

postponed. After considerable debate, the motion was carried 100 votes to 25.

Wednesday, Dec. 12.

Several bills were received from the Senate, which passed their first reading.

Mr. Shaw presented the petition of James Clark, from Orange county, on the subject of licensed grog-shops; and

Mr. Harden, the petition of the heirs of Abram Ford, praying for a military warrant; both of which were referred.

The following bills were presented: By Mr. McDowell, a bill to incorporate the Rutherford Agricultural Society;

Mr. Slade, a bill to amend an act passed in 1817, to compel owners of water-mills situate on public roads; to keep in repair their bridges;

Mr. Fisher from the committee to whom was referred the subject reported a bill to increase the salary of the Secretary of State;

Which bills passed their first reading.

Mr. Shaw introduced a resolution directing the Treasurer to pay John Graham and John Stockherd, their expenses for attending as witnesses, at Wake Superior Court, in a suit the Governor vs. Col. James Moore.—Referred to the committee of claims.

On motion of Mr. Stanly the Judiciary Committee were directed to enquire and report whether it be not practicable and necessary to obtain an earlier publication of the Reports of Cases decided in the Supreme Court.

Mr. Stanly from the Judiciary Committee who were instructed to enquire whether any provision ought to be made to enable persons to procure securities to transmit their Cases to the Supreme Court, &c. reported that it was unnecessary to change the law on this subject.—Concurred with.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the Revenue Bill, Mr. Alston in the chair. The committee made sundry amendments therein, but not having got through the bill, rose, asked and obtained leave to sit again.

Thursday, Dec. 13.

The House spent most of the day in discussing the Revenue Bill, and did not get through it.

For the Carolina Centinel.

COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL RESTRICTIONS.

Had a system been devised for the depression of agriculture, and to build up the large cities at the expense of the country, none perhaps, would have answered that purpose more effectually than the one that has been pursued, of high duties on foreign produce, (usually bartered for West India produce,) and the injudicious restriction on the British colonial trade. If the former has had the effect to diminish the consumption of foreign spirits, it has had a corresponding effect to increase the consumption of domestic, and so far from increasing the carrying trade of the United States, it has thrown into the hands of the British, the transportation of our flour, rice, &c. from London, Liverpool, the Bermudas, Halifax and St. Johns, to their own colonies; at the former of which places, W. India produce has usually been as low, with the difference of a small freight, as it has been at the great export places of New-York and Boston. These latter being the principal large markets in this country to which it could be sent, and the charges on shipping them being also deducted, it is easy to see, as indeed past experience assures us, what a small sum must be left to our planters as an equivalent for their labor and expence. I think therefore, that these may be considered the prominent causes of the very low price of bread stuffs for the last two years. It is, as I conceive, an undisputed axiom in trade, that if you would sell to people, you must buy of them. If the Indian wants your blankets, guns, and spirits, you must buy his furs, whether you want them or not. If the inhabitants of Spain and Portugal, Madeira, the Western and Canary Isles, and West Indies, want to buy your rice and corn, and flour, fish, salt provisions and lumber, you must take what they have to give—viz. wine, coffee, sugar, rum and molasses, and if you do take such produce in order to be freely purchased by people at large, it must be sold at a price bearing some relation to their means; but if government demand for duties, the one half, or two thirds of its value, the people cannot afford to consume such foreign produce; the merchant in his turn cannot bring it to the United States,—the foreign consumer cannot buy produce, much as he may want it, having nothing but his own produce to pay; and he is then necessitated either to do without it, or find some customer who will conform with the fundamental principle of commerce,—viz. the barter of one thing for another. It is not true, nor has it ever been the case, that there is no foreign market for our produce. All the produce raised in the country could be sold, were it ten times as much as it is, at a fair price, was the principle of free trade to be acted on; and

