

BRITISH PARLIAMENT.
HOUSE OF LORDS, Tuesday, May 8,
1812.

Charge made by the American Government.

The order of the day upon which their Lordships were summoned being read.
LORD HOLLAND rose to bring forward the motion of which he had given notice.— He said the propositions he was about to submit to their Lordships had no reference whatever to the line of policy proper to be pursued with respect to the U. States of America. It went to call for information on a topic of great importance, because it affected the honor of the country. He felt at a loss to know upon what objections an opposition to such a motion could be founded. It went to the crimination of no man, or any set of men; but from what had met the public eye, he conceived it now indispensably necessary that the government of this country should be vindicated from what he trusted was an unfounded charge made against it. It was in fact no less than while two friendly powers were engaged in negotiation upon certain points of national importance, a member of the British government had employed a secret agent captain Henry, in the territories of the U. S., not for the purpose of procuring intelligence, for that he granted was a legitimate object, but for the purpose of procuring some of the provinces of the states of the Union, to throw off their allegiance to their legal government and to separate from the rest. It was worthy of consideration that this charge originally came from an individual who avowedly betrayed the secrets of his own employers. The Noble Lord concluded by moving an address to the Prince Regent, for the production of copies of all the communications made by Sir James Craig to his Majesty's Secretary of State, relative to the employment of Captain Henry in a secret mission to the U. States of America; also, of the correspondence that took place between his Majesty's Secretary of State and Sir George Prevost on the subject of compensation claimed by Capt. Henry for his services; and also copies of all instructions sent to Sir James Craig from his Majesty's Secretary of State relative to the employment of Captain Henry in the U. States of America.

On the question being put—
EARL LIVERPOOL immediately rose & said, he agreed with the Noble Baron that the present was a question which had no reference with the line of policy proper to be pursued with respect to America. It stood upon general principles which according to the circumstances, were applicable to the case of any independent state whatever. It was therefore from a strong sense of public duty that he dissented from the present motion. He would state the circumstances of the transaction as far as they had come under his view. In the first place, he had to state, that the employment of the person in question (Mr. H.) as an agent by the respectable officers, who then governed in Canada, was never authorised at the time, nor was it even known to his Majesty's government, that such a person had been employed until many months after the transaction. It was proper their Lordships should consider the situation in which Canada was then placed, with respect to the government of the United States. A very great heat and clamour prevailed in America at the time, and the country assumed a very warlike and menacing attitude. Not only defensive measures were then set on foot, but on the 25th of November the Governor of Boston had received orders to hold ten thousand men, then under his command, in readiness to march at a moment's notice. This circumstance was publicly notorious, and stated in the public papers. This was in the province nearest to British North America, and if that force could be applied at all, it was to the invasion of our dominions. This was General Craig's conviction at the time, as he even prevented the expedition then ready for sailing from Halifax against Martinique; but retained them because it put all our northern possessions in great hazard.—But that was not all; on the thirteenth day of November, Congress voted 50,000 volunteers, on the requisition of the Executive; of this Mr. Erskine, our then Minister, very properly demanded an explanation. What possible eventual object could such a force be for, but to attack the British American possessions? The answer of Mr. Madison to Mr. Erskine was, that the conduct of the belligerents was such towards them (the Americans) as to authorise the commencement of hostilities without any further notice, (hear, hear!) Mr. Erskine then very properly sent off an express to Sir James Craig, informing him of the circumstance; and it was known that Canada or Halifax were the points first to be attacked. These circumstances served at least to throw a colour upon the relations in which the two governments stood at the time. (Hear, hear!) But other circumstances might be mentioned, hostilities were actually committed at the time; some British boats were seized on the lakes, though no reprisals were attempted.— (Hear.) The four eastern states of America took the most active measures at the time, with reference to the commencement of hostilities, and their Lordships must feel how de-

