



AND North-Carolina State Gazette.

Our are the plans of fair delightful peace,
Unwar'd by party rage, to live like Brothers.

Vol. IX.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1807.

No. 447.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS.

(CONTINUED.)

FOREIGN OFFICE,
August 18, 1807.

SIR—Having received from his Majesty's Minister in America an unofficial printed paper, purporting to be a copy of the proclamation of the President of the United States, I have to request that you will be pleased to acquaint me, whether you have received any communication from your government which enables you to pronounce if such document be authentic.

In the event of your being empowered to admit its authenticity, I have farther to request of you, that you will inform me whether you are also authorized to announce it to be the intention of your government to carry into effect the measures contained in the proclamation of the President, without requiring, or waiting for, any explanation on the part of the British government, with respect to the late unfortunate transaction, upon which the determination to resort to these measures is professed to be founded.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,
GEO. CANNING.

P. S. I have the honor to enclose an American news paper, containing a copy of the paper in question.
James Monroe, Esq. &c.

Portland Place, August 9, 1807.

TO MR. CANNING.

SIR—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of yesterday, and should not hesitate to communicate the information which you have desired if I possessed it; but as I have not heard from my government on the subject of the unfortunate occurrence alluded to, it is not in my power to state to you any thing on the part of my government respecting it. I have no doubt but I shall be instructed in a few days to make a communication to his Majesty's government on that highly interesting event, in which I shall be enabled to furnish a full and just view of all the circumstances attending it. As soon as I receive instructions I shall hasten to apprise you of it.

I have the honor to be, with high Consideration, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
JAMES MONROE.
The Rt. Hon. G. Canning, &c.

London, August 14, 1807.

SIR—I had the honor to transmit you with my letter of the 4th inst. a copy of a correspondence with Mr. Canning, relative to the late aggression in the case of the Chesapeake. You will receive with this a copy of a recent one on the same subject.

By Mr. Canning's queries in his last note, I was led to consider it as preparatory to an embargo on American vessels. I could not conceive why he should request information of me, whether the President's proclamation was authentic, & whether it would be carried into effect, if it was so: intended to found some measure on my reply of an unfriendly nature. The information desired was not necessary to remove any doubts of his government on the points to which it applied, or to enable it to do justice to the United States, in regard to the aggression of which they complained. The presumption that an embargo was intended, gained force from the circumstance that most of the gazettes had recommended, and that the public mind seemed essentially to be prepared for it. It was my most earnest wish to prevent, as far as in my power, so unjust and pernicious a procedure. As the measure contemplated, whatever it might be, seemed to be suspended for my answer, I was extremely solicitous by the manner, to deprive this government of all pretext for any thing of the kind alluded to. By replying generally, that I had no instructions from my government, and could state nothing on its part but the late occurrence, I avoided giving a direct answer to Mr. Canning's queries; and by drawing his attention to the application which it was to be presumed would soon be made on the

part of my government, on that subject, I endeavoured to shew more strongly the impolicy and injustice which would stamp any such measure on the part of Great Britain in the present stage.

No step has yet been taken by this government of an unfriendly character toward the United States, and from the communication which Mr. Canning made to the House of Commons, on the day he received my last note, which you will find in the gazettes sent, I am persuaded that things will remain in the state in which they are, until your dispatch is received. I trust that a disposition exists to make such reparation on the point in question, as will be satisfactory to the United States, and that it will be practicable and not difficult to preserve the friendly relations subsisting between the two countries. The party, however, in favor of war, consisting of the combined interests mentioned in my last, is strong and active, so that it is impossible to foresee the result.

I have the honor to be, with respect,
Sir, your obedient servant,
JAMES MONROE.
*James Madison, Esq.
Secretary of State, Washington.*

NO X.

Portland Place, Sept. 1, 1807.

TO MR. CANNING.

Mr. Monroe presents his compliments to Mr. Canning, and has the honor to inform him, that he has just received instructions from his government, relative to the late attack of the United States frigate Chesapeake, by his Majesty's ship Leopard, off the coast of the United States. Mr. Monroe requests that Mr. Canning would have the goodness to give him an early interview on that subject.

Mr. Monroe requests Mr. Canning to accept the assurances of his high consideration.

NO XI.

Foreign Office Sept. 1, 1807.

FROM MR. CANNING.

Mr. Canning presents his compliments to Mr. Monroe, and requests the honor of seeing him at the Foreign office on Thursday next, at 12 o'clock.

Mr. Canning would have proposed to see Mr. Monroe to-morrow, if he had not been under the necessity of attending the levee, and the council at the Queen's Palace.

Mr. Canning requests Mr. Monroe to accept the assurances of his high consideration.
Jas. Monroe, Esq. &c.

Portland Place, Sept. 7, 1807.

