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TWELFTH CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Thursday, Dec. 19.

Mr *Rhea* presented a resolution of the Legislature of the state of Tennessee, *disapproving* of the amendment proposed by Massachusetts to the Constitution of the United States limiting the duration of any future embargo acts; *disapproving* of the amendment proposed by Virginia to the said Constitution respecting a removal from office of the Senators of the United States; *disapproving* of the amendment proposed by Pennsylvania for the creation of a tribunal to determine controversies, between the general & state governments; and approving the amendment proposed by Congress to said constitution concerning the acceptance of titles of nobility by citizens of the United States from foreign powers.

The message, which will be found in another part of this days paper,) respecting the late battle on the Wabash, was received, and referred to a select committee consisting of Messrs. M'Kee, Sevier, Breckenridge, Morrow, Alston, Lefever and Maxwell.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

The House resumed the consideration of the sixth resolution reported by the Committee of Foreign Relations, in the following words:

6. That it is expedient to permit our merchant vessels owned exclusively by resident citizens, and commanded and navigated solely by citizens, to arm under proper regulations to be prescribed law; in self defence, against all unlawful proceedings towards them on the high seas.

Mr. *Findley* withdrew his motion to postpone the same to the first Monday in March.

Mr. *Wright* withdrew the amendment he had proposed, and moved to strike out these words: "*in self defence against all unlawful proceedings against them on the high seas.*"

This question was decided as follows:—Yeas 46—Nays 77.

A motion was made by Mr. M'Kim, to amend the said resolution by striking out these words: "*permit our merchant vessels, owned exclusively by resident citizens, and commanded and navigated solely by citizens to arm under proper regulations, to be prescribed by law in self defence, against all unlawful proceedings against them on the high seas,*" for the purpose of inserting the following: "*authorise the merchant vessels of the United States to arm under proper regulations to be prescribed by law.*"

This question was decided as follows:—Yeas 24—Nays 93.

The question was then taken on the resolution, as above, and determined as follows:

YEAS.—Messrs. Alston, Anderson, Avery, Bacon, Baker, Bassett, Bigelow, Blackledge, Bleecker, Breckenridge, Brigham, Butler, Calhoun, Champion, Cheves, Chittenden, Clopton, Cooke, Condit, Crawford, Davenport, Davis, Dawson, Desha, Dinsmoor, Ely, Findley, Fitch, Franklin, Gholson Gold, Goldsborough, Goodwyn, Green, Grundy, B. Hall, O. Hall, Harper, Hawes, Hyneman, Jackson, Johnson, King, Lacock, Law, Lefever, Little, Livingston, Lyle, Maxwell, Moore, M'Bryde, M'Coy, Metcalf, Milnor, Morgan, Moseley, Nelson, Newbold, Newton, Ormsby, Paulding, Pearson, Pickens, Piper, Pitkin, Pleasants, Pond, Porter, Potter, Quincy, Reed, Ridgeley, Ringgold, Rhea, Roane, Sage, Sammons, Seaver, Sevier, Shaw, Smilie, J. Smith, Stow, Sturges, Taggart, Tallmadge, Tallman, Tracy, Troup, Turner, Van Cortlandt, Wheaton, White, Widgery, Wilson.—97.

Nays—Messrs. Archer, Bard, Blount, Boyd, Brown, Cochran, Hufty, Kent, Lowndes, Macon, M'Kee, M'Kim, Mitchill, Morrow, Roberts, Rodman, Sheffy, Stanford, Steuart, Whitehill, Williams, Wright—22.

The resolution was then referred to the committee of Foreign Relations, with directions to report a bill.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

On motion of Mr. Burwell,

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to cause to be laid before this House by the proper officers, a statement of the capital employed in the Indian trade; the amount of annual purchases, sales and articles received in payment; together with the number, names and salaries of agents employed, the places where stationed, and specifying as far as practicable the state of the trade at each place for the last four years.

Mr. Burwell and Mr. Bleeker were appointed a committee to present the above resolve to the President.

December 20.

The bill for completing the existing military establishment, was read the third time in committee of the whole and passed.