were the duties regulated as they ought to be by the peace value of other articles. There is little doubt, the immediate effect would be to increase the value of our produce in the West India markets, especially grain, very considerably. It is not because I consider foreign spirits and wines and fruits, sugar and molasses, important either to the happiness or comfort of our people, that I am anxious to facilitate the importation of these articles: far from it; for I believe, with the many millions in the world who never consume these things, that we should be quite as happy and as comfortable without them. But this I say—that if a bushel of wheat, which otherwise would be of little or no value, be made of value by being exchanged for a gallon of foreign wine or spirits, it promotes the happiness and comfort of the farmer who produces it;—for if the wheat could be bartered for spirits and wine, so also can it be for clothing or books, or whatever the purchaser prefers; whereas, if it has no exchangeable value, owing to government's not allowing the importation of the article for which only it can be exchanged, it is plain it will not be produced; the production will in the end be regulated by the domestic consumption, no doubt enough will be produced for home consumption, but as our habits and circumstances have led us to produce provisions and lumber for the supply of foreign markets, I should hardly think that, a very wise or just policy, which should cause this class of citizens, (the farmer and planter,) to stand still, that a new class of citizens, encouraged by the prohibitory duties, might come forward with substitutes for such imported articles; or that a thousand farms should be laid waste, in order that one vineyard or manufactory might flourish. If some should say the articles imported from the above mentioned places, are luxuries, and cannot be taxed too much, let these objectors trace the manner in which these luxuries come into market:—Let us take the case of a Leghorn cargo.—The merchant ships: his flour, rice, meal, staves, fish, and oil to Hayti. He exchanges them for coffee, proceeds to Leghorn, and there exchanges his coffee for fruit, oil, wine, Leghorn hats—all acknowledged luxuries:—now, if government determining that these shall not be imported, imposes prohibitory duties, the Leghorn cargo cannot be sold, and the merchant has no demand for the flour, &c. with which he originally began his operation. The same may be said of almost every operation in trade, for trade is mostly an exchange of superfluities, not of necessities. The general prohibition of luxuries therefore, by which I mean things not necessary for human subsistence, would amount to a prohibition of industry. The industry which produces the articles exchanged for luxuries in foreign countries, is principally to be looked to—and not the pride and wealth which consume them: it is in this point of view, when I see a lady with an expensive Leghorn bonnet—I fancy to myself, she has on her head ten barrels of flour, or a hoghead of tobacco. It is said that Dr. Franklin once sent the daughter of a country friend, a fashionable new bonnet, and that the observation of his friend on the occasion, after some months had passed, was, that his present had done more harm than good, as all the girls of the village were uneasy till they got similar bonnets. "Indeed," said the Doctor to his friend, "what then?"—"why, so desirous were all the girls to get bonnets, that they employed their winter evenings in knitting stockings and mittens, which they sent to Philadelphia for sale, and now, every girl in the meeting house has one of these fashionable bonnets." The effect of the new bonnet was, that it bro't into action the industry which only wanted excitement.

Prohibitory and restrictive systems, and high duties, are generally favorable to the enterprising and rich merchants, as well as to the great capitalist. There were probably more individuals enriched by importation of British goods in 1812, just after the commencement of the war, than there had during the war between England and France, from 1793 to 1801, and the double duties imposed by government in 1812, and which terminated June 30th, 1816, were more productive to individuals than to the government. In proof of this, it is known to the writer, that a merchant at the north, gained nearly half a million of dollars, on two China cargoes, the one of which arrived before the war duties were laid, and the other, just after they were taken off.—The taxes paid by the consumer, went into his pocket, not to the government. But the existing high duties, have not tended to enrich the rich, but have rather contributed to add to the poverty of the poor. These high duties have greatly diminished the consumption of many foreign articles, especially wines and spirits. The capital which would have been employed in importing and re-exporting, has been unemployed, and many thousands who depended on the production of the articles of home produce, which were formerly exchanged for wines and spirits, have suffered a severe diminution in the profits of their labour. But the capitalist still finds employ for his money, tho' at a less rate

