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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1809.

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Maryland Gazette.
ANNAPOLIS:
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1809.

From a late London paper.

IMPORTANT LETTER.

From the Minister of Foreign Affairs of France, M. Champagny, to General Armstrong, Minister of the United States, at Paris.

ALTENBURG, AUG. 22.

SIR,
Your Majesty, understanding that you are about to dispatch a ship to the United States, commands me to make known to you the principles which have and will regulate his conduct in the great question relating to neutrals.

France admits the principle, that the flag covers the vessel which carries her trade. The trading vessel which carries the license of its government, may be treated as a moving colony; to insult such a vessel by search, pursuit, or any act of violence, is a violation of the fundamental law of colonization, and is an attack on the government of the same. The seas are common to every nation, without exception; and the common property, and domain of mankind.

Consistently with this doctrine, merchant vessels belonging to individuals may pass by the right to persons who never exposed themselves to be made prisoners of war. In her conquests, France has considered as private property, deposited in the warehouses of the vanquished state, and such have the complete disposal of matters of trade; at this moment convoys by land of merchandise, and especially cottons, are passing through the French army and Austria, to proceed to the destination commerce directs.—If France had seized the monopoly of the seas, she would have accumulated in her territory the products of the earth, and she would have obtained immeasurable wealth.

Undoubtedly, if England had the dominion of the sea, which she has acquired on the ocean, her acquisitions would have been equally enormous. She would, as in the times of barbarism, have sold the conquered, and distributed them as slaves throughout her land. The price of trade would have absorbed every thing, and the government of an enlightened nation, which has brought the arts of civilization to perfection, would have given the earliest instances of the return of the savage ages. Her government is fully impressed with the office of its naval code. But what has that government to do with justice, which only insures for profit?

When France shall have established her naval power, which, with the extent of her coasts and her population, will be soon accomplished, she will the emperor reduce these principles to practice, and apply his mandate to render it universal. The right, or rather the usurpation, of blockading rivers and coasts by proclamation, is palpably contrary to reason and equity. A right cannot possibly spring from the will of an interested party, but must always be founded on the natural relation of things. A place is not properly blockaded unless it be besieged by land and water. It is blockaded to prevent the introduction of assistance, by which the surrender of the place might be protracted; and then we have only the right to prevent neutral ships from entering the port when the place is thus circumstanced, and the possession of it is matter of doubt between the besiegers and the besieged. In this is grounded the right to prevent neutrals from entering the place.

The sovereignty and independence of its territory, like the sovereignty and independence of its territory, are the property of every neutral. A state may transfer itself to another state; it may destroy the archives of its independence and pass from prince to prince, but the right of sovereignty is indivisible and unalienable; no one can renounce it.

England has placed France in a state of blockade—the emperor has, in his decree of Berlin, declared the British islands in a state of blockade. The first of these regulations forbid neutral vessels to proceed to France; the second prohibited them from entering English harbours.

England has, by her orders of council of the 11th of Nov. 1807, levied an impost on neutral ships, and obliged them to enter its ports before they sail to France. By the decree of the 17th of December, of the same year, the emperor has decreed, that all such ships be denationalized, which had entered the English ports, or submitted to be searched.

In order to ward off the inconveniences with which this state of things threatened her commerce, America laid an embargo on all her harbours, and although France had done nothing more than used the right of retaliation, its wants, and those of its colonies, suffered much from this measure; yet did the emperor magnanimously connive at the proceedings, in order rather to endure the privation of commerce than to acknowledge the authority of the usurper of the seas.

The embargo was raised, and then a system of non-intercourse was substituted for it. The powers on the continent, in alliance with England, having the same object in view, made common cause with her, that they might derive the same advantages. The harbours of Holland, of the Elbe, of the Weser, of Italy, and of Spain, were to enjoy those benefits from which France was to be excluded; and the one or the other were to be opened or closed to commerce as circumstances rendered expedient, so as France was bereft of it.

Thus, sir, in point of principle, France recognizes the freedom of neutral commerce, and the independence of the maritime powers, which she respected up to the moment when the maritime tyranny of England, that respects nothing, and the arbitrary proceedings of its government, compelled her to adopt measures of retaliation, to which she resorted with regret. Let England revoke her blockade of France and France will recall her declaration of blockade against England. Let England revoke her cabinet orders of the 11th Nov. 1807, and the Milan decree will expire of itself. The American commerce will then recover its complete freedom, and be assured of finding in the harbours of France favour and protection. But it belongs to the United States to attain this happy object by their firmness. Can a nation, resolved to remain free, hesitate between certain momentary interests, and the great cause of maintaining her independence, her honour, her sovereignty, and her dignity.

