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DEBATE

ON THE WAR WITH AMERICA, IN THE BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS, On the 18th of February.

Lord Castlereagh regretted the under the circumstances of the war, the additional calamity of the hostilities with America should have occurred. I was an evil that the war should be extended, but particularly so in this new direction, for he knew of none in which it could happen with less probability.

rant, however, to observe the comparative degree of interest which had been set forward in so prominent a manner. He could not avoid acknowledging, that the subjects of America, and the other neutral nations, must have incidentally suffered by the exercise of the rights of the belligerent powers. It was natural for them to feel a strong desire to protect their subjects from every inconvenience; and they had urged their claims with reasonable clamor, he would have thought it reasonable to have considered the measures which they manifested. At the same time it must be recollected, that the question to America was only of convenience or inconvenience:— whereas the question to this country was one of vital importance, touching the manner in which our maritime strength (upon which our security rested) had hitherto been upheld and maintained. We were, therefore, justified in viewing the subject with very different feelings with ut being justly liable to the charge of taking a high tone, and wishing to lord it over America as a superior nation. He conceived, that the American government had acted in an unworthy and discreditable manner, in taking a tone upon this subject not consistent with reason or good sense, and which went so directly to break that harmony between the two countries which it would be so desirable to preserve.— The American government had been pleased to assume, that a very considerable number of American seamen had been impressed on board our ships of war; and they had made out their list so far as to calculate them at 20,000. In order to give any colour to such a statement, they must assume, in the first place, that every man taken out of American ships was really an American seaman. The statement, however, was nothing like a true account. Altho' the whole number employed in our fleets amounted to 145,000, when the lords of admiralty, in January, 1811, called upon those sailors, who claimed to be American seamen, to declare themselves, there were only 3500 who pretended to be American seamen, and this year there were considerably less. When the truth of their allegations was examined, it did not appear that more than a fourth of those who claimed to be American seamen, could support their claim in any manner whatever. It was, indeed, reasonable to expect, that in the hopes of getting their discharge, many would have asserted themselves to be American seamen who were not. Instead of twenty thousand, it would therefore appear, that sixteen or seventeen hundred was the greatest number of American seamen which we could have in our navy. How could any rational person really believe that this country would go to war with America for the purpose of keeping such a small number of Americans in our fleet?— When the American government, however, set forward in such strong colors the number of American seamen impressed in our vessels, it was remarkable that all the maritime states of America from which those seamen must be supposed to be taken, denied the evil to have existed in any material degree, and disapproved of the war that was undertaken on that pretence. It was the agricultural states of the south, and the provinces on the Mississippi, who joined the President in this ground of war; but the public feeling of the maritime and commercial states of America was very evident from their not having given a single vote for that President who made the impressment of their seamen the great pretext of war. (Hear, hear.) He believed that it would be very evident, on the perusal of the papers, that this government had acted throughout in the spirit of conciliation and forbearance, but that no such dispositions were manifested on the part of the American government.

