



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

Vol. XIII.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 1812.

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### IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FEBRUARY 13.

#### AMERICA and ENGLAND.

Mr. WHITBREAD said all agreed in the confession, that a war with America was to be deprecated, and all agreed in confessing that this event was but too probable. The British government, and the government of America, gentlemen well knew, had each, since the very beginning of the commercial and political discussions which had arisen between them, professed the most amicable and conciliatory dispositions. And yet it was strange, with all this professed friendly disposition on the part of Great Britain towards America, and with all this professed friendly disposition on the part of America towards Great Britain, the breach between the two countries had been widened, till they now saw, from the nature of the President's speech on the opening of Congress, that war must infallibly be the consequence of Britain persevering in that system to which she had adhered for the last five years. To this point they had now come, and the case between the governments of Britain and America was completely before the whole world, save and except the British Parliament. In America it was distinctly known by all men, how the question stood between that country and France, and between that country and Britain. If France it was equally well known how affairs were situated between that empire and America, and between America and Britain, and every person who chose to read a newspaper on the subject, might possess themselves of equal information. Now, then, he would be glad to know, why this information, so universally notorious, should be denied to the British House of Commons? The refusal ought to be justified on the grounds that if the papers were produced, secrets might be discovered injurious to the public interests; that the governments with which we were negotiating had an extreme dislike to these disclosures; that they had impeded, or would impede, negotiations, and a number of other and similar pleas. But in the present instance, there were no such pleas to urge. He asked for nothing more than was contained in the two books now in his hands, printed by order of the American Congress. He could not, at present, refer to them as Parliamentary documents, but, he would say, he saw in these papers great reasons to blame the persons engaged in carrying on the negotiations with America. Feeling this, it was impossible to be satisfied with the situation in which they were placed, debarred, as a House, being in that character ignorant of the facts, from charging those with misconduct to whom, in his opinion, misconduct was so justly imputable. The right honorable gentleman opposite (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) had declared to them, that he would counsel this country to bear with more from America than from any other state. Then it followed, if he was right in this opinion, that they ought also to have been more strictly observant of punctilious decorum and respect towards America than towards any of the old powers of Europe. But he was sorry to say, so far from this having been the case, it would be shewn by the papers, if produced, that the greatest inattention had been displayed towards the American Ministers; so great indeed, as to amount to diplomatic incivility to those employed in this country, and to the most unconciliating spirit towards those in America, with whom communications were carried on since the time of Mr. Erskine. Having read the whole of the correspondence, although deprived of the means of referring to it as an official document, he was compelled to say, that, in his opinion, both the instructions to Mr. Foster by his government, or the manner in which he carried these instructions into execution, had failed to effect either conciliation or amity. There was also another correspondence, which he had in vain moved for last session, between our minister for foreign affairs (Marquis Wellesley) and Mr. Pinkney, which had been carried on with like success, and terminated in the American minister's leaving this country. Of Mr. Pinkney he need say little: he was a man of sound sense and judgment, of an able and acute mind, and of the highest reputation. He was a man who had conducted himself during his residence in

