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FROM THE NORFOLK LEDGER.

Continued.
Our concerns with Spain are next in order. They are summed up in a very few words, but deserve serious notice. "But under a state of things, (says the communication) which may favor reconsideration, they have been recently pressed, an expectation is entertained that they may soon be brought to an issue of some sort." We are presented with two circumstances—first, that Spain so far from intending to do us justice, had dismissed the further consideration of the subject, but a state of things is expected that may favour reconsideration. In the second place, what is that state of things which it is expected will favour reconsideration? Will France, if we embark in a British war, oblige Spain to reconsider our case? We shall not enlarge.

Whether (says the message) this decree which professes to be conformable to that of the French government of Nov. 21, 1806, heretofore communicated to congress, will also be conformable to that in its construction and application in relation to the United States, had not been ascertained at the date of our last communications. These however gave reason to expect such a conformity."

The following is the decree referred to.

TRANSLATION.

"By the greatest outrage against humanity and against policy, Spain was forced by Great Britain to take part in the present war. This power was exercised over the sea and over the commerce of the world an exclusive dominion. Her numerous factories, disseminated through all countries, are like sponges which imbibe the riches of those (countries) without leaving them more than the appearances of mercantile liberty. From this maritime and commercial despotism, England derives immense resources for carrying on a war, whose object is to destroy the commerce which belongs to each state, from its industry and situation. Experience has proven that the morality of the British cabinet has no hesitation as to the means, so long as they lead to the accomplishment of its designs: and whilst this power continues to enjoy the fruits of its immense traffic, humanity will groan under the weight of a desolating war. To put an end to this and to attain a solid peace, the emperor of the French and king of Italy, issued a decree on the 21st of November last, in which adopting the principle of reprisals, the blockade of the British is determined on; and his ambassador, his excellency Francis de Beauharnois, grand dignitary of the order of the iron crown, of the legion of honor, &c. having communicated this (decree) to the king our master; and his majesty being desirous to co-operate by means sanctioned by the rights of reciprocity, has been pleased to authorize his most serene highness the prince generalissimo of the marine, to issue a circular of the following tenor.

"As soon as England committed the horrible outrage of interrupting the vessels of the royal marine, insidiously violating the good faith with which peace assures individual property, and the rights of nations, his majesty considered himself in a state of war with that power, although his royal soul suspended the promulgation of the manifesto until he saw the atrocity committed by its seamen, sanctioned by the government of London. From that time, and without the necessity of warning the inhabitants of these kingdoms, of the circumspection with which they ought to conduct themselves towards those of a country, which disregards the sacred laws of property, and the rights of nations; his majesty made known to his subjects the state of war in which he found himself with that nation. All trade, all commerce, is prohibited in such a situation and no sentiments ought to be entertained towards such an enemy, which are not dictated by honour, avoiding all intercourse which might be considered as the vile effect of avarice, operating on the subjects of a nation which degrades itself in them. His majesty is well persuaded that such sentiments of honour are rooted in the hearts of his beloved subjects, but he does not choose on that account to allow the smallest indulgence to the violators of the law, nor permit that, through their ignorance, they should be taken by surprise, authorizing me by these presents to declare that all English property will be confiscated whenever it is found on board a vessel, although a neutral, if the consignment belongs to Spanish individuals. So likewise will be confiscated all merchandize which may be met with, although it may be in neutral vessels, whether it is destined for the ports of England or her isles. And finally, his majesty conforming himself to the ideas of his ally, the emperor of the French, declares in his states the same law which from principles of reciprocity, and suitable respect, his imperial majesty promulgated under date of the 21st November, 1806."

The execution of this determination of his majesty, belongs to the chiefs of provinces, of departments and of vessels (baxels) and com-

municating it to them in the name of his majesty, I hope they will leave no room for the royal displeasure.

God preserve you many years.
Aranjuez, 19th February, 1807.
The prince Generalissimo
of the marine."

It is a fact that under this decree a great number of our vessels have been captured, both by French and Spanish Cruizers, and so far there is a "conformity of construction," and of action.

Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY November 2, 1807.

Mr. Thomas said, he had the honor to be appointed a member of the committee of Commerce and Manufactures. He believed it would be allowed by the members who knew him, that he had never failed to perform any duty assigned to him by the House, nor should he ask to be excused from serving on this committee, were it not for this circumstance. At the time the committee was appointed, the immediate representative of the city of New York was not present: that gentleman, said he, is now in his place, who, besides being the representative of that important commercial city, is much better acquainted with questions of commerce than myself. He hoped the House would therefore grant his request. Granted, and on motion Mr. Mumford was appointed in his place.

