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**Congress.**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.  
Thursday June 10.  
FRENCH DECREES.

Mr. Webster rose, as he said, to call the attention of the house to a subject of considerable importance—a task which he had hoped would have fallen into the hands of some other gentleman better qualified than himself to undertake it. He then read the resolutions which will be found below. In offering these resolutions, it was not his intention, he said, to enter into any discussion or argument, or to advance any proposition whatever, on which a gentleman could adopt different views or take different sides. He would merely remark by way of explanation, what would be remembered by all, that the subjects to which these resolutions referred, were intimately connected with the cause of the present war. The revocation of the orders in council of Great Britain was the main point on which the war turned, and it had been demanded for the reason that the French decrees had ceased to exist. This then was the point at issue. Mr. W. remarked on what he termed the contradictory evidence on this head, the letter of M. Champagny on one hand asserting the revocation, the speech of the emperor to the free cities on the other denying it—the decisions of the French admiralty courts on one hand and opposite decisions of the same courts on the other. The whole matter, in short, was involved in doubt. But, on the declaration of war, and not until then, a decree appeared repealing the French decrees; a decree which, if issued, had lain dormant, mere *brutum fulmen*, until after the war commenced, and then only made its appearance. In March last, it would also be recollected, the President had communicated to Congress, immediately before its adjournment, certain correspondence between our government and its minister in France, the prominent feature of which correspondence was, that in an interview between our minister and the French secretary for foreign affairs, which took place about the first of May, 1812, it was stated by the latter that the decrees in question had been put into the hands of our minister in France, and transmitted to the French minister in the United States, at the time at which it bore date. To shed light on this transaction, Mr. W. said it was that he moved these resolves, in the discharge of what he deemed a duty to his constituents and his country. The declaration of the French minister had a great bearing on the reputation of this country—on the reputation of those persons who in their official characters represented the dignity of the nation.—To place their conduct in its proper light, he presented to the consideration of the house the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That the President of the United States be requested to inform this house, unless the public interest should, in his opinion, forbid such communication "when, by whom, and in what manner the first intelligence was given to this government of the decree of the government of France, bearing date on the 28th of April, 1811, and purporting to be a definitive repeal of the decrees of Berlin and Milan."

*Resolved*, That the President of the United States be requested to inform this house, whether Mr. Russell, late charge d'affairs of the United States at the court of France, hath ever admitted or denied to his government the correctness of the declaration of the Duke of Bassano to Mr. Barlow, the late Minister of the U. States at that court, as stated in Mr. Barlow's letter of the 12th of May, 1812, to the secretary of state, "that the said decree of April 28th, 1811, had been communicated to his (Mr. Barlow's) predecessor there; and to lay before this house any correspondence with Mr. Russell relative to that subject, which it may not be improper to communicate; and also, any correspondence between Mr. Barlow and Mr. Russell on that subject, which may

be in possession of the department of state. *Resolved*, That the President of the U. States be requested to inform this house, whether the minister of France near the United States ever informed this government of the existence of the said decree of the 28th of April, 1811, and to lay before the house any correspondence that may have taken place with the said minister relative thereto, which the President may not think improper to be communicated.

*Resolved*, That the President of the U. States be requested to communicate to this house any other information which may be in his possession and which he may not deem it injurious to the public interest to disclose relative to the said decree of the 28th of April, 1811, and tending to show at what time, by whom, and in what manner the said decree was first made known to this government or to any of its representatives or agents.

*Resolved*, That the President be requested, in case the fact be, that the first information of the existence of said decree of the 28th of April, 1811, ever received by this government or any of its ministers or agents, was that communicated in May 1812, by the Duke of Bassano, to Mr. Barlow, and by him to his government, as mentioned in his letter to the secretary of state, of May 12, 1812, and the accompanying papers, to inform this house whether the government of the United States have ever received from that of France any explanation of the reasons of that decree being concealed from this government and its minister for so long a time after its date; and if such explanation has been asked by this government, and has been omitted to be given by that of France, whether this government has made any remonstrance, expressed any dissatisfaction, to the government of France, at such concealment.