(Signed) M. CHAMPAGNY.

A letter from Liverpool, received at New-York, dated October 20th, by the Hercules, says, "We have just received intelligence that the Spanish government have ordered the British troops and vessels to depart from their territory and harbours immediately. No reason is assigned for this measure."

Arrived at Baltimore the French government corvette Tilsit, capt. Desmoulands, in 50 days from Bayonne, with dispatches for the French minister. This vessel has brought no papers. An officer informs that 100,000 French troops were passing through Bayonne for Spain, and that some horses belonging to the Emperor's household had arrived there, as Buonaparte was shortly expected. His illness was not known at Bayonne.

LATEST FROM SPAIN.

Corunna, (Gallicia) papers of the 11th Oct. have been received at Salem. We have seen a few translations from them. A Carabajales article of the 1st of Oct. mentions an action of ten hours continuation between the Spaniards and French near Zamara, in which the French were beaten without much loss on the part of the Patriots. This article makes it probable Ney's corps of the French remained in the positions between Salamanca and the Douro, in which our prior accounts left it. Mention is made in the Spanish papers of the interception and destruction, in Arragon, of French convoys of supplies; and of the heroic feats of a partizan patriot herdsman, named JULIAN—recently promoted to command and a title—in harassing the rear of the French army, which he daily attacked, and made many prisoners. The account partakes of the Spanish marvellous; but other countries have produced similar characters; and why not Spain? Gen. Equia, (successor of Cuesta) it seems, had joined Venegas, at Ciudad and Real, with 24,000 men; which makes his army superior in numbers to that of Sebastiani to which it is opposed.

[Boston paper.]

A most dreadful GALE was experienced along the southern and western shores of Newfoundland, on the 21st last August, the merchants who carry on the fisheries about Barin, suffered great loss; a great number of boats were totally lost, with their crews and cargoes. Some mercantile houses calculated their loss at from 3 to 4000l.

James Sterett, Esq. is appointed cashier of the Office of Discount and Deposit in Baltimore, in the place of D. Harris, Esq. deceased.

Legislature of Maryland.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1809.

THE house met. Present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. Dav's delivers a bill, entitled, An act to empower the inhabitants of the town of Havre-de-Grace to elect the commissioners thereof; and Mr. J. Brown delivers a bill, entitled, An act to repeal and abolish the forty-fifth article of the constitution and form of government; which were read.

Mr. Worthington presented a petition from James Stewart, of the city of Baltimore, praying that the state may relinquish its title to lot No. 41 in said city, and Mr. Tabbs presented a petition from sundry inhabitants of Washington county, praying for a public road; which were read and referred.

Mr. Groome presented petitions from sundry inhabitants, recommending the taxing of bank stock for the education of poor children; which were read.

On motion of Mr. J. E. Spencer, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the bill to lay out and make public a road in Baltimore county therein mentioned; Mr. Winder in the chair. After sometime spent therein, the speaker resumed the chair, and Mr. Winder reported the said bill, with amendments; which was read the second time, and the question put, Shall the said bill pass? Resolved in the affirmative, and sent to the senate.

Mr. Randall presented a petition from John McClellan, and others, of Baltimore county, praying permission to shut up part of the Garrison road, or to put a toll-gate thereon; which was read and referred.

The bill to appoint commissioners to review the road therein mentioned in Harford county, was read the second time and passed.

Mr. Worthington delivers a bill, entitled, An act authorizing doctor James Cocks to remove certain negroes into the state of Maryland; which was read.

On motion of Mr. C. Dorsey, the question was put, That the house resolve itself into a committee of the whole on the bill concerning crimes and punishments? Determined in the negative.

The house proceeded to the second reading of the said bill, and after making some amendments thereto, the further consideration thereof, on motion of Mr. Bland, was postponed until to-morrow.

The house adjourns till to-morrow morning.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1809.

THE house met. Present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

The bill to appoint commissioners to review the road therein mentioned in Harford county, was sent to the senate.

Mr. Hilleary delivers a report from the trustees of Allegany county school; which was read.

Mr. Sellman presented a petition from Lucretia Marshall, of Anne-Arundel county, praying a divorce; which was read and referred.

The bill to authorize and empower the levy court of Anne-Arundel county to assess and levy a sum of money for the support and maintenance of Elisha Porter and Achsah Porter, was read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate.

Mr. Worthington delivers a bill, entitled, An act to authorize the sale of certain land belonging to the estate of Stephen Wilton, late of the city of Baltimore, deceased, a bill, entitled, An act annulling the marriage of Susanna Beamer, of the city of Baltimore, and the bill for the preservation and distribution of the vaccine matter for the use of the citizens of this state, as amended; which were severally read.

