

RALEIGH, (N. C.)

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Congress.

MR. GASTON'S REMARKS

On the bill to prevent the Ransoming of Vessels of the United States, taken by the enemy.

Mr. GASTON rose to move that the bill lie on the table until to-morrow. In making this motion he had no design to delay the decision upon its passage, but to procure a little time for reflection. It had been complained by gentlemen favorable to this bill, that all the measures, suggested by the majority, met with a systematic resistance, and it was strongly insinuated that to this zeal of opposition was attributable the opposition to this bill. For himself he begged leave to say that he felt an anxiety to discover some measure of the majority, which a regard for the welfare of his country, and a respect for the dictates of his conscience, would permit him to support. He had viewed this bill as possibly affording such an occasion, especially as in the almost annihilated state of our commerce, but little practical effect could follow from it. But he feared that his hopes had been visionary, and wished for leisure to discover, or to enable others to discover how it could possibly operate any good end.

On all hands it was admitted, that the prohibition of ransoming would produce individual inconvenience, but the committee of foreign relations believed this inconvenience atoned for, by the great public benefit it would effect. This benefit was said to be the suppression of "collusive captures by the enemy," covered under the practice of ransoming." Now he could understand how such collusion might exist while we had a coasting and our export trade; but now that the embargo hermetically closes our ports against the departure of our vessels, he was utterly at a loss to imagine how it was practicable. The object of ransoming is, to be permitted to retain the captured property. The only instance in which ransoming can now take place is with respect to American vessels going from one foreign port to another, or returning from abroad home. Any inducement to "collusive captures" under pretence of ransoming, in instances of the first description, had not been suggested, nor was readily conceivable. As to those of the other class, he had perplexed his mind hitherto in vain, to find out what temptation there could be to a collusive capture and ransom. It would seem that if the ship was not concerned in illegal importation and had no prohibited goods on board, she needed no stratagem of the kind to legalize her entry into the ports of her own country—if she had a prohibited cargo, it seemed equally certain, that the process of capture and ransom neither changed its character, nor altered our laws forbidding its introduction. Perhaps reflection might shew that there were possibilities of such a practice, notwithstanding his present view seemed very clear to the contrary. He wished if it were so, to know them, and on knowing them would take pleasure in supporting any measures calculated to put down an injurious practice. He hoped, therefore, that the bill would lie on the table.

No answer was made.—The motion for the bill to lie on the table, was put and rejected. The question being then stated "shall the bill be engrossed?"

Mr. Gaston again rose, and observed that as all his efforts had been vain, to discover the possibility of the practice meant to be put down by this bill, at the expense of acknowledged individual injury, and time to find out such a possibility had been refused him, he claimed to know of the committee who reported this bill, and of the gentlemen who wished it enacted into a law, whether any of them had been able to find out a possible case. If they had, he begged them to state it, and his objections were removed. But if they could find none such, he desired to be informed upon what principle he, or any other person, could decently vote for the bill?

A pause ensued—all eyes were turned upon the Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Relations—No answer was given.—The question was put, and the bill ordered to be engrossed.

On Thursday, the 27th, in the house of representatives, Mr. King, of Massachusetts, moved the four following resolutions, the three first of which were refused consideration, and the fourth according to a standing rule of the house ordered to lie on the table:—

1. Resolved, That the Representatives of the People in Congress assembled, cannot, consistently with the provisions of the constitution and the nature of our government, refuse to consider any resolution offered by any one of said Representatives. Therefore,

2. Resolved, That the refusal by the majority in this House to consider the resolutions offered by one of the Representatives of the People of Massachusetts, on Friday the 14th of Jan. 1814, asserting the right of the people and of the respective states to a free state coasting trade, interdicted by an act of Congress, was an infringement of the right of the Representative, and of the privilege of a member of this

House, to be heard on this floor in behalf of his fellow citizens, and an injury to the people. And, therefore,

3. Resolved, That the decision of the majority of this House, not to consider the resolutions before named, offered by a member on Friday the 14th inst. on the subject of the state coasting trade, be and the same is hereby rescinded. And to provide against such abuse in future,

4. Resolved, That the following be added to the rules and orders of this House, viz: That every original motion or resolution, in writing, offered by any member (the nature, reason and object of it being first stated by him, if he sees fit) shall be immediately received by the clerk and read, and thereupon be before the House for consideration, to be disposed of as the House may judge right. And such resolutions and motions shall be in order, and be called for by the Speaker, immediately after reports from select committees; and if any question of priority arise, it shall be decided, in the order of states, as in the case of petitions.

