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THE TERMS OF THE STAR

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A LETTER FROM DR. JOHN STIBLEY, *Late of Fayetteville*, (Now of LOUISIANA,) TO *J. GALES, PRINTER, in Raleigh.*

(Concluded from our last.)

The lands on Red river alone are capable of producing more tobacco than is now made in all the United States, and at less than one fourth of the labor; and in all Louisiana, I think more than ten times as much cotton might be made as in the United States. The extreme fertility of this country, the vast quantities of flour, beef, pork, tobacco, sugar, &c. which it would yield, with the productions of its mines, independent of the disposal of vast quantities of vacant lands, under no claims, render the acquisition of it to the United States of importance almost exceeding calculation.

The western boundary of Louisiana is not ascertained, and there are various opinions about it. The jurisdiction of the governor of Louisiana at present ends, and that of the Spanish province of Taxus begins, about miles west of the port of Natchitoches, on the Red river; and it does not appear that there ever was any agreement between the governments of France and Spain, concerning it—This is a matter of considerable importance; for wherever the lines is, it must run through a remarkable rich and fertile country; and a few miles either way of so long a line, is of consequence.

In Louisiana (as in all Spanish countries) the Roman Catholic religion is the only one tolerated. Some among them (who are strongly attached to that religion) have expressed to me their fears, that when the American government is established over them, they will not be permitted to worship as they please; but I have assured them their fears are groundless. They are quite happy with their priest at Natchitoches, who was formerly an abbot in France, and is one of the few who, during the late disturbances there, saved his life by flying to England, though not without a broken back, which is still crooked. I had lately a kind of argument with a person, that could not be settled without reference being had to the bible. One was accordingly produced from the bottom of a trunk, where it had been hid. I expressed my surprise at the circumstance of its having been secreted, and was told, that all the priests who had lived among them before Father Pavia (the present one) had made a practice to burn all the bibles they could find, telling the people, that they ought to know no more about religion, than what they (the priests) choose to tell them. That though Father Pavia had not destroyed any bibles since his residence among them, they were suspicious that he would not always continue to shew them such lenity in this respect. But that in fact, his predecessors had made such havock among the bibles, there were but few left in the country.

There is a family, by the name of Messier, now living in the village of Natchitoches consisting of three brothers and two sisters, with whom I am well acquainted, having been frequently called to visit all of them in a medical capacity. Their father was formerly governor here, and afterwards governor of St. Antoine, where he died; their mother was a daughter of the Duke of Orleans, of the royal blood of France, which has prevented any of the present family from marrying. They are all strong republicans, and are highly pleased with the cession of Louisiana to the United States. They draw an annuity from their mother's family estate in France.

The two sisters conduct with great propriety, are esteemed and respected for their virtues, and are good christians.—The eldest brother is a man of real worth strict in his morals and very independent in his circumstances. The two younger brothers are somewhat slighty: one of them has been banished from Louisiana on account of his republican principles, but has got back again.

I could add many more remarks concerning this truly fine country; but I have already too far exceeded the limits of a letter. Owing to the very hasty manner in which this sketch was drawn up, I am aware that there are probably many errors in it, as relates to gramatical diction, &c. but with respect to the substance of it, I believe it is perfectly correct.

I have, from the best materials and information I could obtain, sketched me a map of the southern part of Louisiana, and the country to the westward of it as far as the river Grand; which I believe may have some pretensions to accuracy.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN STIBLEY.

From a late London paper.

DR. JENNER TO THE PUBLIC.

Cheltenham, Oct. 26.

Some report having gone abroad, that the Cow-pox has been found to secure the constitution from the plague in Constantinople and some other parts of European Turkey, Dr. Jenner begs leave to lay before the public the evidence which he has received of this important fact. He does not deem the point clearly ascertained, but cannot forbear thinking, that every reader will see a considerable presumption in its favor in the following

Extract of a letter from Dr. De Carro, of Vienna to Dr. Jenner.