sirable and necessary it was at the time for the Governor of Canada to know the sentiments of the different states, and an opinion generally prevailed, that in the event of a war some degree of separation would take place. He believed that no man would say the conduct of General Craig, on such an emergency, was improper. Whatever may be said as to the question of policy there could be little as to the point of morality, when the state of preparation, and the menacing attitude of the American government was considered; when they declared hostilities may be commenced without further notice. (Hear, hear!) But having received communications from Mr. Henry, & thinking that he was well acquainted with the general sentiments of the eastern states, he sent him thither in Feb. 1809. A great deal which appeared in the papers, however was false, and unfounded; but as far as authentic instruction went, he must contend the directions were not for the purpose of exciting discontent, but wholly for the purpose of obtaining information which in the event of hostilities might enable Sir J. Craig to avail himself of the prevalent temper and disposition in the states. There was no presumption warranted in any thing or measure adopted by Sir J. Craig that such unfair or improper objects were in his view. So far from it, that when he heard the points in discussion were adjusted between Mr. Madison and Mr. Erskine, he sent orders to Mr. H. to withdraw from the U. States—(hear, hear!) and that proved that all his instructions were given in the contemplation of hostilities. With respect to what was said of the applications which were made by Mr. Henry for a remuneration he had to observe that when such applications were made it was naturally an object with him to inquire into the character and conduct of the individual so applying; and on the security of the recommendation from Sir J. Craig, and it appearing he had been employed in procuring certain information and that some remuneration had been promised him for his services, he had no hesitation in saying, that as he tho't he had been so employed, and nothing appearing against the character of the individual at the time, he held it his duty, as he should in all cases of the kind, to have acted, as was mentioned in the correspondence with General Prevost.

EARL GRAY said, it had been said by the Noble Lord, that movements had been made by the American Commander in chief at Boston, which could have no other object but the attack of Canada. It had also been said that the proposed detaching of so large a portion of the American militia could have no other object. He would grant all this; and he would still say those motions indicative of an attack, gave Sir J. Craig no other right but to take the regular military measures for defence. It gave him a right to assemble troops, to repair fortifications, to establish depots, and collect provisions, and what was necessary for a campaign; but it did not give him a right to endeavor to seduce American subjects from their allegiance to their country. This was a step which no preparations for war on the part of America could justify.—While the two governments were employed in amicable negotiation for peace, Capt. Henry was employed in endeavoring to detach American subjects from their allegiance. He saw no way by which satisfaction could be given to the Americans on this point, or the honour of this country be cleared, except by the absolute denial on the part of Ministers or a condemnation of the measures by Parliament.

LORD SIDMOUTH never recollected any case since he had been in Parliament, which had been made the subject of so much exaggeration. He tho't that there was no ground for throwing any imputation upon government even although Sir J. Craig, in his zeal for the defence of the colony entrusted to him, might have a little exceeded those bounds which were to be strictly justified by the law of nations. As Government knew nothing of those measures at the time, no blame attached to them; and it must be recollected, that Sir J. Craig had only acted so in the contemplation of an immediate attack, but that he recalled Mr. Henry the moment he heard of the amicable termination of the negotiation.

MARQUIS LANSDOWNE, said, that as the Noble Viscount complained of this case having been so much exaggerated, he ought rather to have voted for the production of the papers, in order to show the case in its true light.
LORD MULGRAVE, thought this question did not at all affect the character of government, as ministers had no connection with the transaction, of which they were entirely ignorant; but it was a question purely respecting the late Sir J. Craig, and the manner he had conducted himself in his government. It had been his good fortune, in his military life, to be acquainted with that gallant officer; he knew his honorable and elevated mind, and was convinced that his only object was to defend the colony entrusted to him; and if he had taken any step that was not strictly justifiable by the law of nations, it was from error only and not from any inten-

tion to violate it. He conceived this a question of Sir J. Craig, and not at all a question of the Government. The motives which induced Sir J. Craig to employ this agent were only known to himself; and as he is now no more, it would not be possible for any papers that could be laid before the house to explain what was the only thing to be explained the motives which influenced Sir J. Craig to employ this agent.

LORD HOLLAND, in reply. It was said that all that Henry was employed about was merely to obtain information. For the honor of the British name, he would trust it was so; but at the same time presumptions were strongly the other way; and all he wanted was clear official declaration from the throne; such as would repel the charge, to the satisfaction not only of this country, but of other nations. He concurred in the opinion that it would have been more prudent on the part of the American Government if they had first asked for an explanation before they published the documents which came into their possession; but whatever might be said of this it was the first duty of Government to refute the charge that had been brought against them. Let us have the proof what was forged, and what was the truth; and let the whole matter be explained in the face of the country & of Europe.