Mr. Grosvenor having required the yeas and nays on the question of proceeding now to consider the resolutions, they were found to be as follows:—For consideration 132 Against it 28

The resolutions having been read again, Mr. Bibb said he was persuaded that on every proper occasion the most perfect disposition would be manifested by the house to ask for any information solicited by one of its members. I was unquestionably their right, and under certain circumstances their duty, to ask for information of the executive in relation to public affairs; but under other circumstances it might be improper. We are therefore, said Mr. B. in exercising this right, to judge of the effect any call is likely to produce on the public service. If it will not be prejudicial, the call ought to be indulged; but if it might do injury, it would unquestionably be proper to refuse the call. For myself, said Mr. B. I am unable to determine at present, from the great extent of the resolution, whether it would be proper to make the call or not. No injury certainly could result from a day's delay. Mr. B. therefore moved that the resolutions lie on the table, and be ordered to be printed.

Mr. Webster said he had not the least objection to this course. He was willing to give the gentleman every opportunity to examine the resolutions, under the perfect conviction that he would find that nothing was demanded which could in any way be prejudicial to the public service. The resolves were ordered to lie on the table accordingly.

From the Georgetown Federal Republican of June 23.

On Monday Mr. Webster was entitled to the floor upon his resolutions. As soon as the Speaker, as is usual, announced his right, Dr. Bibb begged to be heard for a few minutes. He stated that but for the indisposition of the chairman of the committee of Ways and Means, the attention of the house would have been to-day called to the taxes, which would be certainly taken up to-morrow, and as every gentleman stood notified, they could accommodate among themselves the remaining time for the discussion which would terminated to day.

Mr. Calhoun rose, and expressed a desire to take up the taxes, and said if the gentleman from South Carolina, (Mr. Farrow) would withdraw his motion for an indefinite postponement, he would withdraw his motion to amend, and refrain from making the remarks he had intended. Mr. Farrow then rose and declared his willingness to withdraw his motion, and commenced a course of remarks upon the

merits of the resolutions. Mr. Hanson called to order, and enquired of the Speaker whether the gentleman could pursue his remarks when there was no question before the house, but the mere withdrawing of a motion? The Speaker said the gentleman could go on! Mr. Farrow said a few words more and took his seat.

Mr. Grundy then rose and retracted every word which he said had been mistakenly applied to him, as impeaching the integrity and patriotism of the minority. He never intended to go further than to say there were some bad citizens amongst us. And in relation to the remarks which gentlemen in reply had applied to him particularly, he would take an opportunity in the course of the session of noticing them.

Mr. Webster now rose, and said he should not speak for the sake of speaking, and if he understood all opposition to the resolutions to be withdrawn, he should certainly not idly consume the time of the house.

By way of covering the retreat, a pretty sharp skirmishing was commenced, sustained principally by a Mr. Butler from Vermont, who we understand is a regular bred preacher, which information was certainly well supported by his tones and gestures, though he had not quite so much of the cant as the celebrated Miss Dorothy Ripley. The question being taken, the yeas and noes were as follows, upon each resolution.

1st Resolution,	affirm.	137	neg.	26.
2d	do.	137	do.	29.
3d	do.	134	do.	30.
4th	do.	125	do.	34.
5th	do.	93	do.	68.

Now we say a more complete triumph never was gained, than there was by the minority on this occasion. To boast of it was never for a moment thought of, because from the outset it was considered as a matter of course. The magnanimity of the minority would have been content with carrying their point, as those in a good cause, who yield to honest impulses always are, but the Court Gazette has been so unfair and disingenuous in its notice of the manner in which the discussion passed off, that the matter must be understood.

It will be recollected that the Court Gazette attracted public attention to Mr. Grundy's design of "dragging the minority from their coverts," on the morning that he came out with his anathemas, and laid down his doctrine of moral treason. It will be recollected also, that the chairman of the committee of foreign relations violently assailed Mr. Sheffey for declaring, that the war would not have been waged, had the French repealing decree been communicated, and he threw the gauntlet, by *daring any gentleman thereafter*, (for which he was called to order) to pursue that course of argument, and to deny that the declaration of the Prince Regent did contain an express refusal to repeal the orders in council, so far as they affect the neutral rights of America, unless the French decrees were absolutely and unconditionally repealed, adding, that he would prove a "falsity" upon the member who would say so. It will be recollected also, that the gauntlet was taken up by Mr. Grosvenor, who re-asserted what Mr. Sheffey had said, and upon being called to order by the Speaker, for using what was considered unparliamentary language to Mr. Calhoun, Mr. C. said, he should reserve himself for a reply. It will be recollected that Mr. Grundy made that reply, and that Mr. Hanson replied to Mr. Grundy, in a manner entirely justified by the violence of his assault upon the Federal party, although it was exultingly vociferated out of doors, that the minority could not hold up their heads after Mr. Grundy's speech." It will be recollected also, that in the closing scene of this very warm contest, Mr. Grundy denied the imputations against the minority for which he had got credit, declined a reply at the present period of the session. Another item in this affair worthy of particular recollection, is, also, the full time allowed any member to make any reply he might deem agreeable to his feelings. Maugre all this, the court paper skips over Mr. Grundy's explanation, nor have we seen even a rough sketch of it elsewhere. To complete his mutilated