SIR—By the order of my government, it is my duty to request your attention to the aggression lately committed on the peace and sovereignty of the United States, by his Britannic Majesty's ship of war Leopard, in an attack on an American frigate, the Chesapeake, off the Capes of Virginia. The object of this communication is to obtain of his Majesty's government a suitable reparation for that outrage, and such an arrangement of the great interests which are connected with it, as will place the future relations of the two powers on a solid foundation of peace and friendship.

In bringing this subject again to the view of his Majesty's government, it is unnecessary to dwell on circumstances which are already so well known to you. By the documents, which I have the honor to transmit you, it is shewn that while the outrage was unprovoked and unexpected on one side, there was nothing to extenuate it on the other. The commander of his Majesty's squadron on the coast of the United States, appears to have acted on a presumption, that he possessed the power to make war, and decide on the causes of war. It will be difficult to explain the conduct of that officer on any other principles; and equally so to find an example of an aggression marked with such high indignity and injustice to a friendly power.

The pretext for this aggression could not fail to beighen the sense of injury which the act itself was so signally calculated to excite. My

government was taught to infer from it, that there was no limit to a pretension which had already produced so much mischief, and against which so many remonstrances had been presented, in its application, to your merchant vessels. But I find with great satisfaction that this pretension forms no topic for discussion between us in respect to ships of war; and I trust that the just and enlightened policy which produced the decision in one instance, will surmount the obstacles which have hitherto embarrassed it in the other.

The national character of themen who were taken thus violently from on board the Chesapeake, makes no part of the question. It is impossible that it should come into view in estimating the injury which the United States have received. The outrage involves a great and uncontested principle, which ought not, in any view, to be affected by appealing to national sensibilities on either side. I have, however, the honor to transmit you documents which will I presume satisfy you, that they were American citizens.

With respect to the reparation which my government ought to receive for this outrage, it will only be necessary to appeal to those sentiments which Great-Britain would be sure to indulge under like circumstances: to that sensibility to national honor which has distinguished so many epochs of her history. It will be recollected that the injury, which in itself was great, was much aggravated by the circumstances which attended it: that the peaceful relations of the United States were violated and their unsuspecting confidence surprized. But I forbear to recite details which it is painful to contemplate. You will I am persuaded be satisfied that in every light in which the subject can be seen, the honor of my government and of the whole nation has been greatly outraged by the aggression, and that it becomes the honor of his Majesty's government to make a distinguished reparation.

In presenting, in this friendly manner, this subject to the consideration of his Majesty's government, I am particularly instructed to request its attention to the great cause to which this and so many injuries of a like kind may be traced, the impressions of men from the merchant vessels of the United States. In many essential circumstances the objections which are applicable to impressions from ships of war are equally applicable to those from merchant vessels. To the individuals who suffer by the practice the injury is the same in either case. Their claim on the government for protection is in both cases equal: every maxim of public law and private right which is violated in one, is equally violated in the other. The relation of the belligerent to the neutral power, extends to certain objects only, and is defined in each by known laws. Beyond that limit the rights of the neutral are sacred & cannot be encroached on without violence and injustice. Is there a question of contraband, is the vessel destined to a blockaded port in violation of established principles, or does she contain enemies property, the greatest extent to which the maritime law is carried by any nation? In these cases she is conducted to port for trial; the parties are heard by an impartial and responsible tribunal, & are heard again by appeal if they desire it. Are any of the passengers on board the neutral vessel in the naval or military service of the enemy? If such are found they are made prisoners, but as prisoners they have rights which the opposite belligerent is bound to respect. This practice, however, looks to other objects than are here recited. It involves no question of belligerent on one side and of neutral on the other. It pursues the vessel of a friend for unlawful purpose, which it executes in a manner equally unlawful. Every commercial vessel of the United States that navigates the ocean is liable to be invaded by it, and not an individual on board any of them is secure while the practice is maintained. It sets up every officer of his Majesty's navy as a judge, from whose decision there is no appeal. It makes him a judge not of

property, which is held more sacred, nor of the liberty of his fellow subjects only, however great the trust and liable to abuse on the main ocean, but of that of the citizens of another power, whose rights as a nation, are trampled on by the decision; a decision, in rendering which, every rule of evidence is violated, as it puts the proof of innocence on the accused; and is further highly objectionable as there is too much reason to believe that it has been often guided more by the fitness of the party for service than any other circumstance. The distressing examples of this system of aggression, as it has affected individuals, on a scale of vast extent, it is unnecessary to recount here. They may be easily imagined. Volunominous documents which prove them, are in the possession of both governments.

