

demned under and in breach of our non-intercourse law. Although the proposition was objectionable, in many views, yet this government consented to it, to save to great a mass of the property of our citizens. An instruction for this purpose was given to your predecessor, which you are authorized to carry into effect.

The influence of France has been exerted to the injury of the U. S. in all the countries to which her power has extended. In Spain, Holland and Naples it has been most sensibly felt. In each of these countries the vessels and cargoes of American merchants were seized and confiscated, under various decrees, founded in different pretexts, none of which had even the semblance of right to support them. At the United States never injured France that plea must fail; and that they had injured either of those powers was never pretended. You will be furnished with the documents which relate to these aggressions, and you will claim of the French government an indemnity for them.

The U. States have also just cause of complaint against France, for many injuries that were committed by persons acting under her authority. Of these the most distinguished and least justifiable, are the examples which occurred, of burning the vessels of our citizens at sea. Their atrocity forbids the imputation of them to the government. To it, however, the U. S. must look for reparation, which you will accordingly claim.

It is possible that in this enumeration I may have omitted many injuries of which no account has yet been transmitted to this department. You will have it in your power to acquire a more comprehensive knowledge of them at Paris, which it is expected you will do, & full confidence is reposed in your exertions to obtain of the French government the just measure of redress.

France it is presumed has changed her policy towards the U. States. The revocation of her decrees is an indication of that change, and some recent acts more favourable to the commercial intercourse with her ports, the evidence of which will be found in a copy of a letter from her minister here, of ——— strengthens the presumption. But much is yet to be done by her to satisfy the just claims of this country. To revoke blockades of boundless extent in the present state of her marine was making no sacrifice. She must indemnify us for past injuries, and open her ports to our commerce on a fair and liberal scale. If she wishes to profit of neutral commerce she must become the advocate of neutral rights as well by her practice as her theory. The U. S. standing on their own ground, will be able to support those rights with effect; and they will certainly fail in nothing which they owe to their character or interest.

The papers relative to the Impetueux, the Revanche de Cerfe, and the French privateer seized at N. Orleans, will be delivered to you. They will it is presumed, enable you to satisfy the French government of the strict propriety of the conduct of the U. States in all those occurrences.

The frigate, which takes you to France, will proceed to Holland to execute an order from the Secretary of the Treasury relative to the interest due on the public debt. She will return to France to take Mr. Russell to England, and after landing him, sail back immediately to the U. States. The interval afforded by a visit to Holland, will be sufficient to enable you to communicate fully and freely with the French government on all the topics to which it will be your duty to invite its attention, under your instructions. A short detention, however, would not be objected to, if you deemed it important to the interest of the United States.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) JAS. MONROE.

Mr. Monroe, to Mr. Barlow.

Department of State, Nov. 21, 1811.

SIR—I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of the President's message to Congress at the commencement of the session, and of the documents which accompanied it.

In this very interesting communication you will find that the President has done justice to both the belligerents. He has spoken of each as it deserves. To France he has given the credit due to the revocation of her decrees, while he has bestowed on those injuries which remained undressed their merited censure. Of England he has spoken in terms of censure only, because she had in no respect changed her unfriendly policy. Thus the whole subject of our foreign relations is presented fully and fairly before the legislature and the public, and, I am happy to add, that so far as an opinion can now be formed of the impression made, the public sentiment is in strict harmony with that expressed by the executive. Few, if any, seem to be willing to relinquish the ground which has been taken by the non-importation act; and most seem to be resolved, if Great Britain does not revoke her orders in council, to adopt more decisive measures towards her.

If the U. States experience any embarrassment in the course which they are pursuing in support of their rights, or fail in the ultimate success, it will be owing to the conduct of the French government. It cannot be

doubted, if France remains true to her engagements by a faithful observance of the revocation of her decrees, and acquits herself on the various other points on which you are instructed to the just claims of this country, that Great Britain will be compelled to follow her example; in which event the war will immediately assume a new character, such as has been the professed wish of both belligerents, mitigating its calamities to both of them as well as diffusing the happiest effect on neutral states.

The part which France ought to act is a plain one. It is dictated, in every circumstance, by the clearest principles of justice and soundest maxims of policy. The President has presented to view, in the message to Congress, the prominent features of this plan by stating equally our rights and injuries. It will scarcely be necessary for me to go into any of the details, which are already so well known to you. I will briefly advert to them.

