National Intelligencer.

REPORT

Of Mr. Jefferson, *when Secretary of State, on Commerce and Navigation, made in 1793.*

(Continued.)

Great-Britain.

The greater part of what they receive from us is re-exported to other countries, under the useless charges of an intermediate deposit, and double voyage. From tables published in England, and composed as is said, from the books of their custom-houses, it appears that of the indigo imported there in the years 1773—4—5, one third was re-exported; and from a document of authority, we learn, that, of the rice and tobacco imported there before the war, four-fifths were re-exported. We are assured indeed, that the quantities sent thither for re-exportation since the war, are considerably diminished, yet less so than reason and national interest would dictate. The whole of our grain is re-exported when wheat is below 50s. the quarter, and other grain in proportion.

The United Netherlands prohibit our pickled beef and pork, meals and bread of all sorts, and lay a prohibitory duty on spirits distilled from grain.

All other of our productions are received on varied duties, which may be reckoned on a medium at about three per cent.

They consume but a small proportion of what they receive. The residue is partly forwarded for consumption in the inland parts of Europe, and partly reshipped to other maritime countries. On the latter portion they intercept, between us and the consumer, so much of the value as is absorbed by the charges attending an intermediate deposit.

Foreign goods, except some East-India articles, are received in vessels of any nation.

Our ships may be sold and naturalized there, with exceptions of one or two privileges, which somewhat lessen their value.

Denmark lays considerable duties on our tobacco and rice, carried in their own vessels, and half as much more, if carried in ours; but the exact amount of these duties is not perfectly known here. They lay such as amount to prohibitions on our indigo and corn.

Sweden receives favourably our grains and meals, salted provisions, indigo, and whale-oil.

They subject our rice to duties of sixteen mills the pound weight, carried in their own vessels, and of forty per cent. additional on that, or 22 4-10th mills, carried in ours, or any others. Being thus rendered too dear as an article of common food, little of it is consumed with them. They consume some of our tobaccoes, which they take circuitously through Great-Britain, levying heavy duties on them also; their duties of entry, town duties, and excise, being 4.34 dollars, the hundred weight, if carried in their own vessels, and of forty per cent. on that additional, if carried in our own or any other vessels.

They prohibit altogether our bread, fish, pot and pearl-ashes, flax-seed, tar, pitch and turpentine, wood (except oak timber and masts) and all foreign manufactures.

Under so many restrictions and prohibitions, our navigation with them is reduced almost to nothing.

With our neighbours, an order of things much harder presents itself.

Spain and Portugal refuse, to those parts of America which they govern, all direct intercourse with any people but themselves. The commodities in mutual demand between them and their neighbours, must be carried to be exchanged in some port of the dominant country; and the transportation between that and the subject state must be in a domestic bottom.

France, by a standing law, permits her West-India possessions to receive directly our vegetables, live provisions, horses, wood, tar, pitch and turpentine, rice and maize, and prohibits our other bread-stuffs; but a suspension of this prohibition having been left to the colonial legislatures, in times of scarcity, it was formerly suspended occasionally, but latterly without interruption.

Our fish and salted provisions (except pork) are received in their islands under a duty of three colonial livres the kental, and our vessels are as free as their own to carry our commodities thither, and to bring away rum and molasses.

Great-Britain admits in her islands, our vegetables, live provisions, horses, wood, tar, pitch and turpentine, rice and bread-stuff, by a proclamation of her executive, limited always to the term of a year, but hitherto renewed from year to year. She prohibits our salted fish, and other salted provisions. She does not permit our vessels to carry thither our own produce.—Her vessels alone may take it from us, and bring in exchange, rum, molasses, sugar, coffee, cocoa-nuts, ginger, and pimento. There are, indeed, some freedoms in the island of Dominica, but, under such circumstances as to be little used by us. In the British continental colonies, and in Newfoundland, all our productions are prohibited, and our vessels forbidden to enter their ports. Their governors, however, in times of distress, have power to permit a temporary importation of certain articles, in their own bottoms, but not in ours.

