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[BY AUTHORITY.]

AN act authorising the proprietors of squares and lots in the city of Washington to have the same subdivided and admitted to record.

BE *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That whenever the proprietor of any square or lot in the city of Washington, shall deem it necessary to subdivide such square or lot into convenient building lots, pieces or portions for sale, and occupancy, and alleys for their accommodation, he may cause a plat of the same to be made, on which shall be expressed the dimensions and length of all the lines of such portions as are necessary for defining and laying off the same on the ground, and may certify such subdivision under his hand and seal, in the presence of two or more credible witnesses upon the same plat, or on a paper or parchment attached thereto.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That at the request of the said proprietor, the surveyor of the city shall examine whether the lots, pieces or parcels into which any square or lot may be subdivided as aforesaid, agree in dimensions with the whole of the square or lot so intended to be subdivided, and whether the dimensions expressed on the plat of subdivision, be the true dimensions of the parts so expressed; and if upon such examination, he shall find the plat correct, he shall certify the same under his hand and seal, with such remarks as appear to him necessary for the further illustration thereof, and record the said plat, as examined, in a book or books to be kept by him for that purpose.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That when such subdivision of any square or lot shall be so certified, examined and recorded, the purchaser of any part thereof, or any person interested therein, may refer to the said plat and record for description, in the same manner as to squares and lots divided between the commissioners and original proprietors; and the ways, alleys or passages laid out or expressed on such plat of subdivision, shall be and remain to the public, or subject to the uses declared by the person making such subdivision, at all times under the same police regulations as the alleys laid off by the commissioners on division with the proprietors.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That whenever the surveyor of the said city shall lay off any lot therein, or any any of the parts into which a square or lot may be subdivided as aforesaid, he shall measure the whole of that front of the square on which such lot or part lies: and if, on such admeasurement, the whole front of the square exceeds or falls short of the aggregate of the fronts of the lots on that side of the square, as the same are recorded, he shall apportion such excess, or deficiency, among the lots or pieces on that front agreeably to their respective dimensions. Whenever on such admeasurement, the wall of a house previously erected by any proprietor, shall appear to stand on the adjoining lot of any other person in part less than seven inches in width thereon, such wall shall be considered as standing altogether on the land of such proprietor, who shall pay to the owner of the lot on which the wall may stand, a reasonable price for the ground so occupied, to be decided by arbitrators or a jury, as the parties interested may agree; but if the wall of any house already erected, cover seven inches or more in width of the adjoining lot, it shall be deemed a party wall, according to the regulations for building in said city, as promulgated by the President of the United States, and the ground so occupied, more than seven inches in width, shall be paid for as above. Which fact the surveyor shall ascertain and certify, and put on record at the request and expence of any person interested therein.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the surveyor to attend when requested, and examine the foundation or walls of any house to be erected, when the same shall be level with the street or surface of the ground, for the purpose of adjusting the line of the front of such building to the line of the street, and correctly placing the party wall on the line of division between that and the adjoining lot; and his certificate of the fact shall be admitted as evidence, and binding on the parties interested.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That the surveyor shall be authorised to receive from the persons for whom he shall perform the services required by this act, the fees following, that is to say: For examining the plat and calculations of any subdivision of a square or lot twelve and an half cents for each of the lots or portions into which it may be subdivided; *Provided,* that no more shall be paid for the lots in one square than one dollar and fifty cents; for examining any building and giving the certificate required by the fifth section of this act, and recording the same one dollar and fifty cents; for recording any division, or subdivision of any square, or lots, for transcripts from records, and for searches in his office, the same fees that have heretofore been paid to the clerk of the county; *Provided,* that they do not in any case exceed the fees hereby allowed for examination.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That all records of the division of squares and lots heretofore made between the public and original proprietors, or which are authorised by this act, shall be kept in the office of the surveyor of the city; and all transcripts therefrom, certified by him, shall be evidence equally valid with certified transcripts from the keeper of the office for recording deeds for the conveyance of land in the county of Washington.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That whenever the President of the United States shall deem it necessary to subdivide any square or lot belonging to the United States within the city of Washington, which may not have been reserved for public purposes, into convenient building lots, pieces or portions for sale and occupancy, and alleys for their accommodation, he may cause a plat to be made by the surveyor of the city in the manner prescribed by the first section of this act, which plat shall be recorded by the said surveyor, and the provisions of this act shall extend to the lots, pieces and parcels of ground contained in such plat as fully as to subdivisions made by individual proprietors.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted,* That the surveyor of the city of Washington, before entering upon the discharge of the duties required of him by this act, shall take an oath or affirmation before the mayor of the city of Washington, that he will faithfully and impartially perform the duties herein before required of him.

