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[Whole No. 221.]

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, ON THE SUBJECT OF THE COD AND WHALE FISHERIES.

[CONTINUED.]

No. VIII.

M. JEFFERSON, Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States.

Fountainbleau, October 22, 1786.

S I R,

AS it is the intention of the King to favor, as much as possible, the commerce of the United States, I have the honor to communicate to you the measures that have been taken on this subject.

By a letter of the 9th January, 1784, to the Marquis de la Fayette, I informed him that instead of two free ports promised by the treaty with the United States, the King had determined to grant them four, which has been done; and I promised him that I would direct my attention to the custom-houses and duties which are prejudicial to commerce, observing however that this object demanded long investigations, which are not yet completed. By another letter I informed him, that his Majesty had suppressed the duties upon the exportation of brandy, and I expected this suppression would be useful to the American commerce; I likewise promised him that the duties of the King and the admiralty, payable by an American vessel on her arrival in a French port, should be diminished and reduced to a single duty, and regulated according to the number of masts and draught of water, and not by the uncertain estimation of measurement. This reduction requires a perfect knowledge of all the duties paid in our ports; and as they are of various kinds, the statements which I have ordered to be made are not ready.

You know, Sir, the King has appointed a committee for the particular purpose of examining our commercial connections with the United States, and that the Marquis de la Fayette has presented a project conformable to the ideas contained in your letter to the Count de Vergennes; but you will consider how imprudent it would be to hazard by a change of system, the product of a branch of revenue which amounts to twenty-eight millions, upon an article which is not of the first necessity—after a long discussion of every means that can be at present adopted to encourage the importation of American tobacco, it has been resolved not to break the agreement made with Mr. Morris, but that after the expiration of this contract, no similar one shall be made, and that in the mean while, the farmers general should be obliged to purchase, annually, about fifteen thousand hogheads of American tobacco imported directly from the United States, in French or American vessels at the same price, on the same conditions which have been stipulated by the contract with Mr. Morris.

You will remember, Sir, that before a regulation could be made in favor of the importation of whale oil, the Marquis de la Fayette had taken a particular arrangement with Mr. Sangrain for the sale of this article, to the amount of eight hundred thousand livres, and that I had granted him passports in order to render this first importation, free from all duties whatsoever. The same Mr. Sangrain, afterwards made an agreement with some merchants of Bolton, to the yearly amount of four hundred thousand livres, to last during six years, for which his Majesty has granted the same favors which are enjoyed by the Hanse Towns.

This matter having been lately more extensively examined; the administration to whom the committee communicated their wish, agreeable to the Marquis de la Fayette's demand and your opinion, entirely to abolish all duties upon oil, have found that at present, they could not consent to it, on account of the engagements made with other powers. All that could be done was to grant, during ten years, to the whale oil, spermaceti, and whatever is comprehended within these denominations, imported from the United States in French or American vessels, the same favors, the same diminution of duties which the Hanse Towns enjoy.

His Majesty hopes that the commercial connections between the United States and France, will become so considerable as to engage him to continue the effect of this provisional determination; and as it has been observed by the committee, that a great duty of fabrication has been hitherto paid upon the most favored whale oil, and even upon the national, his Majesty consents to abolish the duty of fabrication with respect to the whale oil and spermaceti, directly imported from the United States in French or American bottoms, so that this oil and spermaceti shall not pay, during ten years, any other duty but seven livres ten sols, and ten sols, per livre; this last augmentation of ten sols per livre, shall cease in 1790.

It has also been determined that particular informations be taken concerning the consumption of Carolina rice in France, and that means be devised to encourage the importation of this article.

Representations having been made concerning the considerable duties laid upon the importation of pot-ash and pearl-ash, also upon beaver-skins and hair and raw leather, his Majesty has suppressed all duties whatsoever upon those articles, if imported for the growth of the United States in French or American vessels. He is likewise desirous of encouraging every article of American fur.

His Majesty has moreover consented to abolish all duties upon masts, yards, keels for ships, red cedar, green oak, and in a word, all kinds of wood fit for ship-building imported from the United States in French or American vessels.

