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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1866

Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, February 6.

Mr. Nicholson presented a memorial from Messrs. Montgomery and Stevens witnesses on the part of the prosecution on the trial of Judge Chase, praying a compensation for their travel and attendance, which was referred to the Committee of Claims.

Mr. Quincy presented a memorial from the merchants of Boston, representing the aggressions committed on the trade and neutral rights of the U. States and concluding with suggesting the propriety of a special mission to the court of London.

Referred to the committee of the whole on the state of the union.

Mr. Crwinshield, from the committee of Commerce and manufactures, made a detailed report on the petition of Francis Amory, which was referred to the committee of the whole House.

A petition from William Lambert was presented and referred to the Committee of Claims.

Mr. J. Clay presented a petition from the measurers of salt and coal in the city of Philadelphia, praying for additional compensation for their services, which was referred to the committee of Claims.

Mr. Gregg, from the committee on public lands, made a report on the petition of F. Messonier, praying either a donation of land, or an extension of the usual time of payment therefor, to aid him in the cultivation of the vine. The report is unfavorable not only to the prayer of this individual case, but likewise to the principle on which it is founded.

The House immediately took the report into consideration, and concurred in it without division.

A bill was received from the Senate, making a further appropriation for the support of a library. The bill appropriates, in addition to the unexpended balance of a former appropriation, the yearly sum of 1,000 dollars for five years, to be applied under the direction of a joint committee of three members of the Senate and three members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed every session.

Referred to a committee of the whole to-morrow.

A bill was likewise received from the Senate to repeal in part the fourth section of an act to authorize the grants of land to the French inhabitants of Gallipolis, and for other purposes therein mentioned. This bill repeals so much of the act referred to as imposes the condition of actual settlement.

Referred to the committee on the public lands.

On motion of Mr. Leib, the House went into a committee of the whole—Mr. Gregg in the chair—on the report of a select committee making extra allowances to certain officers of the House for extra services rendered during the last session.

The resolution authorizes the payment of 300 dollars to the clerk, 200 dollars to William Lambert, Josias W. King, the sergeant at arms, the door keeper and the assistant door-keeper, each, and 50 dollars to Alexander Spalding and John Phillips each.

On motion of Mr. Findley, 100 dollars were allowed to James Laurie, chaplain.

After a short debate the resolution was agreed to—Ayes 47—Noes 42.

The committee then rose, and the house took up their report, and concurred in the resolution as amended—Yeas 60—Nays 55.

A message was received from the President of the United States, enclosing a letter from the governor of South Carolina, stating the session to the U. States of certain sciters for furs, &c. on certain conditions.

Referred to the committee of the whole on the state of the union.

A message was likewise received from the President of the United States, laying before the two Houses, for the exercise of their constitutional powers as to providing the means for fulfilling them, six Indian treaties for the extinguishment of Indian rights to lands within the United States.

The President states that the Senate had advised the ratification of these treaties, viz:

- 1. Treaty with the Wyandots, &c. 2. With the Wyandots, &c. 3. With the Delawares. 4. With the Chickasaws. 5. With the Cherokees. 6. With the Creeks.

Referred to the committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. J. Randolph said, the House would recollect better than he did, for he was

not present at the time, the very important resolution referred on the motion of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Gregg) whom he saw in his place, to the committee of the whole on the state of the union. It was no part of his purpose at this time to discuss the merits of that resolution; and it was still further from his purpose to throw any impediment, or create any delay in bringing forward that discussion; the more so, as he considered the whole country south of the seat of government, and more particularly that part of the country in which he resided, decidedly interested in a speedy and prompt reception or rejection of the proposition. Indeed such was his opinion of the necessity of its being speedily acted upon, that as soon as he saw the resolution which had been offered, which was not until Friday, when it was laid on his table, the first suggestion of his mind was to move the going immediately into a committee of the whole on it; as those gentlemen, with whom he had the honor of holding personal and political intercourse would testify. But a more mature reflection had convinced him that before the resolution could receive that ultimate decision, which he trusted it would receive, the House stood in need of material information, which, however it might be in the possession of this or that individual, was not possessed by the body of the House. His object in addressing the House was to obtain this information from the proper authority, from the head of a department—which was the only way in which information of a satisfactory nature, such as ought to influence the decision of the House, ought to be obtained.

