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CONDITIONS.

The price of the paper is *two dollars and fifty cents* per annum—but if paid half yearly in advance, two dollars only will be charged.

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from the National Register.

MEASURES OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

At the commencement of the last session of Congress, the President, in his first message, congratulated that body on the flourishing condition of the country; and this congratulation has given rise to many querulous disquisitions, founded upon intimations that the government itself has, by its measures, reduced the community almost to a state of ruin. The best answer to all the cavils which have been made in this respect, is a plain reference to undeniable facts.

What then have been the acts, good and evil, of president Monroe's administration?

When Mr. Jefferson came into power, and the internal taxes were abolished, that abolition was hailed as a miracle of amelioration.

Upon Mr. Monroe's accession, the same description of taxes, to a much greater amount, were upon his recommendation, also repealed.

If the act of Mr. Jefferson, in this respect, was good so was that of Mr. Monroe; and even better, for the taxes were not only greater in amount, but there was a reasonable pretext for keeping them on; namely: to pay off the heavy war debt.

At Mr. Monroe's suggestion likewise the officers and soldiers of the revolution have been provided for. This is a measure, not only creditable to the president, but honorable to the nation; and, to the latest generations, it will "tell well in history."

At the earnest recommendation of Mr. Monroe, moreover, large appropriations have been made for increasing the navy, for augmenting fortifications; and suitable officers have been incessantly employed in surveying different parts of the coast, fixing upon proper sites for arsenals and depots, and giving additional security to navigation.

Under president Monroe's administration our territorial limits have been fixed, by treaties with Great Britain and with Spain, from the river Mississippi to the northern Pacific Ocean; and the whole of the Floridas have been added to the empire of the republic.

The national debt has been rapidly diminishing for the last two years; and there has always been money enough in the treasury to meet lawful demands upon it.

The calls of humanity have not been unattended to. The Indians, whilst their excesses have been checked, have been

courted and encouraged to improve their condition. They are solicited to enter the community of the whites, not as slaves but upon equal terms as brothers. Government not, like Mahomet, presented to them a fabulous creed in one hand and the sword of extermination in the other; but has held out to them the comforts and profits of Christian civilization.

Why therefore find fault?

Manufactures it is said, are not encouraged. But it is not apparent that encouragement of manufactures belongs, not to the executive, but to the legislative, part of the government? Domestic manufactures are not to seek for their adversaries in the public departments at Washington, but in the classes of society whose pursuits conflict with them. The store-keepers and the landholders are their rivals. The store-keepers live by the resale of foreign goods, and the landholders are impressed with the opinion that a diminution in the quantity of foreign goods imported, would be attended by a diminution in the amount of native products consumed in foreign countries. Such is the leading obstacle to the advancement of domestic manufactures, which have also to encounter difficulties in the high price of labor and in the want of moneyed capital.

Navigation, too, it is said languishes. Is that to be wondered at? If this complaint means any thing, it means that the active tonnage of the United States is not so great at present as it was during the wars of the French revolution. "In 1790, the registered tonnage of the United States consisted of 346,254 tons; in 1816, it amounted to 800,739 tons. In 1790, the tonnage of every description amounted to 478,377 tons; in 1816, it was extended to 1,372,218 tons." This enormous increase was occasioned by the neutral position of the United States during the wars in question, which rendered them, without a war premium for insurance, the carriers of almost all the nations of Europe.

When the late general peace took place there, the several nations of that quarter of the world would naturally reclaim their proper portion of the carrying trade; and this must necessarily check the amount and employment of American tonnage.—The remarks of Mr. Seybert, on this topic, are very judicious and appropriate: "All nations extensively engaged in navigation, (says he page 304,) have been affected by the peace in proportion to the augmentation of their tonnage, during the late conflicts in Europe; none has suffered more than Great Britain. Whilst the late political storms were almost desolating the civilized world, the vessels belonging to France, Holland, and Spain, were swept from the Ocean. In proportion as the tonnage of these nations diminished, that of the other states was augmented; and none in a greater degree, than our own. Foreign nations will make every effort to regain the navigation which the late wars had taken from them. We must anticipate a reduction on our part, of as much as was formerly employed in the trade between those countries and their American colonies."

The commercial prosperity which the United States enjoyed from 1793 to 1806 may, indeed, be said to have spoiled our

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* Seybert's Statistical Annals pages 5, 6.

merchants. The accumulation of a price fortune was but the work of a few years, and country seats and villas sprung up as by magic. The enchantment of that day however, is over. Our traders must return to more sober and moderate calculations. Yet, making all possible allowances for the diminution of American tonnage, by the prevailing peace, the increase from 1789 to 1819 will still be found to be equivalent to a gradual augmentation, from the former to the latter year, marking a permanently growing prosperity sufficient to gratify the reasonable expectations of the best friends of the country.