The committee having likewise represented that there was a duty of five per cent. on the purchase of foreign built ships, and that this duty was prejudicial to the sale of American vessels, his Majesty has been pleased to exempt from all duties, the purchase of ships which shall be proved to be built in the United States.

Great duties having formerly been laid upon all shrubs, trees and seed, his Majesty has abolished these duties, when the above articles shall be imported in French or American vessels.

It having been represented that the State of Virginia had ordered the arms for her militia to be made in France, an order is passed, that the prohibitions which hitherto have prevented the exportation of arms and gunpowder, as well as the duties laid upon these articles when exported by permission, shall be abolished; and that whenever the United States shall think it expedient to export from France, arms, guns and gunpowder, they shall have full permission, provided these articles are exported in French or American vessels, and they shall be liable only to a very small duty, in order to facilitate the calculation of exports.

Lastly, his Majesty has received with the same favor, the applications made to the Committee for the suppression of the heavy duties actually paid upon books and papers of all kinds: The

King abolishes all these duties when the above articles shall be exported to the United States in French or American vessels.

It is with great pleasure, Sir, that I inform you of the dispositions of his Majesty; they are a new testimony of his great desire to establish the most intimate commercial connections between the two nations, and of the favorable attention he will always pay to any proposal made in the name of the United States of America.

I have the honor of being, with sincere attachment,

S I R,

Your most humble, and Most obedient servant,

De COLONNE.

P. S. Your nation will undoubtedly receive with pleasure, the information of the facilities which the King has just granted to the exportation of the wines of Bourdeaux, Guienne, and Touraine, and the suppression of the duties granted by different arrêts of Council, of which the Marquis de la Fayette will give you notice.

(To be continued.)

### FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

#### O D E S.

#### O D E VI.

JOHN BIDDETH ADIEU, WITH A LAST PIECE OF ADVICE TO REVIEWERS.

SALT of the Earth! Ye stimuli to Fame!  
Of rising Genius, kind and best Manure!  
Ah! can I, can I, without tears, endure  
The sad necessity to name,  
And my last, last, adieu, proclaim?

How doth sad memory, with recurrence vain,  
Call up to view past scenes of dear delight;  
Now gone, nay vanish'd, from my wishful sight;  
When, reckless of the filthy joy of gain,  
I did, with mickle toil, and woful pain,  
Much weariness and sweat of brain,  
Sing forth, to you, the monitory strain!  
Now, as with swan-like notes, my kind monition's fail,  
Let me relate one much improving tale.

#### THE TALE.

An Irishman, with body half o'er-bent,  
On all sides looking, thro' a market went—  
It happen'd, that as Teague proceeded,  
Quite undetermined what he greatest needed,  
He saw paraded, with enjoyment big,  
Full many a heavy hog, and roasting pig.  
With cautious touch, on one he placed his hand,  
And softly uttered forth this kind demand—  
"If I should bear you to my home away,  
"How long, confin'd, in prison must I stay?"  
Scarce was the question ended, but, "Squeak! Squeak!"  
The Pig affrighten'd cries.  
"A ha, a ha, a week, a week,"  
The Irishman replies—  
"If that is all I'll off a couple bear,  
"And by St. Patrick! stay two weeks, my dear."

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Now I expect, with deep bent brow,  
To see your countenances lower;  
And hear you ask—"Why whence, and where, and how,  
"Can this VILE TALE, on us, improvement shower?"

Yes, I expect that each will tell his brother,  
And thus respond to that and that to t'other—  
"I can't see how this story will apply—  
"No, on my soul, I can't—not I—nor I."

My dear, dear friends, to lead you thro' the wood  
Sav, don't you think that John is very good?  
Well then—why this is all that's meant—  
It's true, the story don't apply at all—  
But then, if with the wisdom John hath to you lent,  
You hard should study, tho' your wit be small,  
I do not doubt but on the sense you'd fall.

This is the meaning—as you write for pay,  
The greatest nonsense swell the impartial page,  
Still write, remark, review, and dash away,  
The joy, and wonder, of a stupid age.  
Use other's wisdom; if you can, sense show;  
But, if you can't, by all means, still review.

JOHN.

