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LETTER

From the Hon. JOSEPH ALSTON, Speaker of the House of Representatives of South Carolina, to the President of the United States, covering the resolutions of the legislature, of the 29th June last, approbatory of the conduct of the administration.

Oaks, near Georgetown, (S. C.) July 6, 1808.

SIR,

The legislature of South Carolina, deeply impressed with the situation in which the United States have been placed by the unfounded and arrogant pretensions of the belligerent powers of Europe; and aware of the force derived, in a government like ours, from public opinion, have thought it right, at such a crisis, to make known to the world their unalterable determination to support the rights and honor of our country, and to declare their entire approbation of the prudent and dignified course pursued by its administration. To this manifestation of their own feelings they have been yet further induced by the expression, in other parts of the union, of contrary sentiments, at a moment when, it is conceived, that a sacrifice of the conflicting opinions of individuals, and the animosities of party, was demanded alike by sound policy, and by patriotism.

The resolutions I have now the honor to transmit you, obtained, you will perceive, the unanimous concurrence of both branches of our legislature. A conclusion from hence, however, either that there existed among us a perfect unanimity of political sentiment, or that the present restrictions upon our commerce were but little felt by us, would be equally erroneous. South Carolina, like her sister states, is, to a certain extent, characterised by parties.—The legislature, which adopted these resolutions, consisted, to use the distinguishing appellations of the day, of federalists and republicans. But, sir, however we may differ as to questions of ordinary policy, we should deprecate as disgraceful to us the idea of division where the national honor or interests were concerned. Of the effects attendant, in all countries, upon a sudden suspension of trade, many circumstances combine to render this state far from insensible: but, if the inconveniences or privations resulting to our citizens from the embargo be great, their patriotism and public spirit are still greater; and I am persuaded that those who compose our legislature have been the faithful organs of their constituents, when they declare their determination, at every hazard, "*to support the general government in all measures calculated to maintain the rights and support the independence of the United States.*"

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, yours, &c.

JOSEPH ALSTON.

Speaker H. Representatives, S. C.

PRESIDENT'S REPLY.

To the Hon. JOSEPH ALSTON, Speaker of the House of Representatives of South-Carolina.

Monticello, August 4, 1808.

SIR,

I have duly received your letter of July 6, covering the resolutions of the legislature of South Carolina, of June 29; and I see in those resolutions a new manifestation of the national spirit of which South Carolina has given so many proofs. It is the more exemplary, as it is certain that no state sacrifices more by the operation of a measure which, whether to avoid war, or to prepare for it, has been deemed equally necessary. The unanimity too of these resolutions, does peculiar honor to those individuals, who differing from the mass of their fellow-citizens in their opinions of government, yet forget all differences when the rights of their country are in question: who, when it is assailed by foreign wrong and menaced with the evils of war, instead of encouraging enemies by forebodings of weakness and division, present to them one common and undivided front. Persuaded that the sentiments expressed in these resolutions are a true specimen of those entertained by the great mass of our fellow-citizens, we may regret the evils which a contrary opinion in others may produce, but we cannot fear the result of any trial they may put us to.

I receive with particular gratification assurances of approbation from the legislature of South Carolina, and will not cease in my endeavors to merit a continuance of it. I pray you to accept my salutations and assurances of great respect and consideration.

TH: JEFFERSON.

Constitutionality of the Embargo Laws.

At the opening of the district court in this town, it was early intimated by lawyers opposed to the administration of the general government, that they intended to argue to the jury the unconstitutionality of the laws laying an embargo; this however was overruled by the judge, but permitted to be argued to the court. The deep interest the public felt in the question, excited great attention, and the court-house, for several days while the question was discussed, was crowded.

At length, in the cause of the United States, *vs.* brig William, the question came fairly before the court.

