592.

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER

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(By Authority.)

AN ACT

For the relief of George Little.

BE *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That the proper accounting officers liquidate and adjust with George Little the account of damages, interest and charges, in the case of the brig Flying Fish, captured by him while commander of the frigate Boston, in the service of the United States, during the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine, and afterwards libelled in the district court of the United States, for the district of Massachusetts; in which case judgment was ultimately rendered by the circuit court, in pursuance of a decision of the supreme court of the United States; and that so much as may be necessary for satisfying the same, be paid out of any monies in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

NATHL MACON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

GEO: CLINTON,
Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

January 17, 1807.

APPROVED,

TH JEFFERSON.

New York, Jan. 13.

By the information received from New Orleans, brought by the Thetis, Captain M'Donald; it appears that rebellion has assumed a formidable front on the shores of the Mississippi—that the inhabitants are in general alarm for their safety—and that it will require the utmost exertions of government to counteract the menaces of this daring conspiracy.

"The design of the conspirators embraces an extensive plan—to unite Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana, the Floridas, with Mexico, into an empire separate and independent of the United States. To effect the execution of this plan the Spanish government of these provinces are to act in coalition with the leaders of this conspiracy, under the immediate protection of Great Britian, and her fleet, which is to arrive in the gulph of Mexico, in a few months."

EXTRACT.

"*Natchez, Nov.* 16.

"I have frequently wrote you since I left W. C. but have never received an answer, owning I presume to the miscarriage of my letters as it has been the case in divers instances. I will however, once more venture to address you, I confine myself to giving you an account of an expedition I have just returned from against the Spaniards—In consequence of the Spaniards having crossed the Sabine river, which is contended by the United States, to be the boundary, with a large number of troops, general Wilkinson made a requisition of 250 militia from this territory, as also for a certain number from the territory of Orleans, to act in conjunction with the regular troops, in repelling the invasion. This day was six weeks the militia, required from this territory, together with a volunteer company of dragoons, commanded by captain Benjamin Farar, of which I was a member, marched from this city——on our arrival at the rapids of the Red river we received orders from the general that none but our troops of dragoons was required to come on, and that the rest might return, the Spaniards having principally recrossed the Sabine—on our arrival at Natchitoches, the head quarters of the army, we spent some time in making the necessary arrangements for an expedition to the banks of the Sabine, which the Spaniards declared they would oppose, to the utmost of their power—in a few days we set out, our force consisting of between 5 and 600 regulars, a company of mounted infantry, and our company of dragoons. The mounted infanty, commanded by major Welsh, kept 4 or 5 miles in the advance, our troop immediately in the advance of the regulars, and the baggage in rear of the whole——in this order we moved on not making more than 8 or 10 miles a day; on the third day's march, we were met by a Spanish officer with an escort, bearing dispatches from the commander of the Spanish forces, stating that he would consider our advances as an act of hostility towards his government, and was bound to oppose us with force. I know not what reply the general made, however we proceeded on as before, keeping ourselves in a complete state of readiness for an attack by the Spaniards, who were then said to be three times our number——so confident was the general of an engagement, that he thought proper to lay down the line of battle by a general order; we met with no opposition and encamped on the banks of the Sabine two, or three miles above the Spanish camp, which had been moved over on the opposite side, whence we awaited their operations for two or three days—at length a communication took place between the general and the Spanish commandant, between whom it was agreed, that the Spanish forces should retire seventy or eighty miles beyond the Sabine, and that the United States troops should return to Natchitoches, there to await the termination of the negociation now pending between the United States and Spain. After this understanding took place, several of our troops, with myself, paid a visit to the Spanish camp, where we were treated by the governor and officers with every attention; their number as far as I could learn, was about 1300, all mounted; their dress and equipment would be a great curiosity to a Pennsylvanian—their arms consist of a fusee carried across the saddle before them, a sword about two feet long, a pistol fastened to their saddle behind, a spear with a handle eight or ten feet long—they have a kind of shield, made of raw hides, which they hold in their left hand and wear on their breast occasionally, each soldier has from five to eight horses or mules, when one is broke down they take another—they informed us, they had lost upward of three thousand horses and mules since they set out on the expedition.

