



AND

North-Carolina State Gazette.

Our are the planes of fair and bright peace, Unwar'd by party rage, solve like brothers.

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DISPUTE with G. BRITAIN.

Debate on

MR. GREGG'S RESOLUTION.

Continued from our last.

Mr. STON. I do not rise to deny, but to acknowledge myself, one of those horn-book politicians alluded to by a member from Virginia, and to assure this committee that I do not envy or begrudge that member either his superior genius, talents, or learning—and further, to ask on behalf of myself, and others of this class, the favor of being permitted to deliver our sentiments on this and other important subjects in such language as we are capable of, until our constituents may have an opportunity of choosing other members of superior talents, and further advanced in political knowledge. This is a favor I hope will not be denied, otherwise a great number of American citizens, the remainder of this and the ensuing session must go unre-presented.

In answer to the assertion that our late conduct respecting Spain was such as we dare not mention, that we dare not take off the injunction of secrecy, that we are ashamed to let the nation know the secret, permit me to assure that member and this committee, that I feel neither shame nor compunction of heart for the part that I acted in that business: no doubting that when the injunction is taken off, and the public acquainted with the whole transaction, the real friends of the peace, and interests of the United States, will fully approve the conduct of the majority with whom I had the pleasure to act, and which, were I by side glances, and insinuations to endeavour to impress the public mind, with a belief that a majority of their representatives had acted in a manner they were ashamed of—I conceive my constituents would therefore consider me unworthy of their confidence and consequently of a seat on this floor.

We are told that we have no cabinet. Is it necessary, is it recognized by the constitution? No. The President's powers are defined, and have for five years been fulfilled to the satisfaction of the people.

I have heard of British cabinets, British Ministers, and British privy councils—of their conduct I imbibed a very bad opinion, before the member alluded to, was out of his nurse's arms, and have seen no cause to change that opinion, it is therefore pleasing to me to hear that we have no such institution.

Mr. Chairman, however great my gratitude to that member for his paternal care over the children in politics on this floor, which roused him from his sick bed, to give his superior opinion upon this important subject, before our weak and feeble minds had been misled by Tom, Dick and Harry, or some other arrogant chap, that might have some knowledge of steering a ship at sea; but totally ignorant in navigating our vessel of state, I say, notwithstanding I gave all the attention in my power to his eloquent speech of two hours and eight minutes, there was divers parts which my weak brain could not comprehend, and which I beg leave to lay before this committee for the purpose of receiving further information.

1. I cannot comprehend how our demanding the release of our impressed seamen; and restitution for unjust captures of our vessels; can be construed as throwing our weight in the scale of France, for the purpose of supporting a set of men, who do not support the public weal of the U. States.

2. Nor can I possibly discover that G. Britain stands precisely in the same situation that Republican France did in '93. For information on this subject, let me ask, was it not British gold and British intrigue that then formed the coalition against Republican France? And is it not the same that has formed the present coalition against monarchical France? Had the armies of France, in either case advanced beyond their own territory, previous to their raising and advancing their powerful armies for the express purpose of

subjugating them, and dividing their property amongst the coalesced powers? If the accounts received true, they have not.

But we are told that Britain is now the only barrier against tyranny, and her navy our only security, that the battle off Trafalgar prevented the fleets of France and Spain from laying our sea-port towns under contribution, and that the British navy alone stands between us and their tyranny. Mr. Chairman, if a British subject was admitted on this floor to advocate his sovereign's cause, I should from him have expected such language, but to hear it from a member of Congress has astonished me more than any thing I ever heard within these walls. I may add, that I believe even a British subject of common sense and prudence would not have committed his character, by asserting that the combined fleets of Holland, France, and Spain, were so reduced, that ten British ships (I expect of the line was meant) would be glad to meet their whole force.

Neither can I comprehend that language that in one breath asserts that Spain has grossly insulted us in our own territory; that we pocket those insults because they are a favoured nation, and in the next breath asserts that she is no nation; but those aggressions are the acts of France.