It is not sufficient in the final decision of a cause brought before a French tribunal, that it should appear that the French decrees are repealed. An active prohibitory policy should be adopted to prevent seizures on the principles of those decrees. All that is expected is that France will act in conformity to her own principles. If that is done, neutral nations would then have an important object before them, and one belligerent at least prove that it contended for principle rather than for power; that it sought the aid of neutral nations in support of that principle, and did not make it a pretext to enlist them on its side to demolish its enemies. The abuses that are practised by the French privateers in the Baltic, the Channel, Mediterranean and wherever else they cruise, have of late more especially reached an enormous height. In the Baltic they have been more odious from the circumstance that it was expected that they had been completely suppressed there. Till of late these abuses were imputed to the privateers of Denmark which induced the President to send a special mission to the Danish government, which it was understood was producing the desired effect. But it is now represented that the same evil is produced by a collusion between the privateers of Denmark and those of France. Hence it assumes a worse character: to seizures equally unlawful, are added, by carrying the causes to Paris, still more oppressive delays.

If the French government is not willing to adopt the general rule alluded to in favor of American commerce, it is presumed that it will not hesitate to define explicitly the causes of seizure, and to give such precise orders to its cruisers respecting them, with an assurance of certain punishment to those who violate them as will prevent all abuse in future. Whatever orders are given, it would be satisfactory to this government to be made acquainted with them. The President wishes to know, with great accuracy, the principles by which the French government intends to be governed, in regard to neutral commerce. A frank explanation on this subject will be regarded as a proof of the friendly policy which France is disposed to pursue towards the U. States.

What advantage does France derive from these abuses? Vessels trading from the U. S. can never afford cause of suspicion on any principle, nor ought they to be subject to seizure. Can the few French privateers which occasionally appear at sea, make any general impression on the commerce of Great Britain? They seldom touch a British vessel. Legitimate and honourable warfare is not their object. The unarmed vessels of the U. States are their only prey. The opportunities of fair prizes are few, even should France maintain the British principle. Can these few prizes compensate her for the violation of her own principles and the effect which it ought, and cannot fail to produce here?

Indemnity must be made for spoiliations on American property under other decrees. On this subject it is unnecessary to add any thing to your present instructions. They are detailed and explicit.

The trade by licenses MUST be abrogated. I cannot too strongly express the surprise of the President, after the repeated remonstrances of this government and more especially after the letter of the Duke of Cadore to Mr. Russell of the ——— last informing him that that system would fall with the Berlin & Milan decrees, that it should be still adhered to. The exequators of the consuls who have granted such licenses would long since have been revoked, if orders to them to discontinue the practice had not daily been expected, or, in case they were not received, the more effectual interposition of Congress to suppress it. It will certainly be prohibited by law, under severe penalties in compliance with the recommendation of the President, if your despatches by the Constitution do not prove that your demand on this subject has been duly attended to.

It is expected also that the commerce between the U. States and France and her allies will be placed on the basis of a fair reciprocity. If the oppressive restrictions which still fetter and harass our commerce are not removed, it cannot be doubted that Congress

will as soon as it appears that a suitable change may not be expected, impose similar restraints on the commerce of France. Should such a state of things arise between the two countries, you will readily perceive the obvious tendency, or rather certain effect on the relations which now subsist between them.

This is a short sketch of the policy which it is expected France will observe in regard to neutral commerce, & the other just claims of the United States. A compliance with it will impose on her no onerous conditions; no concessions in favor of the United States. She will perform no act which is not bound to perform, by a strict regard to justice. She will abstain from none, the abstinence from which is not dictated by the principle which she asserts, and professes to support. What is also of great importance, the course pointed out cannot fail to prove, in all its consequences, of the highest advantage to her.

Among the measures necessary to support the attitude taken by this government it is more than probable that a law will pass authorizing all merchant vessels to arm in their own defence. If England alone, by maintaining her orders in council, violates our neutral rights, with her only can any collision take effect. But in authorizing merchant vessels to arm, the object will be to enable them to support their rights against all who attempt to violate them. This consideration ought to afford a strong additional motive to France to inhibit her privateers from interfering with American vessels. The U. States will maintain their neutral rights equally against all nations who violate them.

You will find among the documents which accompany the President's message, a correspondence between Mr. Foster and me, by which the difference relative to the attack on the Chesapeake is terminated. It was thought advisable not to decline the advance of the British government on this point, although some was made on any other; and, as the terms offered were such as had been in substance approved before, to accept them. The adjustment however, of this difference, does not authorize the expectation of a favourable result from the British government on any other point. This government will pursue the same policy towards G. Britain in regard to other injuries, as if this had not been accommodated.

