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Latest Foreign News,
BY THE BRITISH PACKET, ARRIVED AT N. YORK.

BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

PROTEST
AGAINST THE BILL OF REQUISITION.

HOUSE OF LORDS, *DIE MERC.* January 10.
The question was put, that this bill be committed.

It was carried in the affirmative.

DISESENTMENT.

Because, we conceive that in the present circumstances no grant of money by parliament, can alone be sufficient to extricate the country from its alarming and critical situation.

When the exigencies of the State are such, as to demand large supplies from the people, our duty is not confined to the bare consideration of the necessity of the case or the mode of levying the money. We are not from the pressure of circumstances and the approach of danger, hastily to concur in laying additional burthens on our fellow subjects, without inquiring to the public a wise application of the money so raised, and without due precautions for directing the efforts of the people to their only legitimate object, the benefit of the community. A neglect of this most important of all parliamentary duties must produce, and in our opinion, it has already produced consequences the most fatal to the dignity of the nation, the stability of the government, and the interests of the people. In the unconditional compliance with the demands of the executive government again proposed as the remedy, we perceive the real and fatal source of the evil. Year after year his majesty's ministers have grounded their application to parliament upon the urgency of the occasion, and the extraordinary exigencies of the State. To satisfy their demands, to enable them to encounter the dangers, and remove the difficulties in which we are involved, every article of luxury or convenience has been taxed, the resources of the country have been exhausted, and sums unparalleled in history, have been entrusted to their disposal; yet, year after year the occasion has been more urgent, the exigencies more pressing, the difficulties more alarming, and the dangers more immediate. The security of the nation has been shaken in the same proportion as the prosperity of the country has been impaired, external danger has kept pace with internal distress, and the exertions which have impoverished the people, and shaken our credit, have purchased nothing but the loss of national honor, the defection of allies, and the failure of every great object of the war.

If the whole force of Great Britain and Ireland, aided by grants, lavished beyond the example of the most provident times, assisted by the most powerful monarchs of Europe, has proved insufficient in the hands of ministers to secure the blessings of peace, or even to avert the present awful circumstances of the country, it seems inconsistent with reason, to expect that the painful efforts of an empire, whose means are exhausted by taxation, whose spirits are damped by failure, and whose affections are in part alienated by oppression, can, without a single ally, under the direction of the same men, result with effect, a powerful and exasperated enemy, elated with success, strengthened by conquest, and supported by the united powers of Holland and of Spain. In this situation of affairs, to persevere in the system which has produced it, to confide in the ministers who, with the aid of so many millions, have been unable to avert it, evinces, in our opinion, a total disregard of the common maxims of prudence, a wanton rejection of the lessons of experience, and a determined neglect of the most important of our parliamentary duties. Under the persuasion, therefore, that the dangers with which we are now threatened, are the result of force, directed to objects at once impracticable and foreign to the interests of this country; and that they are the necessary consequences of a misapplication of the public money, and the natural fruits of the incapacity and profusion of those to whom it has been improvidently entrusted, we deem it our duty not to sanction any grant to the executive government until a pledge was given to the House, by the removal of his majesty's ministers, of a complete alteration in his councils. We held it neither just to impose, nor reasonable to require any additional sacrifices from our fellow subjects until some prospect was held out to the people of a reform of that house which had granted and a censure of those ministers who have lavished sums so enormous, without any benefit resulting to the community. We thought that while his majesty's affairs were conducted by those who originally engaged in this calamitous contest, and who can neither carry on war or negotiation with honor, or success, no grant of money by parliament, no sacrifices on the part of the people, could afford a reasonable hope that the blessings of peace would be speedily restored, or permanently secured. We imagined, that until some earnest was given of a radical alteration of the system of terror and coercion in Ireland, of the repeal of the two bills, the one intitled "An act for the safety and preservation of his majesty's person and government against treasonable and seditious practices and attempts," and the other intitled "An act for the more effectually preventing seditious meetings and assemblies," of economy in public expenditure, and diminution of the enormous patronage and influence of the crown, we are not warranted in expecting that cheerful cooperation of the people, which being at once the indication and result of a reciprocal confidence between the government and the governed, can only be restored by the reformation of the ancient and happy practice of the constitution undisturbed by coercive laws—of a parliament speaking the sense of the people—and a ministry dependent on the voice of the parliament.

reply, by which all such objections are obviated, that the Constitution is not predicated upon a presumed abuse of power by any department; but on the more reasonable confidence that each will perform its duty within its own sphere with fidelity, that division of sentiment will yield to reason and explanation, and that extreme cases are not likely to happen.