"Were it not necessary to preserve what we consider our territory inviolate from the encroachments of a foreign power, the part in contention is not worth the trouble and expence this compaign has incurred; the land, at least, what I have seen, is worth little or nothing—on our discharge, the United States troops were immediately ordered to Orleans to fortify that city, & put it in a state of defence, from which I conceive something curious is still expected."

Aurora.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Aleppo to his friend.—Translated from the Gazette of Marseilles, of 20th Oct.

"A very extraordinary discovery, such as will confound a thousand systems of prophetic writers, has lately been made. The Apocalypse, or Revelation of St. John, one of the Apostles, has long been the subject of doubt and endless disputation. For several centuries it was not considered by many Christian Fathers and Churches, as canonical, or the work of the inspired Apostle John; even Luther rejected it. Those who doubted its title to the Canon, alledged it to be the fabrication of one Cerinthus, who was contemporary with the Apostles, and a Christian heretic, who denied the divinity of Christ, alleging he was but a teacher, and his doctrine or morals only divine.

The point in dispute seems now to be brought to a determination. Some green laborers, belonging to a little town called Gios, in Asia-Minor, lately removing some rubbish from an ancient edifice, and digging up its ruins, took up a small marble globe. They could perceive no aperture, and at first conceived it was solid. On taking it however to the village, it was found to be hollow, but with a shell of immense thickness and weight, and was finally broken.

There were found in it a number of scrolls or writings in the Greek language, bearing dates between 58 and 99, A. D. They were most curiously done up, and continued in a perfect state of preservation.

They were found to be wholly the writings of Cerinthus, containing his epistles to the Christian churches, and various dissertations on the points of controversy, then subsisting among the Christians.

These works appear written with great sectarian zeal, somewhat indicating impaired brain, but the most singular of these writings is a full draft of the Apocalypse in the same hand writing as the rest, with erazures, alterations and interlineations. In every essential particular, it agrees with the book now called the Revelation of St. John; and from the erazures, alterations and appearance, carries full evidence, it was merely fabricated by Cerinthus—and published as John's after his death, by way of upholding some of the peculiar tenets of Cerinthus.

This scroll, as well as the rest, are now in the possession of a Greek bishop, and authenticated copies and proofs have been sent to the Pope and other great church dignitaries, of this most extraordinary detection.

National Intelligencer.

Bill for prohibiting the importation of slaves into the United States, Dec. 31, 1806.

Yeas and Nays on the motion to strike out the following words:

"And if any person or persons shall, after the said thirty-first day of December, transport or bring, or cause to be transported or brought into the United States, or the territories thereof, any negro, mulatto, or person of colour, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, every person or persons so offending shall be guilty of felony; and being thereof convicted before any court of the United States, having competent jurisdiction, shall suffer death;" and in lieu thereof insert,

"And if any person or persons shall, after the thirty-first day of December, transport or bring, or cause to be transported or brought into the United States, or the territories thereof, any negro, mulatto, or person of colour, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, every person or persons so offending, shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and being thereof convicted before any court having competent jurisdiction, shall suffer imprisonment not more than ten, nor less than five years."

YEAS.—Messrs. Alston, jun. Archer, Barker, Bassett, Betton, Boyle, Burwell, Butler, G. W. Campbell, Chittenden, Claiborne, J. Clay, Clinton, jun. Clopton, Cook, Darby, Dawson, Dickson, Early, Elliot, Ellis, Elmer, Fisk, Green, Helms, Holland, Holmes, Jackson, Jones, Kenan, Knight, Lloyd, Magruder, Marion, M'Creery, Meriwether, N. R. Moore, T. Moore, Jer. Morrow, Mumford, Newton, jun. J. Randolph, Rhea of Ten. Richards, Sailly, Sandford, Schuneman, Smelt, J. Smith, S. Smith, Southard, Stanford, Stanton, Taggart, Tenney, Tracy, Trigg, Verplanck, R. Whitehill, Wickes, N. Williams, Winston, and Wynns—63.

