

able treaty of commerce; having once made an unfavorable one. That making an unfortunate treaty, gives a claim to all other nations.

I have formed my opinion on this present question, not by comparing the advantages and disadvantages of our trade, as they are regulated by different nations; but by enquiring what is the state of our commerce with particular nations. And whether, from our commercial relation, we have not a right to expect more favourable regulations? Whether we have not a right to expect the removal of restrictions to which we are subject, and to obtain advantages we do not now receive? We have been informed that Britain is dependent on us for many of the necessaries of life; they are dependant on us for those raw materials, by which numbers of their citizens receive employment; and that they cannot be obtained from any other quarter. If this is a true state of the case, and it has not been controverted; and the truth of it I think, is evident, from a view of exports to that country. Have we not a right to expect, a right to claim a removal of those unfavorable restrictions? If this is a true state of our commerce, would not Britain, were all the regulations on the footing of reciprocity, have the advantage? Their trade with us, is of necessity: Theirs to us may be, and can be dispensed with. Numbers of them depend on us, for their very subsistence. Independent of their manufactures, we can go on, and I believe, prosper. I do not believe, that agriculture or manufactures, would sustain even a check: It would no doubt, be some degree of inconvenience, to the mercantile interest. And I cannot help observing, that gentlemen have been loud on the disadvantages of the merchants, from the adoption of the principle now under discussion. I must regard the merchant only as an intermediate negotiator, between the planter and manufacturer, and the foreign merchant. I do not conceive the loss is sustained by the merchant. It is sustained by every citizen, in proportion to his consumption. If the interest of agriculture is promoted, the mercantile interest must participate. I consider the agricultural interest, as the source; and cannot agree, that the mercantile should either be the first, or only object of our attention. And suppose a temporary inconvenience to arise from the adoption of the resolutions, I think they ought to be adopted when intended; and I think it is evident to any person, who will contemplate the degree, in which Great-Britain is dependant on the United States, for her exports; that they will be productive of lasting advantages. Is there a probability of our being relieved, otherwise than by our own exertions? Or can gentlemen fix the boundary beyond which they will not go, in their restrictions, should we continue to acquiesce? I confess, I expect nothing short of the entire profits of all our labor, will satisfy them. If we are to judge of the future by the past, and I do not think we have a right to suppose a change in her motives or principles, we are to expect regulations, which will throw into the pockets of her citizens, all the profits of the labor of the United States.

Gentlemen confess her Navigation Act operates against us; but it is said she treats us, as she does all other nations: which to me, I confess, is no reason we should suffer injustice. Yet not contented with the restrictions on our trade, we have it in proof, she had a principal and unfolicited agency in the late truce: Whereby our vessels are subjected to depredations, and to being captured. I will not say what was their principal motive; but it is another means of throwing into their hands, an additional portion of our carrying trade: They condemn as prize, goods carrying to the ports of France; our vessels are seized, searched and detained unnecessarily: This conduct has constrained the French, in their own defence, to adopt similar regulations: All of which is confessedly against the law of nations: Their forcing or enticing our seamen on board their vessels—all is calculated to increase their shipping, by excluding ours: And this done, whilst we were leaving trade to regulate itself; whilst we were tamely submitting to their restrictions.

Under these circumstances, we have no reason to hope for a favorable change; I think the most distant hope cannot be entertained. No alternative remains, but an entire acquiescence, or availing ourselves of the peculiarly favorable circumstances of our commercial relation, to enforce jus-

tice. This may be deemed unjust, or unequal, amongst nations: I am sure it would not, amongst individuals. He, who in merchandizing, is exchanging a necessary of life to the person who needs, and could not be supplied from any other quarter, for property of inferior demand, would not submit to have the terms of exchange, dictated to him. He would avail himself of circumstances, to enforce justice, or refuse the exchange. Why we should not as a nation, assume a similar conduct, I know not.

Counter regulations are apprehended. I wish he had pointed out what regulations they can adopt, which will not operate more against them, than us: I believe it cannot be done. War is also apprehended; it has not before been suggested: I believe it is not seriously apprehended. As an independent nation, can our doing what Great-Britain has done before us; can our doing what we have a right to do, as an independent nation give offence? If this should be made the cause of war, we may rest assured, it was pre-determined; and that nothing we could do, would prevent it. I believe the only way to cause a war, is by tame submission, and to prevent it, is to use our rights, uninfluenced by a fear, either of counter regulations, or war.

