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& WASHINGTON ADVERTISER

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[BY AUTHORITY.]

AN ACT

Supplementary to an act, entitled "An act providing for the Inspection and Measurement of Lumber."

Be *it enacted by the First and Second Chambers of the City Council of Washington*, That shall be the duty of the Inspectors and Measurers of Lumber, who are appointed, or hereafter may be appointed by the Mayor, from and after the first day of January 1810, to reject or condemn all Lumber by them inspected and measured, which they in their opinion shall deem of unmerchantable quality.

SAML. N. SMALLWOOD,
President of the First Chamber.
DANL. RAPINE,
President of the Second Chamber.

APPROVED,
November 10th, 1809.
ROBERT BRENT, Mayor.

An act imposing certain Taxes and provide for their collection.

Sec. 1. Be *it enacted by the First and Second Chambers of the City Council of Washington*, That there be annually imposed, according to an assessment made in pursuance of an act, entitled "An act directing a new assessment of property and for other purposes," passed the thirtieth day of November one thousand eight hundred and seven, on every hundred dollars worth of Real and Personal Property so assessed, within the City of Washington, the sum of Fifty Cents, which tax shall be collected by the Treasurer of this City.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the Treasurer to account with the City Council quarterly, by exhibiting a statement accompanied by proper vouchers for all monies received and expended by him as Collector and Treasurer.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the Treasurer to notify each person assessed of the amount of the Tax on or before the first day of December, with information that the same is to be paid on or before the first day of January ensuing; and it shall also be the duty of the Treasurer, or some person by him employed, to call between the first day of December and the first day of January at the place of residence of each person in the City who is chargeable with taxes; for the purpose of receiving the same, and in case said Tax shall not be paid on or before the said first day of January, the same shall forthwith be levied by the said Treasurer by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the person from whom such Tax is due; but no sale shall be made unless ten days previous notice thereof shall have been given; and if the Tax be due upon Real improved Property and there is no Personal Property belonging to the person from whom such Tax is due which can be found sufficient, if distressed, to satisfy the same, it shall then be the duty of the Treasurer, after thirty days public notice by weekly advertisement in a newspaper printed in this City to cause so much of the property to be sold at Auction as may be necessary to pay the Tax due with all charges & expenses which may have accrued thereon, and when sold to transfer the same by deed of bargain and sale to the purchaser thereof. The Treasurer shall, within two weeks after such sale, make return of the proceedings to the City Council, designating the property sold, the amount of the Tax for which it was sold, together with the expense incurred thereon, the person to whom sold, and the amount received therefor; and if the said amount shall exceed the Tax and expenses for which the said property was so sold, the difference shall be safely kept by the Treasurer and paid on demand to the person entitled thereto, or may be taken by the Treasurer to satisfy other arrearages of Taxes in case any should again accrue while the said money shall remain in his hands as aforesaid: *Provided however*, that it shall be the duty of the Treasurer to give notice of every such sale to the owner of the property sold within thirty days from such sale being made, and if the said owner or his or their agent for that purpose tender and repay unto the purchaser the sum for which it was sold with an addition of ten per centum thereon within twelve months from the day of such sale, the said owner shall be entitled to his former right and possession.

Sec 4. *And be it further enacted*, That all Taxes hereby imposed shall, until paid, remain a lien upon the property taxed, and if the Treasurer shall be obliged to enforce the collection of the aforesaid Taxes or of any hereinafter imposed by distress and sale, he shall receive the same fees as are allowed by the laws of Maryland to a collector for like services, and in all cases where the property of a minor, or a person insane, or beyond the sea, is taxed, the notice required by this act shall be given to the parent, guardian or agent of the person so taxed, if their names and places of abode can be ascertained.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That there shall be paid on the first day of January and annually thereafter, the following Tax on Slaves the property of residents of the City of Washington by his or her owner, viz. on Male Slaves between the age of fifteen & forty six years, one dollar and fifty cents; on Female Slaves between the age of fifteen and forty years the sum of one dollar. And the like mode of collection, subject to the same charges shall be adopted in the case of these last Taxes as is herein-before prescribed in the case of assessed property, and if any of the days fixed by this act for the performance of any duty shall fall on the Sabbath, such duty shall be performed on the day following.

