Eastern Shore REPUBLICAN STAR OR General Advertiser.

EASTON—(MARYLAND) Printed and Published every *Tuesday Morning*, by THOMAS PERRIN SMITH, near the Court House.

[VOL. I....4.] TUESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 14, 1802. [NO. 2....158.]

THE TERMS OF THE STAR ARE TWO DOLLARS and FIFTY CENTS, per annum—payable half yearly, in advance.——No paper discontinued until the same is paid for.

Advertisements inserted three weeks for ONE DOLLAR a square, and TWENTY-FIVE CENTS per week for continuance.

From the National Intelligencer.

HISTORY of the last session of Congress.

(Continued)

FRENCH SPOLIATIONS.

On the 5th of February a memorial was presented from sundry merchants of Baltimore, praying relief, in the case of numerous and heavy losses sustained, in consequence of the illegal capture and condemnation of their property, under the authority of the French government, prior to the promulgation of the late convention between the United States and France; in the provisions of which compact the memorialists discover an unqualified surrender of their claims instead of the redress which they expected to obtain.

This memorial, with others of a similar nature, were referred to a select committee.

On the 11th of March, Mr. Griswold laid the following motion on the table.

"Resolved that it is proper to make provision, by law, towards indemnifying the merchants of the United States, for losses sustained by them from French spoliations, the claims for which losses have been renounced by the final ratification of the convention with France, as published by proclamation of the president of the United States."

On the ensuing day, a motion made by Mr. Griswold, to take up this motion for consideration was lost, without debate—yeas 35, nays 39.

On the 15th, the order of the day on the bill for repealing the internal taxes having been called for, Mr. Griswold moved its postponement till the next day, for the purpose of previously taking up the above resolution.

The motion of Mr. Griswold was advocated by Messrs. Griswold, Lowndes, John C. Smith, Dana, Bayard, and Rutledge; and opposed by Messrs. S. Smith, Mitchell, Gregg, Eustis, and Bacon; in a debate which continued until the usual hour of adjournment.

Those who advocated the motion observed that though it was nearly two months since the select committee had been raised to whom petitions for indemnity had been referred, that committee had not yet met; that it was full time to attend to a subject so interesting as that involved in them; that as the principle of indemnity was of a general abstract nature, it was not so proper for the decision of a select committee as for that of a committee of the whole; that it was important before a decision was had on the repeal of the internal taxes, that the extent of the indemnities allowed by the government should be ascertained. It was contended that the claims of the merchants could not be rejected, as they were too just to be disregarded. The sole object of the resolution was to bring the principle of indemnity before the house, unfettered, that its decision might not be embarrassed by details; and supposing that there might be an indisposition to pledge the nation to an unlimited extent, the words used were "towards indemnifying." It was, therefore, insisted that gentlemen, who were disposed to do any thing, could feel no objection to a resolution so qualified, as to extend only to cases where losses had been renounced by the treaty.

It was said to be cruel at once, without a hearing, to decide against the claims of our merchants; and that it was evident, that whoever voted for taking up at that time the bill for the repeal of the internal taxes, would vote not only against indemnifying, but even against hearing; because, by voting for a repeal of the internal taxes he would vote away all means of indemnifycation. The repeal of the internal taxes, being the least pressing of all the business before the house, ought to be postponed to the last period of the session; nor ought it to be then adopted without the fullest assurance of our ability to dispense with the product of those taxes. How was it possible, in the existing state of things, to determine this point, when the appropriations required for the year had not been made, and when the extent of these demands had not been ascertained.

With regard to the amount of the claimed reparation, it was alledged that that was a consideration which ought to be placed altogether out of the question, as common honesty required that every just debt should be paid, whether it was one dollar or one hundred million of dollars, wherever an ability to pay existed; and it was added that these claims were the more just as the government of the United States had received an ample remuneration for any demands which it might satisfy, in the abandonment on the part of the French government of our previous guarantee of the French West India possessions. It was finally declared, that a refusal to take up the subject at this time would be considered as an actual refusal to attend to it.