The measures of the administration which have chiefly called forth the animadversions of its opponents, are—

1. The refusal to recognise the independence of the Spanish American provinces.

2. The seizure of Amelia Island. And—

3. The invasion of Florida.

Of the first of these acts, or rather no act, the fault finding has been so vague and wild, that it is difficult to fix upon any one point wherein the advocates of the recognition of South American Independence concur. Some writers have insisted on the recognition of Puerrydon, and others of Artigas; and there have been persons who have recommended a recognition of both their authorities. We know of individuals who regard Puerreydon and O'Higgins as traitors to South American liberty and independence. The executive went no farther than to inquire into the situation of the South American affairs. And what has been the result? Why the provinces were found not to be united, and the Patriots themselves, as to their internal government, in a state of distraction. Let any reflecting man put the question to himself, whether under the circumstances, the executive ought to have volunteered a recognition of independence? The question was fairly tried in the house of Representatives, and was negatived by a large majority. This was during the first session of the fifteenth congress. Mr. CLAY, the principal partizan for acknowledging South American Independence, after seeing the reports of Messrs. Rodney Bland and Graham, did not in the second session of that Congress, think proper to renew the motion. Every freeman in the United States wishes well to the cause of emancipation in that portion of the earth; but very few, we apprehend, are willing to compromise the peace and welfare of the country by too early an interference in Spanish American affairs.

The seizure of Amelia Island was justified by law in three points of view. 1st. By the law of nations, which authorizes a suffering nation to break up a nest of freebooters, when the regular authorities of the place are confessedly incompetent to do it. 2d. By the revenue laws which interdict smuggling; and the laws relating to the slave-trade which prohibit the introduction of slaves from Africa. And, 3d. By the special secret acts of Congress concerning the occupation of Florida.

With respect to the invasion of Florida, the administration and general Jackson have been tried in almost every shape: In the newspapers, in congress, and by public meetings in three of the principal cities in the Union. By the House of Representatives, by a large majority of the public journals, and by the people, both the

President and the General have been acquitted.

The subject of course ought to be considered as at rest.

If there is a charge which can be justly made against the administration, it is that of neglecting for too long a time to clear the American seas of the pirates who infest it. An act however, has been at length passed for this object; and we may calculate on its being executed with energy. In referring to this part of our subject, we cannot avoid remarking what has frequently fallen under our notice, and that is, the leaning of indulgence to these piratical cruisers, from the persuasion that they aid the cause of the Spanish Independents. This argues a great corruption of moral principle in certain vehement friends of the patriots. It shows, if we view it in the most favorable light, that they consider the means—even if the means be pillage and murder—as justified by the end. It demonstrates, in truth, more: it proves that there are men who regard political revolutions as authorizing the attainment of wealth by plundering and assassinating the citizens and subjects of all countries.

Arbuthnot and Ambrister.

We had thought that all further discussion on this subject had closed, and that the event had been consigned to the impartial judgement of History. But it seems that the British ministry are disposed to keep the topic alive; and insinuations have been thrown out that the government of the United States is to be called to account for executing those two atrocious malefactors, Arbuthnot and Ambrister.

What can possibly influence the British cabinet to this course of procedure? It surely does not expect to derive any credit, either on the score of humanity or of good faith, in provoking further investigation.

If ever a sinister conduct, in relation to its public engagements, could be traced to any government, such a conduct may, as it respects the intrigues and plots of Arbuthnot and Ambrister, be traced to the court of St. James. Engaged as the United States have been in a diplomatic broil with Spain, the American people have not sufficiently attended to the connexion between these unhappy wretches and the British ministry. The British ministry, do we say? Nay; the Prince Regent of Great Britain himself.

The documents which are now in a course of publication in the National Register, clearly prove the following facts—

1- That Hillis Hadjo, otherwise called the prophet Francis, visited England at the close of the late war between the United States and Great Britain.

2. That he was received by the Prince Regent with marks of great consideration; presented with a tomahawk, which, among the Indians is equivalent to a war-talk; and treated with a grand entertainment on board a British man of war.

3. That Hillis Hadjo returned to Florida by way of the Bahamas, accompanied or immediately followed, by Arbuthnot, if not by Ambrister.

4. That Hillis Hadjo invariably asserted that he had been promised military supplies by the Prince Regent; and it was upon this assertion of the Indian prophet