NAYS.—Messrs. Alexander, Anderson, Bard, Bedinger, Bidwell, Blake, jr. Blount, Broom, Brown, Casey, Chandler, M. Clay, Conrad, Covington, Cutts, Dana, Davenport, jr. Dwight, Earle, Ely, Eppes, Findley, Fowler, Gray, Gregg, Halsey, Hastings, Hough, Lambert, Mac Farland, Masters, Jo. Morrow, Mosely, J. Nelson, Olin, Porter, Pugh, Rea, (*Penn.*) Russell, Sammons, Seaver, Sloan, Smilie, Tallmadge, Thomas, T. W. Thompson, Van Cortlandt, Varnum, Wadsworth, J. Whitehill, D. R. Williams, M. Williams, and Wilson.—53.

JANUARY 7, 1807.

A motion was then made by Mr. Bidwell, further to amend the third section of the said bill, in the following paragraph, to wit: "*and such ship or vessel, if brought into any port or place within a state or territory, the constitution and laws of which permit slavery, shall, together with her cargo, tackle, apparel and furniture, be forfeited*" by striking out from the said paragraph, the word "*cargo.*"

YEAS.

Messrs. Archer, Bard, Bedinger, Betton, Bidwell, Blake, junior, Broom, Brown, Chandler, Dana, Darby, Dwight, Elliot, Ely, Findley, Fisk, Green, Hamilton, Hastings, Helms, Knight, Lambert, Lloyd, Jo. Morrow, Mosely, Jer. Nelson, Olin, Pitkin, junior, Porter, Pugh, Sammons, Seaver, Sloan, Smilie, Stanton, Sturges, Tallmadge, T. Thompson and Varnum—39.

NAYS.

Messrs. Alexander, Alston, junior, Anderson, Bassett, Blount, Boyle, Burwell, Butler, G. W. Campbell, J. Campbell, Casey, Chittenden, Claiborne, J. Clay, M. Clay, Clopton, Conrad, Covington, Davenport, jun. Earle, Early, Ellis, Elmer, Fowler, Goldsborough, Gray, Gregg, Halsey, Holland, Holmes, Kenan, Livingston, Mac Farland, Magruder, Marion, Masters, M'Creery, Meriwether, N. R. Moore, T. Moore, Jer. Morrow, Mumford, R. Nelson, Newton, jr, Quincy, J. Randolph, Rea, (*Pen..*) Rhea, (*Tenn.*) Richards, Russell, Sailly, Sandford, Schuneman, Smelt, J. Smith, S. Smith, Southard, Stanford, Stedman, Tenney, Thomas, P. R. Thompson, Tracy, Trigg, Van Cortland, Van Rensselaer, Verplanck, Wadsworth, J. Whitehill, R. Whitehill, Wickes, D. R. Williams, M. Williams, N. Williams, Wilson, Winston, and Wynns—77.

A motion was then made by Mr. Bidwell, and the question being put, further to amend the said bill, by adding to the end thereof the following proviso: "*Provided that no person shall be sold as a slave by virtue of this act.*"

It passed in the negative; the House being equally divided, to wit:—Yeas 60—Nays 60.

And Mr. Speaker declaring himself with the nays.

YEAS.

Messrs. Anderson, Archer, Bard, Barker, Bedinger, Betton, Bidwell, Bishop, Blake, jun. Broom, Brown, Chandler, Conrad, Cook, Cutts, Dana, Darby, Davenport, jun. Dwight, Elliot, Ellis, Ely, Findley, Fisk, Gregg, Green, Halsey, Hamilton, Hastings, Knight, Lambert, Jer. Morrow, Jo. Morrow, Mosely, Jer. Nelson, Olin, Pitkin, jun. Porter, Pugh, Quincy, Rea, (*Penn.*) Richards, Sailly, Sammons, Seaver, Sloan, Smilie, S. Smith, Southard, Stanton, Sturges, Tallmadge, Thomas, T. W. Thompson, Varnum, J. Whitehill, R. Whitehill, M. Williams, N. Williams, and Winston—60.

NAYS.

