. Mr. Milnor said, that of however trifling a nature other gentlemen might deem the subject under discussion, he must still be allowed to consider it the most interesting in its nature, and the most important in its consequences, of any that had occupied the attention of the house during this long session; that in many instances, a much more full consideration than it had yet received, had been given to subjects comparatively of far inferior importance; and if the ordinary limits of one day's sitting were not sufficient for the purpose, it had been usual to adjourn the discussion over, from day to day, until it was completed. Mr. Milnor said, he could not see why this measure, the declared precursor of almost immediate war, and therefore involving considerations of awful moment to the whole community, should be treated in a different way. If gentlemen were not disposed to yield to the suggestions of his friends who had advocated a postponement for a few weeks, or of a few days, he trusted they would not now object, considering the lateness of the hour, to postpone the subject for one day. They would not, Mr. M. hoped, compel the house to continue in session, and finally act upon it with bodies and mind too much exhausted for the exercise of that sort of attention which it merited.

He said he abhorred concealment, and therefore would frankly avow, that as the committee of foreign relations had made known their intention to submit this proposition, and as he had no doubt that many persons whose ships and cargoes were nearly ready for foreign voyages, would avail themselves of the information, one object of his feeling anxious for some delay was, that they might effect their wishes before this pernicious measure should be carried into effect.

But independent of this consideration, certainly a full opportunity of discussion could not be afforded to members if a vote were taken to night: and without bearing any reflection on gentlemen, Mr. M. thought they would be better capacitated after the repose of an adjournment for a cool and deliberate decision. To be sure, he said they had the opportunity in which the gentleman from New York had deemed this a fit occasion to indulge—I wish, said Mr. M. the occasion of that learned gentleman, and other of his fellow citizens, whose ruin will follow that adoption of the measures which he advocates, had occupied the galleries of this house during the delivery of this amusing speech, that we might have seen whether, with all their respect for his learning and talents, they could have joined in the merriment excited by the hon. gentleman's sneers at the seriousness, which, affected, on this occasion, minds differently organized from his own—whether they would have joined in the boisterous laugh and clapping of hands in which gentlemen had deemed it consistent with their own characters, and the character of this house, so vehemently to indulge.

Mr. M. added, for my own part, Mr. Speaker, I was shocked at the want of feeling and dignity manifested in the speech I have referred to, and feel degraded and mortified that we are to be led like a troop of Bacchantes, piping and dancing, to the funeral of the peace and happiness of our country.

Mr. Archer inquired of the Speaker, whether, if the gentleman from Pennsylvania intended to close his observations with a rare motion of adjournment, it was in order for him to proceed.

The Speaker said that he thought it was not—that the rules of the house must operate equally to exclude debate on the part of the mover of such a proposition, as upon other members of the house.

Mr. Milnor said he had no intention to violate any rule of the house and yielded with pleasure to the opinion of the chair he therefore moved to adjourn.

Motion lost. The question of indefinite postponement was then taken, and determined in the negative—ayes 42, noes 72.

Mr. Smilie then moved that the house concur in the amendment of the senate.

Mr. Randolph moved a postponement till Monday next, that it might produce as little suffering as possible.

Mr. Porter said, he had been against an embargo at the present time, and was the other day in favor of a postponement; he voted against the embargo, but finally voted in favor upon the passage of the bill, and he should now vote in favor of the present motion.

### Political!

[The following articles are all from democratic papers. They are given as curiosities, for public amusement.]

#### NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

We have all seen enough, particularly of late, to judge of these matters with some degree of accuracy. There is no prospect of any thing of consequence being done. We may say that nothing has been done, for the steps that have been taken have not kept pace with the emergency; so that a declaration of war would be more perilous at the present moment than it would have been at the

conclusion of the last year. It would now be a desperate effort, and the situation of things that could have rendered it otherwise, appears to be continually receding. The tide that "leads on to fortune" has passed the flood, and we should well deserve it, if the remainder of our political voyage should be "bound in shoals."