Those who opposed the motion denied the assertion, made on the other side, that this subject had been neglected. The truth was that the first petition presented had been immediately referred to a committee, to whom all the subsequent petitions had likewise been referred. That committee had made progress, but had considered it improper to decide until all the similar petitions expected should be received. There was not a doubt but that as the subject merited, so it would receive a measure of attention commensurate to its importance. But the present resolution offered, was so broad and vague as entirely to defeat its avowed end; whereas the reference, which had been already made, was the most correct, inasmuch as it instructed the committee to examine all the documents connected with the subject, and to report their opinion upon them, on receiving which opinion the house would be sufficiently informed to make an enlightened decision; while, on the other hand, the present proposition went to commit the house on the whole extent of the subject without the least examination into its details.

The claims made for spoliated property were extremely various and dissimilar; and though it might be just to grant indemnity for some, there were other claims not founded on any just pretensions. The best way of insuring the success of just claims was to avoid all precipitate steps; for before any claims could be sanctioned, it was necessary to analise and classify, on mature consideration and full examination, the various descriptions of demands.

It was observed that it was not so clear, as some gentlemen imagined, that our merchants had been deprived of valuable rights by the mode in which the French convention had been ratified.—Gentlemen were called upon to recollect the mass of depredation committed by Great Britain, and her engagements under treaty, to make reparation. Yet to that day reparation had been evaded under a variety of pretexts. Suppose the French convention had contained the same provisions with the British; would they have insured payment? No. The operations under one treaty might have gone on in the same manner as under the other, and with like effect.

With regard to the repeal of the internal taxes, that formed a subject of entirely distinct consideration. But if, in compliance with the unequivocal wishes of the people, they should be repealed, no prejudice would attach to the just claims of our merchants, the examination of which would be a work of years, and which would, without doubt be indemnified, even if it should be necessary to restore the repealed taxes.

General S. Smith closed the debate in a speech of much energy, the latter part of which was couched in the following terms:

"It is not my purpose, said he, at this time to enter into a discussion of the claims of our merchants, because I think this is not the proper occasion. But I will tell gentlemen, that if they were disposed to destroy those claims, they could not have pursued a plan more effectually calculated to do it. Had such been any intention, I would have offered a resolution so broad and vague as to alarm the whole community as to the amount of indemnity. I would have endeavored to throw the censure attached to their losses on the present administration. I would have opposed their claims to the wish of the nation to repeal the internal taxes.—All these steps I would have taken to frustrate any indemnity; and they are just the steps taken by gentlemen, who profess a strong regard for the merchants. Let me tell those gentlemen, until they shall pursue a far different plan, we must doubt whether they are in earnest to pay the merchants for their losses.

"If the public business is to be thus perpetually procrastinated, I hope the gentlemen with whom I act will be firm enough, after rejecting this motion, to pursue the other business even to a late hour."

The question was then taken on Mr. Griswold's motion, and lost—yeas 53, nays 54.

From the Charleston City Gazette.

To the citizens of South Carolina.

A pamphlet has been published some weeks since in this city, by William P. Young, addressed to the citizens of South Carolina, in the 13th page of which occur the following words; in speaking of the conduct of Mr. Jefferson, while secretary of state, the writer says,

"He endeavored to influence the public mind to adopt his opinions, by calling to his aid, instruments to vilify the measures of the administration. He invited a printer, thus employed in another state as a clerk for the translation of the French language in his office, where he had already a fit person. This man came into his office in the summer of 1791; and in the autumn of that year he set up a National Gazette, which continued its existence till about the time of Mr. Jefferson's retreat. Mr. Jefferson manifestly established, supported, and was the patron of this gazette. The editor was his pensioned and his confidential agent, the paper was as clay in the potter's hands. This gazette so patronised, and so edited, commenced the system of abuse against Washington, and the measures of his government, which was afterwards carried on by the Aurora. His proclamation of neutrality, issued most timely, and maintained most firmly for the peace of our country, was the subject of long continued denunciation and slander; and the president was openly charged with having transcended his power and violated the constitution. "National Gazette," under the influence of Mr. Jefferson, openly encouraged the insolence of Genet, and justified him in insulting the people, in the person of their beloved chief magistrate, &c. &c."

The above mentioned pamphlet came to my knowledge only a few days ago; and as far as the passage quoted regards myself, I should not have thought it worthy my while to pay any attention to what I consider an impotent effort of malice and slander to prejudice the citizens of this state against Mr. Jefferson, and, so far as such assertions would serve, to prevent his election to the chief magistracy of the United States.

Justice, however, to Mr. Jefferson, seems to require that I should state a few facts to exculpate him, as far as in my power, from the charge of influence in the establishment, publication, or editing of the National Gazette.