Sec. 6. *And be it enacted*, that if the Treasurer shall refuse or neglect to make his returns and account with the City Council in the manner and at the times prescribed by the second section of this act, or within seven days thereafter, unless prevented by unavoidable casualties to be adjudged of by the City Council, he shall forfeit and pay to the use of the City the sum of Fifty dollars for each and every offence.

Sec. 7. *And be it enacted*, That the Treasurer shall receive seven per cent. and that only as a compensation for collecting the foregoing Taxes as by this law imposed.

JAMES HOBAN,
President pro tem. of the First Chamber.
DANL. RAPINE,
President of the Second Chamber.

APPROVED,
November 10th, 1809.
ROBERT BRENT, Mayor.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

Gentlemen,

Hermes has but a few words to say in reply to "A Constant Reader" permising that, as his only object is the support of the principles of republicanism, he has no ambition to enter the lists with your correspondent as a punster or verbal critic; it is an inglorious warfare, in which victory would confer no honor.

Your correspondent would have us believe that he is no advocate for political persecution or encomiast of party charges; but repeats his idea that charges delivered by persons who have "a reverence for free principles," and which are "replete with *useful ideas* expressed in popular language" may be eminently beneficial, & of course ought to be encouraged; political charges of any other description, he does not attempt to deny, are injurious. What is here meant by "a reverence for free principles," but a devotion to these principles which compose your correspondent's creed? What by the words "useful ideas" but those ideas which he deems best calculated to promote the success of the cause or party to which he feels himself attached? The terms used by him are relative, and will be differently construed by every reader according to his own political opinion. Stripped of the ornaments with which he has bedecked it, and which seem rather calculated to conceal its deformity than to display it to advantage, the doctrine of "A Constant Reader" is this: that political charges, the tenor of which coincides with his ideas, are to be applauded, and all others condemned; in other words, that persons of one party alone shall have the liberty of expressing their opinions from the bench—a doctrine contrary to the genius of our government which breathes universal toleration. He says that the same mode of argument which Hermes has used would prove religion itself a vice. Indeed! If I express an abhorrence of inquisitorial tortures and of the practice of flaying *heretics* alive, is it therefore to be said that I abhor Christianity? If I reprobate inflammatory political discourses or denunciations from the pulpit, by which ministers of the gospel have been known to abuse their holy office, do I condemn religion? If I disapprove of a judge's wandering from the line of his duty in the same manner, am I therefore inimical to the administration of justice? Surely not. I have not reprobated the abuse of a practice laudable in itself, but I have denied the right and as I conceive shewn the inexpediency of the practice altogether. Your correspondent himself appears to agree with me that it is in general pernicious; but, because, under certain conditions and limitations, it *may not* do harm, he therefore would not discourage it. Nothing can be more preposterous than this stile of argument. A man would be deemed insane who should persist in carrying a lighted torch into a powder-magazine, because, forsooth, a spark *may not* drop from it, and he *may not* thus jeopardize the lives and property of thousands. But not more absurdly would he act than the man who should plunge a dagger into the bosom of every man he meets, *because he may not* kill him, and bleeding is sometimes beneficial; or, than he who fosters a practice, dangerous if carried to the height to which, if pursued, it will inevitably rise, because in a certain supposed case it *may not* produce harm.

On the subject of addresses to the Chief Magistrate, I did not say, as your correspondent would represent, that all addresses to the Chief Magistrate were to be reprobated. I spoke of *unnecessary* addresses of any kind; of those called for by no crisis, conveying sentiments not felt, intended but to display the names signed to them, or designed to propitiate those whose eulogy they contain. For such addresses, the offspring of servile adulation, an advocate will never be found in

HERMES.

The (Norfolk) *Public Ledger*, after reciting the article inserted in this paper on the 13th instant, subjoins the following remarks.

