

Austrian Journals have stated. They say that the Pacha who is shut up in the citadel of Jannina, makes the most vigorous resistance to the Ottoman troops, and that he may hold out a long time. To the reiterated summons of the Turkish government, he has replied, that he will rather bury himself under the ruins of his fortress than ever surrender. It even appears that he has made some sallies, which have occasioned considerable loss.

THE DISCOVERY SHIPS.—Few particulars of their highly interesting voyage have yet transpired, the officers and crew of the Hecla confining themselves to casual observations until their commander shall have had his journal before the Lords of the Admiralty.—We understand, however, that Lieut. Parry entered by Lancaster Sound, proceeded over Capt. Ross's special chart of land, and reached, in the parallel of 74 or 75, 114 or 115 west, about 550 miles farther than Capt. Ross asserted the polar sea to be navigable. In 90, the ships fell in with islands, which continued successively till they reached the extreme westerly point of one in 115, where winter overtook them. They wintered in a snug bay in Lancaster Sound, and did not get clear of the ice till 5th Aug. this year. From October till February, or for about 100 days, they were in darkness; but with abundance of wholesome provisions and other requisite comforts, they passed the time very agreeably. The crew were amused with games of every kind, and occasionally they acted plays for mutual entertainment.—On the breaking up of the ice this season, attempts were made to proceed westerly, but immense barriers of ice from the polar sea to the northward shut up all hope of succeeding in the parallel of 74; and before they could return to the eastward and renew the attempt in a lower latitude, the navigable season, which is confined to August and a few days in September, offered no reasonable chance of succeeding this year; independent of which, provisions would not have held out in so precarious and dangerous a navigation for the winter, and the time they would certainly have been frozen up. The existence of a polar sea, to the westward of Hearn's river, is incontestably established; & experience has taught these hardy navigators, that, in the month of August, such a powerful radiation from the land takes place, as to render a channel sufficient to demonstrate the certainty of the existence of a northern passage, and that a practicable one, but not open to any possible commercial purposes. In 90, the compasses were useless on board—the attraction of the needle was extreme.—The crews of the vessels have conducted themselves as became men in such a momentous expedition. They have been particularly healthy, and returned to England with the loss of only one man, & that from a casualty; which is a high tribute to the discipline and care of the officers commanding, with the thermometer of Fahr. 55 deg. below zero, where the breath of every one, in his sleeping place, formed a sheet of ice over his head in the morning. The ships have been out for about 18 months, having sailed from Sheerness on the 18th May, 1819. Sunday last the commander, officers, seamen and marines, of his Majesty's ships employed on discovery in the Arctic regions, returned thanks to Almighty God, in the church of St. Mary-le-Strand, London, for the many mercies received during their perilous undertaking, and for their safe return to their native land.

LATEST FROM GIBRALTAR.

Charleston, Dec. 26.

By the brig Cervantes, Capt. White, arrived at this port Christmas Day, in 38 days from Gibraltar, we have the pleasing certainty of the Ratification of our Treaty with Spain, which cedes the Floridas to the United States. An official copy of the ratified treaty was sent by the brig Pleiades, which left Gibraltar on the 15th November, in company with the Cervantes. The certainty of the ratification is now placed beyond all doubt, as the gentlemen, passengers in the Cervantes, assure us of its correctness.

From the same source we learn that Italy was in a very disturbed state; every thing in that country wore a gloomy aspect; an Austrian army of 80,000 men was threatening to invade it. Many strangers of distinction from England had recently arrived there. Palermo and Sicily have followed the example of Naples.

Late accounts from the south of France indicated a very considerable degree of uneasiness and dissatisfaction as prevalent there, and a change in affairs anticipated by many.

The Algerines and Tunisians were at war; an Algerine fleet was off Leghorn in October. It was reported at Gibraltar that they had captured some American vessels, and our squadron, in consequence, left Gibraltar immediately.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, DEC. 28.

Mr. Anderson, from the committee on Public Lands, reported a bill giving further time for the payment for lands; and Mr. Smyth a bill for the reduction of the Army, which were twice read and committed.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, supplementary to his Annual Report; and also a letter, transmitting the estimates of expenditures for the year ensuing; which documents were referred to the committee of Ways and Means.

