

MR. FENNO,

IN tracing the late American war from its origin, we find there was no want of information, which could have been plead as an excuse on the part of that ministry, which precipitated the British nation into measures which have left an everlasting stigma on their councils—The following speech was founded on indisputable facts; and from those, the enlightened patriot drew such inferences as carried irresistable conviction to the mind of all his hearers, many of whom anticipated the fatal consequences that would follow from not giving them due consideration; but a majority were devoted to a junto, whose obstinacy was every thing, but windmill proof.

HOUSE of COMMONS, March 8, 1775.  
LONDON.

LORD NORTH'S RESTRAINING BILL.

MR. HARTLEY moved, that the following clause be inserted in the bill, viz.

"Provided always, and be it further enacted, that nothing in this act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to prohibit the importation into any or either of the said colonies or provinces, of fuel, corn, meal, flour, or other victuals brought coastwise from any part of America."

THIS clause, said he, cannot be objected to, even by the most vindictive spirits, against the four provinces of New-England, who are the objects of this bill, as it is extracted from the Boston port bill of last year, the lenity or humanity of which was never so much as pretended, even by its advocates. There cannot be a reason why you should throw away this year, the little share of humanity which you had the last; more especially, as we are come to discover and even to acknowledge, by the votes of the House, that we have proceeded hitherto, in this business with America, with rashness, misjudgment and precipitation. The vote I allude to was passed but a few days since: which says, or pretends to say, that it would have been proper (that is the term) to have proceeded in a way of asking a supply of the Americans, by the constitutional way of requisitions, before proceeding to compulsory or forcible methods. Having confessed ourselves wrong in the foundation, it is but equal justice to our fellow subjects of America to suppose, that those riots and resistances would not have happened, if we had not begun with them confessedly in an unconstitutional way. Surely then, it is not a time to add to the severity of our acts, in proportion as we find, that we have been unjust in the onset, and that they have been less to blame. It is surely but a little matter to ask, that you would not this year be more severe or cruel towards America, who have never been heard on their defence, than you were the last.

Besides, what construction can the town of Boston put upon your present measures, if you refuse the clause now offered? They will be besieged, as in actual war with any foreign enemy. General Gage has fortified the neck which joins Boston to the continent, by which he may intercept provisions; and by this bill you proclaim the same intention by sea. Do you expect, that they will submit to be starved into passive obedience? What resource have they left, but resistance; and, perhaps, to take advantage of the smallness of the numbers of General Gage's troops, before they are reinforced; for this act puts it out of all doubt, that you mean to proceed to all extremities. I have been informed, by those who know best the temper of the Americans, and I hope and believe that they will hold out their patience to the utmost, and that they will not strike the first blow: but what is the difference to them whether you strike the first blow by the musket or the sword, or, to equal effect by famine? The refusal of this clause will be a declaration on your part, that you mean to bring famine upon them, to the utmost of your power, and therefore a warning to them of the mercy which they are to expect at your hands.

As to the bill in general, it has been so ably debated by my friends near me, that I shall only add two remarks: This bill, by destroying the North American fishery, not only destroys that nursery of seamen, but will disable the provinces, under the prohibition, from the means of paying their debts to this country, who therefore will finally be the sufferers; and when the next year comes, and you find this consequence, you will then turn accusers of the North Americans for not paying their debts, and you will add, according to the usual falsehoods towards the Americans, that they never intended to pay their debts; and, by the distance of the place, and the falsehood of representations, you will impute those very effects which you have produced yourselves, as the justifying causes of resentment. This is the unjust way in which the Americans have been treated, on all occasions. I myself asked, the other day, why, on a particular occa-

on of a slight riot (in the year 1768) of a few hours continuance, four regiments, and a train of artillery, were ordered to Boston? To justify this enormous intervention of the military, I was told in this House, that indeed the riots were trifling, but that the Americans had come to a resolution to arm the country. What then was the real fact, as testified by dates? The fact was, that the resolution to arm was not taken till the troops were seen in the offing. It was the sight of the troops upon so trivial an occasion, that gave them to understand what they were to expect; and, by dates, the fact is verified, that they did not take arms till some months after the troops were ordered, but it was upon their first notice of the troops being to come; the resolution to arm against the worst, was actually debated but a few hours before the troops were landed. So it is that facts are misrepresented in America, and so let me put in my caution now, that the Americans do now actually pay their debts, like honest men, to the utmost of their power, and let me be before-hand with this charge, if when the natural consequences of these measures shall come next year, we should hear any false accusations of the Americans, as combining not to pay their debts.

I shall make but one remark more, but which seems to me to be of the utmost importance to the whole commercial system of England, which is, that the plantation built bottoms are two thirds, or three quarters, or all the bottoms upon which the British merchandize, to every quarter of the globe, is carried on; when we meditate a blow at the American trade, we should recollect at least, that there is this one manufacture (if I may so call it) of shipbuilding, upon the encouragement of which our very existence in this kingdom, as a trading people, depends. However we may think it our interest to suppress the rivalship of the colonies with ourselves, in other manufactures, yet in this trade of ship building they are our most material and substantial support. This revengful blow at the American ship building, will fall most immediately and fatally upon the manufacturers and merchants of every commercial article in the kingdom. For these reasons, I am against the whole principle of the bill now before us; and if we cannot prevail to have the whole rejected, I must humbly move, at least, the admission of the clause which I have just offered to the House.

FROM THE HERALD OF FREEDOM.

MR. FREEMAN,

HAVING observed in the Herald of July 31, a plan for rendering the public debt a public blessing, against which no well founded objections have appeared, that I have seen—some of your correspondents would be glad to see the following scheme of a National Bank at the seat of the general government, in aid of that plan communicated through the channel of your useful paper. It may first be remarked, that the plan proposed is.