the assertions of the Noble Lord were correct as to the hostile dispositions of the American government, whose conduct was little influenced by European systems of politics. He contended, that the Orders in Council were, in fact, with them, the grounds of the declaration of war;— because the Noble Lord, in one of his very last dispatches to Mr. Foster, which was to be communicated in extenso to the American government, had pressed him not to encourage the most distant expectation that these Orders were to be given up, while in fact they were repealed before the dispatch arrived at its destination. He would appeal to that Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Foster) who had fulfilled with so much ability the instructions he had received, and had now a seat in that House, whether it was not his opinion, from his knowledge of the sentiments of the American Executive, that an earlier sacrifice of these Orders would have prevented hostilities? But the Noble Lord talked somewhat too lightly of 1600 Americans being in our Navy. He would ask, what would be the indignant feelings of the people of this country, if they knew that so many of their fellow citizens were forcibly compelled to serve in the navy of another power! Putting the case home to ourselves was, after all, the true way of viewing the question, and should induce us to make some allowance for the hostile feelings of America. The Hon. Gentleman then condemned the conduct of the war. He said that the American coast afforded great facilities for enforcing a blockade. In the Chesapeake, ships might lie at all times in perfect security; the same might be said of the Delaware, and nearly the same at N. York. Mr. A. Foster said, that as he had been particularly called upon by the honorable gentleman who spoke last, he would beg the indulgence of the House till he as briefly as possible delivered his sentiments on those particular points to which his attention had been called, as well as such others as might occur to him as likely to give any information to the House.— The honorable gentleman had asked his opinion on one point, viz. whether if the revocation of the orders in council, had been known in America before the declaration of war, such knowledge would not have prevented that declaration? This, he said, was a point on which he could not venture to give a decided opinion. It was certain, that in all his communications with Mr. Monroe, and the American government, great stress was laid on the orders in council, and he always looked on them as the grievance of which not only the government, but the American people, complained most heavily. At the same time there were various reports in circulation, of other matters of complaint, and contests were carried on between the several parties with great warmth. The war party, he believed, had taken great pains to keep alive and ferment every subject of dispute which had for many years incidentally arisen between the two countries. He tho't the government were not sufficiently masters of their own conduct; nor did he believe they could have prevailed on Congress last year, to have acted otherwise than they did. There were two parties in America that were very warm against this country. One of them had been in favor of the French revolution from its commencement, and were inclined towards the interests of France; the other was what is called the Anti-Anglican party, who were very active in bringing about the war with this country. Mr. Whitbread said, the House were much obliged to the hon. gentleman who had given them an account of matters which no one else could have done. For his own part, it was great consolation to him to hear from the hon. gentleman, that Mr. Madison and Mr. Monroe were

not, as they had been represented by ministers all French, but that both of them seemed disposed to conciliate. One part of the hon. gentleman's speech he wished had been omitted, viz. where he spoke of those who had warmly taken a part against the proceedings of this government, as nothing was more common than for men in public assemblies to be misunderstood and misrepresented. He and those with whom he had long acted, had often been thus misrepresented. He referred to the declaration of the Prince Regent, dated the 21st of April, 1812, in which it was said that nothing but the unconditional repeal of the French decrees would procure a repeal of the orders in council. It was from that period, probably, that the American government determined on war; yet he was of opinion, that after all the insults they received (hear! hear! hear!) if the repeal of the orders in council had reached them before the declaration of war, that war would have been prevented; and if the noble lord had acceded to the repeal when first pressed to it by his hon. friend (Mr. Brougham) the intimation would have arrived in time for that desirable purpose. He tho't that there would be considerable difficulty in adjusting the article as to the impressing the seamen, but he still hoped it might be effected by negotiation. He lamented, that with the immense navy of G. Britain against that of America, which consisted of only four frigates and a few sloops, two of our finest frigates were now in their possession, captured by only two of theirs, this was a reverse which English officers and sailors had not before been used to; and from such a contemptible navy as that of America had always been held, no one could suppose such an event could have taken place. Mr. W. Smith said, that upon the subject of impressment Mr. Monroe had personally expressed to him, his sense of the importance of that question. He would ask what G. Britain would say, if any foreign power maintained a right to search her ships for subjects? And surely a government who could submit to such a right was not fit to exist as such. Remarks on the above. In the Debates in the British Parliament on the war between the two nations, given to day, the respectable and able minority in that assembly have evinced a spirit of harmony and conciliation towards this country;— but it will be seen that they, like the ministry, are disposed to maintain in principle what they are pleased to term their right of impressment, tho' they appear willing to suspend its practical exercise. As to the ministerial party, who will no doubt continue in power, we cannot see in their speeches any ground to hope for a just peace in any short time. Their obstinacy in error is equal to the flagitiousness of their public crimes. Lord Castlereagh evinces his contempt for the rights and liberties of America, when he remarks that to the U. States the question of impressment was one of mere convenience or inconvenience. If he feels no regard for individual freedom, let him know that this precious gift is the brightest jewel which adorns the American bosom, and that this government will protect its seamen, as well as other citizens, in the enjoyment of it. Throughout his speech, the British Premier follows the Essex Juno in spirit and in argument. Our federal readers will perceive in the speech of Mr. Foster, the late British minister resident at Washington, in the House of Commons, an opinion expressed, that our executive could not have avoided the declaration of war, if they had been disposed to do it. This is British authority disproving the reiterated assertion of the federal papers, that a majority of the people were opposed to the war.