Non contents, 73—Contents, 27—majority, 46. The motion was therefore lost.

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Annapolis, June 18. 3X 3v.

MARYLAND GAZETTE.
ANNAPOLIS, THURSDAY, JULY 2, 1812.

NOTICE.
We are authorised and requested to state to the Voters of Anne-Arundel county, that BENJAMIN ALLEN will serve them, if elected, as a Delegate to the next General Assembly.

The Frigate CONSTITUTION, Captain HULL, arrived off our harbour on Saturday last.

OBITUARY.
On Wednesday the 24th instant, suddenly departed this life Mr. GASSAWAY RAWLINGS, of Anne-Arundel county. Had he lived one day in addition to those he had already numbered he would have completed his 69th year. Infirm for the last years of his life, he had lived retired from the bustle of the world, but still pleased with the intercourse of social life among those friends whom he admitted to an interchange of friendly intercourse. He was a kind father and a warm friend, and sustained the afflictions with which God was pleased, in his divine dispensations to visit him, with Christian resignation and manly fortitude. Angels beheld him ripe for joys to come, And call'd by God's command their brother home; And tho' he now lies mouldering in his tomb In death's cold sleep, still shall his virtues bloom: Rest then, thou gentle spirit, rest in peace, All jarring passions now for ever cease, 'Till long thy friends who now thy fate deplore Will follow thee, and be beheld no more.

Legislature of Maryland.
HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 1812.
Mr. Donaldson delivers a petition from Jehu Chandler, printer to the state, praying for a determination of the legislature, whether he is bound to forward to each magistrate one copy of the votes and proceedings, agreeably to an order of the house of delegates passed at November session 1794. Read, and referred to Messrs Donaldson, Marriot, and Stevens.
The bill authorising the several banks in this state to loan money to the United States was read the second time by special order, and on motion by Mr. Wilson the question was put, that the following be added to the said bill:
"Provided always, that no loan shall be made by any bank, under the licence given by this law, until after a new election of directors."
The yeas and nays being required, appeared as follow:

AFFIRMATIVE.
Messrs. R. Neale, Plater, Barber, Frisby, Graves, Spencer, Reynolds, Grahame, Ireland, Emmerson, Rogerson, Parnham, Stone-treet, C. Dorsey, Jackson, Waller, Long, Griffith, F. Hall, Herbert, Callis, T. N. Williams, Wilson, Quinton, A. Jones, Riggs, Owens, Evans, Howard.—31.

NEGATIVE.
Messrs. Marriot, Belt, Z. Duvall, Randall, Harryman, Stevens, Wainwright, Tenant, Doors, Veazy, Groome, Moffit, T. Williams, Claude, L. Duvall, Burgess, Emory, Little, Swearingen, T. Jones, Shriver, Sanders, Forwood, Street, Willis, Tillotson, Bayard, Jump, Pechin, Donaldson, B. Hall, Downey, Tomlinson.—34.

So it was determined in the negative.
On motion by Mr. Jackson, the question was put, that the following be added to the said bill:
"Provided the assent of a majority of the stockholders, in amount more than one half of the capital paid in any bank, shall signify their assent in writing to the directors to the same."
Determined in the negative—yeas 31, nays 34.

The question was then put, shall the said bill pass? Resolved in the affirmative, and the bill sent to the senate.
The clerk of the senate delivers the following resolution:
By the Senate, June 17, 1812.

WHEREAS, It appears by a report made by the governor and council to the General Assembly at the last November session, that a great number of the arms belonging to the state have been delivered out at different times by orders of the officers of the militia; and it is deemed expedient at this time to know the state and condition of said arms: Therefore,
Resolved, That the Governor and Council be, and they are hereby authorised and required, to make application to all those officers (or their representatives) who have received arms or accoutrements, requiring them to make immediate report of the number, state and condition of the said arms and accoutrements, &c where the same are now deposited; that the governor and council report to the next general assembly the result of said applications.