Our citizens cannot reside as merchants or factors within any of the British plantations, this being expressly prohibited by the same statute of 12. Car. 2. C. 18, commonly called the navigation act.

In the Danish American possessions, a duty of five per cent. is levied on our corn, corn-meal, rice, tobacco, wood, salted fish, indigo, horses, mules and live-stock; and of ten per cent. on our flour, salted pork and beef, tar, pitch and turpentine.

In the American islands of the United Netherlands and Sweden, our vessels and produce are received, subjected to duties, not so heavy as to have been complained of; but they are heavier in the Dutch possessions on the continent.

To sum up these restrictions, so far as they are important:

1st. In Europe—

Our bread-stuff is at most times under prohibitory duties in England, and considerably duties on re-exportation from Spain to her colonies.

Our tobaccoes are heavily dutied in England, Sweden and France, and prohibited in Spain and Portugal.

Our rice is heavily dutied in England and Sweden, and prohibited in Portugal.

Our fish and salted provisions are prohibited in England, and under prohibitory duties in France.

Our whale-oils are prohibited in England and Portugal.

And our vessels are denied naturalization in England, and of late in France.

2d. In the West-Indies.

All intercourse is prohibited with the possessions of Spain and Portugal.

Our salted provisions and fish are prohibited by England.

Our salted pork and bread-stuff (except maize) are received under temporary laws only, in the dominions of France, and our salted fish pays there a weighty duty.

3d. In the article of Navigation.

Our own carriage of our own tobacco, is heavily dutied in Sweden, and lately in France.

We can carry no article, not of our own production, to the British ports in Europe.

Nor even our own produce to her American possessions.

Such being the restrictions on the commerce and navigation of the United States, the question is, in what way they may best be removed, modified, or counteracted?

As to commerce, two methods occur. 1. By friendly arrangements with the several nations with whom these restrictions exist: Or, 2. By the separate act of our own legislatures for countervailing their effects.

There can be no doubt, but that of these two, friendly arrangement is the most eligible. Instead of embarrassing commerce under piles of regulating laws, duties, and prohibitions, could it be relieved from all its shackles in all parts of the world—could every country be employed in producing that which nature has best fitted it to produce, and each be free to exchange with others mutual surplusses for mutual wants, the greatest mass possible would then be produced of those things which contribute to human life, and human happiness; the numbers of mankind would be increased, and their condition bettered.

Would even a single nation begin with the United States this system of free commerce, it would be advisable to begin it with that nation; since it is one by one only, that it can be extended at all. Where the circumstances of either party render it expedient to levy a revenue, by way of impost, on commerce, its freedom might be modified, in that particular, by mutual and equivalent measures, preserving it entire in all others.

Some nations, not yet ripe for free commerce, in all its extent, might still be willing to mollify its restrictions and regulations for us in proportion to the advantages which an intercourse with us might offer. Particularly they may concur with us in reciprocating the duties to be levied on each side, or in compensating any excess of duty, by equivalent advantages of another nature. Our commerce is certainly of a character to entitle it to favour in most countries. The commodities we offer are either necessaries of life, or materials for manufacture, or convenient subjects of revenue; and we take in exchange, either manufactures, when they have received the last finish of art and industry; or mere luxuries. Such customers may reasonably expect welcome, and friendly treatment at every market; customers too, whose demands, increasing with their wealth and population, must very shortly give full enjoyment to the whole industry of any nation whatever, in any line of supply they may get into the habit of calling for, from it.

But should any nation, contrary to our wishes, suppose it may better find its advantage by continuing its system of prohibitions, duties and regulations, it behoves us to protect our citizens, their commerce and navigation, by counter-prohibitions, duties and regulations also. Free commerce and navigation are not to be given in exchange for restrictions and vexations; nor are they likely to produce a relaxation of them.

Our navigation involves still higher considerations. As a branch of industry, it is valuable; but, as a resource of defence, essential.

