

friendly remonstrances, often repeated, the British government might adopt a more just policy towards them; but that hope no longer exists. They have also weighed impartially the reasons which have been urged by the British government in vindication of their encroachments, and found in them neither justification or apology.

The British government has alleged in vindication of the orders in council that they were referred to as a retaliation on France, for similar aggressions committed by her on our neutral trade with the British dominions. But how has this plea been supported? The dates of British and French aggressions are well known to the world. Their origin and progress have been marked with too wide and destructive a waste of the property of our fellow-citizens to have been forgotten. The decree of Berlin of Nov. 21st, 1806, was the first aggression of France in the present war. Eighteen months had then elapsed after the attack made by G. Britain on our neutral trade with colonies of France and her allies, and six months from the date of the proclamation of May, 1806. Even on the 7th Jan. 1807, the date of the first British order in council, so short a term had elapsed, after the Berlin decree, that it was hardly possible that the intelligence of it should have reached the U. States.

A retaliation which is to produce its effect by operating on a neutral power ought not to be referred to, till the neutral had justified it by a culpable acquiescence in the unlawful act of the other belligerent, it ought to be delayed until after sufficient time had been allowed to the neutral to remonstrate against the measure complained of, to receive an answer, and to act on it, which had not been done in the present instance; and when the order of Nov. 11th, was issued, it is well known that a minister of France had declared to the minister plenipotentiary of the U. S. at Paris, that it was not intended that the decree of Berlin should apply to the U. States. It is equally well known, that no American vessel had then been condemned under it, or seizure been made, with which the British government was acquainted. The facts prove incontrovertibly, that the measures of France, however unjustifiable in themselves, were nothing more than a pretext for those of England. And of the insufficiency of that pretext, ample proof has already been afforded by the British government itself, and in the most impressive form. Although it was declared that the orders in council were retaliatory on France for her decrees, it was also declared, and in the orders themselves, that owing to the superiority of the British navy, by which the fleets of France and her allies were confined within their own ports, the French decrees were considered only as empty threats.

It is no justification of the wrongs of one power, that the like were committed by another; nor ought the fact, if true, to have been urged by either, as it could afford no proof of its love of justice, or its magnanimity or even of its courage. It is more worthy the government of a great nation, to relieve than to assail the injured. Nor can a repetition of the wrongs by another power repair the violated rights, or wounded honour of the injured party. An utter inability alone to resist, would justify a quiet surrender of our rights, and degrading submission to the will of others. To that condition the U. S. are not reduced, nor do they fear it. That they ever consented to discuss with either power the misconduct of the other, is a proof of their love of peace, of their moderation, and of the hope which they still indulged that friendly appeals to just and generous sentiments would not be made to them in vain. But the motive was mistaken, if their forbearance was imputed, either to the want of a just sensibility to their wrongs, or of a determination, if suitable redress was not obtained to resent them. The time has now arrived when this system of reasoning must cease. It would be insulting to repeat it. It would be degrading to hear it. The U. S. must act as an independent nation, and assert their RIGHTS, and avenge their WRONGS, according to their own estimate of them, with the party who commits them, holding it responsible for its own misdeeds, unmitigated by those of another.

For the difference made between Great-Britain and France, by the application of the nonimportation act against England only, the motive has been already too often explained, and it is too well known to require further illustration. In the commercial restrictions to which the U. S. referred as an evidence of their sensibility, and a mild retaliation of their wrongs, they invariably placed each in respect to itself, the same accommodation, in case it accepted the condition offered, and in respect to the other, the same restraint, if it refused. Had the British government confirmed the arrangement, which was entered into with the British minister in 1809, and France maintained her decrees, with France would the U. States have had to resist, with the firmness belonging to their character, the continued violation of their rights. The committee do not hesitate to declare, that France has greatly injured the

U. S. and that satisfactory reparation has not yet been made for many of those injuries. But that is a concern which the U. States will look to and settle for themselves. The high character of the American people, is a sufficient pledge to the world, that they will not fail to settle it, on conditions which they have a right to claim.

More recently, the true policy of the British government towards the U. States has been completely unloaded. It has been publicly declared by those in power, that the orders in council should not be repealed, until the French government had revoked all its internal restraints on the British commerce, and that the trade of the U. States, with France and her allies, should be prohibited until G. Britain was also allowed to trade with them. By this declaration, it appears, that to satisfy the pretensions of the British government, the U. S. must join G. Britain in the war with France, and prosecute the war, until France should be subdued, for without her subjugation, it were in vain to resume such a concession. The hostility of the British government to these states has been still further disclosed. It has been manifested that the U. S. are considered by it as the commercial rival of Great-Britain, and that their prosperity and growth are incompatible with her welfare. When all these circumstances are taken into consideration, it is impossible for your committee to doubt the motives which have governed the British ministry in all its measures towards the U. S. since the year 1803. Equally is it impossible to doubt longer, the course which the U. S. ought to pursue towards G. Britain.

