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Political.

FROM THE ALBANY REGISTER.

COMMENTS,

On the Diplomatic Abuses and Anti-American Doctrines of Timothy Pickering.

No. I.

An honest heart is the surest standard of moral rectitude; what gives it pleasure is consonant with that divine principle implanted by God in the breast of man...

In reading Mr. Pickering's last appeal to the people, what must have been the feelings of the upright men of all parties to view an American born citizen, a gentleman who has held under the government of the United States eminent military and civil offices...

In the numbers XVI and XVII of his appeals to the people, published in the Gazette of Albany, Mr. Pickering informs us, that the result of his observations, since he occupied a seat in the Senate of the U. States, enabled him to assume it as a notorious fact, that our rulers had evinced a manifest partiality in favor of France...

neutrality and peace; on the contrary, she is bound to avoid every hostile act, except in her own defence, when unjustly attacked. When she meets a belligerent armed vessel it is her duty (according to Mr. Pickering's code) to make known her neutral character to prevent the shedding of innocent blood...

Such are the desperate, curious notions of Mr. Pickering, relative to the question on the law of nations arising from the late engagement, and they are the only ones contained in his voluminous communications, which I intend to expose, my single object being to wipe off from the first pages of the history of our navy, the filth which the last degree of political wickedness and the extremity of faction spouts upon them.

In matters of maritime affairs and dominion, Mr. Pickering ought certainly to receive as evidence those rules by which the political and judiciary system of Great-Britain have always been determined, and as they suit admirably our purpose, they must be heard.

Charles the 2d, maintained by his proclamation, dated the 8th of February, 1657, the principles already established by his predecessors, and order-

ed his men of war to apprehend and seize all foreign vessels hovering and roving near his harbours or coasts with a view to hinder or divert the commerce, in order to bring the trespassers to condign punishment.

These principles have been confirmed and applied to the dominion of England in America by the treaty of peace and neutrality between the crowns of France and Great-Britain, concluded at London, November 16, 1657. By that instrument, called by the English civilians 'the American treaty,' both kings agree to retain themselves all the dominions, rights and pre-eminences in the American seas, roads, coasts and other waters whatsoever, in as full and ample manner as of right belongs to them...

By another American treaty between England and Spain, concluded at Madrid, July 8, 1670, the pre-eminence, right and dominion whatsoever, of both parties, in the American seas, straits and waters, whatsoever, are saved by both parties in the most full and ample manner.

By the treaty of Westminster, 1673, the Dutch have acknowledged the pre-eminence of England on the British seas, and have condescended to salute her flag.

Louis the XIV. of France was indignant at the pretension of England; to call British the seas which bathed his shores, and would not suffer even that the channel should be called English. All his successors to the present time have inhaled the same abhorrence for that doctrine; but their opposition notwithstanding the British hydrographers continue to call British all the seas which they consider as belonging to the maritime dominion of Great Britain.

I find in no ancient diplomatic instrument, the extent of the naval dominion of England in America, which was certainly very ample according to the treaty of 1686. But the treaty of peace between the U. States of America and his Britannic Majesty, signed the 3d May, 1783, has settled definitively that point between them and him.

Now if England, by her diplomacy, her laws, and more so by her power, has maintained her dominion and jurisdiction over the seas which surround her empire and her colonies: If by the acquiescence of several states, her pretensions are become the law of nations, whenever she could enforce them, and if she has made to the United States an absolute cession of her rights and pre-eminence, within a line which includes the islands situate at the distances of twenty leagues from their shore—how can the conduct of a frigate which was protecting, agreeable to the ancient custom of the British navy, our maritime jurisdiction, be called unwarrantable? And how can the chastisement given to the subjects of England, who refused to acknowledge our pre-eminence on our seas, and who troubled our commerce, be called murder? The Little Belt was hovering and roving on our coasts with a number of other vessels of her nation, to snap the vessels of our friends and our own, under the most frivolous pretexts, and to kidnap our men.

