

At the same time, let it be remembered, that in the letter on the *same* point, to our minister in France; both cases were stated, and war against England absolutely promised if any meaning and sincerity can be placed in words—This we discussed in our last number.

It may be further remarked, on this first letter, and no other was written until the 18th July, no direct promise was made or even *taking off the embargo*. A language of doubt and subtlety was adopted, and the British government were only to be told, that if they would rescind *not the orders* of November only, but all their decrees on the same subject, Mr. Pinkney *MIGHT AUTHORIZE* an EXPEDITION that the president would “within a REASONABLE time, give effect to the authority vested in him on the subject of the Embargo.”

In this shamefully loose and insincere manner was this important subject treated; and we ask those who have seen the art and duplicity, the chicanery and Machiavellianism of our present cabinet, whether if Great-Britain had acceded to our offers, they could not have devised a thousand ways of getting rid of the above mentioned equivocal and uncertain expressions. With infinitely more honour could they have done it than have rejected the solemn treaty made by Mr. Monroe, and the still more solemn embassy of Mr. Rose. Could Great-Britain be tampered after such proofs of our duplicity, and our desire to avoid a friendly settlement if she distrusted the very vague and ridiculously loose expressions of the foregoing instructions.

Now is this all.—The despatch of Mr. Madison, of April 30th must be considered as having been qualified and restrained by the general and positive terms of that minister's letter of the 4th of April, in the same year, in which he tells Mr. Pinkney, that if Great-Britain should, without constraint, revoke her orders, still while the affair of the Chesapeake remained unexpired, he was not to “pledge our government to consider the repeal of the orders as a ground on which a removal of the existing restrictions on the commerce of the United States with Great-Britain would be justly expected.”

If then this letter, written only twenty-four days before, be considered as a part of the instructions, and it was never countermanded, it must be so considered, that even the illusory and trifling offer made to Great-Britain, was accompanied with a condition which it was known would never be, and indeed *could never* be accepted.

The removal of our restrictions, of which the Embargo was one, was to depend on G. Britain's *due* explanation to Mr. Chesapeake. This could never be done, & Mr. Jefferson knew it, and therefore knew that his offer could never be accepted. Because, *First*—No terms which G. Britain could offer, would ever be acceptable to the President of the United States, so long as they would not be acceptable to France.

Secondly.—Our government, by violating the law and that decorum hitherto preserved among nations in taking its own revenge into its own hands, had rendered it impossible that Great-Britain could ever give us satisfaction, until those measures of self-satisfaction and revenge were re-pealed.

Thirdly.—Our government, by absolutely refusing to repeal those measures, and thus to receive the offers of reparation tendered by a solemn embassy, had rendered the settlement of the affair of the Chesapeake impossible, until Great-Britain should be actually conquered by our arms or restrictive energies, an event improbable, so long as the whole power of Bonaparte is inadequate to that object.

Lastly.—Mr. Jefferson, knowing all these facts, was assured that he might safely make any offer to Great-Britain, so long as he coupl'd it with his inadmissible pretensions, and his diplomatical quibbles at the door of the Chesapeake.

The subject of the offers to Great-Britain, might be rested on this simple, but, we think, unanswerable view. Still, however, as it is all important to shew the false and mischievous policy of our cabinet—a policy which is the sole cause of all our troubles, I shall devote to it one other number.

Congress

Tuesday, January 3d.

