

Congress of the United States.

IN SENATE,

Tuesday, January 21st, 1794.

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

United States, January 20th, 1794.
Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives,

Having already laid before you a letter of the 16th of August 1793, from the Secretary of State to our Minister at Paris, stating the conduct and urging the recall of the Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic of France; I now communicate to you, that his conduct has been unequivocally disapproved; and that the strongest assurances have been given, that his recall should be expedited without delay.

G. WASHINGTON.

The message was read.

Ordered, That it lie on file.

The memorial of the people called Quakers, from the yearly meeting held at Rhode Island for New England, in the year 1793, was presented and read, praying Congress to exercise the authority vested in them by the constitution, for the suppression of the slave trade.

Ordered, That this petition lie on the table.

The petition of Jacob Milligan was presented and read, praying compensation for losses sustained, whilst in the service of the United States.

Ordered, That this petition lie on the table.

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

United States, January 21st, 1794.
Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives,

It is with satisfaction that I announce to you, that the alterations which have been made by law in the original plan for raising a duty on spirits distilled within the United States, and on stills, co-operating with better information, have had a considerable influence in obviating the difficulties, which have embarrassed that branch of the public revenue. But the obstacles which have been experienced, though lessened, are not yet entirely surmounted, and it would seem that some further legislation is necessary. I am particularly attentive to the subject. Among the matters, which may demand regulation, is the effect, in point of organization, produced by the separation of Kentucky from the state of Virginia; and the situation, with regard to the law of the territories north-west and south-west of the Ohio.

The laws respecting light house establishments require as a condition of their permanent maintenance, at the expence of the United States, a complete cession of soil and jurisdiction. The cessions of different states having been qualified with a reservation of the right of serving legal process within the ceded jurisdiction, are understood to be inconclusive, as annexing a qualification not consonant with the terms of the law. I present this circumstance to the view of Congress, that they may judge whether any alteration ought to be made.

As it appears to be conformable with the intention of the "ordinance for the government of the territory of the United States north-west of the river Ohio," although it is not expressly directed, that the laws of that territory should be laid before Congress, I now transmit to you a copy of such, as have been passed from July to December 1792, inclusive; being the last which have been received by the Secretary of State.

G. WASHINGTON.

The message and copy of laws referred to were read.

Ordered, That this message lie for consideration.

On motion,

Ordered, That Mr. Bradley, Mr. Livermore and Mr. Brown, be a committee to take into consideration the laws passed in the territory of the United States north-west of the river Ohio, from July to December 1792 inclusive, and report thereon to the Senate.

The Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Wednesday, Jan. 22d. 1793.

The Vice President laid before the Se-

nate sundry communications from the Secretary for the department of war, respecting a treaty of peace lately concluded by James Seagrave, agent for Indian affairs, on behalf of the United States, with the chiefs and warriors on behalf of the Creek Indians.

The papers communicated were read.

Ordered, That they lie on the table.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Senate took into consideration the motion made the 16th inst. That the doors of the Senate chamber "should remain open, whilst the Senate shall be sitting in a legislative and judiciary capacity."

On motion,

It was agreed to postpone the consideration of this subject to this day fortnight.

The Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Thursday, Jan. 23d. 1794.

On motion by Mr. Cabot, that a committee be appointed to consider of the expediency of allowing the drawback on the re-exportation of goods, wares and merchandize, from ports other than those into which they were first imported, and to report a bill for that purpose, if they shall think it proper.

Ordered, That this motion lie for consideration.

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

United States, 22d. Jan. 1794.
Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives,

I forward to you extracts from the last advices from our Minister in London; as being connected with communications already made.

G. WASHINGTON.

The message and extracts were read.

Ordered, That they lie for consideration.

A message from the House of Representatives by Mr. Lambert, in the absence of Mr. Beckley their clerk, detained by sickness:

"Mr. President, The House of Representatives have passed a bill, entitled,—"An act for completing and better supporting the military establishment of the United States," in which they desire the concurrence of the Senate."—And he withdrew.