Mr. J. Randolph then submitted the following resolution.

Resolved, That the secretary of the treasury be directed to lay before this House a statement of the exports and imports of the United States to and from Great Britain and Ireland, and the American colonies of the same, for the two last years, distinguishing the colonial trade, from that of the mother country, and specifying the various articles of export and import and the amount of duties payable on the latter.

Mr. Smilie expressed himself in favor of the resolution, and observed that the species of information called for had not been received by the House later than 1863.

Mr. Crowninshield was of opinion that it would be best to extend the resolution so as to embrace the British provinces of Nova Scotia and New-Brunswick, and the provinces beyond the Cape of Good Hope.

A conversation of some length ensued between Messrs. Crowninshield, Bidwell and Alston on the one side, and Messrs. J. Randolph and J. Clay on the other on amending the resolution.

The former gentlemen were for amending the resolution so as to embrace a period of peace as well as war, and to obtain information from "all the dependencies of Great Britain"—which the latter gentlemen opposed on various grounds, one of which was that if this additional information were desirable it could be obtained by a distinct resolution.

On Mr. Crowninshield's motion to amend the resolution, so far to extend it to "British dependencies," generally, the House divided—Ayes 43—Noes 67.

Mr. Nicholson suggested the propriety of adding the following words to the resolution, in which the mover acquiescing, they were incorporated into it.

And also a statement shewing in detail the quantity and value of the like articles of import brought into the U. S. from other nations respectively, with the rate and amount of duty thereon.

When the resolution, thus modified was agreed to without a division.

Mr. Crowninshield then moved the following resolution. He said in substance it was the same with the amendment which he had proposed to the resolution of the gentleman from Virginia.

Resolved, That the secretary of the Treasury be directed to lay before this House, a statement of the amount of the exports and imports to and from the British dependencies other than those of America for the last two years.

This resolution was likewise agreed to without a division.

On motion of Mr. Stanford the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill altering the time for holding the circuit court for the district of North Carolina.

After the blanks were filled, Mr. Macon offered a section for increasing the salary of the district judge of North Carolina from 1,500 to 2,000 dollars.

After debate, this motion was lost by a great majority, as were other motions, successively made, to allow a salary of 1800, 1700, and 1600 dollars.

The committee rose, and reported the bill, and the House ordered it to a third reading to-morrow.

TUESDAY, Feb. 4.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the governor of Orleans, covering a petition from the regents of the university of that territory, praying a donation of lands.

Referred to the committee on the public lands.

Mr. Gregg called for the order of the day on a resolution offered by him to repeal so much of an act as authorizes the appropriation of lands to the Yazoo claimants.

Mr. Smilie moved to postpone the consideration of this resolution to Monday week, at in the mean time the national business might be

transacted, undisturbed by the irritation which this subject generally gave rise to.

Mr. Alston declared himself in favor of a compromise by commissioners. If this course should be disagreed to, he would have no objection to agree to the resolution offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. Gregg trusted the motion for postponement would not prevail. The resolution had been submitted very early in the session. The mover had waved calling it up to this day that the national business might be first attended to. In this business the House had progressed to a point, at which it appeared convenient to take up the resolution. Information had been required, which would not probably be received for some days. In the interim a decision might be had on the resolution. The subject had been so long before the House, and had been so fully discussed, that there did not appear to be occasion for much debate, nor did he think the irritation alluded to by his colleague, would take place. He hoped, if the subject was entered upon, the discussion would be conducted with that prudence and temper that were essential to the discovery of truth.

The motion was agreed to—Ayes 65.

The House went into committee of the whole, Mr. Varnum in the chair, on the bill respecting bonds given by marshals.

After amending the same the committee rose, and the House ordered the bill to a third reading.

On the motion of Mr. Sloan the House went into a committee of the whole on the bill imposing a duty on slaves imported into the United States—Mr. John C. Smith in the chair.

A variety of motions were made amendatory of the bill, which shall be given in a more detailed view of the proceedings. We shall at present confine ourselves to a concise notice of those most material.

A motion made by Mr. Gregg, requiring the duty to be paid at the time of entry, was agreed to—Ayes 54—Noes 24.

Mr. J. Randolph moved, with the view of getting rid of the business, that the committee should rise.