One word in relation to the motives of Gentlemen, and he would finish his observations, which, he was admonished, by his voice and feelings had been too much extended. Why, said Gentlemen, do you charge us with designs to subvert the Constitution? Have we not our share of wealth and of power? He was not one of those who had imputed such designs to Gentlemen; nor would he pretend to say whether the part of the Union represented by those Gentlemen was rich, or generally involved in debt. But he would say, that wealth was not always a security for public or private virtue. Was not the Duke of Orleans rich? Was not his income equal to the revenue of a kingdom? But he was not satisfied with his elevated rank or princely fortune—He confided with others, men high in station, who possessed both riches and their share of power, and promoted a revolution which, like a whirlwind, swept them off into swift destruction.—It is not easy to discern, and therefore not always necessary to impeach, the motives of men. When, therefore, a Gentleman exclaims, we want no revolution, we wish for no change, we wish to keep things quiet, he was not authorized to dispute the assurance, and say it was not true.

But when, in the same breath, he heard insinuations comparing the President of the United States to Charles I. and the mild exercise of a constitutional power to the odious claim of *ship-money*, in that reign; and when he heard further, the opposition to that odious bill compared to an opposition to that odious measure, he would not say that he discredited the professions of Gentlemen—God only knew their hearts, but their language was full of danger.

The Gentleman from Pennsylvania had concluded with an invitation to his friends to unite with him in two objects; in preventing the increase of foreign influence, and in diminishing the expenditure of the public money. He would meet that Gentleman; and, if he and his friends would discover a real disposition to join in measures to prevent the increase of foreign influence; he should almost be inclined to secure that advantage, by consenting, for himself, that they should dispose of the money upon their own plans.

TUESDAY, March 13.
Mr. COIT, from the Committee of Elections, made a further report, which was ordered to lie upon the table.

Mr. LIVINGSTON observed, that the Senate having insisted on their amendments to the bill affording relief to the refugees from Canada and Nova-Scotia, he wished a committee of conference to be appointed to confer with the Senate.

The SPEAKER said it was first necessary for the House to determine they would not recede from their disagreement to their amendments. The sense of the House was accordingly taken, and having determined to insist on their disagreement, a committee of conference was appointed.

Mr. D. FOSTER, from the Committee of Claims, made an unfavourable report on the petition of William Thorne, which was ordered to lie on the table.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, inclosing a report on the petition of the Portland Marine Society, who pray for certain buoys to be placed in Portland harbour. The report is favourable, recommending the placing of six buoys in the said harbour, the expense of which is estimated at 400 dollars. The report was referred to the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures, with instructions to report by bill or otherwise.

A message was received from the Senate, informing the House that they had passed the bill for the support of Government for the year 1798, and for other purposes; to the bill providing the means of intercourse with foreign nations; and to the conference proposed with respect to the amendments to the bill for relief of Refugees from Canada and Nova-Scotia.

Mr. SEWALL wished the House to go into a Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, in order to take into consideration the resolutions which had been referred to it. This motion was objected to, on the ground of further information being expected from the President with respect to our dispute with France, and occasioned a very warm debate (which shall be given to-morrow). It was at length agreed to go into a Committee of the Whole, when 115,833 dollars were appropriated for completing and equipping the three frigates for sea; and also a resolution appropriating dollars for the pay and subsistence of the crews, and for the wear, losses, expenditure of ammunition, and other current and contingent expenses of the naval armament.

These two resolutions having been agreed to, the committee rose, the House concurred in them, and a bill was directed to be reported accordingly.

The House then, on motion of Mr. LIVINGSTON, went into a Committee of the Whole on the bill supplementary to the act for establishing the Judicial Courts of the United States; but not having gone through the bill the committee rose, and had leave to sit again. Adjourned.

A Great Bargain.

WILL BE SOLD, if applied for immediately, Twenty Thousand Dollars in Bills of Credit, upon interest at five per cent. per annum, now lodged in the Treasury, and endorsed by the United States, with a promise to "pay the interest annually."

Enquire at the Office of THOMAS McEWEN & Co. march 13—31

Wanted to live in the Country.

About five miles from this city, a sober Ready Man who understands gardening and the management of a few acres of land, and would not object to attend a couple of horses. Such a one may meet with liberal wages by applying at the office of this Gazette.

N. B. None need apply but those of unexceptionable characters.

March 13. dts

NANKEENS.

Ten thousand pieces Nankeens,
FOR SALE on a liberal credit, by
SAMUEL HAYS,
No. 127, Chestnut Street.