this country, in a manner the most honorable to himself, and likely to benefit both nations. At all times, taking the most impartial view of the different interests concerned, his conduct, though firm, had been most conciliatory. Without losing sight of the claims of the country with which he was entrusted, he had at all times approached the ministers with whom he was in treaty with respect, attention and deference. Firm to his purpose, and able to elucidate the subjects under discussion, he had never failed either in time, punctuality, or mode of procedure in his mission. He would be glad to say as much for those with whom Mr. Pinkney had intercourse. But it was not so, and it was impossible to say that gentleman had been treated with the proper and punctilious ceremony he merited by the Marquis Wellesley. At the period when this correspondence commenced, a great soreness prevailed in America, on account of the rupture with Mr. Jackson. The feelings of that country were in a state of extreme irritation; and this topic was the subject of Mr. Pinkney's first letter to the noble Marquis. One would have thought at such a time that a minister would have felt that no want of decorum or attention on his part, should be superadded to augment the unpleasant feeling already too prevalent; but it so happened that to this very letter of Mr. Pinkney, of the 2nd January, on the subject of another minister's being appointed in the room of Mr. Jackson, no answer was returned until the 14th of March. Upwards of two months of precious time were wasted, during which Mr. Pinkney, aware that some time might be necessary, waited with the most patient respect and decorum. On the 15th of February the American Minister again wrote to the British Secretary, on the subject of our blockade, one of the most important in discussion, and in all its bearings, between the two countries. To this no answer was returned till March 2. Again, on the 30th of April, Mr. Pinkney addressed a letter to Lord Wellesley, relative to the Berlin and Milan Decrees, which were considered as the chief source of all existing differences, and therefore merited the most earnest and immediate attention; but to this letter no answer was ever returned. On the 3d of May following, another letter was sent to our Foreign Secretary, complaining of the forging of ship papers, carried on in London, by which British ships and property were made to appear as American. This traffic was alleged to be openly and notoriously carried on, and it was not possible to conceive one more infamous to the nation where practised, or injurious to the country against which it was directed. Yet this charge of infamy against Britain, this injustice and injury to America, was passed over in utter silence, and no answer whatever to the letter was returned. On the 23d June, Mr. Pinkney again wrote, referring to his letter of the 30th April, on the subject of the Berlin and Milan decrees, and requesting an answer; but no answer was returned. On the 7th of July, he wrote again relative to the appointment of a minister in the room of Mr. Jackson, (his first subject on the 2d January), and even at this distance of time received no official answer, but merely a verbal assurance or private note, that a minister would immediately be sent out. On the 8th of August, Mr. Pinkney once more wrote, referring to his letters of the 23d June and 30th April, but could obtain no answer. On the 21st August, he again by letter pressed the subject of blockade, but could obtain no answer. On the 25th of the same month he again wrote to state the revocation of the Berlin and Milan decrees, and to this communication our Minister at length condescended to send a reply. The next part of the correspondence was another letter from Mr. Pinkney, relative to a misapprehension of Sir James Saumarez, on the nature of the blockade at Elsinour, and the impressing of certain seamen from an American ship. To the former subject an answer was returned; but of the latter no notice was taken. He had indeed been much surprised at the whole course of this correspondence, but at this particular period his astonishment was greater than ever. That a subject so keenly felt by America, as the impressing of her citizens, should be entirely passed over in silence, was beyond all former neglect and inattention. All the world knew that this point was

the one on which the greatest difficulty existed in negotiating an amicable adjustment between the countries, and that our conduct towards American seamen stood more in the way of conciliation than any other matter whatever. Surely then such an opportunity ought not to have been neglected; surely it was the duty of the British Minister to show, by his speed and attention to the subject, that he was as anxious to evince the spirit of conciliation as to profess it, and that, knowing how fatal to the interests of this country a rupture with America would be, he would have eagerly embraced the opening presenting itself, to demonstrate our amicable intentions, and remove one of the sorest grievances complained of. But, no! reluctantly and coldly was the answer on this subject wrung forth—not from the noble secretary, not by letter from him, but practically by the discharge of these seamen, by Sir William Scott, in the court of admiralty, thereby acknowledging and declaring the right and justice of the claim urged off the part of America. This was the conciliation of the noble secretary, that he permitted the sentence of a court of justice to give a practical answer to a Foreign minister, whom he would not take the trouble of putting pen to paper to satisfy on so interesting a point. On the 21st of September, Mr. Pinkney found it necessary again to address the British government, and referring to his letters of 30th April, 23d June, and 8th August, on the subject of the Berlin and Milan decrees, he urged an immediate answer, as his government had long been in expectation of a communication on that head. Again, on the 8th and 10th December, he wrote, and with these letters concluded his correspondence, being unable to obtain any satisfactory information, and soon after he demanded his audience of leave of the Prince Regent. It was shortly subsequent to this period that the Prince Regent delivered a speech to Parliament, through his commissioners, in which the subject of America was alluded to. But the paragraph in which this allusion was contained, was, he must confess, expressed in very equivocal language. It stated the Regent's earnest wish to bring the discussions with America to an amicable termination. But wishes might exist where there was no hope, and this seemed to be the case here, where the speech from the throne induced a belief that negotiations were pending between the countries of which a favorable issue might be anticipated, when in fact there was no such thing, for the discussions for the time had terminated, and it was not a continuation, but a resumption of them which ensued in the negotiations opened by Mr. Foster. Some time after this, Mr. Foster had been sent out to America, and the correspondence between him and the government of the United States, had, as he before mentioned, been published. At the period of this mission, much was expected from it. It was thought that Mr. Foster had gone out with other and new powers beyond what had been intrusted to any preceding negotiator. But in this respect, expectation was grievously disappointed; for he carried with him to America only re-statements of points and matters which had been stated over and over again before, and to which he could receive no other answers but such as had before been as repeatedly given. From such a mission, it was indeed vain to look for any beneficial result. Nearly connected with the subject which it was now his earnest wish to impress upon the House, was that which involved the consideration of the Orders in Council. But from this he would entirely abstain, and the rather, as it would be brought under their view in a regular manner, in the course of a few days, on a notice given by an honorable friend of his (Mr. Brougham). He would not now stop to inquire whether the Orders in Council were wise and politic—whether those measures had ever been acted up to—whether it had ever been possible to carry them fully into effect. He would not now trouble the House with an investigation into the object and nature of the Berlin and Milan Decrees, or whether or not these decrees had been repealed—all these matters, as he had already stated, would come more fitly under discussion on the motion of his honorable friend; and he hoped with a better attendance than the present numbers in the House disclosed. The whole object and effect of the motion, with which it was his intention to conclude, was sim-