The motion was supported by Messrs. J. Randolph and Holland, and opposed by Messrs. Smilie, Fisk, Sloan and Southward; and disagreed to—Ayes 42—Noes 61.

Mr. Bidwell moved an amendment limiting the imposition of the duty to the 1st day of January, 1868.

Mr. Sloan spoke against the amendment, which was agreed to—Ayes 53—Noes 27.

Mr. Bidwell then offered a new section prohibiting the importation of slaves into the United States after the 1st day of January 1868.

Mr. Bidwell supported, and Messrs. J. Clay and Dana opposed this section, which was disagreed to—Ayes 17.

Mr. D. R. Williams proposed a new section prohibiting the introduction, after the passage of this act, into the territories of the United States, of slaves hereafter imported into the U. States.

After a short debate on this motion, the committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Mr. J. Randolph opposed leave being given them to sit again; and Messrs. Jackson and Smilie supported it; when the question was taken at a late hour, and leave given—Ayes 73.

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY, 28, 1866.

Mr. Mitchell from the committee to whom was referred, the memorial of the Merchants of New York, submitted a report on that part of the same, which relates to "the defenceless situation of the port of New York."

Early in the history of North America, the harbor of New York was discovered by the Dutch to be a convenient place of resort for ships. Subsequent experience has proved the judgment of the Hollanders to have been good. The place where the north river forms a junction with Long Island sound, is as well if not better adapted to navigation and trade than any which the Atlantic coast affords.

The city at the head of the harbor, is about 27 miles from the ocean, the ebb and flow of tides is about 6 feet. The saltness of the water is not much inferior to that of the neighboring sea.

The harbor is a bay or bason, surrounded chiefly by islands. Though the space from the foot of the Never-sunk hills, to the mouth of the river Raritan, and another space from Bergen point, to Hoboken are parts of the main land, which skirt the shores between the insular positions. The land is mostly low and is composed principally of gravel, sand, and loam; and in certain spots strata of solid granite appear.

The island of Sandy Hook, where the light house stands, is little more than a beach rising not far above the level of spring tides. Staten Island swells into moderate hills, and presents especially on its eastern side several bold elevations. Long Island whose western extremity loses its ridges and hills in the plains of Platlands and New Utrecht, still retains at the narrows where its cliffs are somewhat abrupt and prominent, several positions of considerable strength. In these shores of the two last mentioned islands, the army of the enemy was landed in 1776, and a repetition of such an invasion might be discouraged by the erection of suitable works to oppose it. Governor's Island has been already much improved by military works and is the spot on which fort Jay and the principal other fortifications have been erected. Bedlow Island, though very small, has also been considered proper for defensive operations, and in some degree prepared to annoy an enemy. On Manhattan Island, where the city of New York stands, there was once a fort and battery. These have been demolished of late years, under a conviction of their unfitness, as have likewise some more recent breast works and parapets, which tho' constructed but 8 or 9 years ago, were within a twelve month destroyed by the people who made them.

Between these islands there are deep channels and rapid currents. Ships of large force may be brought in from sea and anchored in safety abreast of the town. And having once reached that station, there is water enough to convey

frigates or even large ships, quite to the city of Hudson.

To the saltness, depth, and swiftness of the current, is to be ascribed the openness of the harbor of New York, during the winter. In 1780, its surface was covered by a thick and strong covering of ice. The like has never happened since, not even during the rigorous winter of 1805. And it is remarkable that while the Delaware, Patapsco, and Potomac are frozen, and Philadelphia, Baltimore and Alexandria are secured thereby from the fleets of an invader, the bay of N. York tho' situated further to the northward, possesses commonly no such protection, but is accessible from the ocean with but trifling impediment.

The insecurity of the city is evinced by other facts. With a small squadron of ships in 1674, the English took it from the Dutch. Shortly afterwards it was retaken with almost equal ease. No cause of attack occurring until the commencement of the revolutionary war, it was found utterly incapable of defence against a hostile fleet and army in 1776, and abandoned to the enemy by the troops arrayed for its protection. And that very foe, which then gained the possession, held it as a garrison until 1783, when on its evacuation, the inhabitants were enabled to return to their homes, after an exile of 7 long years.