St. Croix Sugars.
26 hogheads best ST. CROIX SUGAR,
FOR SALE BY
JOHN NIXON & Co.
Feb. 9. im&wf

Because it appears to us that any attempt to raise the supplies within the year, in the present exhausted state of the country, must be attended with the greatest difficulty and danger.

Because were we to allow that the principle of raising the supplies by contribution instead of loan, was just, wise and expedient, yet under the present ministers it would appear to us attended with the most danger, as the real expenses of the year have generally exceeded by nearly one half their calculation; and thus any regulation for the equal distribution of the burthen which we adopted upon the first calculation, might be rendered ineffectual by subsequent and more extensive demands.

Because if the bill is intended as a tax upon expenditure its retrospective operation is arbitrary and cruel in the extreme, and altogether repugnant to the usages of our ancestors, the faith of civilized governments and the common dictates of humanity and justice. If it is intended as a tax upon income, in our opinion the criterion proposed is objectionable and inadequate; and above all, as income is of various descriptions, sometimes arising from permanent and disposable capital, sometimes from precarious or temporary possessions, and sometimes from labor, talents or industry we deem any attempt to proportion the burthen to the income, in itself unjust, unequal and impolitic. If it is intended as a tax upon property, neither in the original criterion, viz. the assessed taxes of '95, nor in the proposed relief, do we recognize any just principle of taxation, or perceive any fair or adequate method suggested for the imperial distribution of the burthen.

Because the relief proposed in the bill to those who may, by the increase of their assessed taxes, be liable to pay more than the tenth of their income, requires a disclosure of their pecuniary circumstances, which is contrary to the customs and prejudices of Englishmen, and repugnant to the principles of the constitution; and which to persons engaged in commerce or trade, must be attended with yet greater inconveniences than the payment of more than the 10th of their income. Furthermore; this regulation appears to us an indirect breach of the faith so often and so sacredly pledged to the stockholder, for should the whole of the income of any individual claiming this relief consist in a dividend upon stock, a tenth of that income is immediately sacrificed, and the dividend, in violation of the faith of the parliament and the nation, diminished one tenth by the intervention of government.

Because the operation of this bill is not confined to a definite period of time, but by the most wanton violation of justice, remains in force till a certain sum is produced; thus exacting from the honest deficiencies which may have been occasioned by accidental circumstances, by the designs or the distress of individuals, by the favor or the neglect of the collectors.

HOLLAND.
OXFORD.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.
SATURDAY, DEC. 30.
THE ROYAL FAMILY.

Mr. Tierney asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he expected to receive orders for delivering to that house a message respecting the contributions of the royal family towards the public expenditure? If no such message was in contemplation, he should hold it his duty to move, in the committee of ways and means, on Wednesday next, for the repeal of all those clauses by which the royal family were exempted from paying to the general contribution.

No notice was taken by the minister, either of this question, or of the intimation by which it was followed.

ROME, Dec. 9.

The Pope has acknowledged the *Cir Alpine* republic, and averted an expending war.

STOCKHOLM, Nov. 24.

Great discontents prevail among the mercantile people in Sweden, on account of the total failure of the French in their engagements, a want of faith now to generally known, that there remains scarcely any commercial intercourse between France and Sweden.

FRANKFORT, Dec. 30.

Citizen Hoffmann, late professor at Mentz, has published a letter to the inhabitants of that city, in which he congratulates them that the French have acknowledged them as brothers; and assures them, that under the protection of the French, Mentz will become one of the first commercial cities in the world.

UPPER RHINE, Dec. 30.

The Bayreuth Gazette states, that the French will only keep possession of Mentz till the congress for the peace of the empire shall be ended, and the sum of sixty millions be paid, which France requires of the German empire, as an indemnification for the expenses of the war. This, however, is not much believed.

LONDON, Jan. 11.

It is said, that the executive directory has refused to enter on any kind of negotiation with the commissioners from America, now at Paris, unless 400,000 dollars are paid as a preliminary *douceur* for the honor of a conference. When the last accounts left Paris, the commissioners had not been admitted to any public audience, tho' they have now been there near two months.

January 12.