I here deem it my duty to make some remarks on observations made on this floor, which have a tendency to mislead and alarm the public mind with regard to France and Spain. We have been told that Spain insulted us on our own territory. I appeal to the gentleman from Virginia whether he has not declared that we do not possess a foot of ground beyond the Iberville. If so, let the world judge of the consistency of his remarks. I ask if Spain has not ordered her cruisers to respect our vessels, and whether France is not on a friendly footing with us? Shall then the public mind be deceived with the idea that Congress have not acted towards those nations with spirit? For what? Because our boundaries with Spain are not defined. I trust in God, we shall never go to war for that. I repeat it, our affairs are in a train of amicable settlement, and I trust, they will be soon settled.

It is asserted that France would be as tyrannical on the ocean, as England, had she the same power, this is a point that I have neither foreknowledge or sagacity enough to determine; nor do I consider such assertions either necessary or proper on the present occasion, the degraded point of view in which Spain has been represented, the tyrannical disposition of France and Britain represented as the only barrier against her tyranny, the forlorn hope of European liberty—I have heard with sorrow, believing such language highly improper, to be used in a legislative capacity, by any representative of a free people, whose interest it is to cultivate peace and harmony with all the nations of the earth.

I shall only trouble the committee with one more observation upon the learned and eloquent speech first mentioned, in which I think it was alleged that parchment was the only remedy applied to aggressions on our territory, for which a member from New Jersey might receive a vegetable specific. If I am the member alluded to, permit me to reply, that if by dealing in parchment we can continue to purchase as good bargains as Louisiana, and thereby preserve peace, I hope the United States will always prefer dealing in this commodity rather than imbue their hands in human blood. Respecting vegetable specifics, I shall only observe, that if that member lives to my age, needing no more specific medicine, either vegetable or mineral, he may consider it as a great blessing; but which I think very improbable.

Mr. Chairman, believing it my duty to deliver my sentiments in as few words as possible, that other members standing on an equal floor may have an opportunity to deliver theirs, I shall hasten to a conclusion—at the same time not doubting, that if I was disposed so to do, I

could take up the time of the committee as long, and to as little purpose as any member within these walls.

I could, under the pretext of explaining, keep the floor two hours and nine minutes, if the chairman did not order me down, which I hope he will if ever I attempt it.

In explaining, I could declare that I did not mean to stigmatize a respectable class of citizens with dishonesty, or any other reproachful epithet, and immediately compare them to butterflies of the day, and to slippery eels who will get round and evade any regulations or restrictions that can be made, whose interest is their guide, regardless of the peace and interest of the nation in which they reside.

I could declare that I had not insulted the House; but aimed at certain political characters; and in the next breath charge a majority of the same house with having hoodwinked its members, but unable to do so with with foreign nations—I again, could charge them with bullying England, truckling to France, and exclaim in an imperious tone, this you have done and you know it.

Mr. Chairman, I could go on, still further, and assert that the little trifling arguments of my opponents ought to bear no weight, because destitute of reason, that instinct, the guide of the brute creation, was superior to such reason—yet declare, that I meant no insult to their understanding.

I could then in the prophetic line inform the committee, that if they offended the British minister, he would immediately put forth his strength, and make the U. States feel it, and that although France at present seems friendly, she is like the still hog drinking swill, and meditating future evil, and will eventually (if in her power) treat us worse than England.

I could in a few words remove this mighty bugbear that the friends of the resolution have made so much ado about, I mean the impressment of three thousand of our seamen; by informing the committee that it has been the practice of Britain time immemorial—that it has been found indispensable necessary to man their fleets—that is to say without these diabolical means, which none but infernal fiends in human shape could even use, they could not so effectually have carried fire and sword, devastation and plunder, to every habitable part of the globe; and thereby so greatly increased the quantum of human misery, and the cries of the widows and fatherless.