"The preceding article, although it does not come to us as official, we regard as substantially true, and so regarding it, we shall state the impressions it has made upon our mind. We are pleased at two circumstances which this article discloses—first that the arrangement made by Mr Erskine, was unauthorised by his government, and secondly, that his powers or instructions were not previously communicated to our government. The two governments therefore have nothing upon this point to upbraid each with, although the conduct of the agents of the British government is liable to much censure, judging upon the subject as far as it is before the public. Mr. Erskine in making an arrangement for which he was not authorised, has committed an act for which no excuse can be made, and from which act it is impossible now to foresee all the mischief which will result.

The conduct of Mr. Jackson, our government has with equal dignity and prudence regarded as the intemperate conduct of an individual, and for which his government neither can nor ought to be responsible. It is possible, and probable that Mr. Jackson may have received information, that in the first instance induced him to think that our government was informed of the nature and extent of Mr. Erskine's instructions; but, that being denied by our government, a reiteration of the charge afterwards, was contrary to the rules and of common politeness, and, except in the instance of Genet's revolutionary diplomacy, without example.

It was impossible that the government of the United States could submit to have its veracity questioned upon such a delicate and important subject, in which the feelings and interests of this nation had been so strongly excited, and deeply concerned. There appeared no other course but that which has been pursued by Mr. Madison, and for which the example of General Washington, in the case of Genet, furnished a precedent, worthy of imitation. Whatever may be our general opinion of the administration, we hope that it will resist the insults of foreign governments or its agents, with promptness and firmness. We see how the poor enslaved governments of the continent of Europe are humbled and insulted by the ministers of Napoleon, and wish to see nothing of that sort in our country; and here we are reminded of the insulting notes of Turreau respecting the St. Domingo trade, and the notes of Champagny to Mr. Armstrong, telling him that our nation ought to be at war. We repeat, that under the firmest belief that the administration was not apprised of the nature and extent of Mr. Erskine's instructions, we think that Mr. Jackson insulted the personal feelings of the members of the administration, & the character and dignity of the nation generally, by insisting upon the correctness of information which had been solmnly denied.

The remarks which we have submitted, are founded upon a supposition that the circumstances stated are correctly stated, that nothing has been extenuated or nought set down in malice.

It does not appear liberal to censure a person who is absent, but, from a variety of circumstances, we are persuaded that Mr. Erskine has been in a great degree the means of the present rupture, as he was of the original misunderstanding. We have strong reasons to believe that he has said, or insinuated that he did communicate his instructions to our government, and we suppose that he has so informed Mr. Jackson. If Mr. Erskine has made such communication to Mr. Jackson, the latter will not be justified in asserting it, after it was denied by our government. Mr. Erskine, of all men on earth, is most interested in having it believed, that the government of the U. States did know his instructions. In no other way can he excuse himself to his government, for the violation of his instructions, for it seems now agreed, "that the dispatch of Mr. Canning to Mr. Erskine of the 23d of January, was the only dispatch by which the conditions were prescribed to Mr. Erskine for the conclusion of an arrangement, *on the matter to which it related.*"

Our readers will do well to notice the latter part of the sentence which we have quoted, it clears up one point which was involved in much obscurity. It was always considered as extraordinary, that Mr. Canning's dispatch of the 23d of January, took no notice of the affair of the Chesapeake, although the adjustment of that affair formed a prominent feature in the arrangement made with Mr. Erskine. We now perceive that with respect to the affair of the Chesapeake, Mr. Erskine had other instructions, and that the dispatch of the 23d of January, was the only one *on the matter to which it related*, that is on the modification of the commercial restrictions imposed by this country, and the revocation of the British orders in council.

Passing from these reflections, we are naturally led into a consideration of what effect this circumstance will have upon the political and commercial relations of the two countries.

We are distinctly informed that Mr. Smith has stated to Mr. Jackson, "that no further communications would be received from him, and that the necessity of this determination would without delay be made known to your government, with an assurance to it, at the same time, that a ready attention would be given to any communication affecting the interests of the two nations, through any other functionary that may be substituted." This is very clear and intelligible language, and shews that the government of this country consider the affair as personal with Mr. Jackson, and not general with his government. If therefore the political relations of the two nations are to suffer any interruption, the first step must be taken on the part of the British government. We cannot tell from the article referred to, at what time the correspondence took place, whether before or after the sailing of the Africaine, nor can we understand, whether our government has already communicated the circumantance to the British government, or intend to do so. We incline to think that this correspondence took place before the Africaine sailed, and was communicated by Mr. Jackson to his government, and in this opinion we are confirmed, as Mr. Jackson we understand, left Washington immediately after his dispatches for the Africaine were sent down to this place, and of course was not engaged in any diplomatic correspondence. This fact is not important in itself, except that we are naturally led to enquire if this circumstance occurred a month past why no notice should be taken of it, until now, and why at this particular juncture?