"Your discovery has already produced some consequences which you surely were very far from foreseeing when you made it known to the world. I believe I once mentioned to you that a French physician, Monsier La Font, thought he had observed, that vaccinated people were not attacked with the plauge. He described to me the facts which raised the suspicion; they were few and not very conclusive, but he spoke of his new observations with modesty and prudence, and thought only that the subject deserved his future attention. Another physician of Constantinople, Monsieur Auban who never had any communication with M. La Font, who is of Salonica, wrote to me about a year ago, that he had also some suspicion of the Cow-pox being a preservative against the plauge—did not mention facts, but said, that several people had observed the same, and many vaccinated themselves as a security against the plague. Guess what was my astonishment, when a few days ago I received through the French ambassador at Vienna, a packet of Dr. Auban, who begins his letter with these words—"What I had the hanor of mentioning to you long ago, concerning the Cow-pox being a security against the plague, as a probability, I can now, after many experiments, speak of almost to a certainty." He describes the facts summarily in his letter, and adds two *process verbeaux*, signed by him and several witnesses, desiring Citizen Champagny and myself to give them every possible publicity. The proofs are—

1st. Of 6000 vaccinated at Constantinople, not one has taken the plague.

2d. That infants previously vaccinated, have sucked without injury, the milk of nurses infected with the plague.

3d. That an Italian physician, Dr. Valli who went to Constantinople to study the plague, was so persuaded of the truth of the new discovery, that upon the sole security of having been vaccinated, he shut himself up in a Lazaretto, and had, with people attacked with carbuncles and buboes, various mode of contact, without any effect.

4th. That the same Dr. Valli inserted into his own hand, a mixture of various and pestilential virus, and having felt no effect from that trial, he meant the following week to insert pestilential virus alone.

5th. That Dr. Auban, having been informed that in some villages near Constantinople, the cows were subject to some eruptions on their udders; he, with several gentlemen of the French embassy, went to those villages, and found the cow-pox then existing. The report of the inhabitants was, that they had never seen the plague, or the small pox, among them; though both these diseases made dreadful ravage in the vicinity.

Such, my dear sir, continues Dr. De Carro, are the extraordinary facts which have been communicated to me. I have now and then corresponded with M. M. Lafont and Auban: their correspondence announces much medical information. The second, acquainting the world with such an important discovery, runs certainly a great risk, if he receives it by false and hasty observations.

Congress OF THE *UNITED STATES.*

House of Representatives.

Friday, January 20.

On motion of Mr. Nicholson the unfinished business of the last session on a bill for the laying out roads in the district of Columbia was referred to a select committee.

A message was received from the senate, stating that they had postponed until the 1st Monday of November the bill for the relief of certain officers of government sufferers by the insurrection of 1795.

Mr. J. Clay moved the reference of a memorial from the inhabitants of Alexandria in favor of a bridge over the Potomac, presented some time since, to the committee lately appointed on the same subject—Agreed to.

Mr. J. Randolph, from the committee of ways and means, reported a recommendation that the house do disagree to the amendment proposed by the senate to the bill for the relief of the captors of the Moorish armed vessels Meshouda and Mirboha.

The bill as it passed the house of representatives distributed the value of the captured vessels among the officers and crews of the frigates John Adams and Philadelphia. The amendment of the senate directs distribution to be made according to the existing provisions of law for the distribution of prize money, according to which the commodore of the squadron receives one twentieth part.

The report of the committee was committed to the committee of ways and means.

According to the order of the day, the house heard Mr. Cowan, counsel for the claimants under the Yazoo company.

Monday, January 23.

Mr. Dennis moved that the house should take up for consideration his motion so to vary the duties imposed on imported articles as to reduce those on brown sugar.

Motion lost—ayes 29.

The house went into a committee of the whole—Mr. J. C. Smith in the chair—on the bill for the better direction of the collectors of the respective ports of the United States in granting to seamen certificates of citizenship.