J. B. VARNUM,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
GEO: CLINTON, *Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate.*
January 13, 1809.
APPROVED,
TH: JEFFERSON.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEBATE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS.

DECEMBER 7.

Mr. QUINCY'S Speech Concluded.

The honorable gentleman from Kentucky, (Mr Johnson) speaking of the embargo, said, that this was the kind of conflict which our fathers waged; and my hon. colleague (Mr. Bacon) made a poor attempt to confound this policy with the non-intercourse and non-importation agreement of 1774, and 1775. Sir, nothing can be more dissimilar. The non-intercourse and non-importation agreement of that period so far from destroying commerce, fostered and encouraged it. The trade with G. Britain was indeed voluntarily obstructed, but the enterprize of our merchants found a new incentive in the commerce with all the other nations of the globe, which succeeded immediately on our escape from the monopoly of the mother country. Our navigation was never suspended. The field of commerce at that period, so far from being blasted by pestiferous regulations, was extended by the effect of the restrictions adopted.

But let us grant all that they assert. Admit, for the sake of argument, that embargo, which restrains us now from communication with all the world, is precisely synonymous with that non-intercourse and non-importation which restrained us then from G. Britain. Suppose the war, which we now wage with that nation is in every respect the same as that which our fathers waged with her in 1774 and 1775. Have we from the effects of their trial any lively hope of success in our present attempt? Did our fathers either effect a change in her injurious policy or prevent a war by non importation and non intercourse. Sir, they did neither the one nor the other. Her policy was never changed until she had been beaten on our soil, in an eight year's war. Our fathers never relied upon non-intercourse and non-importation as measures of hostile coercion. They placed their dependance upon them solely as means of pacific influence among the people of that nation. The relation in which this country stood at that time with regard to G. Britain, gave a weight and a potency to those measures then, which in our present relation to her, we can neither hope nor imagine possible. At that time we were her colonies, a part of her family. Our prosperity was essentially her's. So it was avowed in this country. So it was admitted in G. Britain. Every refusal of intercourse which had a tendency to shew the importance of these then colonies to the parent country, of the part to the whole, was a natural and a wise mean of giving weight to our remonstrances. We pretended not to control, but to influence by making her feel our importance. In this attempt we excited no national pride, on the other side of the Atlantic. Our success was no national degradation, for the more we developed our resources and relative weight, the more we discovered the strength and resources of the British power. We were then component parts of it. All the measures of the colonies, antecedent to the declaration of independence, had this principle for its basis. As such non-importation and non-intercourse were adopted, in this country. As such, they met the co-operation of the patriots of Great Britain, who deemed themselves deviating from none of their national duties, when they avowed themselves the allies of American patriots to drive through the influence of the loss of our trade, the ministry from their places, or their measures. Those patriots did co-operate with our fathers, and that openly, in exciting discontent, under the effect of our non-intercourse agreements. In so doing, they failed in none of their obligations to their sovereign. In no nation, can it ever be a failure of duty to maintain, that the safety of the whole depends on preserving its due weight, to every part. Yet, notwithstanding, the natural and little suspicious use of these instruments of influence, notwithstanding the zeal of the American people coincided, with the views of the Congress, and a mighty party existed in G. Britain openly leagued, with our fathers, to give weight and effect to their measures, they did not effect the purposes, for which they were put into operation. The British policy was not abandoned. War was not prevented. How then can any encouragement be drawn from that precedent, to support us under the privations of the present system of commercial suspension? Can any nation admit that the trade of another is so important to her welfare, as that on its being withdrawn, any obnoxious policy must be abandoned, without at the same time admitting that she is no longer independent? Sir, I could indeed wish that it were in our power to regulate not only G. Britain, but the whole world, by opening or closing our ports. It would be a glorious thing for our country to possess such a mighty weapon of defence. But, acting in a public capacity, with the high responsibilities resulting from the great interest, dependent upon my decision, I cannot yield to the wishes of love-sick patriots, or the visions of teeming enthusiasts. I must see the adequacy of means to their ends. I must see, not merely that it is very desirable that G. Britain should be brought to our feet, by this embargo, but that there is some likelihood of such a consequence, to the measure, before I can concur, in that universal distress and ruin, which, if much longer continued, will inevitably result from it. Since then every dictate of sense and reflection convinces me of the utter futility of this system, as a mean of coercion, on G. Britain, I shall not hesitate to urge its abandonment. No, sir, not even although like others, I should be assailed by all the terrors of the outcry of British influence.

