

Gen. E. Jones

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Domestic.

EXTRACTS FROM

GOVERNOR STROMG'S SPEECH,

Delivered before the Legislature of Massachusetts, on Saturday, the 2d inst.

SINCE the commencement of the last session of the General Court, the differences which lately subsisted between the Government of the United States and Great-Britain, have been adjusted by the ratification of a Treaty of Peace. On grateful acknowledgments are due to the Supreme Being, for the kind interposition of His Providence, in thus putting an end to the miseries of war.

Other nations have also been rescued from the same calamity; after a long and most sanguinary conflict, in which every part of Europe was threatened with an insupportable military despotism; the civilized world, at the close of our contest with Great Britain, was again restored to peace. In a state of general tranquillity, which, notwithstanding the late events in Europe, we hope will soon be re-established, each nation is at liberty to pursue without interruption, the measures most conducive to its happiness; and we may be assured, that the people among whom the virtues of probity, industry and economy, most generally prevail, will be the most successful. I hope our constituents will have a large share of the benefits which an undissolved and permanent renewal of friendship is calculated to bestow; and that the future prospects of the people of these States will not be interrupted by an unnecessary interference in the disputes and conflicts which may arise in other nations.

When the repeal of the British orders in council was known in this country, it was the professed object of the government, in continuing the war, to compel Great-Britain to relinquish the claim of searching for her seamen, and taking them from our merchant vessels. But as there is not any provision in that effect in the treaty of peace, this object of the war is relinquished, and we have no pretence again to continue hostilities for the same cause. War is it probable that England, or any other of the great nations of Europe, will ever consent to abrogate the general law of perpetual allegiance. Their claims, however, on this point, will do us no important injury, if our Government takes effectual measures to exclude foreigners from the employment of navigating our ships, and in this way afford substantial protection and encouragement to our native seamen. The remedy is therefore in our own power. But if we allure foreign seamen into our service, or continue to employ them, even though they may have conformed to our rules of naturalization, we shall again be liable to the inconveniences from impressment, which we have heretofore experienced, especially whenever a war takes place between the maritime powers of Europe. An attempt, after the ratification of the late treaty, to negotiate for the establishment of the principle, that the flag shall in all cases protect the crew, would, in the language of a member of the Government, be an act of folly, which would expose us to derision.

We do not complain that the above concessions are implied in the treaty; we hope that in all respects the measures of our government will be just and conciliating; for in this way only can we reasonably expect peace abroad, or mutual confidence at home. To the great body of the people, it is a matter of indifference by whom the government is administered, if the conduct of the administration is calculated to promote justice and public tranquillity.

Although the declared objects of the war have not been attained, by the treaty, the expressions of joy at the restoration of peace, were universal, even before the conditions of the treaty were known. Since they have been made public, though it appears that some of the advantages we heretofore enjoyed under former Treaties with Great-Britain have not been renewed, yet the people of this State seem to acquiesce in the terms; and perhaps they submit the more readily, as a great proportion of them have had no expectation, from the beginning of the war, that the result would be more favourable. Our Constitution was formed to promote the peace, security and commerce of these States, but was not calculated or designed to extend their dominion, or to conquer the territories of other nations. Had our arms prevailed in Canada, as the government seemed to expect, still Great-Britain would not have relinquished any material part of her rights on the ocean; while, on the other hand, the enlargement of our territory by the conquest of the British Provinces, would have been the source of a ruinous corruption, and must have tended to render the Union less permanent.

In the course of the war, the government of this State endeavoured to conform its measures to the principles of the Constitution, and faithfully to execute the duties enjoined by that instrument. Whatever complaints have been made of the construction we gave it, whether relating to the command of the militia, or the right of the National Government to force the citizens into the ranks of the regular army, or to impair the authority of parents and guardians,

I think the experience and reflection of future times, will confirm the correctness of our expostitions; and I presume, that the members of the present National Government would have adopted the same construction, at any period during the administration of the two first Presidents of the United States. Severe calamities are always incident to a state of war; but that state is still more to be deprecated, if it shall be understood to furnish the government with an excuse for adopting measures subversive both of civil and political liberty.