The committee rose and reported the bill without amendment, and the house ordered it to a third reading.

Dr. Mitchill presented a memorial from the convention of delegates of the several state societies for the manumission of slaves assembled at Philadelphia, praying that congress will in the organization of the government of Louisiana, prohibit the importation of slaves.

Referred to the committee on the government of Louisiana.

The house went into a committee of the whole—Mr. Varnum in the chair—on the report of a select committee on the bill from the senate, for dividing the Indiana territory into two separate governments.

The report (lately published in the National Intelligencer) recommends a disagreement to the bill from the senate.

After a short debate the committee rose and obtained leave to sit again.

Mr. Bryan moved the following resolution.

Resolved, That the committee of ways and means be directed to bring in a bill fixing the permanent salaries of those officers whose salaries were increased by an act passed on the second of March 1799, &c.

Mr. J. Clay enquired whether such a resolution was in order, a similar one having been decided upon before.

The *Speaker* said it was in order, as the former resolution was general, and this particular.

Resolution agreed to—ayes 52—noes 43

Mr. J. Randolph from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill making appropriations for the support of government for the year 1804.

Referred to a committee of the whole on Monday.

Tuesday, January 24.

A letter was received from the secretary of the treasury, in obedience to a resolution of the house of the last session, on a more equal imposition of duties on imported articles.

A message was received from the senate, stating that they had elected JOHN BROWN, president pro tempore, in the absence of the vice-president.

The house went into a committee of the whole—Mr. Dawson in the chair—on the bill making provision for the application of the monies appropriated for making public roads to the Ohio.

Mr. Smilie moved the rising of the committee, with a view to the postponement of the bill to the next session.

This motion was supported on the ground that the application of the money was premature, there being but about 800 dollars in the treasury, and that the designation of the route would occasion much discussion, which would interfere with the transaction of important business before the house.

It was opposed by Messrs. Jackson, S. L. Mitchill, Holland and Lyon, who contended that considerable time would elapse before the necessary arrangements could be made for making the roads; previously to which, upon a calculation made on a report of tha secretary of the treasury, 20,000 dollars would be accumulated, and an annual sum accrue thereafter of about 10,000 dollars; and that the present was as eligible a period as could occur for designating the points of the roa s to be laid out.

The committee rose—ayes 70.

When the question being for giving leave to the committee to sit again.

Mr. R. Griswold said he should vote for it. He was of opinion that sufficient information did not exist to designate the points of the routes, and that it could not be had without authorising the appointment of commissioners to explore the ground; for the purpose of modying the bil, to effect this object alone, he should vote for leave being given to the committee to sit again.

This motion was supported by Messrs. R. Griswold, Dennis, Lyon, and Holland, and opposed by Mr. Smilie; and carried—yeas 71—nays 55.

Mr. J. Randolph, from the committee of ways and means, reported a recommendation that the house should agree to some, and disagree to others, of the amendments of the senate to the bill giving effect to the laws of the United States, in Louisiana.

Mr. J. Randolph, from the same committee, reported a recommendation to disagree to the amendments of the senate on the bill making military appropriations.

A message was received from the president, inclosing a very interesting letter from Governor Claiborne, stating the tranquility of the province of Louisiana, and the satisfaction and confidence of the inhabitants in the American government.

Mr. Dawson presented the petitions of Ann Alricks and Judith Crow, both of the District of Columbia, praying to be freed from their matrimonial obligations. After the reading of which, Mr. Dawson stated that although he was not acquainted wth either of the petitioners, he had reason to believe that they were persons of the highest reputable connections and great propriety of conduct—that the petition of the first lady was supported by one from some of the first characters in the town of Alexandria—he moved the reference of them to a committee formerly appointed on the petition of Marcella Stanton, which was done, and Mr. Dawson and Mr. Smilie added to that committee.

Wednesday, January 25.

Mr. Nicholson, from the committee on the memorial of the City Council of Washinnton, reported a bill supplementary to the act incorporating the inhabitants of the city.