YEAS—Messrs. Alston, Anderson, Avery, Bacon, Baker, Bartlett, Bassett, Bibb, Blackledge, Bleecker, Blount, Breckenridge, Brigham, Brown, Burwell, Butler Calhoun, Cheves, Chittenden, Clay, Cochran, Clopton, Cooke, Condit, Crawford, Davis, Dawson, Desha, Dinsmoor, Earle, Findley, Fisk, Fitch, Franklin, Gholdson, Gold, Goldsborough, Goodwyn, Green, Grundy, B. Hall, O. Hall, Harper, Hawes, Hyneman, Johnson, Kent, King, Lacock, Lefever, Little, Livingston Lowndes, Lyle, Macon, Maxwell, Moore, M'Bryde, M'Coy, M'Kee, M'Kim, Metcalf, Mitchill, Morgan, Morrow, Moseley, Nelson, New, Newbold, Newton, Ormsby, Paulding, Pearson, Pickens, Piper, Pitkin, Pleasants, Pond, Porter, Quincy, Reed, Ridgely, Ringgold, Rhea, Roane, Roberts, Rodman, Sammons, Seaver, Sevier, Seybert, Shaw, Sheffey, Smilie, G. Smith, J. Smith, Stewart, Stow, Taggart, Tallmadge, Tracy, Troup, Turner, Van Cortlandt, White, Williams, Widgery, Wilson, Winn, Wright—110.

NAYS—Messrs. Bigelow, Boyd, Champion, Davenport, Ely, Law, Lewis, Potter, Stanford, Sturges, Wheaton—11.

The bill to raise an additional Military Establishment was read the first and second times and referred to the committee of Foreign Relations.

The House resumed as in committee of the whole, the bill to prevent the exportation from the United States or Territories, of merchandize under the authority of permits or licences, derived from any foreign power; when Mr. Nelson reported that the committee (to whom it was referred) had the bill under consideration, and made some progress therein, it was ordered that the House do resolve itself into a committee of the whole to sit again on the same to-morrow.

VOLUNTEERS! TO ARMS!

Extract of a letter to the editor of the Enquirer, dated

Lexington, Va. Nov. 17.

On Thursday last the militia of Rockenbridge county, composing the 8th regiment of this state, met at Lexington—In the absence of Colonel James M'Dowell, it was commanded by Major Joseph Allen.—The strength of the regiment exceeds eleven hundred, and an unusual number attended—The President's message had been received on the preceding Monday, and although not generally circulated had became a topic of much conversation.—His appeal to the patriotism of the nation had fired every bosom, and all seemed willing to stand first in the service of the country, should the crisis call for the military energies of the people—Early on that morning the officers assembled in the Court House, and after an animated consultation on the propriety of immediately tendering their services to the President of the United States *they resolved unanimously to do so.* The regiment was then paraded—colors unfurled, and marched from flank to flank—the drums beat—the cannons roared and peal after peal of musketry swelled the general sound.—The Brigade Inspector, Major John Alexander, whose zeal and ability in discipline are the highest pledges to the country in times of danger, manoeuvred the Regiment in several forms and finally ordered the hollow square. It was quickly formed in the most compact order and the artillery placed in the center—In this position every eye beamed with expectation, every bosom glowed with ardor and every rank was filled with love of country.—The profound silence which now succeeded the martial sounds of the day was only interrupted by occasional burst of patriotic expressions, which at distant intervals were heard on every side—The soldier who knew the dignity of his country had been derided and her dearest rights infringed, could not repress the indignant rising of his spirit, and he early proclaimed his willingness to retrive her honor or perish in her service. It was a holy effusion which spread around and kindled burnings in every heart. The regiment was then addressed in a concise manner, and the message of the President read—The developement which it made of our Foreign Relations left no doubt on the wavering mind how to act, the question was then propounded to the officers and men of the respective companies, whether they were willing to volunteer their services on the present occasion, and to signify their assent by proclamation and wave of the hat.

The sound began with the Artillery—it passed with rapid succession thro' the light companies, without discord—it fell upon the first and second Battalions of the Regiment with new harmony—every tongue caught the hallowed note, and with one universal and consentaneous burst of applause, it reached the Heavens—a short and pithy address to the President was adopted by the regiment, and will be immediately forwarded by Major Allen, accompanying an official return of the strength, accoutrements, ammunition, &c. of the Regiment.

On this occasion party spirit was dislodged—factious murmurings were hushed into silence, and one patriotic flame pervaded the whole—old men, whom age for almost half a century had nearly buried in oblivion, again assembled to look upon scenes in which they had once acted a noble & generous part, but in which their infirmities now denied them a participation—Trembling—bending on their staffs and crutches their hoary locks floating to the wind, they pointed to their sons and grand sons as they stood in the ranks, with holy anticipations of bravery—They talked of the old perils and hardships of the revolution—they rencountered the atchievements of their associates in war and numbered the friends they had lost in battle. Flushed with the glowing retrospect, their hearts began to beat anew and in the high and lofty swellings of conscious bravery palsied hands and wished for strength again to serve their country—It was impossible to resist the impulse it gave, & with such an example, none but a coward or an enemy to his country could stand back at her call. [*Enquirer.*

A CASE IN POINT.