The bill to encourage enlistment, by increased bounties, has passed both houses of congress, and will no doubt become a law.

The conferees of the two houses have made an arrangement relative to the bill for increasing the bounty of soldiers, who shall in future enlist into the United States' army. There is to be no additional land given—the pay per month 8 dollars—any citizen or non-commissioned officer who enlists an able bodied man to have 8 dollars therefor. The recruit is to have 50 dollars at his enlistment, 50 dollars whenever he is mustered, and 24 when discharged, or at the end of five years. This was read in the Senate, and concurred in by that body.

The bill to prohibit the delivery of libelled goods to the persons claiming to own them, has passed the house, and is now before the Senate.

The bill to prohibit the ransom of vessels taken by the enemy, has passed to a third reading in the house, and will no doubt pass that body.

IN SENATE.

Monday, January 24.

Mr. Mason submitted the following resolution for consideration:

Resolved, That the Department of the Treasury is a principal and indispensable office in the administration of the government of the United States.

That the duties of this office are at all times important; that at the present time when plans of finance are to be devised, taxes to be imposed, loans to be obtained and large sums of money to be expended and accounted for, these duties have become more arduous, and that the talents, integrity and diligence of a competent and responsible officer are alone sufficient to discharge them.

That by his message of the 7th of June last the President of the United States informed the Senate that he had commissioned Albert Gallatin, then Secretary of the Department of the Treasury, to proceed to Russia, and there with others to negotiate treaties of peace and commerce with Great Britain and a treaty of commerce with Russia.

That pursuant to such commission Albert Gallatin departed from the United States in the month of May last, and hath ever since been and still remains without the limits of the U. States.

That by reason of the said commissioning, departure and absence from the U. States of the said Albert Gallatin, the office of the Secretary of the Treasury became vacant, and is now vacant.

That such vacancy in the office of the Secretary of the Treasury affects the public credit, retards the current service, endangers the general welfare, and ought no longer to exist.

American Intelligence.

ALBANY, JANUARY 21. SUMMARY.

A letter handed to the editor of the Argus, dated the 11th, at Le Roy, gives the names of the following persons killed at Lewiston and Schlosser, by the enemy, besides those we have already mentioned, viz. Niles Gillet, and a young brother, Mr. Mack, Mr. Trowbridge, S. Taffany, and captain Rose. They were found stripped, scalped and their hearts taken out.—Several families were taken to Canada, and men, women and children confined together.—The letter adds, that Gen. Swift had advanced to Youngstown with a small party, where he had captured a British picket of 12 men, and killed 4. He kept his position, and the enemy were advancing against him.

The corporation of this city have made a donation of \$1000 for the relief of the sufferers on the Niagara.

Gen. Wilkinson has arrived at Waterford, where we understand he has taken quarters for the winter.

Among the distinguished persons arrived in this city as witnesses in the case of Gen. Hull, are Gen. Cass, and Dr. Enstis, late Secretary at War. General Cass has relieved our apprehensions for the safety of Detroit and Erie.—There were 3000 men at the former place, the Indians well disposed, and no apprehensions entertained from the enemy. At Erie, a force competent to defend the place had assembled.

BATAVIA, JAN. 8.

On the day that the enemy entered Buffalo, Mr. Joseph Almy found on the road, about two miles from their house, three children, the eldest about ten; he took them into his carriage, and brought them to his house in Middlebury,

near Amariah Wright's where they yet remain. They are the children of Job Hestington, who occupied the first building this side of Hodge's tavern, a mile and a half from Buffalo. This information is given, that the disconsolate parents, if they survive, may hear of their children.