From this view of the multiplied wrongs of the British government since the commencement of the present war, it must be evident to the impartial world, that the contest which is now forced on the U. S. is radically a contest for their sovereignty and independence. Your committee will not enlarge on any of the injuries, however great, which have had a transitory effect. They wish to call the attention of the house to those of a permanent nature only, which trench so deeply on our most important rights, and wound so extensively and vitally our best interests, as could not fail to deprive the U. S. of the principal advantages of their revolution, if submitted to. The control of our commerce by G. Britain, in regulating at pleasure, and expelling it almost from the ocean; the oppressive manner in which their regulations have been carried into effect by seizing and confiscating such of our vessels with their cargoes, as were said to have violated her edicts, often without previous warning of their danger; the impeding of our citizens from on board our own vessels on the high seas, and elsewhere, and holding them in bondage until it suited the convenience of these oppressors to deliver them up, are encroachments of that high and dangerous tendency which could not fail to produce that pernicious effect, nor would those be the only consequences that would result from it. The British government might for a while be satisfied with the ascendancy thus gained over us, but its pretensions would soon increase. The proof, which so complete and disgraceful a submission to its authority would afford of our degeneracy, could not fail to inspire confidence that there was no limit to which its usurpations, and our degradation might not be carried.

Your committee believing that the free-born sons of America are worthy to enjoy the liberty which their fathers purchased at the price of much blood and treasure, and seeing in the measures adopted by G. Britain, a course commenced and persisted in which might lead to a loss of national character and independence, feel no hesitation in advising resistance by force, in which the Americans of the present day will prove to the enemy and to the world, that we have not only inherited that liberty which our fathers gave us, but also the will and power to maintain it. Relying on the patriotism of the nation, and confidently trusting that the Lord of Hosts will go with us to battle in a righteous cause, and crown our efforts with success—your committee recommend an immediate appeal to ARMS.

AN ACT

Declaring War between the United Kingdom of Great-Britain and Ireland and the dependencies thereof and the United States of America and their Territories.

Be it enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress Assembled, That WAR be and the same is hereby declared to exist between the United Kingdom of G. Britain and Ireland and the dependencies thereof, and the United States of America and their territories; and that the President of the U. S. be and he is hereby authorized to use the whole land and naval force of the U. States to carry the same into effect, and to issue to private armed vessels of the U. S. commissions or letters of marque and general reprisal, in such form as he shall think proper, and under the seal of the U. S. against the vessels, goods and effects of the same United Kingdom of

Great-Britain and Ireland, and of the dependencies thereof.

June 18, 1812.

H. CLAY, Speaker of the H. of Rep.
W. H. CRAWFORD, President of the Senate pro tem.

Approved JAMES MADISON.

FOREIGN

NEW-YORK, JUNE 13.

LATEST FROM PORTUGAL.

Yesterday arrived at this port, the fast sailing ship Mentor, Capt. Bernard, from Lisbon, which place he left on the 4th of May.

Captain B. informs us, it was reported at Lisbon, that another battle had been fought between the British and French armies, in which the latter lost between 3 and 4,000 men.

The embargo was not officially known at Lisbon when Capt. B. sailed, but two ships (the Eric and Oronoko) had just arrived in the Tagus from New-York, having sailed the morning our embargo reached here.

Markets were very good at Lisbon—flour twenty dollars, rice from 10 to 12 dollars, corn from two and an half to three dollars.

FROM ENGLAND.

[Circular from Hugh and Duncan.]

LIVERPOOL, MAY 2.

Wheat and flour are steady, and the scarcity of provisions is daily more felt, having in conjunction with the decline of trade caused many disturbances throughout the country. These occurrences joined to a disposition to consider them as the effect of the orders in council, as evinced by numerous petitions to parliament, for their revocation, appears at length to have had some influence with the minister, who has agreed to the appointment of a committee to examine the subject.

CITY ADDRESS.

On Tuesday, the city address was presented to the Prince Regent at the Levee; to which his royal highness was pleased to return the following answer:

"It must always be my inclination to listen with attention to the petitions of any part of his majesty's subjects, for the redress of any grievances of which they can reasonably complain. I have full confidence in the wisdom of parliament, the great council of the nation. Being firmly of opinion that the total change in the domestic government and foreign policy of the country, which it is the declared object of your petition to accomplish, would only serve to increase the dangers against which we have to contend, I should be wanting to myself and the great interests committed to my charge, if I did not steadily persevere in those endeavours which appear to me to be best calculated to support the best rights of the nation abroad, and to preserve inviolate the constitution at home. These endeavours can only be attended with success when seconded by the zeal and loyalty of his majesty's people, upon which I shall continue to place the strongest reliance."

