



AND

## North-Carolina State Gazette.

Once are the plans of fair delightful Peace,  
Unwarped by party rage, to live like Brothers.

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### LETTER

FROM Mr. RHEA, OF TENNESSEE,  
To his Constituents.

Washington, Feb. 25, 1811.

It appears that during the year ending the 30th Sept. 1810, \$668,861 dollars 17 cents, have been paid into the treasury, making, with \$5,828,936 dollars 1 cent, the balance in the treasury on the 1st October, 1809, an aggregate of \$14,517,797 dollars 18 cents, to meet the expenses of the year 1810; that the disbursements during the same year, consisted of the following items: that is to say, civil department and expenses incident to intercourse with foreign nations 1,249,200 dollars, 4 cents; military and Indian departments, 2,514,523 dollars, 75 cents; navy, 1,674,735 dollars, 50 cents; interest on the public debt, 2,735,898 dollars, 91 cents; total current expenses, 8,174,358 dollars, 22 cents; payment on account of the principal of the public debt, 2,884,409 dollars 24 cents; amounting together, to 11,058,767 dollars, 46 cents; leaving in the treasury on the 30th of September, 1810, a balance of 3,459,029 dollars, 72 cents.

It appears, that during the nine years and a half ending on the 30th of Sept. in the same year, there have been paid near \$7,700,000 dollars of the public debt, exclusively of more than 6,000,000 of dollars, paid in conformity with the convention with Great-Britain and the Louisiana convention.

From the establishment of land offices in the year 1800 for sale of public lands north of the Ohio, to the 30th Sept. in the year 1810 it appears there have been sold 3,168,060 acres, which have produced 6,681,000 dollars.

Appropriations for the service of the year 1811, are estimated: that is to say for the civil list, 688,360 dollars 61 cents; for miscellaneous expense, 471,958 dollars, 12 cents; for intercourse with foreign nations, 128,892 dollars, 67 cents; for the military and Indian departments, 2,791,609 dollars 80 cents; for the naval establishment including the marine corps, 1,170,274 dollars, 5 cents; being 5,900,595 dollars, 23 cents.

The consideration of the locality of that part of Louisiana lying west of the Perdido river, south of the Mississippi territory, and east of the Iberville, will manifest a necessity that the U. States shall occupy and hold that country. In this, the State of Tennessee is particularly interested, by reason of that country including the Mobile and other outlets to the ocean. Louisiana in the hands of the French, before the treaty of 1762, extended to the river Perdido; in the following year, the British by treaty obtained the country, which they divided into two provinces, East & West Florida. By the treaty of 1783, the provinces of East and West Florida were ceded to Spain, and Spain re-annexed the country west of the Perdido to Louisiana; afterwards Spain by the treaty of St. Ildefonso, of 1800 ceded to France the territory of Louisiana "with the same extent that it now has in the hands of Spain, and that it had when France possessed it;" and by the treaty of Paris of 1803, France ceded the territory of Louisiana to the U. States forever, in full sovereignty, with all its rights and appurtenances, as fully and in the same manner, as they have been acquired by France in virtue of the treaty with Spain.

A law is made to enable the people of the territory of Orleans to form a constitution and state government, and for the admission of such state into the union on an equal footing with the original states, and for other purposes. The following boundaries are prescribed for the State of Orleans: beginning at the mouth of the river Sabine, thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of said river, including all islands to the 32d degree of latitude, thence due north to the northernmost part of the 32d degree of north latitude, thence along the said parallel of latitude to the river Mississippi, thence down the said river to the river Iberville, and from thence along the middle of the said river, and lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain to the gulph of Mexico, thence bounded by the said gulph to the place of beginning, including all islands within three leagues of the coast. The state, prescribed by the law, will be great in the union, by reason of large extent of territory and consequent population, and be-

cause it embraces the junction of the river Mississippi with the ocean; down that river will pass the products of the western states.

French revolution commenced; and might have been better for other nations, if the people of France had been suffered to have settled their own government in their own way. It was otherwise directed. The attempt to arrest the progress of that revolution, hath eventually been the cause of the overthrow of governments, and of ruin to the neutral rights of nations not implicated in the war of revolution.