Merited Justice.—A white man, whose savage heart had induced him to adorn his person with an Indian dress, was shot near Daniel's inn, 14 miles from this place, by Dr. Turtelot, while attempting to make his escape from the guard. He was taken prisoner a short distance from Buffalo, and was one among a party of Indians who had just plundered and set Hodge's brick house on fire. He was known to be a prominent leader among the Indians, stimulating them to the commission of the most wanton and cruel barbarities.—There is but one wrong attending this transaction, that is, ever taking him prisoner.

A contribution was made in money, provisions and clothing, by the citizens of Canandaigua, and forwarded on to the relief of the distressed, who were flying from their homes and from danger.

PLATTSBURG, JAN. 12.

Night before last General Wilkinson arrived from Malone, reviewed the troops yesterday, and starts this morning for Albany; and says he will be back again in seven days.

CANANDAIGUA, JAN. 11.

The enemy re-crossed the river into Canada on Saturday the 1st inst. having completed the work of retaliation in a way rather more satisfactory to themselves than to us. They left no buildings standing at Black Rock or Buffalo, excepting a jail, a blacksmith shop, used as an armory, and a small house of a Mrs. St. John. They came out of Buffalo, about two miles, and burnt all as far as the brick house of Mr. W. Hodge, inclusive, in which were 6 or 8000 dollars worth of goods, that were also lost.

Of the Americans killed in the battle at Black Rock, the bodies of 35 have been found. The enemy have also in their possession 69 prisoners.

The enemy's loss, is believed to have been much greater than ours.

The schooners Ariel, Little Belt, Chipeway, and sloop Trippe, lying near Buffalo Creek, fell into the enemy's hands, and are probably destroyed.

The tavern house of Major Miller, at Cold Springs, and the house of lieut. col. Granger, at Four Mile Creek, are not burnt as reported.

* Eratus Granger, brevetted a lieut. col. by general M'Clure.

NEW-YORK, JAN. 21.

From New-Orleans.—We learn by the Spark, that 40 men had been landed at the Balize from the British Sloop of war Herald, who destroyed the Fort recently built there, so that the enemy were constantly committing depredations on that unprotected river. The Herald had demanded the national character of the inhabitants of Baratavia (about 300 pirates)—they declared themselves French, and said they intended to destroy all vessels they fell in with even Americans, they having five armed schooners and a brig out, the latter commanded by La Feve, and had made some valuable captures and smuggled the goods into New Orleans. It is supposed the crews of all vessels captured (27 in number) had been put to death, as no prisoners have been heard of. Besides the Herald, the enemy have two brigs of war off the Balize.

Copy of a letter from Lieutenant Claxton to his father, dated

Macedonian, New-London, Jan. 19, 1814.

DEAR FATHER.—For the two last days we have been Albanically; an American captain returned on parole from the Ramilies, 74, a few days since and communicated to commodore Decatur, a consultation he had with captain Hardy, in which the latter said "that now that two frigates were off, of equal force to the United States and Macedonian, that he should have no objection to a meeting taking place, but that he could not allow the challenge to come from the English commanders." The hint was embraced in a moment, and captain Biddle dispatched with a challenge from our commanders. In the mean time every preparation was made, on our side, for an immediate engagement, which we all supposed no objection could be made to, the crew of both ships were called together, and addressed by their commanders, who made known to them the substance of the business then on foot, they were answered by three hearty cheers. Captain Jones concluded his short and pertinent address in the following words, spoken with great modesty, "my lads, our cruize will be short, and I trust, a very profitable one." Captain Biddle went on board the 74, a signal was immediately made for the two commanders of the English frigates, and they went on board. Captain Hardy addressed them, "gentlemen, here are two letters for you, it rests altogether with you to decide on the matter." Stackpole, of the Statira, answered with the greatest affection, "pon honor sir, it is the most acceptable letter I ever received." The final answer was to be given yesterday. Captain Biddle returned, and related the circumstances as I have mentioned. For myself, I thought from the manner of Stackpole that he would be the first to fire, I am not able to say that he did, it is enough, that the captain of the Borer (sloop of war) came in yesterday and made known that they had declined meeting

us. This circumstance has made a vast deal of conversation here much to the credit of our commanders—it will probably be distorted into a hundred different shapes before it is done with. I have therefore given you a correct though brief account of it. The Endymion, mounts the same weight of metal with the United States and three or four guns more, and the Statira is superior to us by one or two guns. The disappointment is very great with us, for every soul calculated on taking her with ease. You see we must trust altogether to our heels.