Let every patriot then confess that it is really a fortunate circumstance that Commodore Rodgers whether he acted by instruction, or by the native impulse of a noble sentiment of dignity, which no man who has not had to defend the honor and the interest of his country can feel in all its fervor—should have entered with the thunder of his cannon, such a gallant preservative protest against the violation so often made by England herself, of a right which she has relinquished to the United States, without any restriction or reserve, and which forms an integral and unalienable part of our national sovereignty.

I have endeavored by these comments to establish the naval dominion and pre-eminence of the U. States, on strong diplomatic ground, and to convict of inconsistency and want of information, one of the warmest supporters of the British doctrine, on the whole extent of this immense continent. And I shall in another communication attempt to demonstrate by other public documents, and by the existing military laws and customs of the governments, who oppose to the pretensions of England the modern laws of nations, that independent of the natural and acquired rights which we hold against that power, the conduct of our frigate has been in every other respect, perfectly neutral, correct and honorable.

intellectual faculties, or private institutions enrich his mind.

Mr. Pickering having thought proper to sanction his writings with the authority of his name, I have been induced, to be fairly at issue with him, tho' with less fame and talent, to sign also my comments, which are the result of my researches and studies in the department of foreign affairs of France, and of the observations which I have had an opportunity to collect during diplomatic missions at different courts of Europe.

EDMOND CHARLES GENET, A Citizen of New-York. Prospect Hill, Aug. 20.

North-Carolina: Treasury Office, Aug. 31, 1811. The acknowledged faithful and punctuality of the Revenue Officers of the State addressed, for years past, would seem to supercede the necessity of reporting to the usual course of this reminding those concerned, that the time fixed by law for paying the taxes and other public dues of the current year is now at hand.

TO BE SOLD, A TRACT OF LAND Situate on the Yadkin River, in Montgomery county, about 6 miles above the Narrows. CONTAINING ABOUT 1100 Acres, with two excellent Fisheries on it, several Islands well adapted for the cultivation of corn, wheat, cotton, and tobacco, with tolerable buildings, and convenient out-houses and a Cotton Machine on it.

State of North-Carolina, Mecklenburg County, August Term, 1811. Robert Porter, vs. James Porter, James Harrigan and wife, John Vauus & wife, Ebenezer Smith and wife. Petition for distributive share of the Real Estate of Robert Porter, deceased.

State of North-Carolina, Mecklenburg County, August Term, 1811. Walter Faires, vs. Samuel Wilson. Original Attachment. IT having been made appear to the Court that the defendant in suit resides without the limits of this State, it is therefore Ordered, that notice be given in the Raleigh Register, for three weeks successively, that unless he appear at the next Court to be held for the County of Mecklenburg, at the Court-house in Charlotte, on the fourth Monday in November next, to answer, plead or reply, judgment pro confesso will be taken, and the cause heard ex parte against him.—Test.

State of North-Carolina, WARREN COUNTY Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions—August Term, 1811. Robert R. Johnson, vs. Solomon Towns, Wm McMasters & Rebecca his wife, Gideon Towns, Hardy Towns, Herbert Towns and Nancy Towns. Petition for Division of Lands.

IT appearing satisfactorily to the Court, that Solomon Towns, one of the defendants in this case, is an inhabitant of the State of Georgia, and that Wm. McMasters and Rebecca his wife, are inhabitants of South-Carolina, and that Gideon Towns, an infant, is an inhabitant of Virginia, it is therefore Ordered, by the Court, that publication be made of this suit six weeks successively in the Raleigh Register, that unless the said Solomon Towns, Wm. McMasters and Rebecca his wife, and Gideon Towns, appear at the next County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, to be held for the County of Warren, at the Court-house in Warrenton, on the fourth Monday in November next, and answer, plead or demur, the petition will be taken pro confesso, and heard ex parte as to them.—Test. Wm. GREEN, c. c.