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FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

Observations on the conduct of Great Britain—Continued.

As the laws and constitutions of England did not admit that government to avail itself of the execution of the British and Russian convention of March 1793, without acts of Parliament indemnifying the ministry of the day for each order for the seizure of neutrals against the law of nations, and as the orders of the 8th of June 1793 were thus illegitimate; and further as the frequent passing of acts of indemnity would excite the attention of neutral governments, a measure of a singular and unprecedented cast was adopted on the 17th of June 1793, which was calculated, by an insinuation or implication, to cover the British orders of that month, and all those which England might chuse to make during that war. The executive and judiciary departments of G. Britain had laid down in the most formal, solemn and open manner, before the whole world, in the case with Prussia, of the Silesia loan, that the universal law of nations and existing treaties were the true and only rules to govern the British courts of admiralty, and that the crown never interfered to give rules or directions to these courts,* yet an act of Parliament was passed, as a necessary accompaniment to the illegitimate convention with Russia, which act contained the following words:

Section 35. "Provided that nothing in this act contained shall be construed to restrain his majesty, his peers or successors from giving such further rules and directions from time to time to his respective courts of admiralty and vice admiralty for the adjudication and condemnation of prizes, as by his majesty, his heirs and successors, with the advice of his or their privy council, shall be thought necessary and proper."

The convention of Britain with Russia and this section of their law of 1793 laid the whole commerce of all neutrals, as a devoted sacrifice on the altar of unlawful power. These two acts of England struck at the vitals of the independence of our country, for a nation whose whole floating property can be seized and condemned upon the ground of foreign conventions, and foreign orders, which she cannot modify or restrain, is, in solemn truth, not independent. That country alone maintains its station among the powers of the earth, whose territories, whose flag, whose property and whose people are completely respected, according to the universal law of nations and to her own treaties voluntarily made. This England rightfully demanded of all the world. Let all the world demand this of England. It peculiarly behoves the American merchants to convince themselves of the necessity of standing on this impregnable ground. From it alone can vital and permanent safety to their interesting pursuits be derived. If our government must yield any part of the law of nations, we can have no security for the remainder. Commerce must become precarious, and domestic consumption in the form of home manufactures must employ our people and our funds; for our commerce will perish with the subversion of the only rules for the government of the republic of independent states—the universal or prescriptive and written law of nations. This august code is the *federal constitution* of the civilized world. It may not be violated with impunity by any power. Its violation may not be allowed by any power, without baseness and ruin.

But let us return to our historical review—It has been maintained in these papers, that it was erroneous and unjust to ascribe to France the origination of the neutral sufferings—a matter of great importance with respect to the claims of retaliation set up by England. An entire view of that division of the subject was given in No. 2, commencing in 1792, and bringing the enquiry down to the date of the British orders of the 8th of June, 1793.