Mr. Story opened the cause in behalf of the government—and Messrs. Prescott and Dexter, assisted by a number of the most eminent lawyers at the bar, argued the unconstitutionality of the law at great length, with much ingenuity and more sophistry. They were answered on the side of government by Mr. Francis Blake, in a strain of eloquence highly gratifying, and by his brother, Mr. George Blake, district attorney, with a strength and pertinancy of argument which do him great honor. We shall not attempt even a sketch of the arguments for or against the question, as we understand they are to be reported at large.

On Monday last, pursuant to adjournment, the court met in this town, when the hon. Judge Davis delivered a decisive opinion in favor of the constitutionality of the embargo laws. His opinion appeared to be the result of deep investigation, & sound, deliberate reflection—it was luminous, learned, and eloquent beyond any thing we recollect of the kind.

Essex Register.

Extract of a letter from a respectable commercial house in London, to their correspondent in Baltimore, dated Aug. 6.

"After what we wrote you in our last, you would, we fear, be anxiously expecting information from us of a favorable nature: the hope expressed then must have arisen from the idea which we have heard many sustain since that date, that the proclamation of peace with Spain, released the neutral flags from the restrictions of our orders of council of the 11th and 25th November, as to vessels proceeding from neutral ports to ports of Spain, and back again, we are decidedly of a contrary opinion, and found it upon the clear and express words delived by the Lord President of the privy council, to a committee of American merchants, of whom our A. G. was one—he said that the restricting part of the orders in council were applicable to every flag excepting that of his Britannic majesty's ally's, and being asked by A. G. to enumerate them, he answered "*The kings of Sweden and Sardinia only.*" It is therefore our opinion that any adventure from America to Spain or Portugal would be subject to being brought in by our cruizers and would be condemned.

In regard to the embargo in the United States we cannot see what advantage could be obtained by taking it off so long as the decrees in the continent, and our orders in council remain in force. If your embargo was removed, your merchants would ship immense quantities of all sorts of produce for the ports of Great Britain, and of course expect advances upon their consignments, and here we have no sale for almost any sort of American E. or W. India produce. Prices of tobacco are quoted high, but we have no purchasers but for a few hhds. of fine Virginia for home trade and Ireland, for which they have high prices, but no one could sell a cargo, the sale of which would not be ruined by the finest hhds. being all picked.

We do not see any prospect of relaxation on our side, or of the Berlin and Milan decrees—until these are removed and our orders in council, and the act of Parliament made to carry them into effect is repealed, trade and commerce must remain in its present stagnated state, and all Europe and America must suffer privations, and ultimately great losses; for whenever commerce resumes its wonted course, the influx of goods and produce into all markets that are now bare, will be such as must bring about ruinous prices.

The very unwarrantable aggressions of France against Spain has roused the spirit of all descriptions of parties against the former in this country, and of course we are all wishing success to the patriots; but whether their sudden raised armies will be able to hold out against the veteran troops of France or not, is what no one at present can foresee. They have enthusiasm in their favor, and if perfect unanimity can be preserved they may be able to keep together, until by frequently meeting their enemies and losing many battles, they may become soldiers, and beat the French out of Spain; but unless they are strongly assisted by the other powers of Europe, we have no hope that they can make any serious impression on France—yet if they so far succeed as to keep the enemy out of Spain, this will open such a field of commerce to this country, that our manufactories will be fully employed, even if our merchants should be ruined by the trade.

The present prospects of this glorious harvest is carrying many of the people of this country into excesses of joy which may never be realized."

Balt. E. Post.

BRITISH TRIBUTE.

PORT OF HARDWICH.

These are to certify, that the ship or vessel called the Sophia, of Baltimore, Samuel Carman, master, is a square sterned snow, no gallery, but with a figure head, admeasures one hundred and thirty four and twenty-three ninety-fourths tons, navigated by ten men (master included) and not mounted with any guns, bound from Rotterdam to Baltimore, with six puncheons, containing seven hundred and twenty gallons Geneva, on which his majesty's export duty, imposed by act 48th Geo. 3d chap. 26, has been duly paid at this port, arrived here on the 12th day of July, 1808, in consequence of his majesty's orders in council, dated 11th Nov. 1807, and is now desirous of proceeding on her voyage, to the original port of her destination.