I could also, if my conscience would permit, after venting my hatred in the most bitter invectives against the French Emperor that my genius could invent, charge Congress with truckling to him; and bestowing on the government of England the highest applause for their opposition to French tyranny, repeatedly deny being an apologist for Britain; but a subsequent question arises, would the members of this committee subscribe to the truth of such declarations?

But, Mr. Chairman, I will detain the committee no longer with telling them what might be done; but earnestly call their attention to what has been said on this floor—we have been told that France cannot get a pound of coffee, or sugar, except through the medium of the American vessels, and that we have a treaty that obliges us to treat them as one of the most favored nations—this raises the curtain, and gives a full and complete view of the whole scene—his explains in the most clear and explicit manner, the elaborate speech of two hours and forty eight minutes, and the explanation of two hours and nine minutes. A horn-book politician may by this clearly discover the intention of the member from Virginia, and Tom, Dick and Harry, if they have only learned the first letters of the alphabet, may understand his meaning, and why he would prefer an embargo, to even a partial non-importation of British manufactures. It is possible that George the third, that zealous defender of the most holy faith, by whose most gracious orders, the colonies of North America were de-

clared out of his protection; and afterwards his paternal care was further manifested, in burning their towns, murdering their citizens, and causing their prisoners to perish with famine and pestilence, noisome dungeons, and filthy prison ships. I say it is possible, as the precious life of this great benefactor of mankind is yet preserved, and we are told on this floor, remains animated with the same benovolent spirit, fighting the battles of liberty, against Gallic tyranny; if he should fall by land, his pious zeal may induce him once more to resort to his forlorn hope (as he did in the late war with republican France) declare all her ports and her allies in a state of blockade, cover the ocean with his fleets, in order to effect by famine, what he is unable to do by force of arms, in that case an embargo on American vessels would facilitate his purpose. But here let me ask this committee, can the Congress of the U. States countenance such a procedure? I hope not.

Before I sit down, let me ask the members of this committee, especially you in whose ears the expiring groans of your brethren in arms, of your beloved fellow-citizens yet vibrates; slain by the murderous hands of the mercenaries of Great-Britain, or more barbarously deprived of life by famine or pestilence—can you, while that same monarch reigns, and instead of diminishing, has added to the long and black catalogue of crimes, set forth in our declaration of independence, which induced you to risk your lives in opposition to his tyranny; can you, with complacency, or any degree of approbation, sit and hear that government who continues her tyranny and injustice to these United States (witness the capture of our vessels and the impressment of our seamen) held up by a member on this floor, as the only barrier we have against the tyranny of that nation who in our struggle assisted us with vessels of war, arms, ammunition, men, and money; whose soldiers fought by our side, and bled to support American liberty and independence, and whose government continues friendly towards us?—I hope not, I believe you cannot, your hearts must turn indignant from such language. For my own part, I am free to declare, that since I have had the honor of a seat on this floor, I have heard nothing that has so hurt my feelings.

I have long borne them in silence, I am happy in obtaining a few moments in my plain and unlearned way to express them, that this committee, and all the United States may know, that I retain the same abhorrence against British tyranny that I did in the revolutionary war; and also the same love for the liberty and independence of the U. States.

Mr. FINDLEY said, he had been long in the habit of observing that when a subject was discussed which occasioned numerous arguments, the question was often lost sight of. In the heat of debate, instead of the subject before them, the preceding argument became the text to him that replied, and his to the next who took the floor; and so on in succession until some member succeeded in calling the attention of the members to the original subject. He wished to call the attention of the committee to the subject immediately before them, and expressly stated it, and dwelt upon the enormity of the conduct of Britain in impressing our seamen. He then stated the commercial aggressions of which we complain, saying that though these aggressions had hitherto been principally committed on colonial produce, yet the principles are equally applicable to much of our East India trade and to our trade with France, Spain and Holland. The plea of necessity could not be admitted in justification of this practice. The profits arising from a favorable commercial balance with other nations is cheerfully thrown into her lap, and if not continued, it will be her own fault. The method proposed for a corrective, he thought well calculated to produce the effect. But it had been called a war measure. He thought differently. Some were for negotiating without passing

this measure; but he thought it was calculated to favor a negotiation. As the President had attempted negotiation in vain; it was proper now to accompany our proposals with an expression of the public will.