SAVANNAH, (Georgia) May 19.

Address of the CITIZENS of SAVANNAH, and the INHABITANTS of its VICINITY,

To the President of the United States.

S I R,

WHEN, having accomplished the great objects of a war, marked in its progress with events that astonished while they instructed the world, you had again returned to the domestic enjoyments of life, to which you were known to be so strongly attached, there was little probability, in the common order of things, that the people of Georgia, however ardently they might desire, should ever be indulged, the happiness of a personal interview with you—but summoned again, as you were, from your retirement, by the united voice and the obvious welfare of your country, you did not hesitate to furnish one more proof that, in comparison to the great duties of social life, all objects of a private nature are with you but secondary considerations: And to this your ruling passion of love for your country it is that we owe the opportunity now afforded of congratulating you on your safe arrival in the city of Savannah—an office we the committee,

under the warmest impressions of sensibility and attachment, execute in the name and behalf of a respectable and grateful number of citizens.

History furnishes instances of some eminently qualified for the field, and of others endued with talents adequate to the intricate affairs of State; but you, Sir, have enriched the annals of America with a proof, to be sent abroad to all mankind, that, however rare the association, the virtues and talents of soldier and republican statesmen will sometimes dwell together, and both characters derive additional lustre from a subserviency to the precepts of Religion.

Roused by oppression at home, and inspired by example from America, the people of enlightened nations in Europe are now beginning to assert their rights: And it is observable that those brave men, the subjects of foreign powers, who were votaries to our cause, and companions in your victories, are always found foremost in the struggle for just and equal government.

You have now, Sir, an opportunity of viewing a State which, from its exposed situation, has been peculiarly affected by the calamities of war, but which, under the influence of a happy government, will rise fast to that rank of prosperity and importance to which her natural advantages so justly entitle her, and which will enable her to reflect back upon the union all the benefits derived from it.

We shall always take a deep concern, in common with the other citizens of the United States, in whatever regards your personal welfare and happiness. We make it our prayer to Almighty God that you may be long continued to your country her Ornament and Father, and that it may be more and more exemplified in you, Sir, that to know how to conquer, and to improve the advantages of conquest into blessings to a community, are faculties sometimes bestowed on the same mortal.

In the name and behalf of a number of citizens of Savannah, and its Vicinity, convened for the Reception of the President,

N. W. JONES,  
LACHN. M'INTOSH,  
JOSEPH CLAY,  
JOHN HOUSTON,  
JOSEPH HABERSHAM, } The Committee.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S ANSWER.

To the CITIZENS of SAVANNAH, and the INHABITANTS of its VICINITY.

GENTLEMEN,

I AM extremely happy in the occasion now afforded me to express my sense of your goodness, and to declare the sincere and affectionate gratitude which it inspires.

The retrospect of past scenes, as it exhibits the virtuous character of our country, enhances the happiness of the present hour, and gives the most pleasing anticipation of progressive prosperity. The individual satisfaction to be derived from this grateful reflection must be enjoyed in a peculiar degree by the deserving citizens of Georgia—a State no less distinguished by its services than by its sufferings in the cause of freedom.

That the city of Savannah may largely partake of every public benefit which our free and equal government can dispense, and that the happiness of its vicinity may reply to the best wishes of its inhabitants, is my sincere prayer.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

CHARLESTON, May 28.

AT a meeting of the citizens and inhabitants in the City-Hall, on Friday the 27th inst.—Arnoldus Vanderhorst, Esq. was requested to take the chair, and Mr. David Alexander to act as secretary, when the following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas the establishment of a branch of the National Bank in this city, would be of great and general advantage to every class of inhabitants in the state: Therefore,

Resolved, That it be recommended to all persons to subscribe for a share or shares in the proposed National Bank, and to the subscribers to use their endeavors to procure the establishment of a branch thereof in this city, and that the under-named gentlemen, to wit, Messrs. Nathaniel Russell, Thomas Stewart, Robert Hazlehurst, Edward Darrell, William Crafts, Joseph Vesey, David Ramfay, Daniel Hall, John Edwards, James Theus, Samuel Smith, William Thayer, and John