Its value, as a branch of industry, is inhanced by the dependence of so many other branches on it. In times of general peace it multiplies competitors for employment in transportation, and so keeps that at its proper level; and in times of war, that is to say, when those nations who may be our principal carriers, shall be at war with each other, if we have not within ourselves the means of transportation, our produce must be exported in belligerent vessels at the increased expence of war-freight and insurance, and the articles which will not bear that, must perish on our hands.

But it is as a resource for defence that our navigation will admit neither neglect nor forbearance. The position and circumstances of the United States leave them nothing to fear on their land-board, and nothing to desire beyond their present rights. But, on their sea-board, they are open to injury, and they have there too a commerce which must be protected. This can only be done by possessing a body of citizen-seamen, and of artists and establishments in readiness for ship building.

Were the ocean, which is the common property of all, open to the industry of all, so that every person & vessel should be free to take employment wherever it could be found, the United States would certainly not set the example of appropriating to themselves, exclusively, any portion of the common stock of occupation. They would rely on the enterprize and activity of their citizens for a due participation of the benefits of the seafaring business, and for keeping the marine class of citizens equal to their object. But if particular nations grasp at undue shares, and more especially, if they seize on the means of the United States to convert them into aliment for their own strength, and withdraw them entirely from the support of those to whom they belong, defensive and protecting measures become necessary on the part of the nation whose marine resources are thus invaded, or it will be disarmed of its defence; its productions will lie at the mercy of the nation which has possessed itself exclusively of the means of carrying them, and its politics may be influenced by those who command its commerce. The carriage of our own commodities, if once established in another channel, cannot be resumed in the moment we may desire. If we lose the seamen and artists, whom it now occupies, we lose the present means of marine defence, and time will be requisite to raise up others, when disgrace or losses shall bring home to our feelings the error of having abandoned them. The materials for maintaining our due share of navigation, are ours in abundance; and, as to the mode of using them, we have only to adopt the principles of those who thus put us on the defensive, or others, equivalent and better fitted to our circumstances.

[To be continued.]

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

Mr. Smith,

Since the first number of Leonidas was sent to you, the news of a Peace in Europe has reached this Country. It is far from my wish to throw a gloom over this propitious event, by a recital of past follies and crimes. This act of accommodation is evidently on the part of England—an act of repentance. Like the prodical *Son*, she has acknowledged, "Father, I have sinned before heaven, and in thy sight, and no longer am worthy to be called thy child." Like the *Prince of Peace*, a generous world will again receive her with joy—with all her imperfections upon her head. The most disagreeable reflection attending the event is, the doubt of its continuance. A review of the history of the world, would nearly warrant us in drawing the melancholy conclusion, "that war is the natural state of man." The most prominent features in every age, have been robbery and devastation, tyranny and wretchedness. During the past century, fixty years have been spent in human butchery, and the accidental respite, in renovating exhausted nature, that the combat might be renewed with redoubled vigour. But the annals of the world, never presented a conflict so interesting, from the violence with which it raged, and the principles on which it was conducted, as the one which has just ceased. France, inspired by that enthusiasm for Liberty, which glowed in *America*, resolved in 1789 to obtain a republican government. In her efforts to this sublime acquisition she was opposed by the perfidy of the court, by the perfidy of her Ministers, by the perfidy of her Generals, and by the perfidy of her representatives. Rebellion, internal conspiracies, and internal massacres, so rapidly succeeded each other, that there was neither opportunity for cool reflection, nor for an unity of action. On her frontiers she beheld a combination of Despots, advancing with more than Saracen, or vandal ferocity into her interior, and threatening "to lay Paris in ruins." At this time, her possessions in Europe, were bounded on the north, by the English channel and the Netherlands—On the east, by Germany, Switzerland, and Italy—On the south, by the Mediterranean and Spain; and on the west, by the Bay of Biscay. England, inclusively of her more lucrative resources in Asia, in Africa, and in North America, ranked superior to France, in her naval and military fame. By her intrigue, she directed the councils of Russia, Germany, and the nations of the Baltic. By her money and naval glory, she governed Holland, and intimidated Spain. "She was the great western oracle to which the Nations of the earth repaired, from whence to draw eternal oracles of policy and freedom. Her root extended from continent to continent, and the dew of the hemispheres watered her branches.' By the Peace, Egypt is restored to the Ottoman Porte, and Malta, to the Knights of the order of St. John;—England gives up all the possessions taken from the French & the Dutch, both in the East and the West—& the Cape of Good Hope is made a free port. She therefore gains nothing in the Mediterranean, whilst France, expelled from Egypt, extends her territories over all Holland and the Netherlands—a considerable part of Germany, Switzerland, and two thirds of Italy—These acquisitions, probably increasing her revenue and territory, one fifth, and her population a third. The influence, however, acquired by her policy and her arms, is of more real strength than provinces or kingdoms.—Under these has she atchieved prodigies of magnanimity and heroism, and demonstrated to the world the superiority of freemen, to mercenary *Automata*.