Since the revolution, New York has greatly increased in population, extent, capital and enterprise. The memorialists state that there one third of the national revenue is collected. They hope so important a sea port may be thought worthy of an efficient defence. And they beg that a portion of public treasure accumulated in that place may be expended in rendering both that treasure and the city in which it is kept more secure.

For the further information of the Senate, the committee beg leave to observe, that a piece of land has been already purchased by the state, on Staten Island, comprehending the high point on which the signal poles of the merchants are erected.

The greater part of Governor's island is understood to be the property of the state, a small part of it only having been purchased by the nation. On these parcels of ground the labor of constructing works is the principal matter of expence. And it is in this posture of affairs that the memorialists, after the state has done so much, ask the nation to bear a proportion

onal part of the charge, necessary to provide more formidable means of defence and offence.

Extravagant estimates have been made by certain jobbers and projectors. Artificial islands, and immense piers, and enormous floating batteries, and vast chevaux de frise, have been talked of; enough to absorb the whole revenue, and to terrify all sober calculators of the cost. The committee have dismissed those schemes, as savouring rather of the visionary and magnificent, than of the useful and feasible. They content themselves with recommending an appropriation to a moderate amount, for making further military improvements on the sites already purchased, and which the state may hereafter purchase and surrender; in full confidence at the same time; that a due proportion of the heavy artillery, armed ships and gun boats of the nation, will be stationed at the harbor of New York.

Under these impressions, the following proposition is submitted.

Resolved, That it is expedient to appropriate the sum of dollars to be laid out in such manner, and under such direction as Congress shall judge proper, in fortifying the harbor and city of New York.

The committee have deemed it to be within the limits assigned them, to recommend another proposition, in favor of the capital of South Carolina:

Resolved, That it is expedient to appropriate the sum of dollars, to be laid out in such manner, and under such regulations as Congress shall judge proper, in fortifying the port of Charleston in South Carolina.

And for the purpose of providing for other defenceless places, if any such there be, the committee submit another proposition:

Resolved, That it is expedient to appropriate the sum of dollars, to be laid out in fortifying such ports and harbors, other than New York & Charleston, as the President of the United States shall think most conducive to the public security.

Committee room, Jan. 27, 1866.

January 28, 1866.

Mr. LOGAN, from the committee appointed to consider the bill to suspend the commercial intercourse between the United States and certain parts of the Island of St. Domingo; reported the bill amended as follows:

A BILL

To suspend the commercial intercourse between the United States and certain parts of the Island of St. Domingo.

BE IT ENACTED, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That all commercial intercourse between any person or persons resident within the United States, and any person or persons resident within any part of the Island of St. Domingo, not in possession, and under the acknowledged government of France, shall be, and from and after due notice of this act at the custom houses respectively, is hereby prohibited: And any ship or vessel, owned, hired or employed, wholly or in part, by any person or persons resident within the United States, or by any citizen or citizens thereof, resident elsewhere, and sailing from any port of the United States after that time, or from any other port in America, after the day of next; or from any other port whatever, after the day of next; which, con-

trary to the intent hereof, shall be voluntarily carried, or shall be destined to be carried, whether directly, or from any intermediate port or place, to any port or place within the Island of St. Domingo, and not in possession, and under the acknowledged government of France; and also any cargo which shall be loaded on board of such ship or vessel, with intent to be interrupted in such unlawful purpose, or after return from such voyage to the United States shall be wholly forfeited, and may be seized and condemned in any court of the United States.

Sec. 2. And in it further enacted, That after due notice of this act at the several custom houses, no ship or vessel what ever shall receive a clearance for any port or place within the Island of St. Domingo, and not in the actual possession of France; nor shall any clearance be granted for a foreign voyage to any ship or vessel, owned, hired or employed, wholly or in part, by any person or persons, resident in the United States, or by any citizen or citizens thereof resident elsewhere, until the owner or the employer for the voyage, or his factor or agent, with the master, and one or more sufficient surety or sureties, to the satisfaction of the collector of the district, shall give bond to the United States, such owner, employer or factor, with the master, in a sum equal to the value of the vessel and of her cargo; and such surety or sureties in a sum equal to the value of the vessel and of one-third of her cargo; and if it shall exceed, then in that sum, with condition that the ship or vessel, for which a clearance shall be required, is actually destined, and shall proceed to some port or place without the limits of such part of the Island of St. Domingo, as shall not be in the actual possession, and under the acknowledged government of France; and during the intended voyage shall not be voluntarily carried or permitted to proceed, whether directly, or from any intermediate port or place, to any port or place within such part of the Island of St. Domingo, as shall not be in the actual possession, and under the acknowledged government of France, and shall not, at any such port or place, voluntarily sell, deliver or unlade any part of such cargo; and generally that such ship or vessel, whilst on such voyage, shall not be employed in any traffic or commerce with or for any person resident within any part of the Island of St. Domingo, not in the actual possession, and under the acknowledged government of France.