The king of G. Britain and the Emperor of Russia, on the 25th of March, in the year 1793, made a convention, the 4th article whereof provides, that their majesties engage to unite all their efforts to prevent other powers not implicated in the war, from giving, on this occasion of common concern to every civilized nation, any protection whatever directly or indirectly, in consequence of their neutrality, to the commerce or property of the French on the sea, or in the French ports." A similar article is contained in the several treaties made in the same year, by and between the king of Great-Britain and the King of Spain; between the King of Great-Britain and the King of Prussia; and by and between the King of Great-Britain and the Emperor of Austria.—The 4th article of the convention first alluded to, fixed the principle of hostility against the commerce of neutral nations. Against the operation of the first convention, the French government resented, and on the 9th of May, the same year, issued a decree authorizing French armed vessels to arrest and bring into the ports of the republic, vessels laden with provisions destined for an enemy's port; and on the 23d of the same month, issued another decree exempting American vessels from the decree of the 9th. In the month of June in the same year, additional instructions were issued by the British government to the commanders of ships of war and privateers, to stop and detain all vessels laden wholly or in part, with corn, flour or meal, bound to any port in France, or any port occupied by the armies of France. The system of hostility against the rights of neutral nations then progressed; several other decrees and instructions restraining the rights of neutral nations, were issued by the belligerents before the year 1806; they were of minor importance in comparison with edicts which the belligerents afterwards issued. The system of proclamation or nominal blockade, begun in violation of natural law, and of the definition of legal blockades laid down by the British government itself, directly intended the subversion of all neutral rights, to compel neutrals to abandon the ocean, or to become parties in the war. The blockade of May 16th, 1806, of the coast, from the river Elbe to Brest, inclusive; the blockade of May 1807 of the Elbe, Weser and Ems, and the blockade of January 1808, of Carthage, Cadiz and St. Lucar, and of all the intermediate ports, are a part of that system.

On the 21st of November 1806, the Emperor of France issued his Berlin decree, prefixing the following declaration thereto: "The present decree shall be considered as the fundamental law of the empire, until England has acknowledged that the rights of war are the same on land as at sea; that it cannot be extended to any private property whatever, nor to persons who are not military; and until the right of blockade be restrained to fortified places, actually invested by a competent force." By the Berlin decree the British islands are declared in a state of blockade; all commerce & correspondence with them is prohibited; all magazines, merchandise or property whatever, belonging to a British subject, shall be declared lawful prize; the trade in English merchandise is forbidden; all merchandise belonging to England, or coming from its manufactories and colonies, is declared lawful prize. No vessel coming directly from England, or from the English colonies, or having been there since the publication of the present decree, shall be received in any port. Every vessel contravening the above clause by means of a false declaration, shall be seized, and the vessel and cargo confiscated as if they were English property. The Berlin decree is another part of the system of proclamation blockade.

On the 11th of November, 1807, the British government issued Orders in Council, declaring that all the ports of

France, of her allies, and of any other country at war with England, and all other ports in Europe from which, although not at war with England, the British flag is excluded, and all ports in the colonies belonging to his Majesty's enemies, should thenceforth be considered as if the same were actually blockaded; that all trade in articles of the produce and manufacture of the said countries shall be unlawful, and every vessel trading from or to the same countries or colonies, together with all goods and merchandize on-board, shall be captured and condemned. By the Orders in Council of the British government of the 25th of November, 1807, it is provided in the regulations thereof, that the commerce of the United States, bound from their own ports to its legal and ordinary markets, shall pass through British ports, shall there in all cases take clearances from British officers, shall in some cases obtain special licences, and in others pay a direct and avowed tax or tribute to the British government.

On the 17th day of December, in the year 1807, the Emperor of France issued his Milan Decree, declaring every ship to whatsoever nation it may belong, that shall have submitted to be searched by an English vessel, or to a voyage to England, or shall have paid any tax whatever to the English government, is thereby and for that alone, declared to be denationalized, to have forfeited the protection of its King and to have become English property; whether the ships thus denationalized by the arbitrary measures of the English government enter into our ports or those of our allies, or whether they fall into the hands of our ships of war or privateers, they are declared to be good and lawful prize. The British Islands are declared to be in a state of blockade both by land and sea. Every ship of whatever nation, or whatsoever the nature of its cargo so may be, that sails from the ports of England or those of the English colonies, and of countries occupied by English troops, and proceeding to England or to English colonies, or to countries occupied by English troops, is good and lawful prize, and may be captured by our ships of war or privateers: these measures shall cease to have any effect with respect to all nations who shall have the firmness to compel the English government to respect their flag.