Referred to a committee of the whole to-morrow.

Mr. Nicholson, from the same committee, reported a bill for laying out a public road, &c. in the county of Washington, district of Columbia.

Referred in like manner.

Mr. Lattimore, from the committee on the memorial of the Mississippi legislature, and a petition from sundry individuals, made a report, which was referred to a committee of the whole.

Mr. J. Randolph, from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill for fixing the salaries of certain executive officers.

Referred to a committee of the whole to-morrow.

Dr. Mitchill, from the committee of commerce and manufactures, made a very detailed report (which shall soon be published) on various petitions from citizens of New York and Philadelphia, relative to the encouragement of their trades and arts.

The report, after an elaborate train of reasoning, recommends an increase or diminution of the duties at present laid on some articles, and an entire exemption of others from duty.

Referred to a committee of the whole to-morrow.

The house went into a committee of the whole—Mr. J. C. Smith in the chair—on the report of the committee of ways and means on the amendments of the senate to the bill giving effect to the laws of the United States in Louisiana.

The committee of ways and means recommend a disagreement to the *first* amendment of the senate, providing for a *port of entry at Natchez.*

On concurring with this part of the report, a debate of several hours ensued, on the expediency of constituting Natchez a port of entry; when the question being taken, the committee of the whole voted a disagreement to the report of the committee of ways and means, only 33 members rising in favor of it. It will be perceived that this decision is a virtual agreement to the amendment of the senate, for constituting a port of entry at Natchez.

Having made progress in the amendments the committee rose, and had leave to sit again.

The Speaker communicated a letter received from the Secretary of the treasury, with a statement of the exports of the United States for the past year.

At a meeting of the inhabitants of George-Town on Wednesday, the 25th instant, at John H. Barney's Tavern, for the purpose of taking into consideration, measures proper to be adopted by the proprietors and inhabitants of said town, respecting the petitions now before congress, relative to building a bridge over the Potomack.

Daniel Reintzel Mayor of the town, was called to the chair.

William O. Sprigg, was appointed secretary.

Messrs. John Mason, Benjamin Stoddert, John T. Mason, Thomas S. Lee, Daniel Reintzel, and William O. Sprigg were appointed a committee to draft a memorial to congress, stating the belief of the citizens of this town, that their rights would be invaded and their interests injured by the erection of a bridge at the place proposed.

Messrs. John Threlkeld, John Peter, Adam King, Abner Ritchie, Thomas Corcoran and William Stewart appointed to receive signatures to the memorial.

Messrs. John T. Mason, and John Mason were appointed to present the memorial, and to attend, if necessary, congress, or any committee of congress on the subject.

Boston, Jan. 16.

On Saturday last, the following resolution was moved in the Senate of this Commonwealth, by Mr. Bacon, who said he rose to invite the attention of the senate to a mournful subject. Since the last session of the General Court, one of the most venerable citizens of this Commonwealth; who had filled a variety of the most important offices in the government had departed this life. This solemn event had been respectfully noticed in the congress of the United States; and he thought there would be a special propriety in the same being done by the legislature of his native state. For this purpose he had prepared a resolution, which he asked leave to submit to the consideration of the board. In forming the resolution, he observed, it would be perceived, that he aimed at brevity and plainness of speech, rather than a laboured and needless attempt to add lustre to a character, which requires only to be known, in order to be revered by all good men. The resolution is in the following words:—

"*Commonwealth of Massachusetts—In Senate, January* 14, 1804—It having pleased the Supreme Being, in the course of his all-wise and righteous providence, since the last session of the General Court to remove, by death, the venerable SAMUEL ADAMS, lately Governor of this Commonwealth, and one of the most distinguished patriots of the United States.

Resolved, That in token of sincere and profound respect for the memory and distinguished services of that illustrious man—the members of both branches of the legislature wear black crape on their left arms, during the remainder of the present session of the General Court."—Ordered to lie on the table till Monday.