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By **Philo White.**

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All letters addressed to the Editor, must be post-paid, or they will not be attended to.

Congress.

IN SENATE.

Monday, Dec. 5th.—This being the day fixed for the second session of the eighteenth Congress, Mr. Gaillard, president pro tempore, in the absence of the Vice-President, took the chair; and the roll being called over, it appeared that 35 members were present.

A committee was appointed, jointly, with such committee as the House of Representatives might appoint, to wait on the President of the United States, and inform him that the two Houses were assembled, and ready to receive any communication he might have to make.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
At 12 o'clock this day, the Speaker, (Hon. Henry Clay, of Ky.) took the chair, and the roll being called, 180 members answered to their names.

A committee was appointed on the part of this house, to join with the committee on the part of the Senate, to wait on the President of the U. S. and inform him that a quorum of both houses were assembled, and ready to receive any communication he may have to make to them.

Mr. Mitchell, of Md. offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Hon. the Speaker, invite our distinguished guest and benefactor, General LA FAYETTE, to a seat within the Hall of this House, and that he direct the manner of his reception.

This resolution gave rise to some debate as to what would be the most proper mode of expressing the respect felt in this House, towards this illustrious individual, which resulted in the adoption of the following resolution, proposed by Mr. A. Stevenson, as a substitute for the other:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed on the part of this House, to join such committee as may be appointed on the part of the Senate, to consider and report what respectful mode it may be proper for Congress to adopt to receive Gen. LA FAYETTE, and to testify the very high gratification which he has afforded it by his present visit to the United States, made in pursuance of the invitation given to him by Congress during its last session.

The committee was appointed, to consist, on the part of this House, of 13 members, viz: Messrs. Mitchell, A. Stevenson, Livingston, Storrs, Trimble, M'Lane, of Delaware, Webster, Mallary, Ingham, Forsyth, Mangum, M'Duffie, and Eddy.

The committee appointed to wait on the President, reported, that he would, to-morrow, at 12 o'clock, make his communication.

Tuesday, Dec. 7th.—The President of the United States transmitted, this day, to both Houses of Congress, the following

Message:

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate,
and of the House of Representatives:

The view which I have now to present to you, of our affairs, foreign and domestic, realizes the most sanguine anticipations which have been entertained, of the public prosperity. If we look to the whole, our growth, as a nation, continues to be rapid beyond example: if to the states which compose it, the same gratifying spectacle is exhibited. Our expansion over the vast territory within our limits, has been great, without indicating any decline in those sections from which the emigration has been most conspicuous. We have daily gained strength, by a native population, in every quarter: a population devoted to our happy system of government, and cherishing the bond of union with fraternal affection. Experience has already shown, that the difference of climate, and of industry proceeding from that cause, inseparable from such vast domains, and which, under other systems, might have a repulsive tendency, cannot fail to produce with us, under wise regulations, the opposite effect. What one portion wants, the other may supply,

and this will be most sensibly felt by the parts most distant from each other, forming thereby a domestic market, and an active intercourse between the extremes, and through every portion of the Union, by a happy distribution of power between the National and State Governments, governments which, by their co-operation, on the sovereignty of the people, and are fully adequate to the great purposes for which they were respectively instituted, causes which might otherwise lead to dismemberment, operate powerfully to draw us closer together. In every other circumstance, a correct view of the actual state of our Union, must be equally gratifying to our constituents. Our relations with foreign powers are of a friendly character, although certain interesting differences remain unsettled with some. Our revenue, under the mild system of impost and tonnage, continues to be adequate to all the purposes of the government. Our agriculture, commerce, manufactures, and navigation flourish. Our fortifications are advancing in the degree authorized by existing appropriations, to maturity; and due provision is made for the limit prescribed for it by law. For these blessings we owe to Almighty God, from whom we derive them, and with profound reverence, our most grateful and unceasing acknowledgments.

In advertent to our relations with foreign powers, which are always an object of the highest importance, I have to remark, that of the subjects which have been brought into discussion with them, during the present administration, some have been satisfactorily terminated; others have been suspended, to be resumed hereafter, under circumstances more favourable to success; and others are still in negotiation, with the hope that they may be adjusted, with mutual accommodation, to the interests and to the satisfaction of the respective parties. It has been the invariable object of this government to cherish the most friendly relation with every power, and on principles and conditions which might make them permanent. A systematic effort has been made to place our commerce, with each power, on a footing of perfect reciprocity; to settle with each, in a spirit of candour and liberality, all existing differences, and to anticipate and remove, so far as it might be practicable, all causes of future variance.