A certain farmer in this county, by industry and economy, raises of grain, beef, pork, &c. besides supplying the wants of his family, to the amount of $7,000 per annum. Of this surplus produce, he sells to different persons, for cash or necessaries $4,000 worth—and the remaining $3,000 worth he carries to his merchant—from whom he takes in return annually $4200 in goods which he can do without, or which he might make, cheaper and of a better quality, within his own family. The 1200 dollars balance he has to make up to his merchant out of the 4000 which he receives from other persons. His neighbours are all astonished that a man of his prudence and penetration does not perceive the unprofitableness of his trade with the merchant, which draws from his purse at least 1200 dollars unnecessarily every year. But the good man has been too much blinded by affection for his children, whose fondness for ribbons, gewgaws, and what they call beughteen goods has become ridiculously absurd.

Precisely such has been the case (varying amount) of England and America. America is the farmer—England the merchant. Our exports in 1807, amounted to 70 millions. England received 30 millions, and sent us in return 42 millions worth of her goods; thus making an annual balance in trade against us of 12 millions of dollars, which we were obliged to make up in specie obtained from Spain, France, Holland, and their colonies. Our merchant now tells us we shall sell our produce to none but him, at his own price, and he will not suffer us to trade at any other store but his own. Shall the farmer brook this, and submit to the degrading terms prescribed by his purse-proud merchant? Shall he not rather withdraw from him his custom, employ a part of his family to supply what he received from his merchant, and bid defiance to his threats?

[Boston Patriot.

TIMBER.

A 74 gun ship swallows up nearly, or full, 3000 loads of oak timber; a load of timber contains 50 cubical feet, and a ton 40 feet; consequently a 74 gun ship takes 2000 large well grown timber trees, perhaps two tons each.—The distance recommended for planting trees is 30 feet; but supposing trees to stand at the distance of two rods, (33 feet) each statute acre would contain 40 trees; of course the building of a 74 gun ship would clear the timber of 50 acres. Even supposing the trees to stand one rod apart (a short distance for trees of the magnitude above mentioned) it would clear 12 acres and a half, no inconsiderable plot of ground.—The complaints relative to the decrease of our timber are not to be wondered at under such circumstances; but the calculation points out to landed proprietors the necessity and patriotism of continually planting more to supply our future wants.

Liverpool Mercury

INDIAN OR ENGLISH WAR.

That the British, and their party in this country, have been instrumental in exciting the Indians to war with America, no man of sense and reason will doubt. The following letter from an officer in the battle on the 7th Nov. throws much light upon the subject. We wish it could find its way into the Centinel, which has labored so incessantly to palliate the conduct of the British. (Bost. Pat.)

"That the English have been instrumental in exciting the Indians to war with the United States, there can be no doubt. For we took from them upwards of 50 Fusees and Rifles made in *London*, with *Letland & Co. stamped on the locks*, but to deceive the ignorant—*United States* was also added. Likewise all the powder taken was *fine English glazed powder. A silver medal* was also taken, in the prophet's own habitation, with the *King's portrait* on one side, the *British arms* and other devices on the other, said to be a present to the Prophet. It is worthy of remark that the guns were mostly new and to all appearances had not been discharged many times before the action."

More Smuggling.—A few days since two waggon loads of *mattrasses* were traced from the northwerd to Albany, and seized, by an old fox hunter, in the tavern yard, when the insertion of a pen-knife, into the beds discovered their stuffing to consist of flannels, cambric muslins, and kerseymeres. The person who had them in possession making no claim to them, the ingenious *upholsterer* who manufactured them is not known, and the mattrasses are brought down to this city for legal adjudication. We suspect that "the worthiest portion of our community" are becoming so adroit in the honorable art of smuggling, that it behoves our citizens to exercise as much vigilance and ingenuity as are requisite in "the mother country" to support the laws and government.

N. Y. Col.

RICHMOND, DECEMBER 27.