You will also find among the printed documents a correspondence of Mr. Foster, respecting the Floridas. To his remonstrance against the occupation of West-Florida by the troops of the U. S. he was told that it belonged to them by a title which could not be improved. And to that relative to East-Florida, he was informed that Spain owed the U. States for spoiliations on their commerce, and for the suppression of the deposit of N. Orleans, more than it was worth; that the U. S. looked to East-Florida for their indemnity: that they would suffer no power to take it, and would take it themselves, either at the invitation of the inhabitants or to prevent its falling into the hands of another power. With so just a claim on it, and without any adverse claim, which under existing circumstances, is any wise sustainable, more especially, as the necessary severance of the Spanish colonies from Old Spain is admitted, and the known disposition and interest of the inhabitants is in favour of the U. S. the idea of purchasing the territory, otherwise than as it has been already more than paid for, in the property wrongfully taken from the citizens of the U. S. does not merit, and has not received a moment's consideration here. You will therefore discountenance the idea every where, and in every shape.

You will be furnished with a copy of my correspondence with Mr. Serrurier, on the subject of a vessel called the Balaou, No. 5, (formerly the Exchange) bearing a commission from the emperor of France, lately libelled in the district court of the U. States for Pennsylvania. The decision of that court was in favour of a discharge of the vessel. An appeal was taken from it to the circuit court, by which the sentence was reversed. The cause was then carried by appeal at the instance of the government, to the supreme court of the U. S. where it is now depending. The whole proceeds in favour of the French government is conducted on the part of, and at the expense of the U. S. without, however, making themselves a party to it.

This vessel was one of those that was seized under the Rambouillet decree. The French government took her into service, as appears by the documents in possession of the commandant, and sent her with dispatches to some distant quarter. She came into the port of Philadelphia, as it is said, in distress, the having on board a cargo, distress may have been a pretext. As this government denies the justice of the Rambouillet decree, has remonstrated against it, and expects an indemnity for losses under it, you will be sensible of the delicacy and difficulty which it has experienced in interfering, in any respect in the case. To take the vessel from the court, and, of course, from the owner, and restore her to the French consul or other agent, even if, under any circumstances, lawfully, would have excited universal discontent.

I cannot dismiss this subject without remarking that if the government of France had not violated the rights of the U. S. by the Rambouillet decree, this case would not have occurred; and that it is painful to see a question connected with the public law, originate under such circumstances.

The public vessel which takes these dispatches to you, has others for our charge d'affaires at London. After landing, Mr. Bidle, who is the bearer of yours, at some port in France, she will proceed immediately to the English coast, and land Mr. Taylor, the messenger who is charged with those for London. It is expected that she will be subject to a short delay only on the English coast and that your dispatches will be prepared for her, on her return to France. It is highly important to this government to obtain without delay, or rather with the greatest possible dispatch, correct information from you and from our charge d'affaires at London, of the policy adopted, and the measures which have already been taken on the important interests depending with each government, on which you have been respectively instructed. A short detention of the vessel, for an obvious and useful purpose, as intimated heretofore, will not be objected to; but such a delay as has, on some occasions, occurred, is utterly inadmissible.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.
(Signed) JAS. MONROE
(To be continued.)

CONGRESSIONAL. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Monday, May 25.

Mr. Milnor presented a memorial from sundry inhabitants of Philadelphia county deprecating war at this time. Ordered to lie on the table.

The Speaker presented an address from the citizens of the first congressional district of Pennsylvania, to the people of the United States. The address was ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Cheeves, from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill extending the time of exporting, with the privilege of drawbacks all goods wares and merchandise imported into the U. S. [The object of this bill is to exclude the Embargo period from the year, in relation to drawbacks.] Ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

Mr. Kim obtained leave of absence until Thursday.

The bill for the relief of Ninian Pickney, was read a third time and passed.

Mr. Williams expressed great regret that this bill should have passed. He moved that it be recommitted. The Speaker said this could not be done.—Mr. Stanford then moved to reconsider the vote on its passage.

This motion was supported by Mr. Williams and Mr. Tallmadge, (who were against the bill,) and opposed by Mr. Wright and Mr. Gholson; when the question was taken and it was lost, yeas 35. So the bill passed.

The House went into committee of the whole Mr. Macon in the chair, on the bill to amend the laws respecting the District of Columbia.

Some amendments were made to the bill, after which the committee rose, and it appeared there was not a QUORUM present! So the house adjourned (quarter before 2.)

Tuesday, May 26.

Mr. Ely presented a memorial from the inhabitants of Brimfield, Mass. praying for the repeal of the nonimportation law, embargo, &c. and that a declaration of war may not take place. Ordered to lie on the table.