than formerly. Government takes it on loan, to make up that deficiency of revenue, caused by its improvident policy; or else, as is the case with the capitalists of the north, their funds are employed in the indirect trade—viz. from the East Indies, Cuba and South America to Europe and back, with great profit indeed to the owners but little to the industry of the country. The amount employed for the outfit of one of these vessels, say \$100,000, if employed in the West India trade, or indeed any trade, where the principle of exchange of equivalents is acted on, would certainly set in motion ten or twenty times as much of the industry of the country, as the indirect trade which, tho' by no means a branch of trade to be despised, is of little consequence compared with the domestic trade; and what is next of importance, the trade of the West Indies, Madeira, the Canary Islands, &c. The produce of these islands, is the only medium they have to give in payment for our produce, which they consume, and should be considered in the light of specie, or at least it should pay the lightest duty possible. So far from Madeira wine paying the highest duty of any wine, it should be the lowest, in order to insure the consumption of that Island (and which is immense) for our corn, flour, staves & other lumber, fish, pork, &c.

The sum of what has been said is, that a high duty on imports, is a tax, and often a very great one, on agriculture, as well as on other branches of industry.—And what are the taxes imposed for?—Are they for the honest purpose of the revenue, to which no good citizen could object?—Not at all; they are to foster one branch of industry, or rather the persons at the head of such branches of trade, at the expence of all the other branches of the industry of the community:—for instance, what more absurd than the duty imposed on Cotton goods, every yard square of which, "shall be taken and deemed to have cost 25 cents, and pay duty accordingly!"—that perhaps cost only six cents, which is not a whit more reasonable, than if every head manufacturer should be taken and deemed to be a consumer of 10 hogheads of tobacco, 100 barrels corn, 100 barrels flour, and should be taxed to pay for such articles, as a fund to be applied to pay those who suffer from this system. The war cry was "Free trade and sailors rights!"—it should now be changed to "Farmers rights and free trade." It is a fact well worthy of notice, that the general ad valorem rate on articles not specified, was only 10 per cent. up to July 1800, and on articles considered of luxury only 12 to 15 per cent. on rum, brandy, &c. 25 cents per gallon, 1st proof—on common wines, 40 per cent. (equal to 12 to 20 cents per gallon)—on Lisbon wine 25 cents; Sherry, 33; on brown sugar, 2 cents; molasses 4; nails 2 cents; manufactures of iron, 15 per cent; on iron itself, 10 per cent.—and yet the preceding years, from 1793, (when the war between England and France commenced) was a period when the trade of the United States was in its most flourishing state—when the benefits of a free commerce were most extensively diffused, tho' no doubt the capitals of individuals was then much less than now. Hence, I infer, that the prosperity of this country in its incipient state, is to be imputed principally to the free and unrestricted trade, and moderate duties which then existed. This prosperity was then universal in town and country.

The tariff commencing July 1st, 1801, and ending July, 1804, was also moderate in its rates of duties; the general rate of non-enumerated articles, being only 12 1/2 per cent. and the circumstances of the country were flourishing. A check was given to this prosperity by the embargo, commencing in December 1807, to this succeeded a variety of commercial embarrassments, ending in war—which commenced in 1812, and terminated in 1815. During this period, while agriculture was depressed, the great towns generally flourished, or rather I would say, the fortunes of many individuals were wonderfully augmented. In short, it may be affirmed, that under the high duty, and restrictive system, more large fortunes were amassed by individuals, than had been in a period of twenty years preceding. These systems are then, as restrictive and artificial systems of political economy always are, a tax on the many for the benefit of a few. It is not, I will admit, easy to say who are the individuals in the United States, now benefited by the restrictions on our trade to France and the British colonies; but if there are none so benefited, they are then a positive injury without equivalent benefit, and ought at once to be removed.—Neither can it be affirmed that the high duties on many articles imported in exchange for our produce, are beneficial to any class of citizens at present (except a few) whatever they have been or may be again; but on other articles, such as are manufactured in the U. S. the effect undoubtedly is to enrich the manufacturer (meaning thereby the few who are principals,) at the expence of the agricultural, mechanic, mercantile and maritime interests, as well as at the expence of the other interest connected with them.