At a very numerous meeting of the citizens of Richmond, Manchester and others, convened at the Capitol, on Friday, the 27th inst. The Mayor of this City in the Chair—The following preamble and resolutions were moved and unanimously adopted:

This City having been visited by a calamity the most distressing with which society can be afflicted, which has deprived us of many of our most valualuable citizens, pervaded every family, and rendered our whole town one deep and gloomy scene of woe; the extent of which at this time cannot be accurately ascertained.

Resolved, Therefore, that three proper persons in each ward be appointed to go round and procure the most accurate information of the names and numbers of such of our citizens and others, who have fallen a sacrifice by the burning of the Theatre last Evening, & that some persons in Manchester be requested to perform the same service in that town; and that they make report thereof to the Mayor.

And the following persons were appointed, viz. in Jefferson Ward, William Rowlett, Joseph A. Myers and Samuel Pleasants; in Madison Ward, Jedediah Allen, Robert M'Kim and Robert Pollard; in Monroe Ward, Thomas Taylor, Anderson Barret, and Thomas Rutherford; and in Manchester, William Fenwick, Mr. Clark and Mr. A. Freeland.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the citizens of Richmond, to observe Wednesday, next, as a day of humiliation and prayer, in consequence of the late melancholy event, and to suspend on that day, their usual occupations.

Resolved, That the Committee appointed by the Common Hall, to collect the remains of the deceased, be requested to regulate the time and order of the funeral procession.

Resolved, That the members of the Legislature, the Executive and the Judicary branches be respectively requested to attend on this melancholy occasion.

Resolved, That the Reverend Mr. John Buchanan and Mr. John Blair, be requested to prepare a funeral sermon for the occasion, to be delivered by one of them on Wednesday next in the Church on Richmond Hill.

Resolved, That the citizens of Richmond be requested to wear crape for one month in token of the deep sense universally entertained of this severe visitation.

Resolved, That the inhabitants of this City and Town of Manchester, be respectly requested, and such strangers as may wish to join in this melancholy occasion, be most cheerful permitted to contribute towards the monument to be erected over the deceased, in aid of the public funds to be contributed by this corporation.

Resolved, That a committee consisting of the following gentlemen, viz. Gen. John Marshall, Thomas Taylor, Joseph Marx, William Fenwick and Benjamin Hatcher, be appointed to receive contributions, and to make such arrangements in concert with a Committee from the Common Hall as may be necessary for erecting the monument designated by an ordinance passed this day.

Resolved, That although this meeting have no reasons whatever to believe that this melancholy catastrophe has been produced by design, a Committee consisting of Thomas Ritchie, William Marshall and Samuel G. Adams, be appointed to enquire into its causes, and for the purpose of submitting this statement for the information of the world.

And then the meeting adjourned.

BENJAMIN TATE, MAYOR.

The following letter from a gentleman in Richmond, to M. CLAY, *Esq. a Representative from Virginia, gives an impressive account of the dreadful catastrophe which was more particularly described yesterday:*

RICHMOND, December 27.

SIR—I have a tale of horror to tell; prepare to hear of the most awful calamity that ever plunged a whole city into affliction. Yes, all Richmond is in tears: children have lost their parents, parents have lost their children. Yesterday a beloved daughter gladdened my heart with her innocent smiles; to day she is in Heaven! God gave her to me, and God—yes, it has pleased Almighty God to take her from me. O! sir, feel for me, and not for me only; arm yourself with forritude whilst I discharge the mournful duty of telling you that you have to feel also for yourself. Yes, for it must be told, you also were the father of an amiable daughter,, now, like my beloved child, gone to join her mother in Heaven.

How can words represent what one night, one hour of unutterable horror, has done to overwhelm a hundred families with grief and despair. No sir, impossible. My eyes beheld last night what no tongue, no pen can describe—horrors that language has no terms to represent.

Last night we were all at the theatre; every family in Richmond, or, at least, a very great proportion of them, was there—the house was uncommonly full—when, dreadful to relate, the scenery took fire, spread rapidly above, ascending in volumes of flame and smoke into the upper part of the building, whence a moment after it descended to force a passage between the pit and boxes. In two minutes the whole audience were enveloped in hot schorching smoke and flame. The lights were all extinguished by the black and smothering vapour; cries, shrieks, confusion and despair succeeded. O moment of inexpressible horror! Nothing I can say, can paint the awful, shocking, maddening scene,—The images of both my children were before me, but I was removed by an impassible crowd from the dear sufferers. The youngest (with gratitude to heaven I write) sprang towards the voice of her papa, reached my assisting