The bill was read the first time.

Ordered, That this bill pass to the 2d. reading.

(To be Continued.)

CONGRESS.

House of Representatives.

January 16.

In committee of the whole on Mr. Madison's resolutions.

Mr. GOODHUE,

Mr. Chairman, the propositions now before us having been considered by several gentlemen, who have already spoken, and who have given such a particular detail of calculations, I shall confine myself to some general observations on the subject.

The gentleman from Maryland, has made an observation, which struck me very forcibly as applied to the subject before us, because it is a maxim to which all mankind have assented and upon which all mankind continually practise, it was this, "there is no Friendship in Trade," and it may be added as a necessary consequence, there ought to be no Hatred in Trade. By following a path founded upon so obvious a maxim, as the foregoing, we may be sure of a right guide, but if we deviate from it, we are in danger of being led into unforeseen error and mischief. It is unquestionably our duty to attend to the Navigation and Commerce of our country, and give it every proper encouragement which time and circumstances admit, this has ever been my wish and my conduct.

This object so important and desirable must be effected by fixed principles and regulations, such as giving our vessels a decided preference in our own ports above the ships of every other nation whatever, by paying less tonnage and other duties; by suffering no foreign ships to bring into the United States the productions of any other country, than the one to which they belong; and by prohibiting foreign ships from coming to the United States from those places where our own ships are prohibited.

These are the fixed principles and re-

gulations by one or all of which our navigation and commerce can only be promoted, and must never be deviated from, when adopted in favor of any one nation whatever—unless, it be in return for some special advantage granted to us by any particular nation as an equivalent. Hitherto, our government has proceeded to distinguish foreign ships, only by making them pay greater tonnage and duties than our own. If circumstances required it and the time is judged a seasonable one, I shall be willing to proceed further.

Let us examine what advantages, we enjoy in consequence of any commercial treaties we have already formed—for the propositions before us, are proposed to affect only those nations with whom we have no treaties. We have commercial treaties with Prussia, Sweden, France and Holland, and in the dominions of neither of those powers, have our ships or the produce of this country (except in the single article of our Oil in France) been admitted on any more favorable terms than the ships or produce of any other nation, and for this obvious reason because our treaties only ensure the advantages they may grant to the most favored nation; and being circumstanced in such a manner as not judging it for their interest, to distinguish any one by its favors—we are left only in the enjoyment of a trade with them on the terms common to all other nations—This being the case, I would not give one farthing to have like treaties formed with every other nation, for they have not been and never can be of any service to us—if we expect to derive any advantage from commercial treaties, we must stipulate for some certain good, for some other good which we may grant them in return.

But it is said, Mr. Chairman, we are particularly injured by the commercial restrictions of Great Britain—the fact is, we enjoy in our trade with that country, all the advantages of commerce and in some instances greater, than they grant to any other nation. Our pot ash and several other articles pay a less duty in Great Britain than the like articles do from any other country, and in no instance do I believe they pay greater. Our ships are allowed generally, to carry to Great Britain and Ireland the productions of this country on the same terms their own ships do. We have also free admission into their extensive territories in India; where they prohibit the ships of their own country, unless they belong to their India company.

It is true our commerce is cramped by a refusal of our ships into their colonies of Nova-Scotia, Canada, Newfoundland, their West India islands, which is the only evil of a commercial kind, we have to complain of in their regulations. But this is not an evil in consequence of distinguishing us from any other nation;—they deny that privilege to all others, and it has taken effect as it relates to us in consequence of our becoming an independent nation. The evil of being prohibited their colonies arises from the existing circumstances of things—their contiguity to the United States, compels them to carry on a considerable trade with us for supplies, and in which it is but just we should be partakers, and if we mean to redress this evil, we should point out measures to that object—and say, no foreign ships shall come to the United States, from any place, where our ships are prohibited, or, if they do come, they should come under some peculiar disadvantages—this would be meeting the evil direct.