The short and easy way in regard to our foreign commercial restrictions, is to let other countries manage their own trade in their own way, and to conduct ours in a way that will best comport with the interest and happiness of all classes—and not to prostrate one or more of the most important classes of the community, to gratify the pride of visionary politicians, or avaricious monopolizers.

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

FOREIGN.

VERY LATE FROM ENGLAND.

CHARLESTON, DEC. 10.

By the regular trading ship Mary & Susan, Capt. Curtis, arrived on Saturday, in 37 days from Liverpool, we have received London papers to the 25th, and Liverpool to the 30th Oct. both inclusive.

The state of the market is still more unfavorable than at the last advices by the Triton.

The King of England had been very ill at Hanover, but had nearly recovered at the last dates.

Accounts had reached England of the return of the Northern over-land expedition, under the command of Lieut. Franklin, to the coast where they first disembarked. Their discoveries are said to be very gratifying and important.

Great disturbances continued in several counties of Ireland. The Catholic clergy was very active in aiding the magistracy to preserve order. In some places military law had been enforced.

The accounts from Turkey continue to be very contradictory. The London Courier, however, says that there is to be no war.

Preparations have been commenced for lighting St. James' Park with gas.

Baron Strigono, the late Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, had returned to St. Petersburg. On his return from Odessa, he met the Emperor Alexander coming out of Church, near a small town called Luga. His Majesty and the Ambassador, retired to the house of a Bailiff, near by, where they held a consultation.

His Majesty was to leave Hanover on his return to London, the 25th Oct.

A London paper of the 28th says, "Two distinguished foreigners are in treaty for Vauxhall Gardens, which they intend introducing the Russian Mountains, and other Parisian amusements.

The disturbances which h I occurred in the Isle of Man had nearly subsided.

The daughter of Joseph Bonaparte sailed from the river Thames on the 27th Oct. for Philadelphia, to reside with her father.

A Dublin paper says:—We learn that a party of Militia-men are about to set out from that city for Patras, to join the Greeks in the Morea."

A public meeting has been held at London for the purpose of promoting a subscription to purchase an annuity for Sir Robert Wilson.

The Russian Court wore mourning 8 days for the late Queen of England.

[Extract of a letter.]

LIVERPOOL, OCT. 27, 1821.

Our Cotton Market this week has assumed a most gloomy appearance. We have not only a continuance of the dullness that has prevailed for the last three weeks, but our prices have more decidedly given way; and there appears a very great anxiety among many holders to sell, without regard to the mode or price.—Yesterday there were offered by auction, 313 Sea-Islands, 290 Orleans, 574 Tennessee; and there were sold, 205 Sea-Islands, at 12 1/2-2; a 16d; 200 Orleans, 8 1/2-4 10 1/4; 330 Tennessees, 8 1/4-4 8 3/4.—These sales were brought forward by four different houses, and the prices were decidedly a farthing lower than any previously sold, and in Sea-Islands fully 1-2d. The sales of the week are 5810 bags of all sorts, of which 3235 were American Cotton, say 2510 by private and the remainder by auction; private sales 1440 Uplands, 730 Orleans, 305 Sea-Islands, and 35 Tennessee.

Sales of Upland—160 a 8 1/2-2d; 40 a 8 3/4-4; 485 a 7; 130 a 9 1/4-4; 405 a 9 1/2; 60 a 9 5/8; 10 a 9 3/4; 60 a 10; 20 a 10 1/2; 50 a 10 3/4; 20 a 11-1440, average 9 1/4d.