It is possible that this practice may in certain cases and certain circumstances have been extended to the vessels of other powers; but with them there was an infallible criterion to prevent error. It would be easy to distinguish between an Englishman and a Spaniard, an Italian or a Swede; and the clear and irresistible evidence of his national character and perhaps of his desertion, would establish the British claim to the individual, and reconcile the nation to whose service he had entered, to his surrender. But the very circumstances which would constitute an infallible criterion in those cases, would be sure to produce endless error in the other. Who is so skillful in physiognomy as to distinguish between an American and an Englishman, especially among those whose professions and whose sea-terms are the same? It is evident that this practice, as applied to a foreign nation, to any great extent has grown out of the American revolution, and that it is impossible for the United States not to see in it the assertion of a claim which is utterly incompatible with that great event. When the character of this claim, and the pernicious tendency of the practice, are maturely weighed, it must furnish cause for surprise, that some just and friendly arrangement has not long since been adopted, to prevent the evils incident to it.

My government is aware that his Majesty's government has also an interest of importance to attend to on this important concern, and I am instructed to state on its part that the best disposition exists to provide for it. The United States are far from desiring to profit of a resource which does not belong to them, especially to the prejudice of a friendly power. In securing them against a practice, which is found to be so highly injurious to their dearest rights, and most valuable interests, every suitable provision will be made to give equal security to those of Great-Britain. On this point I am authorized to enter into such an engagement as will, I am persuaded, be adequate to the object.

This great interest of impression has been blended in all its relations, as you will perceive, by no act of the United States. Its connection with the late disastrous incident has been produced by an extraordinary act of violence, of which they were the victims only. That act, which exhibits the pretension in its widest range, has become identified with the general practice, in the feelings and sympathies of the nation, and in the sentiment of the government. I trust therefore that his Majesty's government will be equally disposed to take up the whole subject at this time, and in making the reparation which the particular injury claims, provide a remedy for the whole evil. My government looks to this complete adjustment with confidence, as being indispensably necessary to heal the deep wound which has been inflicted on the national honor of the United States, by so great and unjustifiable an outrage.

I avail myself, with great satisfaction, of the opportunity which this communication affords, to acknowledge the prompt assurance which you gave me of the disposition of his Majesty's government to make a suitable reparation to the government of the United States for the injury, of which, by its order, it is now

my duty to complain; and for the frank disavowal of the pretension on which it was founded. I hastened to transmit copies of those documents to my government, by whom, I trust, they are by this time received.

I have the honor to be, with great Consideration, Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
JAMES MONROE.

No. XIII.

Portland Place, Sept. 9th, 1807.

TO MR. CANNING.

Mr. Monroe presents his compliments to Mr. Canning, and has the honor to inform him that he called at his office yesterday for the purpose of making some remarks on the subject treated in his note, which was sent to Mr. Canning. Mr. Monroe regrets that he had not the pleasure of seeing Mr. Canning at that time; and requests that he will be so good as to give him an interview to-morrow at such hour as may be most convenient to him. Mr. Monroe will be happy to attend Mr. Canning in the country, should it be more agreeable to Mr. Canning to receive him there.

No. XIV.

Burlington House, Wednesday, 7
Sept. 9, 1807, 3/4 past 8 p. m.

FROM MR. CANNING.

Mr. Canning presents his compliments to Mr. Monroe, and will be happy to have the honor of seeing him at the foreign office to-morrow at twelve o'clock.

Mr. Canning has but this moment received Mr. Monroe's note.

London, Sept. 16th, 1807.

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

SIR—I had the honor to receive your letter of July 6, by Dr. Bullus, on the 21st ult. and did not lose a moment in entering on the business committed to me by it in the manner which seemed most likely to obtain success. The details shall be communicated to you in my next dispatch. All that I can state at present is, that the whole subject has been placed fully before this government in as strong an appeal to its interest and judgment as I could make, & that as a week has elapsed since my official note was presented, I am in daily expectation of receiving its decision on it. The moment is in many views very favorable to a satisfactory result, but still it is not in my power, from any thing that has occurred, to speak with confidence of it. The joint negotiation committed to Mr. Pinney and myself was suspended by the intelligence of the affair with our frigate, and has never been revived. That intelligence reached this about a week after Mr. Purviance, so that we had only been able, with the utmost diligence, to take the preliminary step of presenting to Mr. Canning, in conformity, to our instructions, a project, & of explaining to him, in the most minute and comprehensive manner that we could, every circumstance appertaining to it. No answer was given to our communication. The suspension, therefore, of the negotiation was imputable to Mr. Canning; had he answered our communication and proposed to proceed in the negotiation, it would have become a question for the commission to have decided how far it would have been proper under existing circumstances, to comply with the invitation; his silence, however, relieved us from that dilemma.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, Sir, your most obedient servant.

JAMES MONROE.

P. S. A copy of my note to Mr. Canning is enclosed.

(Continued in the last Page.)

STUBEN'S
Military Exercise,
Est. sale at this Office.