If there be patriotism enough in the people to endure the continuance of this state of privation, not to talk about making exertion to evade it, we may assert that it is not because the government have not done all they could to destroy that spirit and that mutuality of confidence in it, which is ever necessary to constitute patriotism.

I am far from saying or thinking, that it is too late to redeem our country's rights and honor.—The people themselves could do it, acting without any advantage derived from previous organization. Energy alone would suffice. A set of lawless barbarians could perform all that is now thought so difficult. Another Attila, with a Tartar horde, could execute the military part, and after that the remainder could be done by any body. Yet I think one may venture to predict, that our government will not, nay through want of spirit cannot do any thing but disgrace themselves and dishonor the country. If any army be sent to Canada, it will be parsimoniously stinted down to the lowest calculation in every thing: Be not surprised, then, if they return defeated.

You have borne much my good countrymen, but for one, I most sincerely believe, that the past is nothing compared with what you must yet bear. It is every day more plain that no efficient war will be entered into; let us prepare then to meet with as much resignation as we can, the evils and the dishonor that will be incurred by avoiding it. Our rulers have neither the ingenuity to avoid it creditably, nor the spirit to meet it manfully; let us then prepare for the worst. Every man in the nation, no matter what his opinions or his party may be, thinks that having gone so far in the path of hostility, we cannot go back without infamy; and infamy never comes alone. It is the first step towards subjugation and ruin, and like the *decemviri* [the descent to hell] it is a step that not one in a thousand can ever retrace.—*Pitt's Mercury.*

#### "PASSING STRANGE!"

It appears from the secret journal of the senate, that an attempt was made in that body to remove the non-importation act; that which we cannot too much deplore. The measure was brought with confusion by the firmest men of the senate voted for this proposition; and they labour under this great disadvantage, viz. that the reasons they assigned in conclusion do not accompany and explain their vote. We can conjecture but one motive for an honest man's opposing the embargo,—his belief or suspicion, that the administration means to trifle with the people, and decline war, which ought quickly to follow such a measure as its proper, natural introduction. Whether the neglect of certain preparatory laws by the executive, authorised such suspicion, we do not affirm. Certain it is, however, that the *budget of Gallatin* seemed as if intended to deter us from war; while the utter inactivity (to give it no harsher name) of the war department, was calculated to render war impracticable! Unless, therefore, embargo be sincerely designed as the caution to make ready for war, it is as feeble as contemptible.

Supposing that the president was irresolute, and his secretary negligent, is it not rather the duty of a senator to spur them forward? To open trade with an accursed and perfidious nation, could yield no advantage, that would be a counterpoise to the overthrow of our manufactures, and the meanness of trafficking with the original aggressor, who robs our merchants, destroys our rights, and impresses our seamen.

With harmony and energy there is no danger without them no safety.

We confess, the dubious language, the equivocal (we had almost said cowardly tone) of the National Intelligencer bodes no good.—The embargo law is, in itself, (says that vehicle) an act equal in its operation as it affects the belligerents, &c. Really! Why are we likely to have revived, at this rate, the old war of triangles, viz. submission both to England and France.

France is said to have behaved most flagitiously of late, intercepting Mr. Russell's dispatches to Mr. Barlow, &c. Should we submit to Britain on that account? Ought we, therefore, to abandon our impressed seamen, and surrender our national rights? God forbid! No; rather let us break off all intercourse with France than again submit to either power.

There is another sentence in the National Intelligencer, just as cold as the snows of Canada: "Whilst the door is left open to both powers for accommodation on fair and honourable [honourable] conditions, in the mean time preparations for warlike operations may—and—PROBABLY—will go on with great activity."

So, then! the embargo law is, according to this interpreter, a signal for negotiation!—But warlike preparations "may and probably will go on with great activity."

What does the *court writer* mean by—*great activity*? Is it such "activity" as the president exercised, who though he had above one million of dollars at his command, neglected to recruit for the old army from the date of his proclamation convening congress? Is such "activity" meant, as the president & secretary of war manifested under the act of January 11, for raising 25,000 re-

gulars—for which they have not even yet, begun to recruit?

