

nerate others. The whole matter will then undergo a more extensive investigation than it is in my power to give; and the evils attending upon either of the projects, that of restoring the Bourbon, or of attempting a partition of France, will have the calm opportunity of being fully discussed.

On the part of England, it is very extraordinary that she should have engaged in a former confederacy, and a long and expensive war, to prevent the family compact, and now engage in another confederacy to preserve it. And on the part of the other powers, it is as inconsistent that they should engage in a partition project, which could be executed, would immediately destroy the balance of maritime power in Europe, and would probably produce a second war, to remedy the political errors of the first.

A Citizen of the United States of America.

CONGRESS.

House of Representatives.
January 23.

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

Mr. Giles's speech concluded.

Nothing can be more degrading and insulting to the United States, than the temporary suspensions of the prohibitory restrictions. Behold a hungry colonial prefect, at least a prefect, anticipating hunger, declaring by proclamation to the citizens of the United States, that if they will furnish him with food within a certain given limited time, he will vouchsafe to eat it, and behold the citizens of the United States eagerly catching at this singular act of condescension.

Although it has been contended that our commerce with Great Britain is upon a footing not to be complained of, it has been conceded, that our navigation labors under undue restrictions. A gentleman from Massachusetts, (Mr. Goodhue) who is remarkable for the perspicuity and distinctness of his ideas, seems to have had rather loose conceptions upon this subject. That gentleman remarked, and it has been repeated, that he was in favor of an increase of tonnage upon all foreign vessels, without discrimination. His motive was the protection of our own shipping. His objection to the discrimination, was the competition of France. The gentleman remarked at the same time, that in case high duties should be imposed upon British manufactures, France in the present state of things, was disqualified from supplying us. If the gentleman really has the protection of our shipping, as well as the manufactures at heart, by extending his restrictions a little further, he would have found a consolation in this truth.

That the same cause which at present disqualifies France from supplying us with manufactures, would disqualify her from any dangerous competition with our shipping; but can it be deemed a serious and varied objection to the propositions, that France may ultimately participate in the advantages? Is this a proper ground for refusing to our shipping and manufactures, a present, as well as a permanent encouragement? The same gentleman remarked that the increased duties would operate as a tax upon our constituents; if this should be one effect, it ought not to afford an objection. If they be productive, it will increase the ability of the treasury, and it is known that an increase of revenue is anticipated. This objection does not however comport with another, which has been indefinitely mentioned by several gentlemen: but has been reduced to more definiteness by a gentleman from Maryland, (Mr. Forrest). He asserted that three-fourths of our revenue will be affected by the propositions on the table.

This is an important consideration, and merits examination: He declared that no gentleman was more disposed than himself to vote for that portion of revenue, which should be deemed essential to the proper and necessary energy of the government; he thought this part of the subject had been superficially examined; he admitted, the revenue may ultimately be lessened, but it will not be lost. There is no certainty that it will be lessened. From his view of the propositions, and the manner in which the blanks will probably be filled, he was of opinion, that the revenue would for some time be augmented by carrying the propositions into effect.

This would continue to be the case, until the increase of duties should so far diminish importations, as to counter-balance the difference between the existing duties, and those proposed to be laid.

If the operation of the propositions should diminish the importation of luxuries,

so far he thought it would increase the ability of the United States to pay revenue; and he did not conceive the particular mode of drawing revenue, was at all important to the United States. But if this argument of revenue be conclusive, at what time will it cease to operate with the same force, that it now does? If gentlemen have anticipated the glorious period, divulge the pleasing secret, when the nation may make an exertion for the restoration of violated rights without alarms to revenue!

It has been emphatically remarked by a gentleman from New Jersey, (Mr. Clark) who has had great experience in American affairs, that this was not the language of America, at the time of the non-importation associations! This was not the language of America, at the time of the declaration of Independence. Whence then this change of American sentiment? Has America less ability than she then had? Is she less prepared for a national trial, than she then was? This cannot be pretended. There has been, it is true, one great change in her political situation. America has now a funded debt; she had no funded debt at those glorious epochs—May not this change of sentiment, therefore, be looked for, in her change of situation in this respect? May it not be looked for, in the imitative, sympathetic organization of our funds with the British funds? May it not be looked for, in the indiscriminate participations of citizens and foreigners in the emoluments of the funds? May it not be looked for, in the wishes of some, to assimilate the government of the United States, to that of Great Britain? Or at least, in wishes for a more intimate connection?