These are therefore, in pursuance of his majesty's said order to authorise and permit the above named vessel to proceed with her cargo, accordingly, to the said port of Baltimre.

Witness our hands and seals of office, at the custom house this third day of Aug. 1808.

ROBT. WERDSWORTH, Collector.

A. RUNNAELLS, Dep. Com.

United States of America, State of Maryland, to wit:

I, John Gill, Notary Public, by letters patent under the great seal of this state of Maryland; commissioned and duly qualified, residing in the city of Baltimore, in the state aforesaid, do hereby certify, attest and make known, that on the day of the date hereof, before me personally appeared Samuel Carman, master of the brig Sophia, of Baltimore, of the burthen of 137 12 tons register admeasurement, and made oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that he sailed in and with the said brig on the 9th day of July last, from Rotterdam, bound direct for this port of Baltimore; having on board the said brig, six pipes of gin, which he had taken in at said port of Rotterdam, and no other merchandise, and sufficient and ballast for the voyage, that he proceeded on the said voyage, and on the 10th day of July, being off the Isle of Schowen, having the same day discharged his pilot he about three o'clock P. M. was boarded by an English gun brig, the commander of which ordered his vessel to England to pay duties on his cargo, that on the 11th he arrived at Harwich, and there was compelled to pay a duty of 8 pence sterling per gallon on gin—and the amount of pilotage, light money, tonnage, &c. the same as if the said vessel had been bound for that port—and on payment thereof license was given him to enable him to pursue his voyage to Baltimore.

Of which an act having been of me requested, I have granted these presents to serve and avail as occasion may require. In testimony whereof, the said deponent has hereunto subscribed his name, and I, the said notary, have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal, the 30th day of Sept. in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight.

JOHN GILL, Not. Pub.

SAMUEL CARMAN.

From the Democratic Press.

SIX MILLIONS OF AMERICAN BLANKETS.

A fair and careful experiment of the manufacture of *the cotton blankets* for the use of the hospitals has been recently made under a contract with the Purveyor's office. The class of blankets attempted by the office is that denominated "*three point twilled.*" They were ordered to be made of the weight of 56 ounces each, or three pounds and a half. They have a broad blue stripe at each end, with the three blue points, and measure 6 feet in length (or 40 yards for a piece of 20 blankets) and four feet and one half in breadth. The contract price is two dollars and one quarter for each blanket, of the above dimensions and weight, which will be found greater than the medium quality of the British three point twilled woollen blanket.

The cotton yarn is spun at the Factory of Mr. Joseph Garlick, and the weaving is executed in the Factory of Mr. —— M'Ginnis. It is ascertained that the shortest upland cotton will make the best blanket, as the fibres are more easily raised, without breaking, into a regular and thick coal of pile by the cards, which are applied for that purpose, as the last operation in the manufacture. The blankets prove to be handsome, firm and excellent goods, meriting frank acceptance by the office and decided approbation.

Seven millions and one half of persons in the United States, at six on a medium in each house, give at the allowance of only five blankets to a family, the immense number of 6,250,000 blankets in present use in this country. The odd number (50,000) will serve all the purposes of persons, who sleep without the cover of houses, from the nature of their employments and pursuits. The remainder will require 21,700,000 lbs. of that cotton, of which British orders of council and French imitation obstruct the sales. It is respectfully submitted whether the duty on woollen blankets should not be raised on the fourth of July, to —— per centum, if foreign governments do not appear before the rising of Congress, to return to the rule of the law of nations—the law of morals.

FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PRESS.

The friends and enemies of the Embargo are requested to give a candid perusal to the following

EXTRACT,

From "The Critical Review," published in London, in the present year—vol. 2. pages 542-3-4.