(*Debate to be continued.*)

Congress of the United States.

IN SENATE,

Monday, January 27.

The Senate resumed the second reading of the bill sent from the House of Representatives for concurrence, entitled "An act for completing and better supporting the military establishment of the United States," and

Ordered, That it be referred to Mr. Ellsworth, Mr. Livermore, Mr. Strong, Mr. Izard and Mr. Langdon, to consider and report thereon to the Senate.

After the consideration of the executive business,

The Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Tuesday, January 28.

The memorial of Joseph Bloomfield, President of the Convention of Delegates from the Abolition Societies within the United States, in behalf of said Convention was presented and read, praying Congress to pass a law prohibiting the traffic carried on by citizens of the United States for the supply of slaves to foreign nations, and preventing foreigners from fitting out vessels for the slave trade in the ports of the United States.

The Vice-President laid before the Senate a letter from the Secretary of State, enclosing a translation of the French act of navigation.

The Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Wednesday, January 29.

Mr. Ellsworth from the committee appointed to consider the bill, sent from the House of Representatives for concurrence, entitled, "An act for completing and better supporting the Military Establishment of the United States," reported amendments, which were agreed to.

Ordered, That the further consideration of this bill be postponed.

After consideration of the executive business—

The Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Thursday, January 30.

The following written message was received from the President of the United States by Mr. Dandridge his Secretary.

United States, January 30.

Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives, Communications have been made to Congress during the present session with the intention of affording a full view of the posture of affairs on the south-western frontiers. By the information which has lately been laid before Congress it appeared that the difficulties with the Creeks had been amicably and happily terminated. But it will be perceived with regret by the papers herewith transmitted, that the tranquility has unfortunately been of short duration, owing to the murder of several friendly Indians, by some lawless white men.

The condition of things in that quarter requires the serious and immediate consideration of Congress; and the adoption of such wise and vigorous laws, as will be competent to the preservation of the national character and of the peace, made under the authority of the United States

with these several Indian tribes—Experience demonstrates that the existing legal provisions are entirely inadequate to those great objects.

G. WASHINGTON.

The message and papers referred to were read.

Ordered, That they lie for consideration.

The Senate resumed the second reading of the bill, sent from the House of Representatives for concurrence, entitled, "An act for completing and better supporting the military establishment of the United States," and after debate,

Ordered, That the consideration thereof be postponed.

After consideration of the executive business,

The Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

NATIONAL CONVENTION.

October 29.

A deputation of the Jacobins were admitted to the bar.

Xavier Audouin, Assistant Secretary of War, spoke as follows: "When you formed the Revolutionary Tribunal, the people thought that the Tribunal, pointing out with one hand the crime, would strike it with the other; but forms paralyze the efforts of the most indefatigable Judges; all France accuse the conspirators, and demand their death, but the law cannot reach them. When we see a dead body, have we occasion to be asked, with how many blows it was struck before its death. Our cities destroyed, our citizens butchered, famine, that hideous spectre, staring every where, the best Republicans oppressed, the greatest villains protected, France opposed to France—such are the crimes of the conspirators:—do we wait till they swim in the blood of our brothers, before we punish them; Representatives, you have at present the maximum of opinion; you owe a generous movement to the wishes of the people, who have been too long betrayed; you owe it to the tears of the fathers and families who lament their relations slain; you owe it to the necessity of avenging so many crimes. We demand first, that you exempt the Revolutionary Tribunal of those forms which enchain the conscience of the judges, and stifle conviction; 2dly, That the juries may declare to the judges, that there is no occasion for debates, when their opinion is once formed.

Offelin—"The first part of the Petition ought to be sent to the Committee of Legislation; but the second seems so evident, that it is unnecessary to refer it to any other committee. I move that the latter be instantly decreed.

"You have a great conspiracy to judge; crimes against the State, which can neither be viewed nor punished in the ordinary manner; this is so certain, that you have created a Tribunal for that purpose; make laws then, which may facilitate its operations. You may in future get rid of forms: why then debate about them to no purpose?