To carry into effect the regulations that were deemed indispensable for the protection of the State, during the war, it was found necessary to borrow large sums, as well for the purchase of ordnance, arms and military stores, as for the support and pay of the militia, who, at different periods, especially in the last year of the war, were called out for the defence of the towns on the sea-coast. A number of arms were lent for the use of the inhabitants of those towns, part of which, agreeably to the directions of the Board of War, have been returned into public arsenal.

Of the debt incurred in this Commonwealth, in the war of the revolution, about five hundred and fifty thousand dollars still remain due to individual creditors: the amount of this debt will be considerably increased by our expenses in the late war, exclusive of that part for which we have a just claim to be reimbursed by the National Government. This subject will require the attention of the Legislature, that effectual provision may be made for the payment of the interests, punctually, and the gradual discharge of the principal as soon as the circumstances of the State will permit. To effect these objects, a prudent management of the public revenue is indispensable; this will go far to supply the wants of the State, and prevent being burdened with additional taxes, which profusion or negligence would render necessary, and which would tend to alienate their affections from the government.

ANECDOTE OF GEN. JACKSON.

For some time after the first settlement of Kentucky, the wilderness which separated that country from the adjacent settlements of Virginia, was much infested with Indian depredations. In consequence of the repeated murders which had been committed, it had become necessary for persons wishing to go to or from Kentucky, to collect in considerable numbers at some stockade adjoining the wilderness, and then to march through in a body with as much celerity as possible. Of one of these companies was Gen. Jackson, (at that time a young man, and in obscurity,) as also Mr. Moore, who had with him his wife and child, who were the only females in company. The progress of the party being much retarded by the woman and child (who were unwel) some of them became dissatisfied, and fearful that the Indians should thereby be enabled to collect in sufficient force to destroy them, at length more than one half of the company resolved to push on, and leave the rest behind.

It was in the morning that this resolution was taken, when the party had stopped to take some refreshment. Those who were going on, having saddled their horses, were about to set off, when Jackson, who was an entire stranger to Mr. Moore, and as far as he knew, to the rest of their company, stepped forward into the road with his gun, and observing that they had combined for security and ought to adhere to each other, concluding by swearing that he should kill the first man who should attempt to desert his comrades. The determination of his manner, produced such an effect upon the party, that they instantly laid aside all thoughts of proceeding, and the company went through together in safety. Mr. Moore, (who relates the anecdote) attributes to this interference alone, the safety of the party, and feels towards Gen. Jackson the most lively gratitude as the preserver of his wife and infant.

Beware of Counterfeits.—Counterfeit five dollar bills on the State Bank of North-Carolina are in circulation. They are ingeniously executed and by most persons would be considered genuine, being altered from a one into a five by neatly pasting the latter over the former amount at the top and in the body, and carelessly tearing off the word one from the left end of the bill. On a close examination, however, the cheat is readily detected. The device of the bills is essentially different. The one dollar bills have on them the figure of a plough. Those of five dollars have a female figure, representing the Goddess of Liberty or Genius of Columbia, encircled by the emblems of Agriculture, Commerce and Manufactures. At the right end the spurious bills have no marginal border—those that are genuine have a large rich one, with "State Bank of North-Carolina," in the centre of it. At the bottom of the genuine bills the word five appears in small white letters surrounded by a black border—nothing of the kind is to be seen on the bills that are forged. Bills purporting to be on the Hudson Bank of New-York and signed by Walker as President, are also in circulation. It may be well to apprise the public that there is no such Bank. Georgia Journal.

STEAM BATTERY.

Messrs. Gates and Seaton.—From the statement published in the New York and some other newspapers, by Mr. Fulton's friends, it would appear that the late trial of the Steam Frigate, "FULTON THE FIRST," moved by steam, was highly satisfactory. The writer of

this being present, asserts, without a possibility of being contradicted, that THE CONTRARY WAS THE FACT. Tho' she started nearly at high water, with the wind on her quarter, yet she could not move at the rate of more than one mile per hour; and that was merely floating like a raft, without the power of being steered. It was with difficulty she was prevented from going aground on Long Island, and was at last towed into the dock at the foot of Liberty street.

A SPECTATOR.