It is possible, but we doubt it, that the dispatches for the American minister in London, went also by the Africaine; they may have gone by the packet. It would be desirable that the British government should be apprised of the determination of our government as early as possible, and as soon as the former was apprised through Mr. Jackson. We do not apprehend any serious difficulty will arise out of this circumstance, which the recent changes of the British cabinet will contribute to avert. It is not to be presumed, that a new administration will commence its career, by a rupture with the United States, to sustain a minister in pretensions wholly inadmissible.

The commercial restrictions which are imposed at present it is probable will remain some time longer; they may be augmented, and will certainly be more inconvenient, by reason of the uncertainty which attends the relations of the two nations from this unexpected event.

The commercial interests of this country for the last two years, have been in a deplorable situation. Closely connected with political relations, they are subject to those sudden and violent fluctuations which political events produce. At no period of our former unexampled prosperity were larger fortunes more rapidly made. But the instances have been few, confined to the enterprising, and to those who were best informed of the operations of the government.

We are pleased that the intelligence of Jackson's insolent conduct to our government, has carried with it the highest degree of indignation. On its arrival in Wilmington, a few of the remaining veterans of our revolution, who have distinguished themselves "in the times that tried men's souls," in opposing the haughty power of Britain, assembled together and gave a sentiment expressive of their wish that Jackson should be obliged immediately to quit the country, and their determination to support at all hazards the government they had fostered in its infancy. *Delaware Gazette.*

From the Enquirer.

TO THE FEDERALISTS.

Gentlemen,

You have seen that *Francis James Jackson, Esq.* has received his *Quietus*—that he has been dismissed from the communication and confidence of our Government. Before you make up your minds on this important question, it may become you to weigh deliberately a few considerations.

When Mr. Jackson reached our shores, his character was covered with reproach. His *appointment* was regarded by many an honest man as an *insult* to the U. S. It was even so considered by some of the Journals of London. He came red from the flames of Copenhagen, and flushed with the blood of the persecuted Danes. The question was then most emphatically put, what *good* were *we* to expect from such a *negociator*?

Yet he came on an errand, which required all the patience and magnanimity of our Government. An arrangement concluded with his predecessor after the most solemn and repeated assurances of his having the authority to conclude it, was abruptly broken by his Government. The pressure of our Embargo was gone. Our vessels and property were let loose upon the ocean, to become perhaps the victims of British rapacity. Our confidence in the faith of that Government was shaken—Yet in spite of these things, how did Mr. Madison act? Did he reject this boasted missionary of Peace? No. He was received and installed in the authority of Minister Plenipotentiary.

In what way has he acted? We are told, that he has *twice* most indecorously and insolently charged our Government with a *connivance* in Mr. Erskine's breach of his instructions—with duplicity in denying it—with lies—for such is the true spirit of the reputed insinuation, when divested of its courtly phrases. A minister, who had come to excuse the errors of his *predecessor*, attacks us with insult—he, that was to show us, in a spirit of frankness, the Instructions under which Mr. E. had acted, is the one to face us down with the asseveration of our having seen them before—he that was to have come in the garb of peace, is to assume the language of defiance and insult. Even though *he had believed* his own assertions, instead of repressing his convictions, in the spirit of amity and peace, he has dashed them in our teeth—sacrificed the important interests of the two countries, perhaps, to a miserable trifle.

Every thing that is before us, is in favor of the veracity of the P. U. S. ——What said Mr. E. *at the time?* Twice, that he was authorised to make the arrangement. What *since?* We have not his letter of the 15th August, before us—but we are told by the National Intelligencer, in his account of it, that "Mr. E. in this letter, stated the reasons which, in the exercise of the discretion given him, had induced him *not* to lay his instructions before the Government of *the*