By order, THO'S ROGERS, Clk.
Which was read the first and second time by especial order, assented to, and sent to the senate.

Mr. R. Neale delivers a bill entitled, An act for the distribution of arms in the several counties of this state; which was read the first and second time by especial order, and on motion by Mr. R. Neale, the title was altered so as to read: "An act to authorise the governor in certain cases, to arm the militia of this state."
The question was then put, Shall the said bill pass?
Resolved in the affirmative, and sent to the senate.

Mr. Donaldson delivers the following report:
The committee to whom was referred the memorial of Jehu Chandler, beg leave to offer the following resolution:
Resolved, That it is the duty of the printer of the state to print a sufficient number of copies of the votes and proceedings of the legislature at its last session, for each justice of the peace of the state.

By order,
JAS. F. HUSTON, Clk.
Which was read.
Mr. Jackson delivers a petition from the members of the First Baltimore Troop, praying for an alteration in the 13th section of the law for the better organization of the cavalry throughout the state; which was read, and the question put, that the same be referred to the committee appointed to bring in a further supplement to the militia law.
[The following is the section here alluded to:—"13. And be it enacted, That the commissions of the present cavalry officers shall be, and are hereby revoked, and new ones shall be issued, attaching each officer to his respective regiment, squadron or troop: Provided, That the new commissions shall bear the same seniority by date, [number or otherwise, that the old commissions bear at the present time.]"

The yeas and nays being required, appeared as follow:
AFFIRMATIVE.
Messrs. R. Neale, Plater, Barber, Frisby, Graves, Spencer, A. Dorsey, Reynolds, Grahame, Ireland, Emmerson, Rogerson, Parnham, Stonestreet, C. Dorsey, Jackson, Waller, Long, Griffith, F. Hall, Herbert, Callis, T. N. Williams, Wilson, Quinton, A. Jones, Riggs, Owens, Evans, Howard.—30.

NEGATIVE.
Messrs. Marriot, Belt, Z. Duvall, Randall, Harryman, Stevens, Wainwright, Tenant, Doors, Veazy, Groome, Moffitt, T. Williams, Claude, L. Duvall, Burgess, Emory, Little, Handy, Swearingen, T. Jones, Shriver, Sanders, Forwood, Street, Willis, Tillotson, Bayard, Jump, Pechin, Donaldson, B. Wall, T. B. Hall, Downey, Blair, Tomlinson.—36.

So it was determined in the negative.
On motion by Mr. Donaldson the question was put, that the said petition be referred to the next General Assembly.
Resolved in the affirmative.
Mr. Randall delivers a bill entitled, A further supplement to the act entitled, An act to regulate and discipline the militia of this state.
Which was read.
The house adjourns until three o'clock P. M.

3 O'CLOCK, P. M.
On motion by Mr. Archibald Dorsey, the following resolutions were read:
Resolved, That we deem war with Great Britain (under existing circumstances,) inexpedient; and that it would be destructive of the true interest of our constituents to resort to war at the present period.
Resolved, That a declaration of war against one of the belligerents would be submission to the other.
(The remainder in our next.)

The following is a list of laws passed by the General Assembly of this state at June session, 1812.
No. 1. An act authorising the several banks in this state to loan money to the United States.
2. A supplement to an act entitled, An act to establish a bank and incorporate a company under the name of the Cumberland-Bank of Allegany.
3. A supplement to the act entitled, "An act to incorporate a bank to be called the Farmers Bank of Somerset and Worcester."
4. An act authorising an appropriation for the penitentiary of this state.
5. An act to authorise the governor in certain cases to arm the militia of this state.
6. A supplement to the act entitled, An act for the relief of Joseph Enalls, of Dorchester county.
7. A further supplement to an act to alter the public road leading from Miles' River Ferry, through the lands of Jacob Loockerman of Talbot County.
8. An additional supplement to an act entitled, An act for the opening and extending of Pratt-street, in the city of Baltimore.
9. A further supplement to the act entitled, An act to regulate and discipline the militia of this state.
10. An act for the payment of the journals of accounts.