

first he had the honor to be presented to the Executive. He had twice attempted to state these facts to him, who either did not or would not understand him, and changed the subject; at this he naturally felt hurt, and had not renewed personal communication on the subject. Some time subsequent to this, when the French were preparing to take possession of Louisiana, believing that they would discover those who were before attached to foreign government and secure them in their interests, he had thought it a duty incumbent on him to write to the Secretary of State as the constitutional organ of communication, and had stated his grounds of suspicion. He had twice attempted to make this known, and had officially written to learn whether he was understood. Of these letters no notice have been taken. He had then stated that the proofs in his possession might not be sufficient for conviction, but if time were allowed proof sufficient might be procured.

Mr. THOMAS asked at what time these communications had been made?

Mr. CLARK. To the President of the U. States in 1802; to the Secretary of State in 1803.

SATURDAY, January 9.

Mr. M. D. Williams, from the committee to whom the subject was referred, reported a bill making further compensation to the marshals of the district of North-Carolina and New-Jersey. Read twice and referred to a committee of the whole.

Mr. Dana begged leave to state to the House a proposition which had for its object the encouragement and the security of the seamen of the United States; by this expression he meant all who belong to the national family, whether by birth or regular adoption. The proposition which he meant to offer contemplated a measure of permanent policy, to which the United States might adhere in either alternative of peace or war. The adoption of the measure could not interfere with any stipulation which might be made in any treaty between the United States and any foreign power, or with any negotiation pending or expected; it did not propose to renounce any claim ever made by the government of the United States. It proposed no national degradation or acknowledgment of inferiority to any power whatever. Yet the proposition was of such a nature that he apprehended it would, if adopted, essentially diminish the range of controversy as respected seamen; and might be carried to such an extent as to annihilate it altogether. When he said this he spoke as to those seamen who did in fact belong to the United States. The proposition proposed a marked distinction between our own seamen and those who were aliens to our country and our laws, and gave a preference to our own over any other. It proposed that they should have better and more employment, that they should be known to a certainty and firmly protected. If he should be asked what this proposition was, it would be evident that it was a plain measure; it exhibited nothing of the magnificence of a learned and abstract disquisition; it was a proposition which addressed itself to the interest of the merchant and to the heart of the American seaman. That the House might understand how it was intended to accomplish this object, he would call their attention first to the revenue laws, and then to the navigation laws of the United States.

It would be sufficient to observe, as respected the revenue system, that the law of the U. States marked a strong distinction between vessels of the United States and all others. The term vessel of the United States denoted a title to peculiar benefits and privileges, an exemption from the extraordinary duty on tonnage, and an exemption from a duty of 10 per cent. on all articles imported, this being levied as a discriminating duty, in addition to the ordinary impost, on all goods imported in foreign vessels. This duty was nearly equal to the average expense of freight across the Atlantic; so that it gave a decided preference, and of course a greater employment to American vessels. It was proposed to avail ourselves of the same principle for American seamen; making it requisite that a portion of the seamen should be Americans, thereby ensuring their employment by this duty of 10 per cent. to be incurred by the employment of foreign seamen in preference.

If the House would advert to the navigation law of the United States, they would see how the principle recognized by that could be applied to American seamen. That act speaks of certain qualifications, which should entitle vessels to be named vessels of the United States. The qualifications are three. The first, for the encouragement of American ship building, requires that a vessel shall be built in the United States—American construction. The next, that this vessel shall be owned by American citizens—American construction and American property. The next, that a vessel shall not enjoy the privilege of American vessels, longer than commanded by an American captain—American construction, property, and commander. These three qualifications were necessary for a registered vessel.

The addition which Mr. D. proposed to these qualifications, was, that these vessels should be navigated by a proportion of American mariners; this was the proposition

which he should submit. As soon as the proposition was stated, its operation would be instantly seen. If it were adopted, American seamen would of course in preference be employed; it would give them a more comfortable means of subsistence. The merchant would be compelled to employ them, if his vessels could not otherwise enjoy the privilege of American vessels; and all his exertions to procure American seamen would be more than compensated by the diminution of duty in consequence of their employment. It would then be the interest as well as duty of American seamen to point out imposters, as they might be kept out of employ by false swearing of seamen not citizens. In adopting this principle into our navigation law, Mr. D. felt perfectly willing to renounce the whole system of certificates and protections. He did not wish American seamen to carry protections while on board our ships; he wished that their being on board an American ship should be a sufficient protection; and if this peaceable means of protection will not answer, said Mr. D. let us take stronger measures. But in giving a man this protection with merely documentary proof, in giving him the complete protection of the American flag, it would be perceived that he would enjoy it no longer than he was faithful to his duty. In order to entitle a vessel to the character of a registered vessel it would be necessary that it should appear that she had on board a proportion of American seamen. It would be a plain regulation, no acknowledgement of inferiority, and its adoption would not interfere with any existing treaty or negotiation.