Sec. 3. And in it further enacted, That all penalties and forfeitures incurred by force of this act, and which may be recovered, shall be distributed, and accounted for, in the manner prescribed by the act, entitled "An act to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage;" and may be mitigated or remitted in the manner prescribed by the act, entitled "An act to provide for mitigating or remitting the forfeitures, penalties and disabilities, accruing in certain cases therein mentioned."

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NEW-YORK, February 4.

The ship Nancy, from San Lucas, and the ship America from Tomington, furnish to the printer accounts from the consulate of Europe than have already appeared in the Mercantile Advertiser; but our consul in Sp in handed capt. Sheffell the following statement in manuscript, which is in every material circumstance confirmed verbally by the captain of the vessel from Tomington:—

"On the 13th of November the French army entered Vienna: the imperial Austrian court having retired to Brinn."

"On the 14th a body of the French army entered Presburg. The same day the Emperor Napoleon organized for Austria a new form of government, and appointed general Clarke to be governor in chief. Each of the conquered circles is placed under the direction of a superintendent, of which M. Darm, councillor of state, is appointed superintendent general.

"The Russian army has offered to capitulate, on condition of being permitted to return home; and the same terms would be gladly accepted by Francis the Second.

"Several bodies of the French army were in pursuit of the Russians. The latter were rapidly retreating towards Brinn, and were committing in their progress murder and every species of havoc.

"General Klein was entering Bohemia. The kingdom of Hungary has offered to capitulate, and it is said her request will be complied with.

"Nearly 3,000 pieces of brass cannon and 200,000 muskets have been taken at Vienna.

"Among the great number of prisoners made by the French army, were many French emigrants, some of whom were in Italy during the last war with Bonaparte. The Emperor did not transfer them to a military tribunal, as is usual in such cases; but said to them, 'Ye have now no country left to emigrate to; return to your own, and emulate the glorious example of your countrymen.'

"One of the United States frigates arrived at Cadix on the 13th of December.

"The ship Alexander, Lane, of Bath, (said on Saturday to be below in a short passage from Bordeaux) was left at Surinam by the brig Panther 40 days ago, to sail in 5 days for this port.

"In a letter received from the supercargo of the ship Richmond, dated at Quiberon Bay, November 12th, 1805, he mentions having on the 8th of October fallen in with and spoken the brig Augusta, Samuel Cushing master, bound to the Western Isles, with his mainmast gone, which he lost on the 31 of October in a heavy gale.

"Extract of a letter from a respectable commercial house in Hamburg, to another in this city, dated 10th November.

"The disaster which the Austrian army have experienced have not discouraged them. They have secured the co-operation of the northern powers; and no doubt is entertained here that Prussia, Saxony, and Hesse will shortly declare against France. Their united forces, amounting to 300,000 men, are marching at divers points. Russia will employ a powerful army, and has at present more than 500,000 men in readiness. The Austrians will unite all their strength. The King of Sweden is marching through Hanover with 40,000 men. England appears disposed to make a general attack on all the ports in Holland. There is not the smallest prospect of peace, though it is reported that Bonaparte has made pacific overtures to Austria."

"No. 22315, the first drawn number yesterday in the Battenkill Lottery, entitled to one thousand dollars, was purchased at WAITE'S truly fortunate lottery office on Friday last—And No.

"Brinn is a strong town in Moravia, dependent on Bohemia, of which some say it is the capital. It is a place where the states meet, and is of great importance. It is seated at the confluence of the rivers Zwittz and Swart, 33 miles north from Vienna. The Castle of Spielberg, is its principal defence, and is seated on an eminence without the town.

"Presburg is the capital of Hungary, where the Crown of that kingdom is kept. It is situated on the Danube, 32 miles east of Vienna.