Really, Mr. Speaker, I know not how to express the shame and disgust, with which I am filled, when I hear language of this kind cast out upon this floor, and thrown in the faces of men, standing, justly, on no mean height in the confidence of their countrymen. Sir, I did, indeed, know that such vulgar aspersions were circulating among the lower passions of our nature. I knew that such vile substances were ever tempering between the paws of some printer's devil. I knew that foul exhalations like these daily rose in our cities, and crept along the ground, just as high as the spirits of lampblack and saline oil could elevate; falling, soon, by native baseness, into oblivion, in the jakes. I knew, too, that this species of party insinuation, was a mighty engine in this quarter of the country, on an election day, played off from the top of a stump, or the top of a hogshead while the gin circulated, while barbecue was roasting; in those happy, fraternal, associations and consociations, when those who speak, utter without responsibility, and those who listen, hear without scrutiny. But little did I think, that such odious shapes would dare to obtrude themselves, on this national floor, among honorable men; the select representatives, the confidential agents of a wise, a thoughtful and a virtuous people. I want language to express my contempt and indignation at the sight.

So far as respects the attempt which has been made to cast such aspersions on that part of the country which I have the honor to represent, I beg this honorable House to understand, that so long as they, who circulate such insinuations, deal only in generals and touch not particulars, they may gain among the ignorant and the stupid a vacant and a staring audience. But when once these suggestions are brought to bear upon those individuals, who in New England have naturally the confidence of their countrymen, there is no power in these calumnies. The men who now lead the influences of that country, and in whose councils the people on the day when the tempest shall come will seek refuge, are men whose stake is in the soil, whose interests are identified, with those of the mass of their brethren, whose private lives and public sacrifices present a never failing antidote to the poison of malicious invectives. On such men, sir, party spirit may indeed cast its odious filth, but there is a polish in their virtues, to which no such slime can adhere. They are owners of the soil; real yeomanry; many of them men who led in the councils of our country in the dark day which preceded national independence; many of them men, who, like my honorable friend from Connecticut on my left, (Col. Talmadge) stood foremost on the perilous edge of battle; making their breasts in the day of danger a bulwark for their country. True it is, Mr. Speaker, there is another and a much more numerous class, composed of such as through defect of age can claim no share in the glories of our revolution; such as have not yet been blest with the happy opportunity of "playing the man" for their country—generous sons of illustrious sires; men, not to be deterred from fulfilling the high obligations they owe to this people by the sight of these foul and offensive weapons. Men, who with little experience of their own to boast, will fly to the tombs of their fathers, and questioning, concerning their duties, the spirit which hovers there, will no more shrink from maintaining their native rights, through fear of the sharpness of malevolent tongues, than they will, if put to the trial, shrink from defending them through fear of the sharpness of their enemies' swords.

SKETCH OF THE DEBATE IN THE *HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES* ON THE NAVAL ESTABLISHMENT.

Wednesday, Jan. 11.