Messrs. Alexander, Alston, jr. Bassett, Blount, Boyle, Burwell, Butler, G. W. Campbell, J. Campbell, Casey, Claiborne, J. Clay, M. Clay, Clopton, Covington, Dickson, Earle, Early, Fowler, Goldsborough, Gray, Holland, Holmes, Jones, Kenan, Lewis, jr. Livingston, Lloyd, Mac Farland, Magruder, Marion, Masters, M'Creery, Meriwether, N. R. Moore, T. Moore, Mumford, R. Nelson, Newton, jr. J. Randolph, Rhea, Ten. Russell, Sandford, Schuneman, Smelt, J. Smith, Stanford, Tenney, P. R. Thompson, Tracy, Trigg, Van Cortlandt, Van Rensselaer, Verplank, Wadsworth, Walton, Wickes, D. R. Williams, Wilson, & Wynns,—60.

JANUARY 8.

An engrossed bill to prohibit the importation or bringing of slaves into the United States, or the territories thereof, after the thirty-first day of December, one thousand eight hundred and seven, was read the third time.

A motion was made, and the question being put, that the said engrossed bill be recommitted to the consideration of a select committee.

YEAS—Messrs. Alexander, Anderson, Bard, Barker, Bedinger, Bidwell, Bishop, Blake, jr. Broom, Brown, Boyle, J. Campbell, Chandler, J. Clay, Clinton, jr. Clopton, Conrad, Cook, Covington, Cutts, Darby, Davenport, jr. Dwight, Elliot, Elmer, Ely, Eppes, Findley, Fisk, Goldsborough, Gregg, Green, Halsey, Hamilton, Hastings, Helmes, Hough, Knight, Lambert, Lloyd, N. R. Moore, Jer. Morrow, John Morrow, Mosely, Mumford, J. Nelson, Olin, Pitkin, jr. Porter, Pugh, Quincy, Rea, Pen. Rhea, Ten. Richards, Sailly, Sammons, Seaver, Sloan, Smilie, S. Smith, Southard, Stanton, Sturges, Taggart, Tallmadge, Thomas, T. W. Thompson. Tracy, Varnum, Wadsworth, J. Whitehill, R. Whitehill, Wickes, M. Williams, N. Williams, and Winston.—76.

NAYS—Messrs. Alston, jr. Archer, Bassett, Betton, Blount, Burwell, Butler, G. W. Campbell, Casey, Claiborne, M. Clay, Dawson, Dickson, Earle, Earl, Fowler, Gray, Holland, Holmes, Jackson, Jones, Kenan, Lewis, jr. Mac Farland, Magruder, Marion, Masters, M'Creery, Meriwether, T. Moore, R. Nelson, Newton, jr. J. Randolph, Russell, Sandford, Schuneman, Smelt, J. Smith, Stanford, Tenney P. R. Thompson, Trigg, Verplanck, D. R. Williams, Wilson, and Wynns.—46.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16.

Mr. *Gregg* presented a memorial from a large number of the inhabitants of the county of Washington, praying for a repeal of the act prohibiting the arrest of debtors for debts not exceeding twenty dollars, which was referred to a select committee.

Mr. *Jer. Morrow* presented a petition from sundry inhabitants of Fairfield county, Ohio, praying for the establishment of several new post offices, which was referred to the Post Office Committee.

Mr. *Boyle* from the committee on public lands presented a bill making further provision for the disposal of the sections of land heretofore reserved for the disposition of Congress.

Referred to a committee of the whole on Monday.

An engrossed bill, authorising the President of the U. S. to accept the service of a number of volunteer companies not exceeding thirty thousand men, was read the third time, and passed without a division.

An engrossed bill supplementary to the act entitled, "An act making provision for the redemption of the whole of the public debt of the U. S. was read the third time.

Mr. J. Randolph called for the Yeas and Nays.