ply for information—for information to enable them to judge officially of the conduct of ministers, who, as he had all along apprehended, had brought this country to the verge of a war with America. From the whole tenor of their conduct, while professing conciliation and regard, such had been the result which he anticipated, and which their situation at this moment proved to be a suspicion but too well founded. Mr. Whitbread said he had detailed the order of the correspondence—he would now state the result. On the 5th November, as was generally known, the President of the United States sent the opening Message to Congress, and, on the 29th, the Report of what was called the Committee on Foreign Relations was made. The nature and tendency of these documents were apparent. There could be no doubt of the feelings which predominated in the American government and the mass of the people. Their view of the matter was clear and decided; and, from their tone, it was evident, the mission of Mr. Foster had been ineffectual; in point of fact, that it had terminated. In this condition stood matters at the present moment, and he could anticipate no good ground on which his motion could be refused; but he was aware of many arguments by which the House should be influenced to concur in pressing for the information he now demanded. He was aware that the papers he asked for were voluminous, and had no claim to novelty, and that therefore, it would be somewhat of a task to read them through. But their importance merited that attention, and they could expect no less voluminous documents on a question, which, like the present, had been protracted from year to year. He did not enter into the discussion, whether the Orders in Council were wise; whether America had acted with partiality towards France; whether she had shewn a hostile disposition to this country; whether the Orders in Council had been, or could be acted up to; no man could doubt that their result was the utmost commercial distress and difficulty. No man could doubt but that if the American market was opened to our manufactures, it would be a deep and signal blessing. No man could doubt that a war with that country would be a great evil, and that it was impossible to foresee the consequences. It was indeed an easy thing for gentlemen to talk (as gentlemen had talked, and others had written) of chastising America—of punishing her—and even of annihilating her. It was not in our power to punish America; by our former misconduct and mal-governments we had made her a great & independent power; and it was now ridiculous to talk of annihilation, which our greatest efforts were incompetent to accomplish; as for conciliation, if he had spoken forty eight hours sooner, he would have said the time for that was past. He would have thought that the Constitution frigate, which sailed from France with dispatches on the 9th of last month, had carried out the final determination of the relations between the countries. But within the short time he had mentioned there had been an arrival from America, which had excited sensations of a different nature, and created very sanguine hopes, in his opinion too sanguine. By this arrival it was understood, that a bill was in progress through Congress, by which all goods bona-fide American property, or which had been contracted for in this country previous to the 1st February, 1811, should be allowed to be imported freely into American ports. If this bill pass into a law, it must be obvious, according to the system of licensed fraud and perjury now, unhappily for the moral character of the country, introduced into the whole circle of British commerce, that any quantity of goods from Britain might be sworn to, and imported into America. The intelligence had excited a very great sensation in the mercantile world, and the joy to which it had given rise was a clear and sufficient proof of the extensive relief that would be given, were the ports of America to be wholly opened to British trade. But this could not be expected, while the baneful system of the Orders in Council was so obstinately persisted in—a system which was now deserted by its most sanguine advocates, and to approve of which there was now hardly one merchant to be found in the British empire—not one but would acknowledge that every hope they had entertained of any good result from these orders had been grievously & utterly disappointed. But he called for no