Yours affectionately.

A. CLAXTON.

WAR SHIP.

The ingenious and indefatigable Robert Fulton, we find, has directed his attention to the employment of steam-boats for purposes of public defence, in the harbors and waters of the U. S. The following is a copy of a certificate from some of our most distinguished naval officers, which is so explicit in description, and so conclusive in the judgment given on it, that no remarks of ours are necessary, and could not add to the weight of the opinions given. We hope it will meet that attention where it should, to which its importance entitles it.—Aurora

NEW LONDON, JAN. 3, 1814.

We, the undersigned, have this day examined the model and plans of a vessel of war, submitted to us by Robert Fulton, to carry twenty-four guns, twenty-four or thirty four pounders, and use red hot shot, to be propelled by steam, at the speed of from 4 to 5 miles an hour, without the aid of wind or tide. The properties of which vessel are: That without masts or sails, she can move with sufficient speed; that her machinery being guarded, she cannot be crippled; that her sides are so thick as to be impervious to every kind of shot—and in a calm or light breeze, she can take choice of position or distance from an enemy. Considering the speed which the application of steam has already given to heavy floating bodies, we have full confidence, that should such a vessel move only four miles an hour, she could, under the favorable circumstances which may always be gained over enemies' vessels in our ports, harbors, bays and sounds, be rendered more formidable to an enemy than any kind of engine hitherto invented. And in such case, she would be equal to the destruction of one or more seventy-fours, or of compelling her or them to depart from our waters. We therefore give it as our decided opinion, that it is among the best interests of the U. States to carry this plan into immediate execution.

(Signed) STEPHEN DECATUR, JR. JONES, J. BIDDLE.

NEW YORK, JAN. 10, 1814.

We, the subscribers, having examined the model of the above described vessel of war, to be propelled by steam, do fully concur in the above opinion of the practicability and utility of the same.

(Signed) SAM'L EVANS, G. H. PERRY, L. WARRINGTON, J. LEWIS.

FROM THE NORTH.

The following extract of a letter to a gentleman in this city, has just been received. It is the latest information from that quarter.

DETROIT, DEC. 23.

"It is rumored that the British and Indians are in the neighborhood of the river Trench, and preparations are making at Sandwich and Malden by our respective commandants to give them a warm reception, and the troops at this post are in readiness.

"I presume you have heard that Gen. Cass is appointed our Governor, and is sworn accordingly; he is gone to Albany to attend the trial of Gen. Hull. Col. Butler commands in his absence; General Harrison, it is expected here, will resume the command.—Washington Gaz.

Extract of a letter from Rome, (Oneida county) dated the 19th inst.

"The people in and about Sackett's Harbor are in considerable agitation and fear an attack, which I believe is only delayed until the ice is strong enough to cross the river on."

Mr. A. P. Gibson, passenger in the Swedish brig Skoenheren, from Gottenburgh, arrived at Boston, was intrusted with despatches from St. Petersburg, for our government, but was not suffered to bring them in the above vessel; he brought private letters from Mess. Bayard & Gallatin. Mr. G. had not been informed of his disqualification in the Legation, at the last accounts from St. Petersburg.

Mr. CLAY, we learn, proposes to leave this city on Friday next for New York, whence he is to embark for Gottenburgh. HENRY CARROLL, esq. of this district, goes out as his Secretary.

We are happy to learn that lieutenant PACKETT, of the navy, who was reported to have been killed at Buffalo, has arrived safely at Erie.

A wealthy city.—By the report of the city comptroller of New York, it appears that the expenditures of the corporation of that City for the past year exceed half a million of dollars, met by the regular funds, and leaving a balance in the Treasury.—Nat. Intel.

COM. OLIVER HAZARD PERRY.

This young hero was yesterday admitted on the floor of the Senate, as a mark of respect and distinction. His reception was truly flattering and honorable.—We hope this may ever be the treatment of patriotism and valor.—Ibid.