Under these, does she at this moment rest upon herself like the globe. Ceylon, situated in the Indian Ocean, and valuable for the Cinnamon trade, together with Trinidad, in the West-Indies, 90 m. by 60, and the grave of Europeans is ceded to Britain. For this acquisition, has she "through the expence of millions, and through an Ocean of blood, stranded herself on a solitary shore, naked of empire, naked of liberty, and naked of innocence, to ponder on an abyss which has swallowed up one part of her fortunes and yawns for the remainder." The moral of this once interesting conflict, is now in perspective. The tears of widows, and of orphans, and the lamentations of Europe, will solicitously enquire for the origin of this war. We have been told, "that it was to stem the torrent of Jacobinism, and to support christianity and government." Is our God a bloody Moloch? And must his creatures appear before him "bathed in blood?" were the doctrines of the meek and lowly Jesus, intended to animate the world to eternal battle?

But why was not this war concluded four years ago? Why was it not concluded two years ago? In almost every stage of it, France, whilst with one hand she wielded the sword of Victory, with the other presented the olive of peace. But if the church is in danger, and if* "the minister of England had in this conflict, where withal to glory in success; to be consoled in adversity; to hold high his principles in all fortunes—That if it were not given him to support the falling edifice, he ought to have buried himself under the ruins of the civilized world." Then I ask, why was peace concluded upon such humiliating terms; and when the "*Monster Jacobinism*," like the fabled Briareus throws kingdoms to atoms.

But peace is so great a blessing, that no pecuniary sacrifice is too great to obtain it—nor can the most brilliant and successful war ever compensate for the want of it—Yet this war will read an awful and instructing lesson to the rulers of this world. England, without injury or insult, engaged in the conflict, but under the most favorable omens of success. After palsying the nerves, and blasting the expectations of every ally; after chilling that confidence which binds the moral elements of the world together, and committing crimes, which from their atrocity and magnitude, would tarnish the very lustre of heaven, like the prostrate oak, once the monarch of the forest, she lies, stript of all her honors, and "there are none so poor as to do her reverence."—What effect this pregnant event will have upon France, upon England, and upon all Europe; and whether it was wrought by a sincere and mutual conviction of its necessity, and with the view of converting their implements of war into implements of husbandry, and "of learning war no more," time, "the arbiter of events," will shew. In the mean while, free from the danger of fleets and of armies, and of revolutions, every shade of political asperity, generated by our separate partiality for those two rival nations, should vanish on this happy event; and whilst our own government "is in the full tide of successful experiment" of republican probity, may every American be ever ready to offer up his last breath on the altar, on which his government is to be the victim.

* *Edm. Burke.* LEONIDAS.

To Let—Three convenient furnished Rooms for Ladies and Gentlemen, & a Table can be supplied if required; at Mrs. de Carnap's, at the seven buildings on the New-Jersey Avenue.

Nov. 27. 3t

From the American Daily Advertiser.