There was a reason why he felt disposed to have this subject considered at the present time. The operation of the embargo would no doubt throw out of employment a great many seamen; among them might be foreign subjects. Thrown out of employ by the embargo, and a portion of them being called home by the proclamation of his Britannic majesty, Mr. D. should suppose it probable that foreign seamen might be induced to go into other service. He wished to hold out to American seamen, to our own citizens, the inducement of employment in preference to others, thereby giving them some cause to hope for brighter prospects and better times than the present. With these views he offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That for the encouragement and security of seamen of the United States, it is expedient to make provision, that registered ships or vessels, after a time to be limited by law, shall not continue to enjoy the benefits and privileges appertaining to ships or vessels of the United States, unless some proportion of the mariners on board the same shall be citizens of the United States. Mr. D. moved that it be referred to a committee of the whole on Wednesday next, that its principle might be fully discussed.—Agreed.

Mr. Dana said it would be recollected that the Secretary of the Treasury had reported a statement of tonnage in the United States; this document he deemed very interesting, and it might have an important bearing on the subject just referred. It was also important to know how many seamen were registered in the United States as American; that the House might judge how the seamen were proportioned to the tonnage. He was not certain that the Secretary of State could give all the information desired; but all that he had Mr. D. wished to procure, and therefore submitted the following resolution, which was adopted.

Resolved, That the Secretary of State be directed to lay before this House a statement of the respective numbers of citizens of the United States, registered as American seamen, and now belonging to the several districts of the customs, according to the returns made by the collectors, in pursuance of the law relative to the relief and protection of American seamen.

Mr. Blackledge laid before the House a resolution of the legislature of North-Carolina, requesting the representatives of that state to use their endeavours to procure the erection of a fortification or defence near Beaufort in that state, which was not contemplated in the report of the Secretary of War, made to the House.

After some discussion as to the proper mode of disposing of it, the House agreed 60 to 17, to transmit it to the President of the United States in order that due provision might be made for the defence of that port.

RICHMOND, JANUARY 12.

The following resolution was moved in the House of Delegates on Saturday last, by Alexander S. Hooe, Esq. a member from the county of King George. On the resolution being read from the chair, a motion was made for the previous question being taken whether it should be received, which produced an animated discussion till very late in the evening; when a motion was made that the house should adjourn, which being carried, no decision was had on the resolution, and it lies over to be taken up again. Most of the gentlemen who spoke, were in favor of the resolution, with some trifling amendment.

“At an important crisis like the present, when we are threatened with war by the rival powers of Europe, it is that of the highest im-

portance we should have at the head of our Army, a man of the most untarnished reputation, who instead of exciting doubts, should inspire confidence.—The present commander is not that man—he has been suspected (and with too much cause) of being engaged in treason at home and treachery abroad.—

“Resolved therefore, That the FEDERAL EXECUTIVE be requested to cause an immediate enquiry to be made into the conduct of Brigadier Gen. James Wilkinson, commander in chief of the armies of the United States.”

....RALEIGH:....

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1808.

The Embargo has excited more dissatisfaction among the farmers of this and the neighboring counties than any other measure done by Congress since the adoption of the constitution. The situations of this respectable class of citizens are truly precarious—Many have driven their pork to Virginia and not being able to get any thing for it, have brought it back; others have taken their tobacco and cotton to Fayetteville and could not get two dollars a hundred—Those who have pork on hand and we believe most of those who sell large quantities, have theirs still on hand, cannot afford to make bacon of it, as salt, since the embargo, has risen to three dollars a bushel. Besides, they have mostly been obligated to pay money this winter, not doubting but they should be able to raise it from the sale of their produce. The question is repeatedly asked, what good can this embargo possibly answer? Those who wish a war with England, say it will injure the manufacturers and poor of that country. This may be very true, yet it injures our own citizens much more—and it must be bad policy in a government to cause its citizens to make such a sacrifice, merely to gratify a few united Irishmen and run-away Englishmen, who wish the ruin of their countrymen.

The Embargo is said to be enacted to protect the property of the merchants. Now, as ninety-nine out of a hundred of this class are pointedly opposed to the measure, we presume there is some other reason best known to the French minister and Mr. Jefferson.

While the resolution of Mr. Randolph, requesting the President to institute a court of enquiry into the conduct of Gen. Wilkinson, was pending before Congress, Mr. Jefferson took the start of Mr. R. and ordered a court of enquiry. The court consists of Colonel Burbeck of the artillery, Col. Cushing of the infantry, and Col. Williams of the engineers. Thus the President would endeavour to make it believed that he had ordered the court, before the measure was brought forward in Congress—but it won't do.

General Wilkinson, it will be remembered, complimented Mr. Jefferson's plan for defending our commerce and coast with gun-boats, and this must in some measure account for the President's forbearance towards him; or is this sympathy for the General to be accounted for in another way? Was it because the General violated the constitution, which we all know Mr. Jefferson strenuously opposed at the time of its adoption? or is the President fearful that Wilkinson may tell tales about French and Spanish Influence, and French and Spanish Dollars? If Colonels Burbeck and Williams, are as much the creatures of Wilkinson as Col. Cushing, and we fear they are, as the commander in chief has persecuted mostly all others, out of office, we anticipate that the General will be “honourably acquitted”—Mr. Jefferson and Wilkinson understand very well how to manage that business.