By these edicts of nominal blockade, the greatest part of the civilized world was by the belligerents placed in a state of blockade, against the neutral commerce of the U. States.

In the month of April 1808, Orders in Council by the British government were issued, encouraging citizens of the United States to violate the Embargo.

The foregoing view of the edicts of Great-Britain and of France, is taken to discover how, when and from what source, originated the violations of the rights of neutral nations; and by what means, and for what purpose they have been continued against the neutral commerce of the United States. Universal commercial monopoly, and to support it, marine sovereignty, is the avowed practical object of Great-Britain; the subserviency or subversion of the commerce of all other maritime nations is necessary to that object: re-action consequently is the object of all other maritime nations.

In this war of edicts, hostile to the rights of neutral nations, France declares his edicts are in retaliation against Great-Britain, & that they would cease to have effect and be null as soon as the English abide again by the principles of the law of nations, which are also the principles of justice and honor. Great-Britain also declares his edicts are in retaliation against France, and that he is compelled to resort to them in consequence of the measures adopted by his enemy, and would revoke them when his enemy revoked his.—The United States are charged by G. Britain with subjecting their commerce to spoliation, because they do not resist the edicts of France. The U. States are charged by France with subjecting their commerce to spoliation, because they do not resist the edicts of Great-Britain. By the operation of these hostile edicts, the neutral commerce of the U. States was subjected to destruction and became a prey to violence and rapine. Vessels with their cargoes amounting in value to several millions of dollars, belonging to citizens of the U. States, have been captured in consequence of the edicts of France. Ves-

sels with their cargoes amounting in value to many millions of dollars, owned by citizens of the U. States, have been captured in consequence of the edicts of Great Britain: several thousand seamen of the U. States impressed by G. Britain, are detained in captivity on board his ships of war. The frigate Chesapeake, a national ship, was attacked, and without resistance, subdued by an armed ship of Great-Britain, and in that attack several innocent seamen of the United States were murdered. The impressment of their seamen, the unprovoked attack on their national ship, and the murder of their citizens affect the sovereignty of the United States.—The wrongs done by the belligerents are the more atrocious, because done against an innocent neutral nation, whose object was, and is, to be at peace with all the world.

Whatever question Great-Britain and France may have made respecting the retaliating principle of their edicts is with them to settle. In the edicts of France, or in the edicts of G. Britain the United States at no time acquiesced. Frequent remonstrances have been made by the United States against the edicts, and the extension of them, in violation of their neutral commerce. The restoration of impressed seamen to liberty and their country, hath been frequently required, and they are yet in a state of captivity. Indemnification for spoliation on commerce hath often been demanded, and it is not rendered. Atone-ment for the murderous attack on the Chesapeake, hath been required, and it is not made. An arrangement was made with the British Minister, Mr. Erskine, and the British government refused to ratify it. Negotiations with the British Government hath been continued without producing any effect, except that of long experienced disappointment.

The violations of the neutral rights of the United States, committed by G. Britain, produced the act of Congress of April 1806, called the non-importation law; whereby certain enumerated articles were prohibited to be imported into the U. States from the British dominions. The principle effect of that law was, it caused the British government to use deceptive appearances of amity, to induce a suspension of it, and it was suspended for a time. Information having been received in the United States, that a construction was given to the Berlin decree, in consequence of which French armed vessels were authorized to capture, without exception, in neutral vessels, English property, or merchandize of English growth or manufacture, and it being well understood about the same time, that the British orders in council of the 11th November 1807 had issued, the President of the U. States recommended an embargo, and the law laying the Embargo was enacted in December in the same year. During the existence of the embargo, a state of things occurred which gave rise to the non-intercourse law of the 1st of March 1809, and the force and effect of that law was prevented, as it related to G. Britain, by the arrangement of April in the same year, made with the British Minister, Mr. Erskine, which the British government refused to ratify.—That law afterwards expired on the 1st of May 1810.