On motion of Mr. Williams, of N. C. it was resolved, that the committee on Military Affairs be instructed to enquire into the expediency of allowing to the officers of the army a salary, or stated sum of money per year, instead of the pay and emoluments as now allowed by law.

On motion of Mr. Mallory, the House proceeded to the consideration of the report of the Secretary of State on the expenses attending the execution of the 5th, 6th and 7th articles of the treaty of Ghent, made in pursuance of a resolution of this House.

Some conversation took place as to what committee should be referred the examination of this subject. Mr. Mallory proposed a select committee, another gentleman proposed the committee of foreign relations, &c.

In the course of the conversation—Mr. Cobb said it was time some enquiry should be made into the subject, for from this report it appeared that the survey of the Northern Boundary Line, under these articles of the treaty, was likely to cost the United States a pretty round sum—having already cost the government, as appeared by this report, only a hundred and ninety-five thousand dollars.

The subject was finally referred to a select committee.

Mr. Rich gave notice that, on Tuesday next, in case he should be able to obtain the floor, he should submit a proposition for instructing a proper committee to enquire into the expediency of prohibiting, prospectively, the importation of Distilled Spirits and Malt Liquors, and sundry manufactured articles, which come most in competition with domestic fabrics.

Mr. Lowndes submitted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the committee of Ways & Means be instructed to enquire into the expediency of providing that the notes of no bank by which notes below the amount of 5 dollars are, or may be issued, shall be taken in payment of duties or debts to the government of the United States.

In introducing the resolution, Mr. L. adverted to the viciousness of the currency where notes for dollars and parts of dollars supply the place of specie, as where such notes are issued they always will. He spoke also of the efforts made in some of the states, and now making in Virginia, to banish those notes from circulation—efforts which were always vain, so long as such notes were issued by neighboring states, &c. No authority but Congress, he contended, was competent to correct the evil in any manner; and the object of this resolution being for enquiry only, he did not anticipate any sound objection to its adoption.

A short debate took place on this subject, which would have grown into importance had the proposition been in an affirmative instead of an inquisitive shape. Agreed to.

FRIDAY, DEC. 29.

Mr. Anderson submitted for consideration the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of providing by law, at the present session of Congress, for the apportionment of the representation in Congress among the several states, according to the fourth enumeration of the People of the United States.

Mr. Anderson made a few remarks in favor of his motion. On most subjects, he said, it was certainly desirable to have before you all the facts of the case before you legislate: on this particular subject, however, he believed Congress could legislate best without knowing the fact of the population of the states respectively. On former occasions of this sort, much difficulty had been found in legislating, from the operation of local feelings, naturally producing a desire on the part of the representatives of each state to fix on such a ratio of apportionment as should leave to it the smallest fraction of numbers. The legislating at the present session, before these numbers were known, would, it appeared to him, obviate these difficulties, as the only object of consideration would be, what ratio is of itself the most eligible? If the census of each state was waited for, he feared that the decision of Congress would be influenced by very different principles, &c. He was careless about the shape of this enquiry, but, feeling anxiety for the object of it, he hoped the resolution would be agreed to.

The resolution, after some debate, was agreed to.

The Orders of the Day were called over; but many members being absent, and no disposition appearing to call up business—

The House on motion adjourned to Tuesday.

TUESDAY, JAN. 2.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting reports shewing the number of soldiers recruited during the year 1820—the fund from which the expenses of recruiting have been paid, &c. prepared in obedience to a resolution of this House; which letter and report were ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Burwell offered the following resolution, which was, on motion of Mr. Smith of Md. with the consent of the mover of it, laid on the table for the present:

RESOLVED, That the select committee, to whom the message of the President, transmitting an account of the expenditures of the Commissioners under the 5th, 6th and 7th articles of the treaty of Ghent, for designating the northern boundary line of the Uni-

ted States, was referred, be instructed to report a bill fixing the salaries of the commissioners and agents, employed in that service.

On motion of Mr. Hill, it was resolved, that the committee on Ways and Means be instructed to enquire into the expediency of making provision by law for the compensation of persons employed in transmitting to Congress the votes for President and Vice President.

The following message was received from the President of the U. States:

To the House of Representatives:

In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 22d of November last, "requesting the President to inform that house, what naval force has been stationed, for the protection of the commerce of our citizens, in the West India Islands and parts adjacent, during the present year, and whether any depredations, by pirates or others, upon the property of citizens of the United States, engaged in such commerce, have been reported to our government," I now submit, for the information of the House, a report from the Secretary of the Navy, with accompanying documents, which contain all the information in the possession of the government required by that resolution.