Mr. Foster thinks very differently; he believes that Congress and the nation were decidedly in favor of resisting English wrongs. He seems not to have believed the federal calumny about the French predilections of the American executive. None but political knaves, dupes and bigots believe the foul slander.—Balt. Amer. The following inferences may be drawn from the above debate, says the Editor of the National Advocate. It is acknowledged by the legislature of G. Britain, by its prime minister, that, at least, 1600 native citizens of the U. States had been impressed into the British naval service and were detained therein at the breaking out of the present war. 2. It is admitted by Mr. Foster, late British minister in this country, now a member of the House of Commons, that Mr. Madison does not belong to a French party in this country—that the administration is not influenced by France. 3. The reason assigned by the ministers for so long delaying the blockade of the Chesapeake and Delaware bays is, that it might have stopped the supplies of bread and corn to the Peninsula, and impeded the importation of British manufactures into this country. 4. The language held by them is precisely that of the opposition on the floor of Congress—that the eastern and maritime states have no interest in the war—that it was produced by the southern and agricultural sections of the Union, and the idea is held out of conquering us by division. 5. That though the orders in council were modified on the 23d of June, 1812, yet that the principle, upon which they were founded, was not thereby conceded, nor meant to be conceded—but that on the contrary, the right was distinctly maintained and reserved, and that commercial expediency was the sole ground upon which they were conditionally suspended. We will not anticipate the result of the reflections of our readers upon these inferences, since they are as obvious as important. The American Jack DON PALAFOX, The property of the Subscriber, will stand this season at the Plantation of Henry Seawell, in Wake County, three miles east of Raleigh, and will let to mares upon the following terms—four dollars the leap, six dollars the season, and to insure a mare with foal ten dollars. The prices of the leap and season to be paid on or before the 25th of December next, and that of the Insurance when the Mare is proved to be with foal, or the property changed or exchanged. The season to end on the 1st of August. EBENEZER NELMS. April 10. Officers of the 10th U. S. Infantry, Now on duty in this State, may have their Accounts for Pay, Subsistence and Forage, settled, on application to me in Raleigh. A. G. GLYNN, Paymaster 10th U. S. I. April 29. Sports of the Pitt. ON Tuesday the 18th next month, a COCK MAINE, for a considerable sum, will commence in the town of Lewinsburg, Franklin County, at the house of Johnson & Potter, wherein Gideon Alston and Tarleton Johnson are Competitors. April 29. Principal Rendezvous near Salisbury, April 20, 1813. Ten Dollars Reward. DESERTEd from the tenth Regiment of Infantry, in the Army of the United States, at Principal Rendezvous, near Salisbury, ROBERT WILLIAMS, a private Soldier, enlisted for the period of five years, six feet one inch high, of brown complexion, grey or hazel eyes, brown hair, and by occupation a blacksmith. He said he was born in King and Queen, Virginia. He wore away a drab coloured coat short in the waist, white hat, checked cotton homespun pantaloons. He stoops in his shoulders, has a down look, short spoken, and stutters when speaking in a hurry. The above reward will be given for the apprehension and delivery of the said Williams to any Officer in the Army of the U. States, or to me at this post. M. HARDEN, Captain of the 10th U. S. Infantry.