The arrivals continue from New-York, and the quality being very inferior depresses the market, and throws a weight of Cotton into the market that was not contemplated so late in the season. This seems to be the cause of the public sales beginning again, and if they should be persevered in, will bring our market as low or lower than it has been for twelve months. There cannot be a worse thing for our markets than to force them by public sales. The import this year from America will probably be about 30,000 bags short of the import for last year, but it was at one time expected to have been 50,000. Brazil Cotton is selling very low; Bahia and Maranh from 11 to 12d. and Pernambuco from 12 to 12 1/2d. of the best possible qualities; and Demarara which is a decided substitute for Sea-Islands, sells from 10 to 13 1/2d. This interferes with low Sea-Islands and prime Orleans; and altho'

our consumption is very great, and there is no appearance at present of a diminution, yet we see no prospect of doing any good on shipments, except at very low prices on your side; for while your planters get a remuneration for growing it would appear that they are increasing their crops annually, and on price that we have yet had is so low as to curtail the cultivation. We have no change in our market for any thing else."

DOMESTIC.

From the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

REVIEW OF THE MARKETS.

GRAIN AND FLOUR.—The intelligence by the Triton had a considerable effect on the market. On Monday superior New-York flour was quoted at \$5, since which the market has remained steady, and considerable sales of flour have been made at other quotations.

Table listing various commodities and their prices, including New-York superfine, Philadelphia, Baltimore Howard-st., Do. wharf, Richmond city, Do. country, Alexandria, Fredericksburg, Petersburg, Rye Flour, Corn Meal, in bbls., Do. in hlds., Wheat, N. River, per bush., Do. Virginia, Rye, Northern Corn, yellow, Do. southern white, Do. southern, Oats, Cotton, Sea-Island, lb., New-Orleans, Upland, (old crop), Do. (new crop), Alabama, (old crop), Tennessee, Imported in the month of November—New Crop, 2190 bales; Old Crop, 2039 bales.—Total, 4229 bales.

Tobacco.—In this article there has been little doing during this week.

Table listing tobacco prices for Richmond, Petersburg, Kentucky, and Naval Stores.

Flaxseed.—The business in Flaxseed has been but trifling. Holders offer clean seed at 9 7-8.—We quote prices: Clean, \$9 7/8; 10; Rough, 9 a 25.

MOLASSES, scarce. They are held at from 35 cents to 38 cents.

SUGARS.—In general this article has been very dull during the week, and hardly any alteration from our last quotations.

Table listing sugar prices for Havana brown, New-Orleans superior, Do. fair, Do. inferior, Havana whites, Do. seconds, Cuba, Muscavadoes, good, Do. seconds, St. Croix.

COFFEE.—Is still less in demand, and a reduction in price is anticipated. Prices are almost nominal.

Table listing coffee prices for Havana, St Domingo, Laguaira.

BRANDY.—Is stationary at our last quotations: \$1 65al 76.

WHISKEY, 31a35 cents; Cider Brandy, 34; New Rum, 40.

OIL.—Whale, 35 a 37; Sperm, summer strained, 80 cents; do. winter do. 110 cents; Sperm. Candles, 37a40.

Provisions continue without alteration.

Table listing prime beef, mess do., prime pork, mess do., and freight on cotton.

Exchange on London twelve per cent. premium. Sales this day at our quotations.

Actual Sales of Domestic Goods, the past week at New-York:

Table listing sales of domestic goods including Stripes, Gingham, Chambrays, Brown Shirtings, Do. Sheetings, Bleached Shirtings, Do. Sheetings, Do. do. (fine), 3-4 Bedticking, 4-4 do., Drabets, Do. striped, Cotton Yarn, No. 5, to 10, 34 a 36 cts. lb., Candle-Wick, 62 a 53, Sattinets, 58 a 60, Sattinett Warps.

The Stock of Brown Shirtings in the market is very small, and sales are readily effected at fully our quotations.

Sattinets are in good demand, and some of a superior quality have been sold at, from \$1 18 3/4 to 1 75 per yard.