JAMES MONROE.

Washington, Jan. 1st 1820.

The message being read, was, with the documents, laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. Cook, it was resolved, that the committee of Ways and Means be instructed to enquire into the expediency of requiring every class of public officers charged either with the collection or disbursement of the public money to settle their accounts within specified periods, under the penalty of absolutely forfeiting their respective appointments.

Mr. Rich, of Vermont, rose to offer the resolutions of which he gave notice some days ago; and, in doing so, expressed himself as follows:

I rise, sir, to submit the proposition of which I gave notice a few days since; a notice, from which it will have been perceived, that I propose an enquiry into the propriety of prohibiting, prospectively, the importation of sundry commodities, the product of the skill and industry of other countries, and which are at present allowed, to the prejudice of a free and vigorous employment of the skill and capital of our own citizens. Hence it will have been understood, that a decision of Congress is solicited by at least one of its members, on the propriety of fixing upon some future period, beyond which, and in regard to the proposed articles, the American manufacturer shall enjoy the benefit of the markets of his country, uninterrupted by foreign competitors, who owe no allegiance to that country, and who will neither fight its battles nor contribute to the support of its institutions.

Sir, I submit the proposition in the most confident belief that, should the proposed measure be adopted, our establishments will have reached such a state of maturity by the time the prohibitions shall have taken effect, that exorbitant prices for domestic fabrics cannot be maintained if attempted; that the merchant will find the partial loss in his hazardous foreign trade counterbalanced by an increased coasting and inland trade less hazardous; that the agriculturist will find a progressively increasing and steady demand for his products; that the manufacturer, sure of the future markets of his country, will be zealously employed in his preparations to supply them, and, for his skill and capital thus employed, will realize a reasonable and fair return; that the foreign manufacturer, deprived of our custom in his own country will seek for it in the employment of his skill and capital in this: that a system of revenue which shall have been adapted to the change of circumstances will be more certain and productive than that which depends entirely on imports; and, that, finally, the great interests of the country will have been so arranged and adjusted, that, whether we shall in future be met with orders in council, French decrees, embargoes, or war, neither our enterprise, prosperity, or happiness, can be materially interrupted.

Sensible, as I am, that the policy of the proposed measure will be doubted by some, and unhesitatingly pronounced unwise by others, I have not obtruded myself upon the indulgence of the House, without reflection, nor without the most thorough conviction on my own mind that the adoption of a measure of the character of the one proposed, would greatly promote the best interests of the country.

It having been my purpose to obtain the sense of the House upon the principle, rather than attempt the most unexceptionable details, it will certainly, deserve consideration (should the main object be approved) whether the proposed prohibitions have been too far extended, or have fallen short of their proper limits.—And, should it be the will of Congress to adopt any measures with a view to the encouragement of domestic manufactures, and with them the general industry of the country, a consideration still more important will suggest itself, to wit: whether the encouragement shall be indirectly afforded, by a modification of the tariff, leaving the citizens to "feel their way," advancing with hesitancy, if at all, watching the "signs of the times" and the countervailing policy of other countries; or whether the more direct course shall be pursued.

On this question, I may very possibly have come to an erroneous conclusion; but, unless I am altogether mistaken, the direct course is by far the most eligible; as it will be secure against a defeat by foreign regulations, and one the effects of which can be estimated with the greatest certainty, and will hence prove a powerful incentive to enterprise & industry, which cannot be called into full & vigorous activity except by the influence of strong motives. But, should the indirect course be taken, neither the agriculturist, the manufacturer, the merchant, or the financier, can calculate for the future with such certainty as will inspire the requisite confidence to ensure success.