A distinguished act, continuing and extending those violations, took place secretly in the British privy council on the 6th of November, 1793.† It went the length of authorising the seizure of all American and other neutral vessels, having on board the produce of the French colonies, or provisions, dry goods, and other supplies for the use of any French colony. The French dominions in the East Indies and the West Indies were equally and fully included. Thus the whole French empire, which chequered the terraqueous globe, was preposterously treated like a little blockaded port—for their European dominions remained under the operation of the unrescinded order of the 8th June. The Americans and other neutrals were subjected to incalculable injuries and innumerable violations. This, too, contrary to all decency and precedent, was done in a secret manner; for information of its existence was suppressed, even at the British admiralty, till late in December; and it was not till the 25th of December following its date, that our minister at London (Mr. Thomas Pinckney) obtained a copy of it, as will be seen by his official letter to the secretary of state, in the president's message to Congress, of the 4th of April, 1794. Here was a most serious act of continuance of the violations of neutral rights in pursuance of the Russian convention, grounded upon a mere intention to attack, in December, some French colonies: it was accompanied with various circumstances to render it irregular, offensive, and injurious. It was clandestine, being kept from the view of all the neutral ministers in London, for seven weeks after date, and even reserved among the secret papers of the British lords of the admiralty. In the mean time, a passage of four or five weeks carried it to the West Indies;—and our unsuspecting vessels, mariners, cargoes, and money, were odiously entrapped in the fatal snare. Thus did they secure the possession of our sailors, vessels, and mercantile capital. Even in the case of a blockade, the law of nations, and the treaties of England with the powers then owning the majority of neutral shipping,‡ required a proclamation, and notice of the blockade, and a knowledge of it by the neutrals, to justify the seizure. Reason and conscience require the same. But Great Britain, treading under foot those obligations of the laws of nations and of her own treaties and all decency and justice to us, clandestinely transmitted to her naval commanders the orders of the 6th of November, when no blockade existed! By those orders, a neutral American or Dane, bound with French sugar, coffee, &c. from the U. S. a neutral country, to Denmark, a neutral country, nay, even to Spain or the Austrian Netherlands, then countries of the powers combined with England in the war against France, were rendered seizable, though the cargo was neutral property also, but grew in a French colony! By the same order a cargo of American produce and other goods, which could, by the arrete of August, 1784, be carried to the French colonies in peace, was to be treated in like manner! Is it possible, that any secret order can be more extravagantly, more irregularly injurious to an enemy, and more violative of neutral rights, than the British system of orders of June the 8th, and November 6th, 1793, as they stood in force, through the months of November and December? It was April, 1794, before we knew, that the November order either existed or was countermanded. When we did obtain the knowledge of its being countermanded, the mischief was all done.—It was accompanied with the very unsatisfactory information, that it was not rescinded from any conviction in or admission by England, that it was wrong; nor did they profess that they would not repeat it. On the contrary, they explicitly avowed that it was countermanded, because it had served the occasional end for which it was issued. They added too a reason contrary to the just rights and dignity of our government. They said, that it was intended to produce an effect upon the interior circumstances and affairs of our country and government! Professing to consider it censurable to interfere with the interior concerns of a foreign country, the British secretary of state did so interfere in the same breath. He committed a dangerous derogation from our right of interior government, and gave to our minister, Mr. Pinckney (as an apology!) the assurance, that he had no right to do it. He affected to treat *the complainers in America against their orders of council*, as the enemies of G. Britain and of our own government! Mr. Genet having been caused by the French to expiate his offence by the loss of all his honors and emoluments, France stood on clear ground. Lord Grenville must be considered, therefore as the predecessor, in 1793, of all the irregularities of foreign diplomatic characters, in their transactions with our government. His conduct has never received any censure, or notice, so far as we are informed, except those manifestations of it, given in Mr. Pinckney's letter of the 9th of January, 1794, wherein he says, that "of course he said nothing (in reply to lord Grenville) of our internal affairs, nor, of those of France," they being our foreign allies.

The next British orders of the 8th of January, 1794, authorised the seizure of all neutral vessels, bound from the French W. India colonies to Europe; also of all French W. India produce from those islands bound to the ports of neutrals, or even to those of the allies of England. Yet the British afterwards led us into a treaty for carrying not only their West India but their East India produce to our ports during the war—Thus the very means used to aid all their own colonies, have been made the cause of seizure against all the neutrals, when serving a part of the colonies of France. Neutrals too, who had secured by treaty the right to protect the goods of an enemy in their neutral ships, were deprived of this stipulated right, in order to injure France. These were new repetitions of violations of neutral commerce, which manifested to France the British determination to continue, upon every call of interest or instigation of hostility, ingeniously and without precedent hardily to apply the system and principle, they had commenced, & reiterated in 1792, and 1793. They never permitted the irritability of the French to be abated, nor the wounds of neutral rights to be cured. If the French became inflamed at the sight of their own wrongs, and at the vast expenses, injuries, and dangers, which they produced, Britain surely was the cause.

* See the famous case of the Silesia loan at large.

† COPY.)

George R. Additional instructions—6th November, 1793, to all ships of war and privateers, &c.

"That they shall stop and detain all ships laden with goods, the produce of any colony belonging to France, or carrying provisions or other supplies for the use of such colonies, and shall bring the same, with their cargoes, to legal adjudication in our courts of admiralty.

"By his majesty's command,

(Signed) "HENRY DUNDAS."

‡ The Danes and Swedes.

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

A writer in the Washington Federalist, who signs himself "*Americanus*," but who might more appropriately have signed *Ignoramus*, attempts to prove the utility of a navy, and the benefits resulting in time past from this establishment; now, though the impolicy of this has been frequently and fully proved to the entire satisfaction of all the republicans and all the honest and impartial men of the Federal party, who in consequence are now as warm in the support of the present administration as they were violent in opposition at its outset, yet this writer, with that obstinate callosity of intellect which feels not the force of argument nor recognizes the voice of truth, still persists like a parrot to chant the old song.

It is not my intention to go into a laborious refutation of the absurdities which we expect to see published under the head of "*American Politics*," for this would be unnecessary. I mean merely to accompany him for the amusement which his fallacies afford, & to relieve the langour of these tedious dog days.