"That reciprocity of deadly rancor which exists between the court of Great Britain and that of France, has instigated them to propose one restriction on the trade of neutrals after another, to harrass them by successive vexations, and to load them with repeated indignities, till every neutral power, that might mitigate the evils of war, seem likely to be precipitated into that abyss of destruction which is prepared by the unrelenting fury of the belligerents. If any neutral which has touched at a British port, though only from stress of weather, should enter the harbors of France, her cargo is to be confiscated, and her crew imprisoned. And on the contrary, Great Britain declares that every neutral vessel which is found entering a French port, without having come immediately from G. Britain, shall be liable to capture as lawful prize. In such a state of things, neutrals are reduced to what may be called a dilemma of destruction. Whatever course they adopt, spoliation and captivity stare them in the face. Under the conflicting prohibitions of England and France, the commerce of these powers, who are in a state of amity with the belligerents, is placed, under an interdict of examination. No neutral can any longer experience either respect or security on the ocean; which if the present state of barbarian warfare continues, will soon be covered with piratical instead of neutral ships. Enterprising robbery will be substituted for commercial speculation. The sea will swarm with marauders, as it did before the relations of justice were acknowleged among nations. Of that system of unlimited outrage which has begun to be practiced on the ocean, the guilt, though not exclusively confined to England, must at least be tho't to belong as much to England as to France. The restrictions which we have from the begining imposed on the intercourse of neutrals with the enemy have caused diverse modes of retaliation on the part of France, which have again engendered a spirit of more infuriated animosity in the councils of Great Britain. We have always been of opinion that the commerce of neutrals ought to be unfettered with restrictions. The calamities of war are great enough of themselves, and why should we increase them by superfluous aggravations? It will be said, will you allow a neutral state to supply your enemy with military stores? We will answer this question by asking in return, when, in all the wars which have occurred between France and England, did France ever make peace for want of steel for swords, iron for muskets, or of gun-powder for ammunition? If notwithstanding all the accumulated wrongs which we have committed in our endeavor to prevent neutrals from supplying our enemy with what we call the contraband of war, that enemy can always obtain a sufficient supply notwithstanding our utmost prohibitions, why should we distress the trade of our friends in order to do a fancied injury to our foes?

"It appears to us that the intercourse which subsists between neutrals and other states in time of peace, ought to experience no interference in time of war. For the relation between a neutral and any two belligerents, is not altered by their reciprocal hostilities. A neutral still continues friendly to both; and if her trade in particular circumstances should be more advantageous to one of the parties than to the other, yet neither is excluded from the benefits: the very idea of neutrality is opposite to that of preference; and, if a neutral shew no undue preference to one enemy, we have no reason to complain. Why should not America, or any other neutral be allowed to send her produce, where it will fetch the highest price? If two individuals disagree, are they justified in rendering this quarrel ruinous to a third, who is no party in the dispute, but who is willing to carry on a friendly correspondence with both? The ocean appears to us as a vast highway, which was designed by Providence, to facilitate the commerce of the world. On this liquid road, which man is at no expence to keep in repair, and which is wide enough to admit the traffic of all the world, one nation can in point of justice, which we never view as disjointed from policy, possess no rights which are not common to the rest: maritime rights are one and the same to all mankind, who have ships to launch on the ocean. And if two maritime states have so little wisdom or so little virtue as to engage in the havock of war, on what ground can they pretend to impede the traffic of nations with whom they are both at peace?"

DANIEL RAPINE,

On Capitol Hill, has just received the following New Books, which he offers FOR SALE at the lowest possible prices for which they can be purchased at any place in the United States.

Cruise's digest of the Laws of England respecting *real property*, 5 vols.

Booth on real actions, with references to the English and American authorities.

The Register of arts, or a compendious view of some of the most useful modern discoveries and inventions, by Thomas G. Fessenden.

The American Register; or a general repository of history, politics, and sciences, vol. 2nd for 1807.

The Fatal Revenge, 2 vols. by D. J. Murphy.