However much we may have been benefited by obtaining the manufactures of Europe in exchange for our agricultural products, during a long succession of years, while the markets of the world have been open to them, and at prices unexampled in the annals of commerce; and whatever advantages we may have derived from the operations and employments incident to such exchanges, I feel no hesitation in pronouncing an opinion that a period has arrived when but a single alternative is left to our choice, viz. either to retire voluntarily from a portion of our former pursuits, while our disposable means are worth preserving, and while the industry and enterprise of the country shall yet possess vigor and animation, (already very much impaired) or be driven from them, at no remote period, by the force of necessity, with our means exhausted, and the spirits of the country depressed by a contemplation of the unfortunate contrast between our then condition and that from which we shall but recently have fallen. And, sir, when we contemplate that the happiness and prosperity of the people are undeniably the effects of a judicious and wise administration of the government, and that by an injudicious administration directly the opposite effects will be produced; and when we also consider that our institutions, which are the pride of freemen throughout the world, have no other support, and can have no other, than the affections of the people for whom they were ordained and established, are we not called upon to employ our best efforts to prevent such a state of despondency as may extinguish all feelings for the government but those of cold indifference? And is there not some danger that, should we continue to shape our measures to the maxim of "letting things alone," and that, too, while other nations are pressing upon us with their own laws, and their other prohibitions and restrictions in one hand, and their bounties and premiums in the other, a state of public feeling may be produced which shall cause the philanthropists universally to weep for the danger to which our institutions shall be exposed?

It is universally admitted, so far as my information extends, that be the acts of government what they may, the period will cease to look to Europe or elsewhere for its most needful manufactures; and the great difference of opinion which manifests itself, is, whether the government should, by its measures, accelerate the arrival of that period, or whether it should not rather "let things alone;" and leave to chance or the force of necessity, the accomplishment of that great national object. Were we a nation having no intercourse with the rest of the world, it would certainly be my policy to "let things alone;" and I would now do so, with regard to the internal application of the skill and industry of the citizens. But, while I would do this, I would endeavor that they should also be "let alone," by the people and governments of other countries. Nothing to me appears more unwise, than for us to imagine that the great interests of this country can be permanently promoted by a course of measures which shall have been adopted without any regard to the condition or policy of other countries. And gentlemen will permit me to enquire, how long, in their opinion, the "star-spangled banner" would waft triumphantly upon the mighty deep, should the government "let it alone?"

I have no desire, sir, to see manufactures forced into existence by the acts of the government or otherwise; but I desire, most sincerely, to see such measures adopted as shall gently invite our national resources to be forthcoming in the form of manufactures, to the full extent of the real wants of the country, and, consequently, sufficient to place us beyond the reach of those pressures to which, otherwise, we must always be exposed, on the occurrence of war, or other interruptions of commerce—which shall give such vigorous activity to our national enterprise and industry, as shall of itself make an American citizen proud of his country; and form the basis of new and lasting attachments to our institutions; and which, finally, will afford some protection against that kind of foreign influence which, through the magic of fashion, puts all the tailors, milliners, and mantuamakers in requisition, on the arrival of a ship from Europe or the Indies; an influence, the suppression of which, would form a new and honorable trait in our character, and diffuse a proud national feeling throughout the community.

I apprehend it will be universally conceded, that a prohibition on the import of distilled spirits and malt liquors, would greatly promote the agricultural, and subserve the general interests of the country; and that no essential interests would materially suffer, should such prohibition be made to take effect at an early period.

While, then, I would propose that a prohibition should not take effect upon manufactured articles, till time shall have been allowed to bring our establishments to a suitable degree of maturity, and enable the great interests of the country to accommodate themselves to the change, and the government to organize its finances, I would exclude spirits and malt liquor; at the termination of a period barely sufficient to give effect to a system that should bring into the Treasury, from domestic liquors, a revenue equal at least to what is now derived from foreign. And, in the mean time, instead of a general modification of the tariff, as suggested at the last session, I would propose an increase of duties upon such articles only as should be prospectively prohibited; and in regard to such, would abolish the custom-house credits, partly with a view to an augmentation of revenue, and to strengthen the invitation to our internal resources to be forthcoming, and partly to check unreasonable investments in foreign commodities, with a view to monopoly, after the prohibition shall have taken effect. And to secure a future, certain and augmented revenue, I would levy an excise duty upon the domestic articles which should be substituted for those the importation of which shall be prohibited. The excise to take

effect simultaneously with the prohibitions. I am not insensible, sir, that, should a majority of the House concur with me in opinion, that the importation of some articles may, after a given period, be prohibited, with benefit to the country; there must be a great diversity of sentiment as to the articles and the times at which the prohibition in relation to each should take effect. Still I may be permitted to hope, that such diversity may not entirely defeat the proposition: that so far as gentlemen shall only doubt of the policy of the measure, (if there be any such,) they will permit the experiment to be made, if but to a very limited extent; and that, in regard to the selection of articles on which to make the experiment, a spirit of conciliation will be manifested, without which it is in vain that we attempt to legislate for the benefit of a country so extensive as that for which we have the honor to act.