Early in the spring of the year 1791, being then resident at my usual home, in Monmouth, (New Jersey) I was invited by Mr. Jefferson, by letter, to come to Philadelphia, with information that the place of translator of foreign languages, being in his appointment, as secretary of state, was then vacant, and if it would suit me to accept it, it might possibly be in his power to introduce me to some other employment, of more importance, on a proper opportunity offering.

Upon receiving this letter, I consulted several of my friends, who advised me to accept Mr. Jefferson's overture; but as the salary for this business was no considerable object, it being only two hundred and fifty dollars a year, at the same time they gave it as their opinion, if I established a twice-a-week newspaper in Philadelphia, for the purpose of supporting the genuine principles of the American revolution, which were becoming unfashionable with *some* from whom a different conduct was expected, it might in time prove an establishment of value.

In this view of things, in the month of June 1791, I engaged Messieurs Childs and Swain, printers in New York, to embark with me in the business, and to undertake the printing work of a paper, stipulating at the same time, that pecuniary advances were made by them, and the loss, if any, to be their own, after the debts of the paper should be collected; myself in the mean time, to be considered as concerned as a third partner in that paper.

Being engaged in my agricultural concerns in New Jersey, I did not, however, proceed to Philadelphia until early in October, 1791, uncertain, and not very much concerned whether the office of translator to the department of state was occupied or not, as I had in the interim, given myself no trouble about the matter.

On my arrival in Philadelphia, having been introduced to Mr. Jefferson several months before in New York, I called on him at his house, when, after some conversation on different matters, he informed me that the translator's place in his office was still vacant, and if I would accept it until something of more consequence should be in his power, the appointment should be made out on the following day.

In all this not a single word passed on either side, on the subject of the National Gazette, in the establishment of which I was influenced by no one, but undertook it from the powerful necessity of such a paper at the seat of government, to expose in some degree, as far as my abilities were adequate, the approaches of royalty, and to hold up to America the baseness and duplicity of certain influenced characters, in their desertion of almost every principle of the revolution of 1776.

I was accordingly sworn in as interpreter of languages to the department of state, some time in October, 1791, which place I held two years, under every species of the most illeberal newspaper abuse and with very trifling advantage to myself, as there were sent from the several departments of government so many foreign papers and letters, directed to official characters in this country, from Russia, Holland, Prussia, Germany and elsewhere; the translations of which I was obliged to procure at an exorbitant rate of charge; the place was beginning to be rather a loss than a matter of emolument, particularly during the last year I occupied it.

Apprehending, therefore, that official dispatches might soon arrive from, perhaps, his very sublime majesty, Kien-Long, the emperor of China, written in Chinese characters, of which not a soul in Philadelphia had the least knowledge; from the brother of the sun and moon at Constantinople, in Turkish—or from the dey of Algiers, in Arabic, with which sort of people or their writings I wished to have no concern, I resigned the translator's office into the hands of Mr. Jefferson, in October, 1793, as well for the aforementioned reasons, as to put an end to the clamor that was raised against me in several New England papers of a particular cast, in which I was basely aspersed by men of illiberal and malignant minds, and whom I wish never to think of again.

Before the conclusion of the first year's publication of the National Gazette, I had acquired nearly, if not quite, seventeen hundred subscribers to that paper, in different parts of the United States; but such, I do aver, were the strong obstacles generally thrown in the way of its circulation, that a great part of the time I received little more from the great body of subscribers than letters of complaint at the irregular or non-reception of the Gazette. This circumstance, of course, prevented in a great degree, the expected remittance of money at the proper periods; and I must have abandoned the publication, short of its continuance for a year, had it not been for the complaisance and good will of Messrs. Childs and Swain, who furnished me with the necessary sums for carrying it on.

In September, 1793, Mr. Childs having recently returned from England wrote to me, that he could no longer consent to be connected in a paper, which was to him a perpetual loss, and directing me at all events to discontinue its publication immediately, if its continuance was to depend upon his advances.

I, however, found resources of my own, and from some little money that was collected in, continued the Gazette until two years were completed, when I notified the subscribers of its temporary suspension; and at the same time of the probability of its speedy renewal, when I could make the necessary arrangements for the purpose.