1st. That the public creditors be invited to deposit their securities in the public Treasury;—receiving one third of the amount thereof in a paper medium, which shall be receivable on all imposts, excises, and public loans—and a certificate entitling them to the whole amount in 20 years, with interest annually at 5 per cent after 10 years—the paper medium received being equivalent to 10 years interest on the whole sum deposited.

2d. That such of the creditors, as may not choose to receive one third of the deposit in the paper medium, shall be paid their interest annually at 5 per cent, and the principal in 20 years, or sooner, if the situation of public affairs shall admit of it.

It is evident that this must be a beneficial proposal to the creditor—and to enable the public to support it, the following plan of a Bank is offered as one among other means which may be thought of—It is not probable that all the creditors will receive the one third of their deposits in the paper medium, and therefore we are not to conclude that we shall have a paper circulation to the amount of one third of the whole public debt; and when we consider that a paper medium must soon become absolutely necessary, in the business of the Revenue—and that it will be spread over an extensive continent, the resources of which are every day unfolding themselves and increasing, the scheme is thought by many to be a practicable one, and it is the duty of a good citizen to submit to the public consideration, those plans which he, from experience perhaps, feels to be of public benefit.

Plan of forming a NATIONAL BANK—from whence notes may be issued for the payment of interest, or on a deposit of the principal, agreeable to a proposition in the Herald of July 31, last; the notes to be receiveable on all the Revenues, and payable on demand at the Bank.

1st. That all the money in the collection offices be ordered to the Bank, after being received.

2d. That subscriptions be opened in the several States—in order to attach the monied interests to the National Bank, and so obtain their support,

if an attempt should at any time be made to raise upon the Bank—a share to be 500 dollars—100 of which to be paid into the Bank previous to the opening of it—the remainder or any part of it, to be paid within a month of its being demanded—either in gold or silver—or in the bank notes of the United States—the subscribers to be entitled to 5 per cent. per annum on their advances—to one per cent. more when the issues shall be double the deposits—to two per cent. when three times—to three when four fold—and to four per cent. when they shall amount to five times the deposits.

On this plan, the further the issues are extended beyond the deposits, the more it will be for the interests both of the stock-holders and the people; for in proportion as the stock-holders receive an encrease of interest on their advances so in proportion will the people pay less for the use of the money issued.

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EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE OHIO COMPANY.

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Agents, it is very much for the interest of the proprietors at large, that all the lands of the purchase should be divided and allotted as immediately as may be—And in order to accommodate them generally, by the option of classing as they may think proper, and drawing their rights or shares (where they may possess more than one) either together in contiguity, or by detaching and annexing them to distinct classes or divisions (at their own election) to give them the greater chance for variety in soil and situation—It is unanimously resolved, That as soon as the exploring committee shall have appropriated the lands for donation settlements, in quantity sufficient for all the proprietors, WINTHROP SARGENT, JOSEPH GILLMAN, and RETURN J. MEIGS, Esquires, who are hereby appointed a committee for that purpose, shall immediately make out, upon a large scale, a complete map or plan of the whole purchase from the best information, which they may be then able to obtain, expressing all the lands of the eight acre, three acre, city lots and commons, one hundred and sixty acre, and donation lots, the reserved lots of Congress, school lots, and lots appropriated for religious purposes—also, the two townships given by Congress for an university, and the towns or situations for towns to be reserved by the company for a future allotment.—That, all the residuary lands shall be, by them, the said committee of three, divided and numbered upon paper, into forty equal grand divisions of twenty-five shares each, as like in quality as may be: That each grand division be divided into five sub-divisions of five shares each, and each sub-division into sections of single shares:—That as soon as the map or plan is completed, the agents will form or class their subscribers (who shall not previously class themselves) by sections or single shares, into sub-divisions of five, and grand divisions of twenty-five, and immediately proceed to drawing by lot for said lands; by grand divisions, sub-divisions and sections: That in all draughts of sub-divisions (into sections) which may be made up of proprietors, holding four, three, or two and single shares, it shall be the usage for the greatest proprietor, or holder of the greatest number of shares, to take his lands in contiguity, by lot, either in the southern or northern part of the sub-division, where they shall be numbered from north to south, and in the western or eastern (by lot also) where they may be numbered from west to east; and where sub-divisions may be made up of two proprietors of two shares each, and one of one share, the two greatest proprietors shall receive their sections, by lot, either in the southern or western part of the sub-division. Resolved, That the before named committee, be directed to prepare the names and numbers, and make all the necessary arrangements for the intended draught: That previous to the drawing for this ultimate grand division of lands, there shall be returns of the proprietors, as they may be classed by the agents (or otherwise) lodged in the Secretary's office, and it is recommended in all cases to consult the inclinations and interests of the proprietors in the order of classing.

Resolved, That the agents will give public notice of the time and place of drawing, and that there be two persons no ways interested in the draughts, who shall be sworn to the faithfully drawing out the names and numbers from the boxes, and who alone shall be employed in this business for the draught of grand divisions, sub-divisions, and sections.

Resolved, That the Secretary cause the foregoing resolutions to be published in the newspapers of New-York, and the New-England States; to the end that the proprietors at large may have the option of classing themselves as they may think proper: And they are hereby requested so to do, and to express themselves upon this subject, either to their respective agents, or by information in writing addressed to, and to be lodged with the Secretary, at his office in the city of Marietta, previous to the first Monday of March, 1790—Upon which day it is expected the division will take place.

WINTHROP SARGENT,  
Secretary to the Ohio Company.

Marietta, 3d November, 1789.

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