It having been stipulated, by the seventh article of the Convention of Navigation and Commerce, which was concluded on the 24th of June, 1822, between the United States and France, that the said Convention should continue in force for two years from the first of October of that year, and for an indefinite term afterwards, unless one of the parties should declare its intention to renounce it, in which event it should cease to operate at the end of six months from such declaration; and no such intention having been announced, the Convention having been found advantageous to both parties, it has since remained, and still remains, in full force. At the time when that convention was concluded, many interesting subjects were left unsettled, and particularly our claims to indemnity for spoiliations which were committed on our commerce in the late wars. For these interests and claims, it was in the contemplation of the parties to make provision at a subsequent day, by a more comprehensive and definitive treaty. The object has been duly attended since, by the Executive, but as yet it has not been accomplished. It is hoped that a favorable opportunity will present itself for opening a negotiation, which may embrace and arrange all existing differences, and every other concern in which they have a common interest, upon the accession of the present King of France, an event which has occurred since the last session of Congress.

With Great-Britain, our commercial intercourse rests on the same footing that it did at the last session. By the convention of 1815, the commerce between the United States and the British dominions, in Europe, and the East Indies, was arranged on a prin-

ciple of reciprocity. The convention was confirmed and continued in force, with slight exceptions, by a subsequent treaty, for the term of ten years, from the 20th of October, 1818, the date of the latter. The trade with the British colonies in the West Indies, has not, as yet, been arranged by treaty, or otherwise, to our satisfaction. An approach to that result has been made by legislative acts, whereby many serious impediments which had been raised by the parties, in defence of their respective claims, were removed. An earnest desire exists, and has been manifested, on the part of this government, to place the commerce with the colonies, likewise, on a footing of reciprocal advantage; and it is hoped, that the British government, seeing the justice of the proposal, and its importance to the colonies, will, ere long, accede to it.

The Commissioners who were appointed for the adjustment of the boundary between the territories of the U. States and those of Great Britain, specified in the fifth article of the Treaty of Ghent, having disagreed in their decision; and both governments having agreed to establish that boundary, by amicable negotiation between them, it is hoped that it may be satisfactorily adjusted in that mode. The boundary specified by the sixth article, has been established, by the decision of the commissioners. From the progress made in that provided for by the seventh, according to a report recently received, there is good cause to presume that it will be settled in the course of the ensuing year.

It is a cause of serious regret, that no arrangement has yet been finally concluded between the two governments, to secure, by joint co-operation, the suppression of the slave trade. It was the object of the British government, in the early stages of the negotiation, to adopt a plan for the suppression, which should include the concession of the mutual right of search, by the ships or war vessels of the vessels of the other, for suspected offenders. This was objected to by this government, on the principle that as the right of search was a right of war, of a belligerent towards a neutral power, it might have an ill effect to extend it, by treaty, to an offence which had been made comparatively mild to a time of peace. Anxious, however, for the suppression of this trade, it was thought advisable, in compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives, founded on an Act of Congress, to propose to the British government an expedient, which should be free from that objection, and more effectual for the object, by making it piratical. In that mode, the enormity of the crime would place the offenders out of the protection of their government, and involve no question of search, or other question, between the parties, touching their respective rights. It was believed, also, that it would completely suppress the trade, in the vessels of both parties, and by their respective citizens and subjects in those of other powers, with whom, it was hoped, that the odium which would thereby be attached to it, would produce a corresponding arrangement, and by means thereof, its entire extirpation forever. A convention to this effect was concluded and signed in London, on the thirteenth day of March, 1824, by plenipotentiaries duly authorized by both governments, to the ratification of which certain obstacles have arisen, which are not yet entirely removed. The differences between the parties still remaining, has been reduced to a point, not of sufficient magnitude, as is presumed, to be permitted to defeat an object so near to the heart of both nations, and so desirable to the friends of humanity throughout the world. As objections, however, to the principle recommended by the House of Representatives, or at least to the consequences inseparable from it, and which are understood to apply to the law, have been raised, which may deserve a reconsideration of the whole subject, I have thought it proper to suspend the conclusion of a new convention until the definitive sentiments of Congress may be ascertained. The

documents relating to the negotiation, are, with that intent, submitted to your consideration.

Our commerce with Sweden has been placed on footing of perfect reciprocity, by treaty; and with Russia, the Hanseatic Cities, the Dukedoms of Oldenburg and Sardinia, by internal regulations on each side, founded on mutual agreement, between the respective governments.

The principles upon which the commercial policy of the United States is founded, are to be traced to an early period. They are essentially connected with those upon which their independence was declared, and owe their origin to the enlightened men who took the lead in our affairs at the important epoch. They are developed in their first treaty of commerce with France, of the 6th of February, 1778, and by a formal commission which was instituted immediately after the conclusion of their revolutionary struggle, for the purpose of negotiating treaties of commerce with every European power. The first treaty of the United States with Prussia, which was negotiated by that commission, affords a partial illustration of those principles. The act of Congress of the 3d of March, 1815, adopted immediately after the return of a general peace, was a new overturn to foreign nations, to establish our commercial relations with them, on the basis of free and equal reciprocity. That principle has pervaded all the acts of Congress, and all the negotiations of the Executive on the subject since.