Mr. Nicholas said, that there never was a period in any country which more required the union and exertion of all its citizens to extricate it from its difficulties, than the situation of this country required at the present time. The two most powerful nations of the world (said he) are in a state of war against this country. Their naval efforts against us have been continued for twelve months; whilst we have used every honourable means in our power to avoid war. I have repeatedly declared my determination never to submit to the wrong received; that when the embargo failed we must resort to the valor and patriotism of our citizens. Sir, we have too

much reason to believe that the moment is at hand when nothing else can extricate us from our difficulties. My attention has been particularly called to the necessity of a measure of the sort I am about to propose, from the opposition made to the preparation for war by gentlemen wholly upon the embargo as a coercive measure, and declare that as long as it continues, no preparation should be made with a view to a state of war. If the country remains in a situation unprepared to meet war until the period when every man would be satisfied that the embargo ought to be raised, we shall be compelled to continue it six, eight, or ten months longer, till we can prepare for actual war. But, sir, in our preparations, mere defense should not be the sole object. We are the injured party in the contest. This state of things imposes upon us the necessity of being prepared to prosecute the war; because if we seek redress for injury, the mere *defence* of the country will not answer the purpose—and therefore there is the greater necessity for extensive preparation. After these observations, Mr. N. offered the following resolutions, which he moved to refer to a committee of the whole:

Resolved, As the opinion of this House that the U. S. ought not to delay beyond the 1st day of October to repeal the embargo laws, & to resume, maintain and defend the navigation of the high seas against any nation or nation having in fact, either, orders to desist, violating the lawful commerce and neutral rights of the United States.

After a few observations from Mr. Dana, expressive of a wish to see a whole system, and the object of the preparation for war precisely defined, expressing at the same time a desire to give the subject an early consideration, the resolution was made the order of the day for Monday next, in preference to to-day, 3d to 4d.

For the Carolina Federal Republic.

The report which each post brings of the increasing commotions which the new embargo act has stirred up in the northern states of the union, fills one most with the most awful apprehensions.

It is devoutly to be hoped, that our brethren will proceed to the last extremity, that they will stop short of direct opposition to the laws, by force. Every thing that appears like rending the ligaments of the Union, slender, is felt like the approaches of death, or signs of it, in a close connection, or friend; as if my beloved and peaceful country, was about to be changed into a land of bloodshed and slaughter, and existence in it, into a mournful, desolate, anxious state, without the promise of security or enjoyment, sufficient to make it worthy of a man's care, or of the most trifling value.

Every one feels how hard and difficult it is, to endure the privations to which the country is reduced, by the operation of the embargo laws. How sickening, and full of deadly sorrow, the prospect is, to those who find nothing assured in the continuance of it; but the tears and wailing of an affectionate wife, and the cries of the tender offspring of her affection, for bread. Condemned, to fast and to bear all this too, without the blessing, power, or guarantee, *and* *assurance*, in any way whatsoever. May the God of our fathers enable us with patience and strength to sustain our situation a few months or years longer. The time of changing the masters of the supreme power will soon come round again. Then, if we are faithful to ourselves, relief from the grievous burdens imposed upon us, and revenge for the injuries we have received will be within our grasp. Let us then spur our勇敢、hasty、impulsive、unscrupulous men, and even more worthy, intelligent and scrupulous men in their classes, and withdraw forever, all political confidence, and our national concern, from men who have proved themselves scandalously to be incapable, and having driven you by their pernicious, absurd, and fanatical direction of them, to the verge of rebellion. It is now given up on all sides, that a non-intercourse so far from preventing war, will lead directly into it; not with France, but Great-Britain. The emperor Napoleon applauds it, and it would be wise and ungracious, as well as unfeeling and dishonest, to break his hand for bestowing, in no sanguinary manner, his praises and approbation on your measures.

In the mean time, let us endeavor to buoy up our spirits by the hope, that although we do not perceive one single immediate benefit to spring out of all our privations and sufferings, yet, it is possible, *possibly*, from the experience now making. The principle of the non-intercourse has an evil, in that in the trial of all its proposed coercive effects, and as many great pretensions in our land, entailed the most thorough & implicit confidence and faith in its complete efficacy, the experiment was to be made at some time. The broad discovery of its folly, and intrinsic prodigies, and worthlessness, may prevent any other set of silly, opinionated, fanatical Philosophers, who might however surprise the confidence of the people, and arrive at power, from afflicting or wounding the commercial and shipping interests of the nation, with further trial of the efficacy of any one of the tilts of nondescript course or non-importation projects, or species of self-preservation, or the lowest degree of human misery.