\* Mr. Grundy declared explicitly, according to the understanding of almost every hearer, that "he should be plain in what he meant to say, and he wished to be understood as meaning fully as much as he did say." He then laid down his doctrine of moral treason, which consisted in opposing the war, which weakened the arm of this government and strengthened that of the enemy.

account, abounding in concealments on the one hand, and mistatement on the other, the court editor yesterday, says, the "republicans were content MAGNANIMOUSLY to waive the gratification of their individual feelings, which would have prompted them to persevere in a discussion THAT MIGHT HAVE YIELDED WHEN SO GREAT A TRIUMPH." He adds, "about sixty out of ninety of the republican members voted for the resolutions," when on the last and material resolution the vote was 93 to 68. He also says, the speeches of the minority will speak for themselves, and shew, that they acquitted the president of the smallest suspicion of collusion in the promulgation of the repealing decree. The suppression and mistatements for which the court paper has already distinguished itself on this occasion, afford but a bad presage of fairness in the report of the debate which he promises to commence to-day. He will, no doubt, under particular instructions, take especial "care that the whigs do not get the better."

We would now ask, when were the "republicans" ever known "magnanimously" to waive the gratification of their individual feelings when "so great a triumph" was to be gained? When were they ever known to spare an adversary when victory had declared in their favor? Never, never, never. A bad cause could never be sustained, but by following up their successes and trampling upon a prostrate foe, which they invariably do, while the real republicans are always merciful to the conquered. We would also ask, why were the resolutions assailed with so much vehemence, and in such a tone of threat and defiance from the beginning, if *magnanimity* alone produced their passage in the end? The court editor will entertain his opinion, we shall enjoy ours, which is, that the so-dissant republicans capitulated and fairly surrendered to the real republicans.

*Anticipated from our Correspondents.*

New-York, June 20.

The Steam Boat from Albany which has just arrived, furnishes the following additional detail of war events on our western frontier.

Albany Gazette Extra, June 19.

EVENTS OF THE WAR,

On our western frontier, in a letter from a gentleman of intelligence and observation in the county of Ontario, to the printers of the Albany Gazette, dated

Bloomfield, June 15, 1813.

*Major Webster & Skinner's.*  
The following details of the events of the war on our western frontier, is collected from numerous and authentic sources, and will be found in the main to be correct.

It will be remembered that the American forces, supposed to consist of 6 or 7000 men under Gen. Dearborn, made a landing at Newark, on Thursday morning, the 27th of May; the British, after a short contest, retreating to forty mile creek, about 35 miles distant from Fort George, and that the next day Col. Preston, with a small body of men, entered Fort Erie, without resistance. The British had destroyed or moved all the public property in that post, & on their whole line on the river except a small quantity of flour, which fell into our hands near Queensown, and was destroyed by a party of British under Col. Thomas Clark, the same night.

On the 31st of May, our fleet sailed from Newark for Sacket's Harbor, as it was understood, to protect that place.

On Thursday, the 1st of June, General Winder with 2000 American troops, left Fort George, and moved towards 40 mile creek, where it was now ascertained the British has posted themselves in formidable intrenchments.—On Friday morning, 4th June, another body of American troops, stated at 2000 men, under command of General Chandler, marched to reinforce General Winder, in the meditated attack on the British, at the 40 mile creek. The baggage of the army was sent on by water, in boats.

On the approach of the American army, under Gen. Winder, the British left their post at the 40 mile creek, and retired about 20 miles, where they threw up intrenchments on a rising ground.

The American force advanced beyond the 40 mile creek 11 miles, and encamped on Saturday evening the 5th.

Two hours before day light, on the morning of the 6th, the British advanced guard composed entirely of regulars, and