The board of trade has deemed it expedient to make a farther alteration in the Baltic licences. The following official communication on this subject was published yesterday.

Office of Committee of Privy Council for Trade.

WHITEHALL, APRIL 27.

"The Lords of the committee of council for the trade have taken into consideration the state of the trade with the Baltic, and the difficulties to which the trade may be exposed by a change of political circumstance. I am therefore directed to acquaint you, that their lordships have come to the resolution to grant licences permitting any vessels not French, of not less than 100 tons burthen, to proceed from any Russian port in the Baltic, laden with hemp, flax, tallow, lintseed, or grain, to Matwyck or Hano Bay, (the names of ships, &c. being indorsed on the back of the licence at the time of clearance) such cargo to be there transhipped on board of such British vessel which may be there, in order to be imported into a port of G. Britain. I am however to add, that it is to be distinctly understood, that no licence will be granted to those who are to proceed to a British port, on the plea of there not being British ships to convey the said cargoes to G. Britain.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant.
THOMAS LOCK,
To Samuel Thornton, Esq. Gov. }
of the Russian company.

AFFAIRS WITH AMERICA.

House of Lords, April 28.
Lord Holland called the attention of their Lordships to a message which had appeared in the papers purporting to have been sent by the President of the U. States to the American Congress, intimating that a conspiracy had been formed by an agent (Henry) of the British government against the U. S. and that "documents" accompanied the message, importing that the agent was accredited by the noble Secretary of State (Lord Liverpool) or by the British commander in chief in Canada. He hoped the noble lord would be able to give a direct disclaimer on the subject.

The Earl of Liverpool said he had not the least objection to stating, that with respect to the President's message, which however had not been officially communicated to him, he had no difficulty unreservedly to disclaim that in any act of theirs, or through any person whatever, they had never intended to do any thing which had for its object a separation of one part of the U. States from another: That with respect to any person employed, it was without any authority whatever on the part of his majesty's government, and even without the knowledge of the fact that any individual was employed. With respect to his knowledge of the alleged object, he was satisfied the respectable person alluded to (gen. Craig) only required such information as was necessary for the security of that part of his Majesty's dominions, which he governed.—The situation of that officer rendered certain information necessary: But as to any intention on the part of any one connected with his majesty's government, to foment dissensions among the United States, it was what he expressly disclaimed.

Lord Holland enquired if Henry had been employed by, or had been known to be employed by the government?

The Earl of Liverpool solemnly assured the house, that Henry was so far from having been authorized by the government, that they had not even known of his having been employed until after his return to Quebec.

After the intervention of other business, Lord Holland again alluded to the denunciation which had accompanied the President's message, and which he said from their appearance required some preliminary resolution.—If any thing like fact had been disclosed in them, it was nothing less than the mission of a person not authorized, to the subjects of a friendly power, for the purpose of exciting a rebellion, and of offering assistance to such as would engage in it.

Lord Liverpool said, nothing was farther from the fact than the light in which the noble Lord placed the subject. Nothing had occurred which by any means warranted inferences of the nature alluded to. Lord Holland here said he should on Friday move for the production of the correspondence on the subject.

In the house of commons on the same day, Mr. Whitbread put questions to ministers on the same subject; and

Lord Castlereagh said he felt really obliged to the hon. gentleman for giving him an opportunity of stating his belief that the accusation had been unfairly brought by the American government. As to a disposition to wish to break the American union he would on the part of all those who were then in office as well as of all those who are now in office, distinctly, and in the most peremptory manner disclaim any such disposition, or having ever acted upon any such principle. It appeared that one Henry had been employed by Sir James Craig, but without the knowledge or privity of the British government; and the first intimation government ever had that such an agent had been employed, also stated that he had been recalled. When this agent was employed, Sir James Craig expected an immediate attack on Canada; but the moment his apprehensions of an attack on Canada had subsided, he lost no time in recalling him.

Mr. Whitbread wished to know what measures had been taken when ministers were informed that this agent had been employed by the Federalists, as it regards war?

Lord Castlereagh in reply said as the news of the recall of the agent was received at the same time as of his employment, no particular disapprobation had been expressed at General Craig's conduct; who had taken the step as a measure in contemplation of an immediate attack upon the colony; for the defence of which he was responsible. As soon as the danger appeared to be diminished, he recalled the agent.