Mr. Hopewell has leave of absence. The house resumed the consideration of the bill concerning crimes and punishments, and on motion of Mr. J. H. Thomas, resolved itself into a committee of the whole on said bill; Mr. Winder in the chair. After sometime spent therein, the speaker resumed the chair, and Mr. Winder reported, that the committee had made some progress in the same, and asked for leave to sit again.

The question was then put, that the said committee have leave to sit again? Resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Worthington presented a petition from sundry inhabitants of the city of Baltimore, praying for a road from the city of Baltimore to the district of Columbia, and Mr. Bell presented a petition from sundry inhabitants of Anne-Arundel county, praying for said road; which were read and referred.

Mr. Worthington delivers a bill, entitled, An act for the sale of part of the real estate of Conrad Eiden, of Baltimore county, deceased;

and Mr. S. Thomas delivers a bill, entitled, An act to incorporate a company to make a turnpike road from near Ellicott's Lower mills to George-town, in the district of Columbia; which were read.

Mr. Groome presented a petition from William Baxter, of Cecil county, praying he may be authorized to complete the collection of Joseph Baxter, deceased, late sheriff of said county; which was read and referred.

Mr. Baer delivers an unfavourable report on the petition of Mary O'Ferrail; which was twice read and concurred with.

Mr. Hilleary delivers an unfavourable report on the petition of sundry inhabitants of Allegany county; which was twice read and concurred with.

The bill to appoint trustees for Nathan Griffith, was read the second time, and, on motion of Mr. J. Brown, the further consideration thereof was postponed.

On motion of Mr. J. H. Thomas, Mr. Hayward and Mr. Galvert were added to the committee appointed to bring in a bill for the appointment by the people of the justices of the levy courts in the several counties of this state.

On motion of Mr. Forwood, Leave given to bring in a supplement to the act authorizing a lottery for raising a sum of money for repairing St. George's church, on Deer creek, in Harford county.

The house adjourns till to-morrow morning.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1809.

THE house met. Present as on yesterday, except Mr. Hopewell. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. Harryman presented a petition from Edward Norwood, counter to the petition of Samuel Norwood; Mr. Worthington presented a petition from the president and managers of the Washington cotton manufactory company of the city of Baltimore, praying to be incorporated; and Mr. Groome presented a petition from Thomas Rutter, gaoler of Cecil county, praying a further allowance for the support of prisoners; which were read and referred.

Mr. Forwood delivers a bill, entitled, A further supplement to an act authorizing a lottery for raising a sum of money for repairing of St. George's church on Deer creek, in Harford county; and Mr. J. Brown delivers a bill, entitled, An act for the regulation of officers' fees; which were severally read.

The clerk of the senate delivers the bill to lay out and open a road in Frederick county, the bill for the support of Matthew Bradburn, the bill for the benefit of the heirs of doctor Daniel Jenifer, the bill empowering the trustees of the poor of Harford county to sell and convey certain property therein mentioned, the bill respecting Trinity church, and the bill to alter and abolish all that part of the constitution which permits certain citizens of Annapolis to vote for delegates for Anne-Arundel county, severally endorsed, "will pass." Ordered to be engrossed. And a letter from the clerk of the council, praying compensation for copies furnished the attorney-general for the use of this state; which was read and referred.

Mr. Wharton and Mr. Blakifone have leave of absence.

Mr. Gaither presented a petition from Richard Johnson, of Montgomery county, praying that his daughter may be supported out of the poor-house; which was read and referred.

Mr. Groome delivers an unfavourable report on the petition of Martha Duffley; which was twice read and concurred with.

Mr. Wilson presented a petition from sundry inhabitants of Somerset county, praying that disorderly meetings, called Fairs, may be suppressed; which was read and referred.

Mr. Kerr appeared in the house.

The bill authorizing doctor James Cocks to remove certain negroes into the state of Maryland, was read the second time, and, on motion of Mr. Worthington, was recommitted for amendment.

According to order, the house proceeded to the second reading of the resolutions disapproving of the resolutions of November session, 1808, relative to the embargo, and after amending and reading the first resolution, the same was assented to.

The house adjourns till to-morrow morning.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1809.

THE house met. Present as on yesterday, except Mr. Wharton and Mr. Blakifone. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. Harryman presented a petition from Edward Norwood, counter to the petition for a road from Baltimore to the district of Columbia, which was read, referred to the committee on the petition to which it is counter, and Mr. Chapman and Mr. J. E. Spencer added to that committee.