He says "Americans, how can you neglect that commerce, to which you owe your very existence as a nation." This is the first time, I believe, it has been asserted that our existence is owing to commerce—It somewhat resembles that ancient fable of the Goddess who was said to be sprung from the Froth of the Sea. We had very little commerce at the birth of our nation, and not a single ship of war; yet we conquered the mistress of the seas notwithstanding. We had not so many men of fortune as merchants at that time as we have now, or it is probable we would have been still the colonies of G. Britain. No, it was our spirited Planters, our noble minded civilians, and our indignant mechanics, that entered with zeal into the contest, and from a sense of honor.—The merchants, from a sense of pecuniary interest, rather than from a desire of political independence, as Britain had cramped every operation they engaged in. No person ever heard of a rich merchant turning out to fight, but with rich men of other professions this was not uncommon.

I do not wish by the above observations to detract from *the merit justly due* to the merchants—they are an useful body, and their interests have been assiduously attended to by the present administration. As a proof of this, their flourishing state, but few bankruptcies, extension of trade, and banking systems, an accumulation of money so as to lower the interest two per cent. at least. The Adams interest was 8, the Jefferson interest but 6 per cent. and our traders now borrow on the same terms. Under the administration of J. Adams, the bank interest was nominally 6, but in reality 8 or 9 per cent.—because, if a trader borrowed 1000 dolls. he must leave 250 in the bank as a deposit; if he drew out the whole, he got no more money on discount. This was, in bank language, called *keeping up* his account. This is changed by Mr. Jefferson's wise administration, and the abilities of his financier, for the banks no longer talk of large deposits—If the applicants are good that is enough; they get now 1000 dollars for the same sum of interest that they got 750 for under the late administration. This is doing more for the merchants than building a navy to protect their trade, which at the same time would burthen it.

But with what propriety can it be urged that a navy is the support of trade, when every man knows, who has read commercial history, that a navy has always been the destroyer of trade. Consult the history of the Carthagenians, Venetians, the Genoese, the Portuguese, Spaniards, Dutch, English, &c. Their trade grew up without naval protection as our's has done, and dwindled into non-existence after the establishment of one. The sailors were employed in the public service, in a way unproductive of wealth to the state, and were living on the labors of the private merchant. This was a heavy tax on their trade, whilst wages were raised by this new demand for hands, and every other naval article was raised in the same proportion; that is, the government raised the prices on the merchants, by establishing the navy, and the merchants were no longer able to compete with their neighbors in the business of trade, who did not labor under such disadvantages. The same thing is verified in our own day, and we may fairly presume, from the infallible test of experience, that the growth of a navy involves the decay of trade.

RESPONDENT.

At a numerous and respectable meeting of the citizens of the territory of Michigan, held at the city of Detroit, at the house of Wm. M. Scott, Esq. on Sunday the 26th July, 1807, agreeably to the following notice of the Marshal of said Territory.

NOTICE.

THE citizens of Detroit and its vicinity are requested to assemble at the house of Dr. Scott, on the Lord's day, at half past twelve o'clock P. M. to take into consideration and discuss the present state of our national concerns.

Detroit, 25th July, 1807.

STANLEY GRISWOLD, Esquire, was elected Chairman.

JAMES ABBOTT, Esquire, was elected Secretary,

Resolved unanimously, That taking into serious consideration, the repeated attempts of our government to obtain redress and adjust our differences with the government of Great Britain; and finding that all our endeavors have hitherto proved fruitless; and viewing with deep regret and serious apprehensions the late daring and outrageous attack of the Leopard, a British man of war, on our armed vessel the Chesapeake, within our shores; we view this wanton, barbarous and daring attack on the Chesapeake, by a British man of war, with horror and detestation; and we pledge our lives and property to cooperate with our government in such measures as they shall adopt for redress or vengeance.

Resolved unanimously, That prompt and efficient measures be recommended to the commander in chief of this territory, for the safety of its inhabitants by preparing and properly arming and equipping the militia for efficient duty.

Resolved unanimously, That any attack from the Indians upon our settlements shall be considered as actuated by the British government, and that we shall act accordingly.

Resolved unanimously, That it be recommended to the commander in chief, to request an additional supply of regular troops for the safety and defence of this territory.

Then the meeting adjourned to Thursday next at 5 P. M to convene at the house of *John Harvey, Esq.*

Hotel of JOHN HARVEY, Esq.
Detroit, 30th July, 1807.

The meeting of the citizens of Detroit and its vicinity, was opened agreeably to adjournment of Sunday last.—The Chairman laid before the meeting a communication from Governor Hull, inclosed to the Secretary, in answer to the resolutions of Sunday last, which had been transmitted by the Secretary to the Governor, which was in the words following:—

Detroit, July 28th, 1807.

Fellow Citizens of the Territory of Michigan.