If these causes exist, it is not difficult to find the source of the national debility. It is not difficult to see, that the interests of the few, who receive and disburse the public contributions are more respected, than the interests of the great majority of the society who furnish the contributions. It is not difficult to see that the government, instead of legislating for a few millions, is legislating for a few thousands, and that the sacredness of their rights, is the great obstacle to a great national exertion.

Mr. G. remarked, that political considerations in his opinion, combined in recommending the propositions at the present moment. The European war, the delicate crisis of the war, afforded in his mind, strong inducements to the measure. These considerations had been urged with a view to an opposite effect; but he would ask, what time would be chosen by a wife nation comparatively weak, to address herself to an unjust nation, comparatively strong, for a restoration of violated rights? Would it not be, when the strong nation should be so engaged, as to be incapable of exerting her whole undivided force in the resistance? This is the case with Great Britain at present: For whatever may be the ultimate event of the present European contest, the subjugation of France, will require at least, another campaign. Here he thought the tart adage, quoted by some gentleman, fitted the subject much better than that part of it to which it had been applied. No friendship in trade. The United States only demanded a restoration of violated rights. Great Britain has committed the violation. It was unnecessary to recapitulate the aggressions of Great Britain, upon the national rights of the United States. He could not help repeating one circumstance: her subjecting American vessels to seizure and search, and exempting those of Sweden and Denmark. This evidenced a peculiar enmity levelled at the United States. He mentioned this circumstance, for another reason. It should be recollected, that some unauthorized attempts were made upon the vessels of Sweden and Denmark, and that firm and manly answers produced concessions. As the only neutral nations except the United States, they have set an example, which ought to be imitated; for notwithstanding the trivial weight of the United States, in the scale of European affairs as has been suggested, he believed that Great Britain would prefer a war with both those nations, to a war with the United States.

The recent example of Sweden and Denmark, proves that the British cabinet are as sensible of the advantages of concession, in some cases, as they were insensible in other cases, of the dishonor of committing depredations on the rights of other nations.

Mr. G. thought another consideration of the moment, extremely important.—The injuries and insults of Great Britain, repeated and continued, have excited such an impulse in the public mind, that the whole people would feelingly second any decisive measures, which the government might adopt, for restoring the honor of the nation; and if a national trial should be the result of the propositions, it would from that cause, be commenced under the most pleasing, and promising auspices.—Several gentlemen opposed to the resolutions, have declared their resentment against Britain, and professed themselves for energetic measures, to restore the honor of the nation. He wished the gentlemen would specify their propositions, and bring them before the committee: he thought it would be a much better evidence of their dispositions, than objecting to the present propositions without offering a substitute. He declared that he was not so much wedded to the present propositions, as not to be willing to consider any others, which might be better calculated to produce the intended effect. A gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Lee) who informed the committee, that he was not sent here to indulge his resentments, professed at the same time the most violent resentment against the cabinet of Great Britain; while he pronounced an eulogy upon the British people.—If the people would adopt the gentleman's idea, and separate themselves from the cabinet, he might be justified in his distinction. The proposition in that case, would be levelled against the cabinet, and not against the people: In that event, both his resentment and attachments might be indulged. But if the gentleman would recollect, that the disposition of the people, towards the United States, is communicated only thro' the cabinet; that they support the cabinet—that the cabinet is the organ of their will, he will find that his distinction is wholly without foundation.

We have been admonished, of the propriety of banishing feeling, and resorting to judgment. A nation being composed of the aggregate of individuals, he believed possessed the same feelings, and he doubted the truth of the philosophy, which advised us to banish an essential ingredient of human nature. Feeling and judgment, ought to perform their respective offices; feeling should stimulate our actions; judgment should direct the wisest means, for its gratification; patience is an admirable beast of burthen; but not of enterprise; it bears misfortunes well; but was never calculated to resist oppressions. The United States have been injured and insulted. Instead therefore of patience and forbearance—wildness, caution herself, would prescribe boldness, enterprise, energy, firmness. America, has therefore pursued this conduct, and experience has proved, that it is not unwise. He believed that Great Britain, calculated upon her own influence, and a want of concert in our counsels; now was the time to convince the world, that injury from abroad produced concert at home.—This conduct had therefore characterized America: he hoped it would always continue to characterize America.