Mr. Whitbread said he was not satisfied, and intimated his intention of making a motion on the subject.

In reply to a question put by Mr. Perceval respecting the letter of "Byland," which recognized the "cypher" to be used in the communication,

Lord Castlereagh said he had searched for this letter from seeing it stated in the newspapers, and could find no traces of it.

ORDERS IN COUNCIL.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, April 28, 1812.

Lord Stanley, after a review of the disastrous effects of the Orders in Council on every part of the Empire, moved, that the different petitions from Birmingham, &c. &c. against them, should be referred to a committee of the whole to-morrow.

Mr. Rose expressed his satisfaction that the time was come, when the subject could be fully discussed. He then went into an able and minute investigation and exposition of the whole subject of the Orders, and concluded by declaring, that he should deplore their repeal; but as some inquiry was necessary to satisfy the public mind that the distresses complained of by the petitioners did not grow out of these orders, he should not object to the motion.

Messrs. Baring and Brougham both condemned the policy of the Orders, particularly as they affected the relations with America; and were replied to by Lord Castlereagh and Mr. Stephen.

Lord Stanley inquired, if in case the inquiry should show that the Orders in Council were a principal cause of the present pressure, Ministers would refuse to rescind them?

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Perceval) said, even if it appear that a great part of the temporary pressure for this single year was to be attributable to the Orders in Council; yet, if it were found that there were other concurrent causes, and that the pressure was merely temporary, he could not say that he could pledge himself to abandon the system.

The motion was unanimously agreed to and the committee was ordered to sit from day to day.

LONDON, May 29.

The charge brought against our government by the government of America drew, as we said it would, an explanation from his majesty's ministers in each house of Parliament. Lord Liverpool in the House of Lords disclaimed any intention of doing any thing that might tend to a separation of the dominions of the United States, and added that government had not even known of Mr. Henry's being employed in America, until after his return to Quebec. Lord Castlereagh made a similar declaration in the House of Commons.

There can be but one opinion with respect to the eagerness which Mr. Madison shews to make the correspondence public, without taking any steps with our minister in America, or our government at home, to certain the accuracy or inaccuracy of Henry's correspondence. The man comes to him in the shape of a traitor to his employers; yet he places implicit confidence in his statement.

Paris papers have arrived to the 25th inst. They are silent respecting Buonaparte's departure from Paris. It is not however unusual with them to take no notice of such an event till two or three days after it has taken place. Buonaparte is so much beloved by his subjects, that he never lets them know the exact period of his departure or arrival upon purpose no doubt, to prevent their pressing upon him in crowds with their acclamations and their blessings.

These papers mention the movements of Austrian troops towards Galicia, and the formation of corps de reserve in Russia.

Young Beauharnois is arrived in Paris from Italy, but whether to be left there during Buonaparte's absence, or to accompany him, is not stated.

BOSTON, JUNE 16.

LATEST NEWS.

We are indebted to the Editors of the Chronicle for the loan of a London paper of May 12, and a Greenock paper of May 13, received by the Adamaut from the latter place.

LONDON, (COURIER) MAY 12.

Assassination of Mr. Perceval.
It is under feelings of horror, grief and dismay, that we record an event unparalleled in the history of our country, or, perhaps, of any other—the assassination of Mr. Perceval, as he was entering the lobby of the House of Commons yesterday, at a quarter past five o'clock. Mr. P. was shot through the heart and expired immediately. The assassin remained in the crowd, and surrendered himself.

The prisoner spoke to the following effect:—"I have admitted the fact—I admit the fact—but with permission to state something in my justification. I have been denied the redress of my grievances by government; I have been ill-treated. They all know who I am, and what I am, through the Secretary of State and Mr. Becket, with whom I have had frequent communications. They knew of this fact six weeks ago, through the magistrates of Bow-street. I was accused most wrongfully by a governor-general in Russia, in a letter from Archangel to Riga, and have sought redress in vain. I am a most unfortunate man, and feel here, (placing his hand on his breast) sufficient justification for what I have done."

The coroner's jury has just concluded its proceedings by bringing in a verdict of a wilful murder against John Bellingham, formerly ship broker of Liverpool.

The assassin of Mr. Perceval appears to have been actuated by no political bias, and the opposition members of parliament expressed their horror at the action, and were active in securing the perpetrator; who is said to have been subject to fits of insanity.

Sale of Negroes.

A number of Negroes, consisting of Men, Women and Children, will be exposed at public sale, at the House of Isaac Parker, in the city of Annapolis, on Monday the 13th day of July next.—They are not sold for any fault, but to pay honest and just debts. Terms of sale Cash.

BURTON WHETCROFT,

June 25