Upon this event, which was extremely mortifying to me, I returned to my accustomed residence in New Jersey; but circumstances of a various nature, and my own immediate concerns, prevented a revival of the National Gazette.

I should have mentioned, that no sooner had this famous National Gazette become an object of terror to the enemies of liberty and equality, who were continually abusing the secretary of state in papers devoted to their cause, but who never did, or could, or can at this moment, (in this instance at least) support a charge of corruption, then I considered it my duty, as far as in my power, to clear Mr. Jefferson of the imputation of any agency whatsoever, or any concern in the National Gazette, or of any influence upon it, more than if he had not been in existence. I imagined that the most ready means of effecting this purpose would be to make oath before the mayor of Philadelphia, that no such connection, as was asserted by Mr. Jefferson's enemies, influence, or agency, existed. This was accordingly done, and the affidavit published in several of the Philadelphia papers, which proved another fertile source of abuse and misrepresentation, from those who thought it their interest to ruin the political character and consequence of Mr. Jefferson.

In order to prejudice the citizens of this state against Mr. Jefferson, and if possible to prevent his probable election to the presidency of the United States, the old unfounded charges above alluded to, have been again brought forward in a pamphlet printed by William P. Young, and addressed to the citizens South Carolina.

I therefore, in justification of Mr. Jefferson, do declare, in this public manner, and in the face of South Carolina, or of the United States, that Mr. Jefferson did not, any time, establish, support or patronize the National Gazette, and that I was neither his pensioner nor confidential agent.

Secondly, that I acted from my own motives, and with my own views in the publication of that paper.

Thirdly, and lastly, that the author of these charges whoever he may be, has, to say the least, been guilty of a shameful misrepresentation of facts, and whether from being misinformed or not, I will not pretend to say, has perverted the truth, and imposed upon the public a statement of the affair as remote from the truth as it is destitute of candor and liberality.

PHILIP FRENEAU.

Charleston, December 31, 1800.

From the (Trenton) True American.

CALLENDER & COBBET.

Callender has trod precisely in the steps of *Cobbet*. When the latter first landed in this country, at Wilmington, Delaware, in 1792, he wrote a letter to Mr. *Jefferson*, who was then secretary of state, enclosing him a recommendation from Mr. *Short*, the American minister in Holland. In this letter *Cobbet* said;

"Ambitious to become the citizen of "a free state, I have left my native coun-"try, England, for America. I bring "with me youth, a small family, a few "useful literary talents, and that is all. "Should you have an opportunity of "serving me, my conduct shall not show "me ungrateful, or falsify the recom-"mendation I now send you."

Thus wrote *Cobbet*. Mr. *Jefferson* probably discovered that the English ministry (who recommended *Cobbet* to Mr. *Short*, and desired his recommendation of him to Mr. Jefferson) were seeking to introduce a *spy* into the office of state, at a crisis when it was of the utmost importance to that ministry to be early informed of the acts and intention of our government. He therefore very prudently refused Cobbet's application. For this refusal Cobbet never forgave Mr. Jefferson; but thenceforward poured forth against him the most slanderous falsehoods and most virulent abuse; and in this he was supported, encouraged, and applauded by the official and unofficial agents of Britain in this country; and by many Americans, who made high pretensions to *patriotism*, while they were cherishing a *foreign viper*, whose venemous sting was aimed at the vitals of our republic. In this wicked work of defamation Cobbet proceeded, till he was exemplarily punished for a malignant attack upon the amiable character of a private citizen, and thought proper to retreat from a country where he had become so notoriously infamous, to a clime where vice thrives and villainy fattens on the earnings of virtuous industry.

For a long time after *Callender* had been in this country, he courted and cozened the republicans, and spoke and wrote of Mr. Jefferson as the greatest and best man the world, had produced. This, however, was actually subsisting upon the charity of republicans, who pitied him for the persecutions he had suffered in Europe in the cause of liberty; and while he was anticipating high advantages from the accession of Mr. Jefferson to the presidency. Accordingly, as soon as Jefferson was elected president, *Callender*, as *Cobbet* had done before him, applied for an office. Mr. Jefferson, as he had *Cobbet*, refused *Callender*, from a knowledge of his intemperance, and a suspicion of his integrity: *Callender*, still treading in the tracks of *Cobbet*, immediately begins the bitter enemy of Mr. Jefferson, traduced his character, criminated his conduct, and enlisted