Mr. Poulson,

The important subject of Vaccination or inoculation for the Cow-pox, having so generally excited the attention of the public, not only in Europe, but also throughout America; I think it may be proper to state, that after several unsuccessful attempts to introduce the disease into this city, by matter sent me from England, but which unfortunately failed, either from the length of the passage, or from being badly secured, I have at length succeeded, through the polite attention of Mr. Jefferson, in obtaining a portion which proved effectual in a first inoculation of myself, and in a second trial upon two or three other persons. From these I procured a stock which enabled me to extend it to about a dozen, who have in turn yielded a fresh supply; so that I hope to be able to preserve it, till the public mind is fully satisfied of the propriety of employing it in lieu of that loathsome and dreadful disease the Small-pox. A brief enumeration of the superiority of Vaccination over the Small-pox, may be seen in your Gazette of the 26th inst.

Facts have accumulated so rapidly relative to the invaluable properties of this most extraordinary disease, that it seems scarcely necessary for me to add any testimony in their favor. I hope, however, in a few days to have it in my power to assure the public from my own experience, that the Vaccine is a most effectual preservation against the Small-pox, both natural and inoculated; as I have at this time under my care, a child of six years of age, in whom I ascertained to my great satisfaction the certainty of the Cow-pox having taken effect, on the very day in which her mother broke out with the natural Small-pox. She has been with her mother constantly, and will certainly prove a fair example of the efficacy of Vaccination in resisting Small-pox. The mother has some thousands upon her. I have also vaccinated her husband and another person who had been exposed to the contagion two or three days, and fully expect that it will prevent the Small-pox, even after some days exposure of the system to its influence.

To this I may add, that I have caused some of my patients in whom the disease was declining, to visit the woman above mentioned, and propose immediately to inoculate them with Variolous matter; the result of which I hope shortly to lay before the public.

In the mean time I think it my duty, upon the authority of many respectable works upon this subject, as well as the united testimony of the most eminent medical practitioners of England, to recommend in the strongest manner, the general introduction of Vaccination among my fellow citizens, not only as efficacious in preserving from the Small-pox, but also, in most instances, as a far more mild disease; to the fact of its mildness, I can safely vouch, both from its existence in myself, and in all my patients who have passed through it.

I have been much gratified in having already been applied to by one of my fellow practitioners for matter, for Vaccination; and I can only add, that as my chief desire in endeavouring to introduce this disease, has arisen from a thorough conviction of its great and decided superiority over the Small-pox, so it will afford me great satisfaction to supply on application any of my medical brethren with matter as fast as is in my power, in order to extend its beneficial influence as speedily as possible.

It gives me pleasure to see an advertisement by Mr. Groff, printer, proposing to publish in a few days, a little work by Mr. Aikin, of London, who in a small compass has comprised all the important facts relative to this disease; and which I beg leave to recommend to the students of medicine, to practitioners, and to parents, as containing every thing requisite to remove doubt, and to enforce conviction.

I would suggest to the benevolent managers of the Philadelphia Dispensary, the propriety of an address from them to the poorer classes of inhabitants in favor of this disease, which to them must prove of the most extensive advantage, because it seldom requires nursing, or any alteration in their usual pursuits.

JOHN REDMAN COXE.

THIS IS TO GIVE NOTICE,

THAT I intend to petition the next court of the District of Columbia, for permission to keep a Ferry across the Eastern Branch, from Hamilton's Point, near Ninian Willett's, over to some convenient place about the hospital square, where Mr. Holt lives.

JOHN D. KERBY.

November 20. 13w

Whole Sale and Retail Grocery Store.

J. D. BARRY,

INFORMS his friends and the public, that he has commenced business near the Capitol, New Jersey Avenue, opposite the house lately occupied by Conrad and McMunn—Where he has on hand, (and will be constantly supplied with) a general assortment of

Groceries and Liquors,

Of the first quality, which he offers for sale at reduced prices.

Nov. 27. tf