Mr. ROSE.

The difficulties which have existed with respect to this gentleman are removed. We learn from unquestionable authority, that orders have been received from the government directing that with respect to the frigate *Statura*, she is to be received with her officers and crew, as they would have been received and treated before the Proclamation was issued. This was all that was required by Mr. Rose, who we understand sets out immediately for the seat of government. [Ledge.]

The Alexandria Packet went down to Hampton Roads on Friday last, to take Mr. Rose from on board the frigate *Statura*, but from head winds she was detained until yesterday when she sailed for Washington with a fair wind, which continues. Jan. 11.

We have just perused a letter from a respectable merchant in Baltimore dated on Friday last, to his correspondents in this place, which says, “Intelligence has been this moment received from Washington, stating that orders had been issued by the government to arrest the celebrated French General *Morau*, who lately went to the West-County, on his way to New-Orleans.” We give this as a report, and although the respectability of the source from whence we have received it, has great weight with us, we feel reluctant to believe that this great man, has engaged himself in any dishonorable plans against this government;

New-York, Jan. 4.

The brig *Jane*, Danforth, has just arrived in 39 days from Cork. We have just time to inform you, that we have received papers to the 20th Nov. containing London dates to the 14th inclusive. It is of importance to know, that there is not a word about the Blockading decree of England—We wish that this may induce Congress to raise the Embargo—if it continues we shall all be ruined! Ten or fifteen respectable commercial houses in this city have failed!

CHARLESTON, Jan. 1.

The importation of Slaves from Africa, ceases this day, according to act of Congress. There have been imported, since our ports have been opened, the following number:—

In the year 1804,	5,386
1805,	6,790
1806,	11,458
1807,	15,676
Total,	39,310

MARRIED.

At Marlborough, on the 6th inst. William H. Murfree, Esq. to Miss Eliza Maney.

DIED.

In this county, on the night of the 11th inst. Mrs. Charity Stephenson, wife of Mr. David Stephenson.

In Franklin county, a few days ago, Mr. Henry Hill.

ELOPEMENT.

WHEREAS my wife Lytha Martin, has eloped from my bed and board, without any just cause, and is, as I am told, contracting debts at many places; I am therefore to forewarn all persons from crediting her on my account, as I am determined not to pay one cent of the debts contracted by her, on any account whatever.

JOSEPH MARTIN.

Wayne county, January 13th, 1808. Sw.

NOTICE.

ON Thursday the first March next, on the premises, I shall proceed to sell for ready money, the land whereon Paskeil Robertson now lives, adjoining the lands of the following persons, viz. Benton Powell, Edm. Jeter, Jacob Barnes, John Foort, and Henry Morning, in Wake county, which land was conveyed to me in trust, for the purpose of securing the payment of a certain sum of money, due from said Robertson to Putney and BAIL THOMAS TUCKER.

January, 16th, 1808. tds.

NOTICE.

ALL persons are cautioned from trading for a note given by myself to Joseph Mathews of Randolph, for three hundred and twenty dollars, dated March 31st, 1807, payable in one year, as I have not received value for it, and am determined not to pay the bond.

JOHN BOON.

January, 9th, 1808.

NOTICE.

TO all persons whom it may concern, that on the 31st day of December 1807, the co-partnership of Gorman and Pearce, in Iron Works, in Burke county N. C. on the waters of gunpowder, was dissolved by consent; all persons having demands against the partners, are requested to hand them to the subscriber for payment, and those indebted to the firm, are requested to make payment immediately to the subscriber, as he is in possession of all the books belonging to the firm, and waits at the Forge for that purpose.

GEORGE PEARCE.

January, 8th, 1808. Sw.

State of North-Carolina } County of pleas and  
Rockingham County, } quarter sessions,  
W. Barnett's Exr's. } Nov. term, 1807.  
vs. } Original attachment

Micajah Davis. } levied on goods.

It appearing to the court that the defendant in his case is not an inhabitant of the state, ordered that publication be made in the Raleigh Minerva, for three weeks successively, that unless the defendant appears at our next court to be held on the fourth Monday in Feb. next, and reply to the property, judgment will be entered final, &c.

Sw. ROBT. GALLAWAY, c. c.

STATE OF NORTH-CAROLINA, }  
Guilford County, }  
Court of Equity, October Term, 1807.

Jesse Lynch, vs. } Original Bill.  
John Fisher, George Fisher, }  
Edward Fisher, Boleing Fisher, }  
Betsy Fisher & Joseph Gibson. }

In this case it appearing to the court that John Fisher, George Fisher, Edward Fisher & Betsy Fisher are inhabitants of other States It is Ordered that publication be made in the Raleigh Minerva of this suit for the space of three weeks, for the said John, George, Edward and Betsy to appear at the next Superior Court of law and Court of Equity to be held for the county of Guilford on the fourth Monday after the fourth Monday of March next, and file their answers to said bill, otherwise the said bill will be taken *pro confesso* against them and he is to certify.

W. G. Love, C. M. Esq.