Assuredly the desolation spread over our land at this moment, miserable soldiers now stretched on their beds of straw—their journals cleaving to the roofs of their mouths—they roared like sticks together for want of food, and half suffocating in their writhed bodies, “the big tears couring down their wan cheeks” while tickling the tattered clothes close about them, little else, furnishing for bread, and perishing from cold, deprived too of the consolation and succour of a tender husband, and the last resources of a father, driven from his country, and his home, by the want of bread, to seek it in a foreign land among strangers; every rank and condition of life from the highest to the lowest, whatever may be the degree of distress and misery which the several embargo laws may have brought upon them. All, all, may surely find the origin and cause of their present calamity and suffering, in the report of Mr. Secretary Jefferson, made to Congress, early in the session of 1803, in relation to the committee of the United States, and Mr. Madison's Resolutions founded on that Report, and brought into the House of Representatives by him, in January 1804, where they underwent a luminous and critical examination during several days discussion—but were never rejected, or rather postponed, until the session of 1806, when they were revised and passed in the shape of a non-importation law; and now, like the poison which endues our country, in the form of an embargo and non-intercourse.

These resolutions were designed to operate in favor of France and against the commercial interests of Great-Britain—in the same fashion that concert of non-importation, non-intercourse and embargo sets us now. In reading the arguments of the members opposed to these resolutions, one is more forcibly struck, by the earnestness with which they predicted the present effect of them as a measure of coercion against Great-Britain; and as a terrible engine of self-destruction in their bearing upon ourselves. This remark is evidently applicable to the speeches of Mr. Ames and Mr. Tracy. The spirit, which have since mounted up into heaven; but which, thought in these illustrate men then, penetrated the design and motives which produced the report and resolutions, foretold, that if ever they should pass into a law, in the shape they then had, or in the form of a non-importation or non-intercourse, the measure would become an object of scorn and derision, with the British Government—it would so intimately resemble the viper's biting the fly, in its comparatively harmless operation upon them, with its serious, ruinous consequences to the state and the best interests of our country. Throughout the whole of the debate, the report of the Secretary (Mr. Jefferson) and the resolutions founded upon it, introduced in the house by Mr. Madison, were considered as promoting the interests of France, and not the interests of the United States.

This position, the most strenuously contended by those who advocated the resolutions, appears to be severely made out, by the speakers opposed to them, but suppose it had been less doubtful, the experiment now has set the question at rest, by demonstrating and establishing the fact, yet Mr. Jefferson & his party from that day to the hour of recommending and passing the embargo, have blindly and obstinately persisted in considering them as a mortal scourge for the inmates, the arrogance and pride of Great-Britain. A mighty machine which in its destructive course was to lay her towns and cities in ruins, annihilate her power and strength, and bring her an humble servant for mercy at the feet of Mr. Jefferson and his party. But the British Government, the *one* to look over at the present administration, if it is destined these formidable resolutions, or non-intercourse, should ever have the effect of *any* of these things, it is evident, unless you could make a change in the character of the man who recommended, and the majority who enacted such laws, as the supplemental and new embargo now—taking especial care, that they shall not catch and wheel you out of a chance to oppose and embarrass you with military, capricious, sudden, in future, for no better reason, than to give some faint appearance of war-like, trifling conduct.

DUDLEY LEVITT.

For the Carolina Federal Republic.

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW EMBARGO.

