



AND

North-Carolina State Gazette.

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1810.

No. 543

AMERICAN NAVY.

MR. GILES'S SPEECH.

In the Senate of the U. S. on the Bill for fitting out, &c. all the frigates belonging to the United States.

Mr. Giles said the bill under consideration grew out of the President's message of the 5th inst. In that message, the President recommends a system of preparatory measures to meet any exigencies that may await this country...

and that after completing the frigates now proposed to be repaired, the establishment will then be less by three frigates, than was thought proper and reasonable by the republicans at that time.

Since that time the U. States have been blessed with a vast increase of population, a vast increase of wealth, particularly mercantile wealth, and increase of revenue, &c. At the same time with an unexampled diminution of public debt, and withal, they have in the mean time had their rights, commercial rights particularly, assailed by both the great belligerents of Europe without any prospect of relaxation from either, &c.

These measures required enormous expences; taxes were imposed on the people, to defray them; and when they were informed, that these expences were intended to procure energy, they did not believe that they were in want of any such energy.

Under these circumstances, the committee were left to the alternatives either of giving up these frigates to entire decay and destruction, or to substitute new ones in their stead under all the disadvantages of increased expence, delay in fitting, and the inconvenience of fitting them of unseasoned timber, &c.

had assumed an unwise position. He said he was equal yaverse from incurring expence, or devising expedients, merely to procure ideal energy for the government; and from an undue relaxation of its powers, stimulated by a visionary philanthropy, in a vain pursuit of the extension of individual liberty beyond the susceptibility of human nature...

Mr. G. said, the second consideration which induced the committee to report the bill, was to employ the frigates as instruments of protection and defence, and even of annoyance in the event of war.

Mr. G. said, he should avail himself of that occasion to exhibit his views on the question of peace or war. He was induced to do this because his views upon that question had been misunderstood, or at least misrepresented to the public...

dispute between two nations, war was at the option of either party; peace was not—peace required the consent of both. Whilst, therefore, war may be in our power, peace may be beyond our control. G. Britain may make war upon us; and it is our most imperious duty to be prepared to meet it.

It is known that the inefficiency of the commercial regulations of the several States, and the extremely inconvenient influence of the conflicting systems of the different States upon each other, first suggested the necessity of a General Government, for the purpose of regulating commerce by one uniform and efficient system...

Mr. G. said that this view of the subject was addressed with peculiar force to the commercial parts of the U. States—and this state of things if persevered in by G. Britain, must and will awaken them, in spite of all their prejudices, to a sense of their own danger and interest; and whenever that shall be the case, they must and will unite in measures of protection and redress.

Mr. G. said it was astonishing to him how gentlemen, representing the commercial parts of the U. S. could ever for a moment suppose, that himself, or the people in the scene of country from which he came, could desire to enter into an unnecessary war with G. Britain.

Mr. G. said he thought war justifiable only in case of self defence. That as he had often done before on that floor, he now solemnly protested against war merely for the acquisition of territory, or any other object of aggrandisement or ambition; but what is a war of self-defence? When any attribute of national sovereignty whatever, is attacked by a foreign power, it then becomes a case of self-defence to the party attacked.

Mr. G. said he would now bestow some observations on the objection of expence. This point afforded an argument always powerful, and for some years past irresistible. It is said, 600,000 dollars, the contemplated expence for equipping all the frigates, is enormous; he said it was so; and no gentleman regretted the necessity of incurring this and other similar expences, more than himself.