The speaker laid before the house a letter from John S. Grimes of Hampshire county, Virginia, stating that he had been for some time engaged in the culture of the tea plant; that his exertions had been crowned with success, having found that plant easily and successfully cultivated; and that he had transmitted samples for the examination of the members. Ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Cheeves from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill to authorize the transfer of stock created under the act of the 10th November, 1803.—[This, I believe is the Louisiana stock.] Referred to a committee of the whole to-morrow.

Mr. Gholson, from the committee of claims, reported a bill for the relief of Richard Dale. Referred to a committee of the whole to-morrow.

Mr. Wright, from the committee on military affairs, reported a bill for the more complete organization of the Infantry of the U. S. Referred to a committee of the whole to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. Wright, the committee on military affairs was discharged from the further consideration of the petition of W. Gamble, on the subject of his newly invented floating-batteries. It was ordered to be referred to the Secretaries of War and Navy.

The speaker laid before the house two communications from the secretary of the navy; the first relating to navy hospitals, which was referred to a select committee; the other on the subject of the expenditures at the different navy yards, which was referred to the committee on naval affairs.

Mr. Nelson moved that the report of the committee of commerce and manufactures, made some days ago relative to the distresses of the people in the Canary Islands, be referred to a select committee. [It will be recollected that this report was unfavourable, on the ground that there was not sufficient evidence of the distress complained of.—Mr. Nelson said his opinion was different from that of the committee. He said he could not consent to see a portion of his fellow-beings perish for want, when we have it abundantly in our power to relieve them. He considered such conduct unfeeling in the extreme.]

Mr. Rhea moved that the further consideration of the subject be postponed until the 4th of July.

Mr. Nelson called for the yeas and noes on this motion. They were taken, and it was lost, yeas 37, noes 59.

Mr. Newton then withdrew his motion for referring the subject to a select committee, and moved that the report and accompanying documents be referred to a committee of the whole and made the order of the day for to-morrow.

Mr. Rhea moved that they lie on the table. Carried.

Adjourned quarter after three.

Wednesday, May 27.

Mr. Hall presented a memorial from Benjamin Conner, of Portsmouth, N. H. stating that he had invented a portable bridge, of very simple construction, which might be carried about with an army, and praying such encouragement as congress may deem advisable. Referred to a select committee of 3.

Mr. Jackson presented a petition from the late marshal of the district of Rhode Island, praying to be released from confinement for a debt due the U. S. Referred to a select committee.

Mr. Jennings offered the following resolution: Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inquire whether any and what amendments are necessary in the act for dividing the Indiana Territory into two governments, with leave to report by bill or otherwise. Adopted.

Mr. Little moved that the memorial of John Snyder and others, heretofore presented relative to the capture of a schooner, be referred to the Secretary of State. Agreed to.

Mr. Newton called for the consideration of the report of the committee of commerce & manufactures, relative to the distresses of the people of Teneriffe; but the house refused to take it up, yeas 38, noes 51.

The bill extending the time of exporting, with the privilege of drawbacks, all goods, wares and merchandise entitled to the same, was read a third time and passed.

The bill from the Senate, making further provision for the sale of the reserved sections of public lands in the state of Ohio, was read twice, and referred to the committee on public lands.

The bill to amend the laws respecting the District of Columbia, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. Williams, the House went into com. of the whole, Mr. Bassett in the chair, on the bill concerning the arming of Merchant vessels, and the bill concerning associations for maritime defence and protection.

Mr. Rhea said the provisions contained in the first of these bills were entirely nugatory; they held out a mere shadow; they professed to allow merchant vessels to arm, and bound the owners to give heavy security for their good behavior. He wished for something stronger. He therefore moved that the committee rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again. This motion was agreed to, and the committee obtained leave to sit again.

The house went into committee of the whole, Mr. Stanford in the chair, on the bill for the more perfect organization of the Infantry of the U. S. It was agreed to without debate, and ordered to be engrossed for a 3d reading to-morrow.

The house went into committee of the whole, Mr. Laock in the chair, on the bill authorizing the President of the U. S. to lease for a term of years (twenty) a reservation of public land in the city of Washington. The object of this bill is to establish a Botanic Garden or Nursery. It was agreed to without debate, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

The house went into committee of the whole, Mr. Lewis in the chair, on the bill for the relief of Elie Whitney, [extending his patent right to a cotton machine.] Mr. Bibb opposed the bill, and Mr. Seybert supported it, when the committee rose, reported progress, and had leave to sit again. And the house adjourned for want of a quorum (half past 2.)

Elizabeth Hurst.
Takes the liberty of informing her friends and the public in general, that she has **PLAIN AND FASHIONABLE BONNETS,**
Which she is determined to sell on the most reduced profits for Cash.
Annapolis, June 4, 1812. 3w.