We trust this writer does not speak the feelings and views of congress.

It appears to us that, without war against the first aggressor, all our measures would be wrong; with war, all would come right.—*Bait Whig.*

From the New York Columbian of March 9.

The Editor of the National Intelligencer has condescended to notice an article that appeared some time since in the Columbian on the Virginia nomination, which he supposes to have been dictated by "the paltry jealousy which springs from thirst for office," &c.

It has ever been the policy of Virginia, when any person beyond the bounds of the Ancient Dominion has been talked of as president, to cry out—"the party is in danger!" as if true republicanism could flourish no where but on her plantations. She calls every wish for a ruler not given by herself—paltry jealousy—sordid cupidity—or thirst for office—as if really such a wish was an impertinent interference in her affairs? The time we think is very near (if it be not already arrived) when that section of the United States will learn her proper place on the scale of the union, be satisfied with her share and her turn, and probably think her sister states "consistent" if they grant thus much.

But Mr. Gales asks—"Is the state of New York so dissatisfied with the measures of the general government that she would change its administration?"—and being in great haste to obtain an answer, and perhaps a little fearful of receiving one not much to his taste, gives it himself in high style! It is not so; (says he) whatever inference may be drawn from the language of popular prints, the public sentiment of the great state of New York is not in opposition to the government." And then Mr. Gales very manfully pledges himself for our stability.

The state of New York is without any doubt vastly obliged to Mr. Gales for his approbation of her past and promises for her future conduct. But having lately taken up the habit of thinking for herself, and forming her own decisions; she has a word or two to say on this subject, which may, perhaps, save Mr. Gales the trouble of making any more attempts to rescue the political character of this state from the imputation of sentiments which she certainly does not support. We are therefore, and willing to submit to all the inconveniences and privations of an honorable and necessary war, and will afford to an administration that shall have the nerve to do its duty, the most firm and decided support. But she will not countenance a system of measures which is founded on falsehood; which holds out to the world a determination at all hazards to sustain the honor of the nation—and underhandedly intrigues to defeat the object it professes to have in view. In a word—she wishes either for a war or peace, and is disgusted with a state which is both *and neither*—which is despised abroad and ridiculed at home, and is ruining the country while it disgraces the administration of its government."

### Financial.

#### TREASURY REPORT.

We are indebted to our attentive Correspondent at Washington for the Treasury Report in the succeeding columns.—It will be seen by this Report, that Congress have, during the present session, already appropriated more than seventeen millions of dollars. Considering the present impoverished state of the Treasury and the death blow which has lately been given to our national revenue, the *decem millions*, which government is now attempting to borrow, can be considered only as the mere beginning of the Loaning System.—*Com. Advertiser.*

#### TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

April 14th, 1812.

SIR—I have the honor, in conformity with the resolution of the Senate of the 10th instant, to transmit the following statements, viz.:

1. A statement of appropriations made by the several acts passed during the present session of Congress, to the 10th April, 1812, inclusive, and amounting together to \$ 17,114,691 34.
2. A statement of sums payable during the year 1812, by virtue of sundry permanent appropriations, and amounting together to \$ 27,927 50.
3. A statement of the probable application during the year 1812, of the annual appropriation of \$ 8,000,000 for the public debt, distinguishing the sums payable for the interest on the Louisiana debt, and for the interest and reimbursement of the domestic debt.
4. A statement of the balance in the Treasury, on the 31st December, 1811, and of the balances unexpended on the same day, in the hands of the Treasurer on account of the War and Navy Departments.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, Sir, your obedient servant,  
ALBERT GALLATIN.

Honorable President of the Senate.

STATEMENT of appropriations made by the acts of Congress, passed from the commencement of the first session of the 12th Congress (4th November, 1811) to the 10th of April, 1812.

By the act "making a further appropriation for the support of a library," passed December 6th, 1811, \$ 1000 a year for five years; for the years 1811 and 1812, \$ 2,000

By the act "to authorise the sur-