A convention for the settlement of important questions, in relation to the North-West Coast of this continent, and its adjoining seas, was concluded and signed at St. Petersburg, on the day of last, by the Ministers Plenipotentiary of the United States, and Plenipotentiaries of the Imperial government of Russia. It will immediately be laid before the Senate, for the exercise of the constitutional authority of ratification. It is proper to add, that the manner in which this negotiation was invited and conducted, on the part of the Emperor, has been very satisfactory.

The great and extraordinary changes which have happened in the governments of Spain and Portugal, within the last two years, without seriously affecting the friendly relations which, under all of them, have been maintained with those powers by the United States, have been obstacles to the adjustment of the particular subjects of discussion which have arisen with each. A resolution of the Senate, adopted at their last session, called for information, as to the effect produced upon our relations with Spain, by the recognition, on the part of the United States, of the independent South American government. The papers containing that information are now communicated to Congress.

A Charge d' Affaires has been received from the independent government of Brazil. That country, heretofore a colonial possession of Portugal, had some years since been proclaimed, by the sovereign of Portugal himself, an independent kingdom. Since his return to Lisbon, a resolution in Brazil has established a new government there, with an imperial title, at the head of which is placed the Prince in whom the regency had been vested, by the king, at the time of his departure. There is reason to expect, that by amicable negotiation, the independence of Brazil will ere long be recognized by Portugal herself.

With the remaining powers of Europe, with those on the coast of Barbary, and with all the new South American states, our relations are of a friendly character. We have Ministers Plenipotentiary residing with the republics of Colombia and Chili, and have received ministers, of the same rank, from Colombia, Guatemala, Buenos Ayres and Mexico. Our commercial relations, with all those states, are mutually beneficial and increasing. With the republic of Colombia, a treaty of commerce has been formed, of which a copy is received, and the original daily expected. A negotiation for a like treaty, would have been com-

menced with Buenos Ayres, had it not been prevented by the indisposition and lamented decease of Mr. Rodney, our minister there; and to whose memory the most respectful attention has been shown, by the government of that country. In our treaty with Tunis, has been obtained, by our consular agent residing there, the official document of which, when received, will be laid before the Senate.

The attention of the government has been drawn with great solicitude to other subjects, and particularly to that relating to a state of maritime war, involving the relative rights of neutral and belligerent in such wars. Most of the difficulties which we have experienced, and of the losses which we have sustained, since the establishment of our independence, have proceeded from the unsettled state of those rights, and the extent to which the belligerent claim has been carried against the neutral party. It is impossible to look back on the occurrences of the late wars in Europe, and to behold the disregard which was paid to our rights as a neutral power, and the waste which was made of our commerce by the parties to those wars, by various acts of their respective governments, and under the pretext by each that the other had set the example, without great mortification, and a fixed purpose never to submit to the like in future. An attempt to remove those causes of possible variance, by friendly negotiation, and on just principles, which should be applicable to all parties, could, it was presumed, be viewed by none, other than as a proof of an earnest desire to preserve those relations with every power. In the late war between France and Spain, a crisis occurred in which it seemed probable that all the controvertible principles, involved in such wars, might be brought into discussion, and settled to the satisfaction of all parties. Propositions having this object in view, have been made to the governments of Great powers, which have been received in a friendly manner by all, but as yet no treaty has been formed with either for its accomplishment. The policy will, it is presumed, be persevered in, with the hope that it may be successful.

It will always be recollected, that with one of the parties to those wars, and from whom we received those injuries, we sought redress by war. From the other, with whose then reigning government our vessels were seized in port, as well as at sea, and their cargoes confiscated, indemnity has been expected, but has not yet been rendered. It was under the influence of the latter that our vessels were likewise seized by the governments of Spain; Holland, Denmark, Sweden and Naples, and from whom indemnity has been claimed, and is still expected, with the exception of Spain, by whom it has been rendered. With both parties we had abundant cause of war, but we had no alternative but to resist that which was most powerful at sea, and pressed us nearest at home. With this all differences were settled by a treaty founded on conditions fair and honourable to both, and which has been so far executed with perfect good faith. It has been earnestly hoped, that the other would, of its own accord, and from a sentiment of justice and conciliation, make to our citizens the indemnity to which they are entitled, and thereby remove, from our relations, any just cause of discontent on our side.

It is estimated that the receipts into the Treasury during the current year exclusive of loans, will exceed \$18,500,000, which, with the sum remaining in the Treasury at the end of the last year, amounting to \$9,463,922 81, will, after discharging the current disbursements of the year, the interest on the public debt, and upwards of \$11,500,000 of the principal, leave a balance of more than three millions of dollars on the first day of January next.

A large amount of the debt contracted during the late war, bearing an interest of six per cent. becoming redeemable in the course of the ensuing year, that could be discharged by the ordinary revenue, the act of the