Robespierre made the following amendment to the motion: "If any Trial before the Revolutionary Tribunal continues for more than three days, the President shall open the following sitting, by asking the jury if they are satisfied? if they say No, the examinations shall continue; but if they reply in the affirmative, the evidence shall be closed, judgment given, and none be allowed to object to the decision of the jury." The proposition, thus amended, was decreed, and sent immediately to the Revolutionary Tribunal.

The President of the Revolutionary Tribunal represented by letter, the difficulty of the trial against the deputies, conspirators. In five days, nine witnesses had only been heard. The loquacity of the guilty wasted much time—why have recourse to evidence, when the nation was attacked? If eighty were to be heard, there was equal reason for hearing four hundred; the proofs were in the events which had followed.

This letter was joined to the petition, and sent to the committees of legislation and public welfare, to report upon it to-morrow.

Billaud Varennes remarked, that in the drawing up the Resolution, there had been inserted the Extraordinary Tribunal;—in the time the conspirators lived among us,

said he, and commanded majorities, they called it the Extraordinary Tribunal, but you ought to restore its true name, and real institution, and enable it to judge in a revolutionary manner.

Sallust said, that conspirators could not be judged with too much celerity. He demanded that it should henceforth be called the Revolutionary Tribunal.—(Decreed.)

October 30.

The procurator of the district of Rheims, sent books and parchments which were used at the consecration of the Kings of France; he joined to them the oath taken by Louis Capet at that ceremony.

Romme demanded that they should be destroyed.

"I see not (replied Burden of Gise,) why we should preserve the ornaments used at the consecration of Kings, when we have destroyed the seal of the state, and every thing which belonged to royalty." He demanded that they should all be burnt.—Decreed.

Some citizens of Corbeil brought a gilt silver shrine, which inclosed an old Saint, who had long been supposed to work miracles, said they, but we find that the only good quality he had, was the shrine, which we have brought to be converted into Republican coin.—Honorable mention.

In conformity to the report of the committee of general safety, the Convention decreed:

1. That women shall no longer be allowed to assemble in popular societies.

2. That all the fittings of the popular societies of men shall be public.

The Commissioners wrote from Lyons (25th October,) that 600 workmen were employed in raising the fortifications of that rebellious city. A colony of Republicans will follow d'Herboit to this city, in order to regenerate the public spirit, which is yet in a revolutionary stupor.

October 31.

A deputation of the council general of the commons of Paris came to demand, that a revolutionary tribunal do accompany each detachment of the revolutionary army.

A deputation of the popular societies came to demand, that every person resident in the country, and having a town house, shall return to town in the course of one month:—they stated, that those persons staid in the country on purpose to abuse the revolution, and the law that fixes the maximum of provisions.—Referred to a committee of legislation.

A petition of the same deputation made a long speech, by which he demanded that the usual mode of addressing one single person by the polite word You, in the plural number, be converted into Thou, which is of the singular number, for the sake of abolishing all proud distinctions among the French Republicans.

Bazire demanded that this request be instantly decreed; but on the motion of Philippeaux, the convention thought it sufficient to give it insertion in their Bulletin.

On motion of Romme, the convention decreed:

1. That the words of Town, Burgh, or Village, shall forthwith be suppressed, and that of Commonalty substituted in their place.

2. That the inscription to be put up in front of the Tennis-Court of Versailles shall be the following: "The Commonalty of Versailles has well deserved of the country."

UNITED STATES.

NEW-YORK, Jan. 31.

The following is a short retrospect of the situation of France:

That though there existed a great diversity of opinion respecting the form of government finally to be adopted in France: yet they seemed unanimous in the resolution of forcing the Belligerent Powers to acknowledge their right of choosing what form of government, and what laws they please, and of compelling their enemies to sue for peace—to effect this object they have 700,000 regulars, partly in the field and partly in garrison; that notwithstanding this force, they have called out the first class of their citizens, who have already amounted to 420,000 men; these they are training in their fortified towns, that they may be ready by next spring to take the place of their regulars, who are then to act on the offensive, by invading the territories of their enemies—that next spring the 2d class is to be organized, in