Mr. F. noticed Mr. Randolph's reference to Spanish aggressions. It was true that two men had fled from justice from the Spanish settlements who were pursued and taken in our territory, but afterwards rescued from the officer of Spain. This affair might be balanced by an outrage committed by the British lately at Detroit: but a court of justice was competent to settle this matter. If Britain had pressed 200 of our men, and disavowed the principle the case would not have been brought before the legislature. As long as there was a dispute about the boundaries of the Louisiana country, he thought the President had proceeded very correctly.

Mr. F. referred to the course taken in 1794, and combated the idea of the present being a war measure; but if the British should be determined to have war, we had the power and the means of making reprisals. He denied that our revenue would be affected by the proposed measure to the extent mentioned. Our wants would be supplied from other countries, and our own manufactures encouraged. He concluded by censuring Mr. Randolph's frequent allusions to what had been done whilst the doors of the house were closed, as if members had betrayed the trust reposed in them by their constituents.

(Debate to be continued.)

RANAWAY

From the Subscriber, on the night of the 24th Instant,

A NEGRO MAN named JACK between twenty-five and thirty Years of Age; of a dark complexion, about five Feet ten or eleven Inches high, has very red Eyes, and his upper right Eye-tooth out. He took away with him a quantity of Clothing, viz. 2 Cloth Coats, one a fine blue, the other a coarse grey, 2 striped Silk Jackets and other Clothing not recollectd.

Any Person delivering said Negro to me in Chatham county, Deep River, or secure him in any Jail so that I get him again, shall receive the above Reward.

JOHN BRYAN.

N. B. It is expected the above mentioned Negro will try to get to William Hill's, Hancock County, Georgia, who formerly owned him. J. B. Deep River, Chatham County, March 29, 1866.

State of North-Carolina.

Pitt County, February Term, 1866.

James Little vs. John Page, Wm. Bell vs. John Page. Orig. Atta. Orig. Atta.

In both these cases, it is ordered, that in pursuance of the act of Assembly of this State in this case made and provided, that the Defendant do appear and plead within the time limited by law, otherwise final and absolute Judgment will be given and awarded against him. Teste, GEORGE EVANS, C. C.

COURT OF CONFERENCE.

December Term, 1865.

IT is ordered by the Court, that hereafter the argument causes be taken up and proceeded on the second day of the Term; and that the causes be tried or continued, according to the order they are placed upon the docket. Teste, Wm. NORWOOD, C. C. C.

Twenty-five Dollars Reward.

RANAWAY from my Plantation on Neuse River, in Johnston County, two Negro Fellows, named Sam and Harry. Sam formerly belonged to Col. Joseph Green; he is yellow complexioned, thin face, and speaks hoarse; he is about Twenty-five Years old, five feet nine or ten inches high. His dress when he went off consisted of grey Plains. Harry formerly belonged to Richard Warren of Johnston County; he is very black, and has a sullen look out of his eyes, the white of them are inclined to be red; he is about Eighteen or Nineteen Years old, five Feet seven or eight Inches high. His Dress when he went off I cannot fairly ascertain, he had blue Overalls on and perhaps a cotton Shirt. I do not recollect any particular marks about him.

Whoever will apprehend said Negroes and bring them to me, shall be entitled to the above Reward.—If out of this State, a Reward of Fifty Dollars will be given, if delivered to me in North-Carolina, or will confine them in any Jail so that I get them, shall be handsomely rewarded.

It is supposed they will aim for Tar River. JOSEPH BOON, jun.

April 4, 1866.