[The above is so direct a contradiction of what has been stated in the most respectable papers in New York, that the Editors felt some difficulty in admitting it. This objection was overcome by the consideration of the facility with which the statement, if incorrect, can be refuted. The writer of the above, will see that we have thought proper to omit the latter clause of the communication, reflecting on Mr. Fulton's merits.] Nat. Int.

DISTRESSING NEWS.

Extract of a letter from New-Orleans to a gentleman of N. York, dated 20th of May.

"I am sorry to say that the river Mississippi is higher now than ever known, and the damages incalculable. Entire settlements are many feet under water, as Palmyra, Concordia, and a part of Point Coupee; besides innumerable crevasses on the coast. Many sugar and cotton plantations are ruined for the present."

Foreign.

AMERICAN PRIZE NEGROES.

FROM THE NASSAU ROYAL GAZETTE, MAY 10. We have been favored with the copy of a letter written by William Wyly, Esq. His Majesty's Advocate and Procurator General, to his Excellency the Governor, in refutation of the charge made by the American government respecting the sale in these Islands, of Negroes taken from the United States. Although every person in this colony must be satisfied that the charge is altogether unfounded, yet as appears by Mr. Monroe's report to his government, that the subject has been deemed of sufficient importance to be officially communicated to the Plenipotentiaries at Ghent, and has otherwise been widely circulated, we consider it right, publicly to repeat our firm belief, that the accusation, thus brought against the commander in chief and other meritorious officers of His Majesty's navy on the American station, and involving in its consequences the inhabitants of this colony, has been fabricated for the double purpose of stigmatising the British naval character, and fanning the flame of discord between the two nations. We might have said only, that it must have proceeded from some erroneous and false information by which the public functionaries of the United States have been deceived, did not the remarks of Mr. Monroe, embodied in his report, point directly to a spirit of rancour as dictating the representation—remarks which we see repeated in the National Intelligencer with increased malevolence, and which, as appearing in that paper, bear the mark of authority, and shew that the object is not so much to afford proof of the injustice complained of, as to aggravate the imputation, and to impress its belief upon the minds of the people of the U. S. still heated from recent animosities. It will be observed that the Attorney General has confined himself, in a great measure to Prize Negroes.—It is to be wished that he had gone further, because it is the aim of the American government to do so. The true purport of the accusation at the present day, means as much that the description of the slaves was encouraged, and that they were afterwards betrayed and sold, as that captured Negroes were carried away for sale; an accusation equally false and groundless as the other, and equally incredible with all who will give it a moments reflection, and consider the impracticability of such proceedings under the existing Laws, over which the eye of authority is particularly vigilant in all our Colonies, but in none more so than in this.

We understand that sundry affidavits have been voluntarily and solemnly made, which not only fully corroborate the statement of the Attorney General, but also shew that no American Slaves were at any time, or under any circumstances whatever, introduced into and sold in the Bahamas during the late war. If copies of these affidavits can be procured, they shall appear in a future number; in the mean time the letter above alluded to, is herein published.

New-Providence, May 5th, 1815. Your Excellency must without doubt have been surprised at seeing in our Gazette, copies of the papers which have lately been published under the authority of the Government of the United States upon the subject of the pretended sale of American Prize Negroes in these Islands, and although the charge appears upon the face of it to be groundless, your Excellency may nevertheless think it right that it should be contradicted.

I have, as your Excellency knows, been His Majesty's Attorney, Advocate and Procurator General of these Islands for the last fourteen years, and I was present perhaps at every sitting of our Prize Court during the late American War, so that I have had the very best opportunities to know what has been passing in that Court, and take upon myself, without any reserve, to assert, that not a single Negro or person of colour taken from the Americans and brought into these Islands in the course of the War, was either prosecuted, condemned, or sold here, and that it was an invariable practice to liberate or exchange them all whether Freeman or Slaves.

An instance occurred in the year 1808, and another in 1811, in which Negroes who were probably born free, were trepanned and smuggled into the Colony, by Masters of American vessels: the first, a man called Robert Sawyer, in the brig Joseph Ross, James Henryham Master, from Washington in North-Carolina, the other a young woman, named Catharine Richardson, in the schr. Cynthia, of New-York, Charles Johnson, master; but both of these were seized, prosecuted, and made free here by sentence of our Admiralty Court, under the authority of the Act of Parliament for the abolition of the Slave Trade, and I took the liberty to write letters giving notice of these transactions, both to Mr. Monroe, the American Secretary of State, and to the Society established at Philadelphia for the Abolition of Slavery.