If we raise the duties on their manufactures imported into this country, as is proposed by the resolutions now under consideration, with a view of compelling them to be more liberal in their commercial arrangements with us, we shall surely miss our aim—for it is certain France in her present situation is by no means able to supply us, whatever she may do hereafter. No other country, at present, but Great Britain can supply us—it therefore follows, undeniably, if such be the fact, that if we import their goods and lay an additional duty on them, the blow aimed at them will fall on us, by raising the price to the consumers in this country equal to the proposed additional duty.

It is said the chief of the foreign tonnage that comes to this country, is British, and this is an evil; if our object is to promote our own navigation, I should suppose the evil consisted in having our trade so much carried on in foreign bottoms, and not as belonging to one or another foreign nation; and if we meant

further to encourage our navigation, we ought to raise the tonnage duty on all foreign shipping—this would be coming to the object. But how comes it we have so many more British ships than others—have we granted them a monopoly? or may not the ships of every other nation come here on the same terms they do?—the reason then why there are so many more British than other foreign ships which come here, is not because we have encouraged it by any regulations we have adopted, but because they are a more enterprising commercial people than their neighbors, and from other causes which will ever influence and direct commerce.

It is also mentioned that a considerable part of the products of this country shipped to Great-Britain, is not consumed there, but re-shipped to other countries, and that we ought to make such regulations as that such excess should pass directly to the country, where they are consumed, without their first going through Great-Britain.

I should think it strange if any one was to refuse selling an article, because he understood the person who wanted to purchase it, would not be the consumer, but he would afterwards sell it to another—this would not certainly influence, and ought not. Let us examine and see whether our navigation has received any encouragement by the regulations already adopted by this government.—In 1790, our navigation was but little more than one half of all the tonnage entered in the United States; in 1791, it was three-fifths, and in 1792 it was nearly two-thirds. Foreign tonnage has actually decreased since that period 14,000 tons, while ours has increased 171,000 tons.—If the increase is not sufficient, then we must increase the tonnage duty on foreign shipping, and take such other measures as I have hinted at to promote the object; though, I confess, such is our delicate situation at this time, I am inclined to believe experiments are hazardous; and I should be strongly apprehensive, if we pass any restrictive laws at this time, that shall affect Great-Britain only, as is the avowed object of the resolutions before us, such is her close alliance with most of the European nations, and especially with Spain, that she will be fully able to influence some of them at least, and Spain in particular (who is not very friendly) to be associated with her in any counter regulation—the may think proper to pursue by way of retaliation.

Mr. Clark differed from many members who had spoken before him, in the view they took of the subject; he conceived, it ought to be considered in a political light. We had many wrongs to complain of and we should endeavor to obtain redress; the English have violated our treaty, just after it was ratified, by taking away our negroes, and since by holding our posts; they have also set the savages on our backs and have not they let loose the Algerines upon us? Shall we sit still and bear it. How can we help it, it is asked? They will retaliate we are told. How retaliate? will they refuse to sell us their manufactures? He remembered that even in old times, an non-importation agreement made them repeal their stamp act. We have surely as well now as we had then a right not to buy their goods; we don't want to cram our provisions down their throats or to force them to buy our lumber. During the non-importation agreement, we did not perish with cold; we found even then that among ourselves we could make wherewith to clothe ourselves; we are surely as able to do it now. We then gained our point, we should now be much more powerful with the same weapon; many of her manufacturers are already starving for want of employment. We should add greatly to their distress, and soon bring the government to their senses, and they will be glad to enter into a commercial treaty with us.

The balance of trade with Great Britain is much against us, and by carrying to Portugal and Spain what we send to them we should receive cash in return. France will not always be in a storm, and a supply of the manufactured articles we want may soon be received from that quarter.

He did not see to what purpose calculations three hours long had been brought forward. It was very well for merchants to calculate in their counting houses; but he conceived the Legislature should determine the question upon political considerations. He concluded by remarking, that he believed by this time the commit-