(Debate to be continued.)

LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Wednesday, February 5.

Mr. Evans called the attention of the House to the subject of the impeachment against the Comptroller-General, now pending before the Senate. He observed, that Mr. Nicholson had given an answer to the Senate, pleading not guilty to the charges comprehended in the articles of impeachment; it consequently now rests with the House of Representatives to reply to the said answer of Mr. Nicholson. Mr. Evans therefore moved that the following resolution be agreed to—viz.

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, prosecutors on behalf of themselves and the people of Pennsylvania, against John Nicholson, Comptroller-General of the Commonwealth, reply to the answer of the said John Nicholson, and aver that the charge of high misdemeanor against him the said John Nicholson is true, and the said John Nicholson is guilty of all and every the matters and things contained in the articles of impeachment by them exhibited against him in the manner and form as they are therein charged; and this the said House of Representatives

are ready to prove against him at such convenient time and place as the Senate shall appoint for that purpose."

The resolution was accordingly adopted, and a committee appointed to carry it to the Senate.

Mr. McLene from the committee on the subject of the several petitions in regard to the revival of the laws against vice and immorality, brought in two reports—viz. One of them on the petition of the Seventh Day Baptists, that the prayer thereof cannot be granted. The other,

"That the act for prevention of vice and immorality and of unlawful gaming, and to restrain disorderly sports and dissipation, passed the 25th day of Sept. 1786, ought to be continued in force, with amendments and alterations.

"Sect. 1. To be altered to suit the present constitution.

"Sect. 2. Continued.

"Sect. 3. The exception in favor of stage coaches and waggons to be struck out.

"Sect. 4. To remain without any alteration.

"Sect. 5. Imprisonment for drunkenness to be altered from 36 to 24 hours.

"Sect. 6. Judges of common pleas instead of justices of the common pleas, and to include mayor and aldermen of the city.

"S. 7. Complaint to be made within 72 instead of 48 hours.

"S. 8. The penalty on cock-fighting to be 200 dollars instead of 50, and to be confined to persons fighting the cocks or betting, and not those that may be assembled.

"Bullet playing in any place for money, or on any public highway without any bet, two dollars.

"Horse racing for money or other valuable thing, fine to be 50.—and the justices of the peace to have jurisdiction.

"Gaming for money at cards, dice, billiards, bowls, shovel board, or any game of hazard or address, two dollars—justices of the peace, mayor, aldermen, &c. to have cognizance.

"S. 9 & 10. To remain as they are, only justices of the peace, &c. to have cognizance.

"S. 11 & 12. To stand, with the alteration of the fine from 50l. to 10l. and justices of the peace to have cognizance.

"S. 13, 14 & 15. To remain as at present.

"S. 17 to be 16. [N. B. Sect. 16 was repealed in 1791. It was against the theatre, and is not to be renewed.]

"S. 18 to be 19, and the recommendation for tavern licences to be made to the Governor.

"S. 19 to be 18. One half of the fines imposed for a breach of the laws to be allowed to the prosecutor, the other half to the poor of the ward or township where the offence is committed.

"S. 20 to be 19 and remains as it is.

"S. 21. Struck out.

"Therefore the following resolution is submitted, viz. That a committee be appointed to bring in a bill agreeably to the foregoing principles."

Order of the Day.

The house resumed the consideration of the bill for dividing the state into districts, for electing representatives in Congress.

A question was taken on a motion which had been debated yesterday, for postponing the present consideration of the bill, for the purpose of taking up a resolution for a substitute, which proposed another mode of election, for throwing the whole state into one district. The postponement was negatived, ayes, 20, noes 44, so that the original plan of dividing into twelve districts, recurring, it was considerably debated, and several amendments proposed.

The report was finally adopted, and committed for a bill.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress Assembled.

The Memorial and petition of the Delegates from the several Societies, formed in different parts of the United States, for promoting the abolition of slavery, in Convention assembled at Philadelphia, on the first day of January, 1794.

Respectfully shew,

THAT your memorialists, having been appointed, by various Societies, in different parts of the Union, for the benevolent purpose of endeavouring to alleviate or suppress some of the miseries of their fellow-creatures, deem it