Admitting the prohibitory system to be proper, under any circumstances of the country, and at any possible period of time, much, in my judgment, would be gained, if the period, although far remote, should now be rendered certain, as to some few articles at least. For, in that case, the application of the skill and capital, which should incline in favor of the manufacture of such articles, might be diverted with a good degree of certainty as to the results, and an experiment would thus be made, the effects of which would be sufficiently tangible to be judged of, and of great utility in the future legislation of the country.

Sir, I have felt that it was due to the House and myself, that I should accompany the proposition with the explanations I have given of my views upon the subject; and, without consuming further time, I will send it to the Chair, and leave it to be disposed of as the better judgment of the House shall direct.

Mr. Rich, with these remarks, submitted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the committee on Manufactures be instructed to enquire into the expediency of prohibiting (except for the export trade) the importation of—

1st. All distilled spirits and malt liquors, from and after the — day of —, A. D. —

2d. All manufactures of wool, or of which wool shall constitute a component part, from and after the — day of —, A. D. —

3d. All cotton and flaxen goods, or of which either cotton or flax shall constitute a component part, to wit: sheetings, shirtings, counterpanes, tablecloths, stripes, checks, plaids, gingham, chintzes, calicoes, & prints of all descriptions, hosiery, cotton yarn, twist and thread, from and after —

4th. All kinds of glass wares and window glass, from and after —

5th. Iron, in bars, rods, sheets, castings, spikes, and nails, and all manufactures of sheet iron, or of which sheet iron shall be a material of chief value, from and after —

6th. All manufactures of lead, copper, or tin, from and after —

7th. All descriptions of paper, from and after —

8th. All manufactures of leather, or of which leather shall constitute a component part, from and after —

9th. All descriptions of hats and ready-made clothing, from and after —

RESOLVED, That the said committee be also instructed to enquire into the expediency of levying an excise duty upon the domestic articles which shall be substituted for those the importation of which shall be prohibited; the excise to take effect simultaneously with the prohibition.

Mr. Smith, of Maryland, suggested the propriety of laying these resolutions on the table.

Mr. Lowndes said, as the resolutions proposed an enquiry only, he saw no objection to acting on them at once, though he did not oppose their being ordered to lie on the table. If agreeing to them were to imply any approbation of the plan which they proposed, the question would be very different and really important. It was obvious, however, that the agreement to enquire into the subject would compromise no one. In the course of his remarks, Mr. L. suggested, that the resolutions proposed to direct a committee to enquire into matters, in the investigation of which that committee were probably already engaged.

Mr. Rich said, he was not unwilling that the resolutions should lie on the table for consideration. But, he said, he considered them as embracing a great principle, which sooner or later Congress must adopt, and the sooner, the better.

Mr. Baldwin, in reference to the suggestion of Mr. Lowndes, that probably the committee of manufactures might now be engaged in the investigation of this very subject of prohibitory duties, rose to say, that nothing of that sort was at present before that committee, nor did he know that it would be, unless it were specially enjoined on them to enquire into it.

After some other inconsequential observations, the resolutions were, on motion of Mr. Butler, of Louisiana, ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Storrs, after referring to the documents to shew that an agent had been employed in one of the Commissions under the British Treaty, although the appropriation was withheld by Congress at the last session, in order to abolish the agency, moved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the committee on the expenditures in the Department of State be instructed specially to enquire whether any moneys have been disbursed through that Department, or authorized to be disbursed, on account of any salary or compensation to an agent or acting agent or any person employed in that capacity on the part of the United States, during the years 1820, under the 6th or 7th articles of the late Treaty of peace with Great-Britain; and, if any moneys have been so paid, to inquire and report to the House by authority of what law, and out of what appropriation, the same has been paid.

And, the question being taken on agreeing to the resolution; it was agreed to without opposition.

Mr. Warfield submitted for consideration the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That 5,000 copies of the letter from the Comptroller of the Treasury transmitting a list of balances on the books of the