"I have the honor to be, with great consideration, Sir, your excellency's faithful humble servant. (Signed) WM. WYLY." His Excellency Charles Cameron, Esq. &c. &c.

Madeira, May 14th, 1815.

Sir—I have only time to transmit the enclosed extract and list of the naval force of Algiers, now at sea. I am of opinion that their destination is Tunis; and that they mean to co-operate with the malcontents of that Regency in order to dethrone the present Bey and subjugate his country, as it is hardly to be supposed that they mean to cruise in the Atlantic with gun boats. It is likewise probable that they have been informed that during the war with Tripoli, that our vessels of-war arrived in the Mediterranean either singly or in small squadrons, and that they have fitted out their whole force in order to cruise for them, and will endeavour to engage them in detail.—I hope, however, that they will be disappointed and that our squadron may arrive altogether before they return to port. I am under no apprehension for the result. The number of men stated in the above list, is incorrect, as their large frigates never have less than 500 men on board, such as they are, and the other vessels in proportion. The bombards no doubt carry a mortar besides a gun each, though not mentioned in the enclosed list, and their sending bombards with their squadron, is in my opinion, a corroborating proof that they are intended to bombard some of the towns in the Regency of Tunis, with whom they are at war. We have not heard of the arrival of the Dutch squadron in the Mediterranean, nor what are the intentions of Holland relative to their affairs with Barbary. I will forward an open copy of this and the enclosed list by every American vessel which sails from this port, with directions to give a copy thereof to every vessel they may fall in with: I hope that it may find its way to our squadron, should they be at sea, before they approach the Straits of Gibraltar.—I have the honor to subscribe myself with the most distinct respect, sir, your most obedient servant. (Signed) JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Hon. Benj. W. Crowninshield, Esq. Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Extract of a letter from Lisbon, dated the 2d May, 1815.

Letters from Cadiz of the 25th April, mention that the Algerine squadron has put to sea, consisting of 66 vessels, (of which we enclose particulars for your inspection) but that nobody knows the destination of this considerable force—Spain and this country are at peace with these pirates, and America seems to be the only probable object of this expedition, and we should hope the Americans would give a good account of them.

- List of the Algerine Squadron.
- Frigate, 50 guns, 860 men, built at Algiers, 6 years old, sails well.
- Frigate, 40 guns, 360 men, built at Algiers, 13 years old.
- Frigate, 44 guns, 360 men, taken from the Portuguese, 30 years old.
- Frigate, 44 guns, 360 men, taken from the Portugians, 9 years old, the best sailer in the squadron.
- Corvette, 38 guns, 300 men, built at Algiers, 3 years old, bad construction.
- Corvette, 26 guns, 200 men, present from the Grand Seigneur, 15 years old, sails well.
- Corvette, 24 guns, 200 men, taken from the Greeks, 14 years old, sails pretty well.
- Corvette, 24 guns, 200 men, taken from do. 4 years old.
- Corvette, 14 guns, 150 men, taken from do. 10 years old.
- Corvette, 30 guns, 300 men, do. from the Greeks, 3 years old, sails well.
- Brig, 20 guns, 150 men, built at Algiers, 6 years old; do. 20 guns, 180 men, taken from the Portuguese, 9 years old.
- Xebec, 18 guns, 150 men, taken from the Portuguese, 10 years old.
- Schooner, 1 gun, 20 men, taken from the Tunisians, 6 years old.
- Galley, 3 guns, 100 men, built at Algiers, 5 years old.
- Ten gun-boats, 2 guns each (20), 30 men each (300), built at Algiers, 2 years old; 30 do. 1 gun each, (30), 25 men each (750), built at Algiers, 6 years old.
- 11 bombards, 1 gun each (11), 25 men each (275), built at Algiers, 6 years old.
- Total—4 frigates, 6 corvettes, 2 brigs, 1 xebec, 1 schooner, 1 galley, 40 gun-boats, 11 bombards—104 guns, 4745 men.

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.