Mr. Alston said he should have contented himself with giving a silent vote on this bill, but for the call of the Yeas and Nays. Having been required, he deemed it his duty to assign his reasons for voting against the bill, which he should do, although he should stand alone. He knew no advantage that could accrue to the U. S. from the passage of the bill. What did it hold out? The opening of a new subscription to all the persons holding evidences of the existing public debt. Were the U. S. to be benefitted by this modification of the present debt, or were they in the least interested in it? It was clear that they were not interested; for if they were, the keen speculator would never come forward to subscribe. For, therefore, the sole purpose of expediting the payment of the debt, the government were about to make a sacrifice to the holders of the public debt. Who were these holders? Men who had already preyed on the interests of the nation. Mr. Alston said he considered this as neither more nor less than a second assumption system, pursuing the same tract pursued by the first act making an assumption of debts. This was a measure giving this description of people, who had speculated on the interests of the country, another advantage. It held out a strong invitation to every citizen of the U. S. or of a foreign nation, to subscribe to the new loan, by giving them nine per cent. more than the value of their stock twelve or fifteen months ago. Of this he had evidence—and that at that period there could not be more than 56 per cent. got here or at Philadelphia for three per cent. stock. The bill therefore gives the holders of this stock nine per cent. on their capital. It was for this, as well as for many other reasons, that he should vote against the bill. He did not believe that the situation of the U. S. was such as required such a precipitancy in paying off the debt. No man was more disposed than he was to discharge the debt fairly and honorably; but he was not for doing it in such a manner as to promote the advantage of the holders of the present paper of the U. S. Mr. A. repeated that he considered the bill exactly in the same light with the assumption bill passed a long while since, and that it ought to be denominated an amendment to that law, instead of the act to which it purposed to be a supplement.

Mr. J. Randolph observed that to him nothing was plainer than that where two individuals stood in the relation of debtor and creditor, new arrangements of existing debts due from one to the other might be made to the mutual advantage of both. At present the commissioners of the Sinking Fund were authorised to purchase old six per cents. and deferred stock at their nominal par value—that is, at the rate of one hundred dollars in specie for one hundred dollars stock, and those stocks were every year partially reimbursed at this rate. The only good, therefore, that the provisions of the bill could do the holders of these species of stock would be that the government would pay them at the same rate that they were now paying them, and at which they had made purchases as fast as they could. So much for this part of the bill.

With regard to the provisions relative to three per cents, Mr. R. said he would state a plain fact, that would come home to the simplest understanding possessed by any member of the committee. A farmer owes his neighbor a thousand dollars, for which he had given his bond, bearing an interest of three per cent. He has it in his option, to pay it off, for 650 dollars. Now, do you think there is a provident farmer in the U. S. that would hesitate to discharge the thousand dollars by paying 650 instead of suffering the 1,000 dollars to rest as a burthen on his children, or a lien on his estate? This is the plain question. Do the House think it most for the advantage of the estate of the good people of the U. S. to pay off this stock at the rate of 65 per cent. or let it remain a perpetual incumbrance on the nation; and is it not self evident that an arrangement may be made between the public and its creditors, as well as between two individuals, to the mutual advantage of both?

The question was then taken on the passage of the bill—Yeas 112—Nays 13.

Mr. *Elliot* observed that he had some weeks since presented a number of resolutions on the important subject of national defence, which it was not the pleasure of the House to refer to a committee of the whole.

When it should be the pleasure of the House to resume their consideration, he said, it would be his wish to withdraw the first, which had been generally considered as too abstract in its nature & as covering too broad a field of disquisition. It would likewise be his wish to withdraw one or more of the remaining resolutions, and to propose such modifications of the rest, that it should be admitted they presented new questions to the consideration of the House; and he should then only ask that the sense of the House should be taken on referring the resolutions thus modified. Presuming that there could be no objection in the House to making such a disposition of them, he gave notice that he would, on Tuesday next, if an opening offered, move to resume their consideration for the purpose of making this disposition of them.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill continuing for a further time the act for suspending commercial intercourse between the U. S. and certain parts of St. Domingo.

The committee, without debate, rose and reported the bill, without amendment, which was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading on Monday.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the bill authorizing a grant of land for the purchase of a hospital at Natchez, &c.

The first section, appropriating a certain portion of land for the purchase of a hospital, was passed over without animadversion.

The second section fixes the salary