By the Waltham Packet arrived at Falmouth from Lisbon, the following intelligence has been received:—

Lord St. Vincent had sent home all the men of war except the *Ville de Paris*, and four frigates, the *Emerald*, the *Lively*,

Aurora, &c. which were at Lisbon when the Waltham failed. Accounts were received at Lisbon a few days previous to the sailing of the Waltham, that Sir John Orde, who was then cruising off Cadiz with a Squadron of line of battle ships, had fallen in with a fleet of merchantmen, very richly laden, under the convoy of three Spanish line of battle ships, bound from the Havanna to Cadiz; the result was, that Sir John had captured the three Spanish line of battle ships; and greatest part, if not the whole of the fleet. The greatest credit was given to the above information at Lisbon, inasmuch that the arrival of the Spanish men of war and merchantmen were daily expected there when the packet failed from thence. Admiral Parker had hoisted his flag on board his Majesty's ship *Princess Royal*, and had sailed with six line of battle ships, to cruise off Cadiz, and to supersede Sir John Orde. Both Squadrons would form a very strong fleet, and Admiral Parker was to have the command, to cruise off and on Cadiz bay, and watch the motions of the Spaniards lying there, but who durst not venture out, tho' so much superior in numbers to the British fleet. A fleet of merchant vessels had sailed from Lisbon the 26th ult. under the convoy of his majesty's ship *Irresistible*, of 74 guns, G. Martin, and a sloop of war, for England; they consisted of fourteen or sixteen vessels. The emigrant army was down at Cath Kies Fort, all in readiness and expected to be embarked for England, in transports waiting to receive them, having been all marked and numbered. It was reported at Lisbon that Lord St. Vincent had declared to the Court of Portugal, that in case of their refusal of supplies of provisions and water to the British fleet, he would reduce the city of Lisbon to ruins. His lordship was in perfect health when the packet failed. His Majesty's Packet, King George, capt. Bell, had safely arrived at Lisbon two days previous to the sailing of the Waltham.

January 13.

At a very early hour this morning, we received French papers to the 9th inst.

These journals are chiefly filled, as for the most part they have lately been, with a collection of official Philippic against the government of England. A proclamation of the executive directory, issued on the 6th, and of which we have inserted a translation in our subsequent columns, calls on the mass of the people to contribute to the loan against England, and rates the probability of success in the projected expedition as a consequence of our immense debt.

January 15.

Notice was given at the Bank of England on Saturday that Books will be opened and receipts given for voluntary subscriptions in aid of the Requisition which is now passed into a law. The law directs that the bank shall give receipts for sums that may be paid in, together with duplicates, if required. If only receipts without duplicates, shall be required, then such payments shall be deemed and taken to be the voluntary contribution, but if they require a second receipt or duplicate, such second receipt or duplicate shall be deemed and taken to be in advance of the new assessment; and which receipt shall upon delivery to the collector, be an acquittance of such assessment as far as the same will go; all sums above the actual assessment to be deemed and taken as the voluntary contribution of the person or persons. That the sums to be paid into the bank in this way over and above the amount of the assessment of each individual may be great, we hope that splendid examples will be set from the highest places. Their Majesties and all the court have been called upon in a strong and pointed way. The people expect sacrifices, and this day we trust will prove that there is a just feeling in the higher circles of the burthens they have brought upon the country.

Admiral Thompson and Sir Roger Curtis have received directions to hold themselves in readiness to sail at a moment's warning, in consequence of information received by Government of the designs of the enemy.

Now that Parliament is adjourned, the loan is immediately to be settled, Mr. Pitt has fortunately made a competition, so that the terms will be more advantageous than he might otherwise expect. According to present report, he is to call only for 14 millions.

The new measure of the directory against England Manufactures and Commerce, will be felt as severely by Lloyd's Coffee House as by the Weavers of Lancashire. It is impossible under such an anathema to insure any ship, since an English pocket handkerchief would ensure the confiscation of the cargo.

It is a most dreadful blow to our trade; but it is ridiculous to charge it upon the enemy as a thing unprecedented. It is our maritime maxim returned upon us. It is that assertion of power which we have always made when we were able; which gave rise to the armed neutrality in the last war, and made us obnoxious to all the commercial powers, at the outset of our mad career in this war.

Duel—Yesterday morning, a duel was fought in Hyde Park, between the earl of Louisa, and Sir Frederick Vane, bart. in which the latter was wounded. This is the second time they have met on the same quarrel. The public will recollect that they fought about three months ago.

January 18.

The duke of Wirtemberg succeeds, by the death of his father, to his hereditary dominions, and to 5238 copies of the holy bible, in different languages.

The nett income remitted to this country from the king's dominions in Hanover, is estimated at about 30,000l. a year on a general average. But during the first seven years of the present reign, his majesty did not receive a sixpence revenue on account of the ravages caused by the war in that country. The Bishoprick is calculated to nett about 17,000l. a year.