I have received from your Secretary, James Abbott, Esq. your patriotic resolutions of the 25th inst

They are clothed in firm and manly language, and manifest that spirit of independence, and regard to national character, which every real American ought to feel at the present eventful crisis. The American government hitherto has been guided by a moderation and forbearance, almost unexampled in the history of nations.

The administration has been influenced by the principles of the constitution, and have considered that the blessings of peace never ought to be sacrificed until demanded by the most imperious necessity. But, my fellow citizens, when this necessity appears, moderation and forbearance would no longer be national virtues. A people who have obtained their national existence by their wisdom and valor, will never suffer it to perish in their hands for a want of spirit and firmness. If the daring outrage, to which you allude in your first resolution, was authorised by the British government, it can be considered in no other light than an actual commission of hostilities; at present we know it was not the act of the officer commanding the Leopard, but is traced to the admiral of the station.

I shall make use of every means in my power, to arm, equip, and prepare the militia for the safety of the inhabitants and defence of this territory. Hitherto I have endeavored, and shall still endeavor to convince the Indians that their safety, their protection, and indeed their very existence in this country, depend on the conduct they may now be called to exhibit, and it is fondly to be hoped that no foreign influence will precipitate their destruction. They live in our country, they acknowledge themselves under our protection. They annually receive valuable annuities from our government, and I have great confidence, they will be too wise to sacrifice all these advantages. It is unquestionably correct to consider hostilities committed by them influenced and urged on by a foreign government, as the act of that government.

By the last mail, gentlemen, I anticipated your last resolutions, but my single wish shall immediately be strengthened by the influence of your recommendation.

Situated as this territory is at this peculiar crisis of our national affairs the necessity of union must be apparent. The safety of every thing dear to us, depends on it.

Let us then, my fellow citizens, manifest our patriotism, as well by our *conduct* as *professions*. Let all party spirit cease, and may we universally adopt the motto, "United we stand, divided we fall."

The opinions and wishes of my fellow citizens will ever be gratefully received, and I shall make use of all the means in my power for the protection of the territory and safety of the inhabitants.

I am respectfully,
Your most obedient servant,
WILLIAM HULL.

Resolved, That the sentiments expressed in the Governor's communication now read, are just, patriotic and laudable; and that they correspond with the feelings of, and are cordially reciprocated by this meeting.

Resolved, That it is anxiously hoped, party spirit may cease, and an union take place, as well in *conduct*, as *profession*, relative to the indignities offered to our country, and the alarming situation of public affairs.

Resolved, That "United we stand, divided we fail."

Resolved, That this meeting has not been wanting, nor will be wanting, in all proper exertions to produce unanimity, although we are aware of the inveteracy and strength of prejudices enlisted against us as *democratic republicans*.

Resolved, That it is the first principle of republicanism, and absolutely necessary for the existence of all free governments *that the minority shall submit to the majority*.

Resolved, That it is matter of regret that a small minority of persons should have appeared in opposition to the proceedings of the people on Sunday last, when those resolutions were adopted, which have been so much honored by the Governor, and which ought to command the approbation and united concurrence of all those who wish well to our country, and have its honor at heart.

Resolved, That it is highly important that forbearance and firmness should mark the conduct of the citizens at this crisis, that we should endeavor to promote unanimity by all proper means, while the utmost vigilance is used, and dauntless exertions pursued, to prevent advantages being taken by suspicious characters, or the foes of our country, to effect its ruin.

Resolved, That the present democratic republican administration of the government of the United States has ever met, and still meets our warmest approbation, and shall have our firm support.

Resolved, That the Chairman and Secretary of this meeting be a committee to correspond, if necessary, with the executive of this territory, the President of the United States, and the different committees appointed throughout the union, by giving such information as our local and peculiar situations shall require, and from time to time, whenever they think necessary to call meetings of the citizens to deliberate on what measures are proper to be adopted until the determination of the general government is known.

Resolved, That the people of this territory, and this meeting are truly designated by the political appellation of DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICANS.

Resolved, That copies of the proceedings of this meeting be furnished by the Secretary to the Governor of this Territory, and to the President of the United States, also to the Editor of the National Intelligencer, requesting that the same may be inserted in his paper.

Then the meeting adjourned to the second Saturday in September next, to convene at the same place and hour.

STANLEY GRISWOLD,
Chairman.
JAMES ABBOTT,
Secretary.

Portland, August 31.

COMMODORE EDWARD PREBLE.

IT is with sensations of unfeigned sorrow and regret that we announce to the public the death of Com. PREBLE. He breathed his last at a quarter past five o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday the 25th inst. in the 46th year of his