No subject has more engrossed the public attention, than the embargo. It has greatly excited the feelings of the American people, and has sunk their purposes very low. On the one hand, it has been represented as the salvation of the nation; and on the other, it is said to be a vicious, and destructive measure. Some derive a *defence* & support of our independence; others, a badge of subjection. By one party, it is thought that it will secure peace; while by the other, that it will lead to war. These are large matters, and it ill becomes me to decide where the wisest measures have effected so widely. Leaving these points to be determined by those who are capable (if such there be,) I shall propose an embargo, of a quite different nature, and believing, as I do, that I have reason on my side, humbly hope for the concurrence of all good citizens, of all ranks on earth, good morals and manners. Without further introduction, I shall proceed to enumerate some of those things which ought to be done by an embargo. First, then, giving preference to the India, let an embargo be laid on women's luxuries. None will be greatly annoyed at this proposition, but I'm not very sanguine, with females, that there is abundant reason for it. It has been solemnly affirmed, and plausibly believed, by some, that women have not the power of restraining their thoughts. If this be fact, which seems evident, seeing how much they talk, a vast deal of evil might be prevented, by putting a stop to the use of the mischievous member. In this instance, the retail trade of *luxuries*, and the whimsical taste of hunting and pleasure, would be so effectually crippled, and extravagance would be so restrained, that I know not whether I have anything further to notice with regard to female. Let it be enjoined upon them, under the penalty of losing their tongues, that from the date hereof, until the expiration of one year, they cease to speak; and that they remain at home, and employ their time in the cultivation of their minds, and in storing them with useful knowledge. It should not be permitted, for this you know, would be insatiable. Surely every poor fellow, curm with a brawling wife, and even poor child with an ill-tempered step-mother, will be induced, by the smallest effort to support their measures—and I hope ladies will not complain, when they reflect, that it is intended for their advantage.

As to the other sex, there are so many things which need embargoing, that were I to mention them all, I should be in the situation of a member of the British parliament, who, when about to present a petition for a repeal of the orders in council, was obliged to hire half a dozen able bodied members to carry it to the house. Here I would first propose an embargo on patriotism, not because we have too much, but because we have too little of the right kind. Good honest people have been accustomed to think, that patriotism consisted in the love of one's country, in obedience to the laws, and the promotion of good morals; (and they thought correctly, too,) but it is made to consist, in giving drunk on the fourth of July and elections, in sawing and fighting about president and representatives. This is not men of the present degenerate race, call patriotism, and the love of it the better, in my humble opinion. I would also have an embargo laid upon all kinds of nonsense:—to wit, Law nonsense & Medical nonsense, and Politic nonsense, and plausibility and domestic nonsense, which is the worst kind of all.

Any person who has suffered as much from this pest, as I have, will readily join in support of this part of the bill. It was my intention to have included political disputes. But the necessity for this was superseded by the foregoing clause; for if nothing else is engaged, I will venture to assert that many who are out of a majority of our wise politicians will be as dumb as the dumb. I had it also in contemplation to police profane swearing and Sabbath breaking, which are great evils, and very prevalent in our country, and which have done and will do much mischief to the souls of men. But reflecting that one treasury is likely to be very lean, by reason of the embargo on commerce, I have concluded, that perhaps it might be better, to impose a heavy fine for every offence of this kind, and apply the money to the support of government. In lieu of these, let an embargo be laid on paste board, that of which bonnets are fashioned; (if this were done, the old women might be put to work, and earn a living, and married with red and black spots, &c. &c. and which some men, and even women sometimes use for the purpose of playing games of hazard, for money, with which they ought to support their families, and further, let all men, especially those who have families, be ordered to avoid all such practices, as being injurious, and derogatory to human nature.

It may be advantageous, to include arms and weapons, and rum and brandy liquors, all of which are destructive, either immediately, or insidiously, to the peace, happiness, and prosperity of the nation. If these things which I have mentioned, and many others beside them, were made to lie under an embargo, we should all over this country be much more calm and safe, than we shall.

In the part of the above communication, wherein part of the line is distinguished by “*the* or *which* was so defined, as to render it illegible.—Our Committee, perhaps, might have intended to consider the ladies for their safety, their wit, or their good humor; but it was not so incorrect, to suppose that we intended to eliminate that scoundrel, *the* *newspaper*, and *newspapermen*, with them.

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