The House having resumed the consideration of the unfinished business—

MR. TROUP said he regretted exceedingly that he was under the necessity of again troubling the House, but he felt himself bound in some measure to state more particularly his reasons for voting for the bill, and to reply to some cogent objections made from a quarter of the House which he much respected. He stated anew the reasons which he had given why the United States should have a small naval force. He thought it indispensable at this time to man and equip our little navy, not for the one or the other general reason in its favor which he had before stated, but to protect from violence and insult the territory of the United States—that territory which gentleman in this House were so fond of calling the territory of the good old United States; he meant the marine league from the shore, as sacred and inviolable as any spot of earth within our limits. It was for the purpose of protecting this part of our territory, for removing those cruizers which are competent to blockade the mouth of our rivers, that he wished this navy to be equipped. Gentlemen said the gun boats were competent to the protection of our harbors. Mr. Troup acknowledged it; he said he did believe that the invention of man never devised a more competent system than gun-boats, co-operating with fortifications, for the protection of our ports and harbors, but they were calculated to act only on shoals and in smooth waters. They were not fit for any other species of service; they could not stand the winds and waves, the billows and the tempests. And notwithstanding our ports & harbors might be well defended by these gun-boats, they were not competent to the purpose for which these frigates were to be manned, to prevent blockades of our own waters. He said he had expected, when gentlemen had solemnly resolved not to submit, that they had a serious determination to execute their resolve; and when they solemnly and unanimously resolved to place the country in a posture of defence, that they had seriously determined to do so. For his own part he said he had been as seriously determined upon both, as he ever was upon any thing in his life. And when gentlemen said they would not submit, what did they mean by it? Merely that they would not submit to the orders and decrees of the belligerents, or that they would not submit to violence and insults in their own waters? And when they said they would place the nation in a state of defence, did they only mean to hold the militia in requisition? The militia were already in requisition, and were always subject to it. No, indeed; he had expected a very different species of defence—a defence calculated to meet a decisive and active hostility on the part of a great foreign enemy. He had understood that an army was to be raised not only sufficient for the protection of our own territories, but sufficient to carry war into the territories of our enemy. He had expected at least that our little navy would have been equipped. For (said Mr. T.) if you determine to change your present system of measures, how would you get along? Suppose you determine to go to war; you must determine at the same time to have a *war commerce,* to open a free trade with those nations with whom you shall be at peace—and how will you effect it? In your present situation it would be impossible; for these 20 gun frigates as completely blockade the mouths of your rivers as the most formidable navy on the face of the globe could. Your commerce cannot move, if they chuse to prevent it. Suppose you were to raise the embargo and adopt a non-intercourse with the belligerents—with what effect could you, under the present circumstances of the nation, give such liberty to commerce, when the mouths of your rivers are blockaded much more effectually than they ever were by your embargo laws? Whether then you contemplate raising the embargo and adopting a non-intercourse, or war, a small naval force is absolutely indispensible. Mr. Troup said he had to lament what had fallen from an honorable friend of his from South Carolina (Mr. D. R. Williams.) That gentleman, not many weeks ago, with a manly and dignified eloquence, which charmed almost every man who had heard him, scouted a principle which he had yesterday adopted to all intents, and in all its bearings, viz. that interest was honor, and honor was interest; and that this country could have no provocative to war, and must at all hazards be preserved in a state of peace. [Mr. Williams said he held no such sentiments; if in his agitation at the vote which had taken place, he had expressed such, he solemnly revoked them.] Mr. T. observed that he had understood the gentleman to declare that he was determined to adhere to the system of the embargo as a permanent measure of offence and defence, and from this expression he had drawn the deduction. [Mr. Williams disclaimed the idea of a perpetual embargo.]

Mr. T. explained what he had said when up before, on the subject of economy. He had spoken of war measures; which when adopted, the old peace principle that standing navies and armies and funding systems were great evils, should be discarded. He had spoken of a liberal policy as preferable to that little, petty, contemptible, narrow economy, whose means and ends were both calculated and measured by popularity; and he added that whenever this nation was driven into a war, and the great principles of its action were determined on the question of popularity or unpopularity, we should come out of the war with dishonor, disgrace and ruin.

MR. SAWYER resumed the observations which he commenced on Monday. On the subject of the naval establishment, he said that this system had introduced into our laws a long list of capital crimes heretofore unknown to us, and perfectly incompatible with civil liberty. He disliked the absolute despotism exercised by naval commanders, who feasted in their cabins like bashaws, with their bands of music to entertain them the while—twenty or thirty men employed for no other purpose than to fiddle and pipe to the crew, at a pay of 20 dollars a month each perhaps. Were these men intended to charm the enemy as Orpheus of old? [Mr. S. was here reminded by the Speaker that he was wandering from the question.] Mr. S. said he presumed that if he was at liberty to prove the system wrong in whole, he was at liberty to prove it wrong in any part. He did not believe that this naval force would add to the strength of the country, but rather weeken it. The strength of the country, he said, depended more on internal improvement and union among the people. Twenty odd millions of dollars at least had been expended on this system, and no improvement was visible from it. Suppose this money had been employed in facilitating communications through the country. This species of expenditure would have been more conducive to the public interest, than that of supporting the [illegible] of the frigates in [illegible]. [illegible] that Congress would [illegible] [illegible]