Mr. Thomas moved that the letter from the President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the state of New York, inclosing certain resolutions of the legislature of that state, relative to the protection of the port and harbor of the city of New York, be referred to the committee on that part of the President's message, which relates to the aggressions committed by foreign armed vessels. Agreed to.

Tuesday, November 3.

Mr. Poindexter, moved the following resolution.

Resolved, That so much of the memorial of the Legislative Council and House of Representatives of the Mississippi Territory, as relates to the extension of the right of suffrage in said territory, be referred to a select committee, and that the said committee have leave to report thereon by bill or otherwise. Agreed to, and that the committee should consist of five members.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from Gen. Wm. Eaton, inclosing the translation of a memorial from Hamet Caramelli, ex-bashaw of Tripoli, stating, that from attaching himself to the service and interests of the United States he had suffered great injury. That he had relied on the promises of the officers of the United States for remuneration, the non-performance of which had reduced him to the greatest difficulties. Referred to a select committee of seven members.

The Speaker laid before the House the memorial of Duncan M. Farland, of North Carolina, accompanied by several documents complaining of the undue election of John Culpepper, and praying that his seat may be vacated in his favour. Referred to the committee of Elections.

WEDNESDAY, November 4.

The business of this day was wholly of a private nature.

Thursday, November 5.

Mr. Dana said, it was well known, that during the last Congress, an act was passed for the relief of persons claiming pensions, the object of the act was to grant relief to some whose cases were not embraced by the former act, and to grant an increased allowance to others who had not as yet received sufficient. This act provides for taking depositions before the district judge in cases where the claimants have never been placed on the pension list, as well as for examination of the claims of those who apply to have their pensions increased. Whether any compensation should be allowed for issuing commissions, or for making the examinations required, is not declared by the act. A difference of practice, he understood, had taken place: in some cases commissions were issued gratuitously by the district judge: in other cases these poor solicitors were obliged, from their small pittance, to pay for these services. If any compensation were to be allowed for this service, he thought it should be paid from the public treasury; whatever might be the mode adopted, he wished it to be fixed by law: for this purpose he offered the following resolution:

Resolved That a committee be appointed to enquire what compensation shall be allowed for issuing commissions, giving authority for taking testimony, or examining evidence relative to claims or applications under the act to provide for persons who have been dis-

abled by known wounds received in the revolutionary war."

Mr. D. said he had intended to have had this resolution referred to the committee of claims; but finding the chairman of that committee opposed to it, he would move a reference of it to a select committee. Agreed to.

Mr. G. W. Campbell, from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill for making further appropriations for the support of the navy of the United States during the year 1807; which was twice read, committed to a committee of the whole, and ordered to be printed, with the documents accompanying it.

Mr. Quincy, after some prelatory remarks, submitted to the House the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee to whom was referred so much of the message of the President of the U. States as relates to aggressions committed within our ports and waters, by foreign armed vessels, to the violation of our jurisdiction, and the measures, necessary for the protection of our ports and harbors, be instructed to enquire into the circumstances of the attack made on the frigate Chesapeake in June last, and the pretext or causes assigned for making it, and to report the same to the House."

This resolution occasioned considerable debate. It was supported by the mover, Messrs. Dana, Upham, Alexander, and Gardenier; and opposed by Messrs. Burwell, Blount, Smilie, Nelson, Sloan, Newton, G. W. Campbell, and Fisk. It was finally rejected 93 to 24.

Friday November 6.

The Speaker laid before the House, the annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, which was referred to a committee of ways and means and ordered to be printed.

The Speaker also laid before the House a communication from the Governor of the Indiana Territory, inclosing resolutions of the Legislative Council and House of Representatives of that territory, resolving to make application to Congress to repeal the 6th article of compact contained in the ordinance of July 1787, which prohibits the introduction of slaves into the territory.

Also a counter petition from the inhabitants of Clark county—both which were referred to a select committee of seven members.

Mr. Lewis, from the committee appointed on the subject of the Potomac Bridge, reported a bill authorising the erection of a bridge over the river Potomac, in the district of Columbia, which was twice read, committed to a committee of the whole, and ordered to be printed.

IN SENATE, OCTOBER 23.

Mr. MITCHELL submitted the following motion for consideration.

Resolved, That the part of the President's message, which relates to the defence of our seaport towns and harbors, and the further provisions to be made for their security, be referred to a select committee, with leave to report by bill or otherwise."