decision on these questions—information was his sole object. He confessed that America was very popular with him. He had ever looked to her conduct with reverence and respect, and considered the issue of her contest with this country as so noble a conflict deserved. He felt no jealousy of her greatness, for he was convinced, that with proper treatment, the more America flourished, the more might Britain be prosperous. It had been alleged that America had been swayed by a secret hostility against us. He denied that any such inference could be drawn. They had done no more than we or any other nation would have done in her situation. As the only neutral among contending powers, she had endeavored to avail herself of that condition—but so far was he from believing that she had been guided by injustice towards France, or towards Britain, he was free to state his firm and decided opinion that America had been treated with injustice both by Britain & France. France had demanded of America what was impossible for her to perform—and Britain had also required of her the performance of an impossibility. In this situation, after suffering as long as possible, she had at length resorted to measures of self-protection. But it was not till compelled to it by the belligerents that she adopted the embargo, and afterwards the non-intercourse act. It did not appear then that the charge of injustice was applicable to America, but to England and France. France, however was wise enough to be the first to recede from her unjust pretensions, and would consequently reap the benefit of concession, and conciliation. The news that had lately arrived from America offered a still more forcible inducement to the House to accord with his motion; for if the bill alluded to pass into a law, which would be beneficial to Britain, it would, no doubt, give umbrage to France, and they ought to be on the alert to take advantage of so favorable an opportunity, and restore peace and friendship between two countries, which ought, for their mutual welfare, to be ever firmly united. The hon. gentleman concluded by moving for the papers in question.

### LIST OF LETTERS

In the Raleigh Post Office, 31st March, 1812.

BARTLETT ALLEN, or Peleg Rogers, Wm. Andrews, Nelson Andrews, Briton Aycock, Peter Brown, John Brassfield, John Baucum, Sally Blackman, John Brown, Jacob Bledsoe, junr, Joseph Barber, James Brown, Jacob Bledsoe, or John Bledsoe, John Beidle, James Burrows, Mark Cook, G. Joseph J. Clinch, William Curtis, Mr. Cook, T. A. Curtis, Miss Mary H. Curtis, John Chevis, Nancy Chapman, Hinton Curtis, Lem Cook, Clerk of the Sup Court, Michael Dismukes, Benjamin Dunn, Josiah Dilard, Hardy Dean, David Dalton or Wm. Davis, Wain Evans, Warsham Ellington, Thomas Edwards, Abel Fairman, Peachy R. Gilmer, Henry A. Grizzard, Jno. Green, Andrew Glenn, Mary Hood, Archd Henderson, Henry Hill, Edward Hatfield, Theophilus Hunter 2, Jonas and Isham Hendon, David Hinton, Jude Johnson, Cadwallader Jones, Gideon Johnson, Maria C. Jones, Robert N. Jeffreys, Starling Johnson, Nicholas Jordan, F. Killingsworth or George Bell, Berry King, Hartwell King, Nicholas Lewis, John Lewis, Samuel F. Lambert 3, Joel Lane, Samuel Liles, William Love, Samuel Lowrie, Lewis Lashlee, Benjamin Lane, Miss Elizabeth Lewpour (at Willie Jones's)—Benj. Medearis, Martin Nall, Winna Norris, John Norris, John Nutt, Hinton Pugh, Thomas Price, James Peters, jun. Revd J. Purfoy, Robert Powell, Benjamin H. Rice, Isaac Rutan, Wilson Robinson, Mrs. A. Rice, Joseph Reasonour, John Riley, jun. Willington Richardson, Samuel Reaves, Malcolm Shaw, Littleton Sledge, Samuel Scarborough, Alsey Sanders, John Sanders (care of James Peters), Miss Elizabeth Still, Solomon Terrell 2, Joel Terrell, Woodson Vaden, Elizabeth Vandergrift, Wm. Vincent, Edward Varner, Robert Wynne, Randolph Webb 3, Nancy Williams, Hartwell Winn and Agnes McGee.

### Town Lots for Sale.

THE Commissioners appointed by an act of the last General Assembly, to lay off Town, &c. at Granville court-house, will offer for sale to the highest bidder, the lots of the town of Oxford, laid out pursuant to authority, on the premises, Thursday the 7th of May next. The sale will continue from day to day until all the lots are sold. The terms of sale are, bond with approved security, for the payment of the purchase Money on the 20th of April, 1813.

### THE COMMISSIONERS.

STRAYED AWAY, FROM my Plantation, near Tarboro', on the night of Tuesday the 31st of March, a BROWN BAY HORSE, upwards of 5 feet high, shod all round, and has the effects of a light founder. I expect he will make his way for Hillsboro', as he was bred by Col. Sheppard, near that place. Any person securing or sending him to me, so that I get him, shall be liberally rewarded.

HENRY COTTEN, Tarboro', April 2, 1812. 3:55