Disturbed and harassed, robbed and plundered, their seamen captured, their people murdered, their sovereignty attacked, the United States outraged beyond all longer forbearance, determined to adopt a measure that might have effect; and on the 1st of May 1810, the memorable act was made concerning the commercial intercourse between the U. States and Great Britain and France, and their dependencies. The 1st section thereof provides, that from and after the passage of the act, no British or French armed vessel shall be permitted to enter the harbors or waters under the jurisdiction of the United States, except when they shall be forced in by distress, by the dangers of the sea, or when charged with dispatches or business from their government. The 4th section of the law provides, that in case either Great Britain or France shall, before the 3d of March next, so revoke or modify her edicts, as that they shall cease to violate the neutral commerce of the United States, which fact the President of the United States shall declare by proclamation; and if the other nation shall not, within three months thereafter so revoke or modify her edicts in like manner then the 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th,

8th, 9th, 10th and 18th sections of the act entitled "An act to interdict the commercial intercourse between the U. States and Great Britain and France and their dependencies, and for other purposes," shall, from and after the expiration of three months from the date of the proclamation aforesaid, be revived, and have full force and effect, so far as relates to the dominions, colonies and dependencies, and to the articles of the growth, produce or manufacture of the dominions, colonies and dependencies of the nation thus refusing or neglecting to revoke or modify her edicts in the manner aforesaid, and the restrictions imposed by this act shall from the date of the proclamation, cease, and be discontinued in relation to the nation revoking or modifying her edicts in the manner aforesaid.

The President of the U. States in pursuance of that law, issued his proclamation on the 2d day November, in the year 1810, and after reciting the 4th section of the law, states: "And whereas it has been officially made known to this government, that the edicts of France violating the neutral commerce of the United States, have been so revoked as to cease to have effect, on the 1st of this present month: Now, therefore, I James Madison, President of the United States, do hereby proclaim, that the said edicts of France have been so revoked as that they ceased, on the said 1st day of the present month, to violate the neutral commerce of the U. States; and that from the date of these presents, all the restrictions imposed by the aforesaid act shall cease, and be discontinued in relation to France and her dependencies."

The secretary of the treasury, on the 2d day of November, issued a circular to the collectors of the customs, wherein, after notifying them of the proclamation of the President of the United States, and that French armed vessels may be admitted into the harbors and waters of the United States, any thing in the act of the first of May last, to the contrary notwithstanding, he states, "it also follows that if Great Britain shall not, on the second of February next have revoked or modified in like manner, her edicts violating the neutral commerce of the United States, the 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 18th sections of the act to interdict the commercial intercourse between the United States and Great Britain and France and their dependencies, and for other purposes," shall, in conformity with the act first above mentioned, be revived, and have full force and effect, so far as relates to Great Britain and her dependencies, from and after the said 2d day of February next. Unless therefore you shall, before that day, be officially notified by this department of such revocation or modification you will, from and after the said day, carry into effect the abovementioned sections, which prohibit both the entrance of British vessels of every description into the harbors and waters of the United States, and the importation into the U. States of any articles of the growth, produce or manufacture of the dominions, colonies and dependencies of Great Britain, and of any articles whatever brought from the said dominions, colonies and dependencies."

The law of 1st of May, is bottomed on principles of strict neutrality. At the time it was enacted whether Great Britain and France, or either of them, would agree to the proposition there- by offered, was unknown; that law, therefore is impartial. Copies of it were immediately sent to the ministers of the United States at Paris and London, with intent that the governments of Great Britain and France might have the earliest notice thereof, and take the measures thereon they respectively might think proper. Great Britain and France had equal power of election, either a friendly intercourse or non-intercourse with the U. States. The President of the United States hath proclaimed the fact, that France hath revoked or modified his edicts so that they have ceased to violate the neutral commerce of the United States. The collectors of the customs have been instructed conformably thereto, in pursuance of the law. The 2d day February is past. It doth not appear that Great Britain, on that day, had revoked or modified his edicts so that they have ceased to violate the neutral commerce of the United States; it follows that the said sections of the act alluded to are revived,