OCTOBER 30.

Mr. WATTS submitted the following motion for consideration.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of extinguishing the claims of the United States, to certain balances reported to be due from several of the states to the United States, by the commissioners appointed to settle the accounts of the individual states with the United States, and that the said committee have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

November 2.

The following motion, made by Mr. Adams, was agreed to and referred to Messrs. Adams, Smith of Maryland, Milledge, Mitchell and Anderson.

"That so much of the President's message, as relates to the recent outrages committed by British armed vessels within the jurisdiction, and in the waters of the United States, and to the legislative provisions which may be expedient as resulting from them, be referred to a select committee, with leave to report by bill or otherwise."

The following motion, also made by Mr. Adams, was agreed to, and referred to Messrs. Smith of Maryland, Bradley, and Sumter.

"That so much of the said message, as relates to the formation of the seamen of the United States into a special militia, for the purpose of occasional defence of the harbors against sudden attacks be referred to a select committee, with leave to report by bill or otherwise."

November 5.

Mr. Tiffin offered the following resolution.

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. States of America, in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following section be submitted to the legislatures of the several states, which when ratified and confirmed by the legislatures of three fourths of the said

states, shall be valid and binding as a part of the Constitution of the United States in lieu of the first section of the third article thereof.

The Judicial power of the U. S. shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establishing. The Judges both of the Supreme and inferior courts shall hold their offices for _____ years, shall be removed by the President, on the address of two thirds of both Houses of Congress requesting the same, and shall, at stated times, receive for their services, a compensation, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office.

Which was ordered to lie for consideration.

Mr. Mitchell offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire whether any and what alterations are necessary to be made in the laws respecting insurrections and violations of the public peace and authority, as well as the laws respecting the conspiracy or enterprize of private individuals against foreign nations in amity with the U. S. with leave to report by bill or otherwise.

Which was ordered to lie for consideration.

Foreign.

Boston, November 2.

The *Aristides*, capt. Williams, has this moment arrived from Liverpool, in 44 days. Her latest London dates, which are to the 14th Sept. announce the following intelligence:

"That the points in controversy, between the United States and Great Britain, had been discussed by the respective ministers; and that such an amicable adjustment of them had taken place, as to warrant a notice, from both parties, that peace and friendship might be considered as being again restored between the two countries."

Copenhagen had not surrendered to the English on the 4th Sept. although the city was completely invested, and all communication with its inhabitants cut off. At this date, the bombardment was going on; and the suburbs on fire in three or four places.

The *Revenge* cutter was expected to leave England, with dispatches, about the 20th Sept.

Decree-Street, Sept. 12, 1807.

Lord Castlereagh has the honor of acquainting the Lord Mayor, that dispatches have been received this morning, from Lt. Gen. Whitelock, dated July 10, by which it appears, that in the attack upon the town of Buenos Ayres, his majesty's troops experienced so much resistance from the turbulent force of the enemy, that after gaining possession of part of the town, with severe loss, on the 5th July, the Lt. Gen. thought it prudent to enter into a negotiation with gen. Liniers, who commanded the enemy's forces, by which he agreed to evacuate South America within two months, upon condition that all prisoners taken in the attack, as well as those captured at the surrender of Buenos Ayres, should be restored. The total loss amounts in killed to 316, wounded 674, missing 208.

"To the Right Honourable,
the Lord Mayor."

It thus appears that our loss, in killed, wounded and missing, amounts to 1,209 men. The remainder, according to the terms of the capitulation, are now upon their way home.

Dispatches have arrived from Ad. Gambier, but they are not of so satisfactory a nature as was expected. They are dated the 26th, and were brought by the *Earnest* gun-boat, which sailed on the 27th. The account given out by the messenger is, that up to that time nothing of consequence had taken place. The letters from the fleet represent the siege of Copenhagen as likely to continue three weeks.

Indeed some private letters have been received, which lead us to conclude, that the accounts received by ministers are unfavourable.

Preparations are now making to take possession of the island of Madeira. The force intended for this service, is reported to be about 3000 men. This expedition is expected to sail in the course of a few days.

From a London paper of Sept. 9.

"We are assured that the dispatches, recently received by Mr. Menroe, were of a very conciliatory tendency—and that the tone and spirit in which they were conceived, have already had the happiest effect. It is stated on good authority, that all differences relative to the search for seamen, are already adjusted, and that a negotiation has commenced for the purpose of concluding a treaty of commerce equally favourable to the trade and navigation of England, and to the true interest of the Americans."