

to suspend the commercial intercourse between the United States, and certain parts of the Island of St. Domingo, extending to Gonaves and Tortuga, and other dependencies of St. Domingo, and under the acknowledged government of France.

No. 4—Dec. 22, 1807. Mr. Jefferson. "An act laying an embargo on all ships and vessels in the ports and harbors of the United States."

No. 5—Jan. 9, 1808. Mr. Jefferson. "An act supplementary to the act, entitled, 'An act laying an embargo on all ships and vessels in the ports and harbors of the United States.'"

No. 6—March 12, 1808. Mr. Jefferson. "An act in addition to the act, entitled, 'An act laying an embargo on all ships and vessels in the ports and harbors of the United States.'"

No. 7—April 25, 1808. Mr. Jefferson. "An act in addition to the act, entitled, 'An act laying an embargo on all ships and vessels in the ports and harbors of the United States.'"

No. 8—Jan. 6, 1809. Mr. Jefferson. "An act to enforce and make more effectual an act, entitled, 'An act laying an embargo on all ships and vessels in the ports and harbors of the United States.'"

No. 9—March 4, 1809. Mr. Jefferson. "An act to interdict the commercial intercourse between the United States and Great Britain and France—and their dependencies, and for other purposes."

No. 10—June 28, 1809. Mr. Madison. "An act to amend and continue in force certain parts of the act, entitled, 'An act to interdict the commercial intercourse between the U. States and G. Britain and France—and their dependencies, and for other purposes.'"

No. 11—May 1, 1810. Mr. Madison. "An act concerning the commercial intercourse between the United States and Great Britain & France, and their dependencies, and for other purposes."

No. 12—March 2, 1811. Mr. Madison. "An act supplementary to the act, entitled, 'An act concerning the commercial intercourse between the U. States and Great Britain and France, and their dependencies and for other purposes.'"

No. 13—June 18, 1812. Mr. Madison. "An act declaring War between the United Kingdom of G. Britain, and Ireland, and the dependencies thereof, and the United States of America, and their territories."

No. 14—Mr. Madison. "And now, 'a bill laying an embargo on all ships and vessels in the ports and harbors of the United States.'"

Here, sir, you have a catalogue of the restrictive acts of an American congress, enacted ostensibly for the benefit of a free commercial people! It, sir, a parallel can be found in all the annals of ancient or modern despotism. (always excepting that of France) of equal commercial oppression, let their abettors show it.

Would to God, I could erase from your statute books, this record of oppression, with the same facility as I now cast this schedule of the acts from me, and tread it under foot. Sir, the American people cannot, they will not submit to be thus oppressed.—You tempt them too far—you abuse their noble and generous nature—clouds and thick darkness may, for a time, rest upon their spirit and their patriotism, but like the sun of Heaven, they will burst forth with renovated splendor.

As an attempt to gain a partial relief for such of our fellow-citizens as are likely greatly to suffer by the suspension of the coasting trade, Mr. King moved to amend the 4th section of the bill, so as to permit coasting vessels to go from one port in any state to another port in the same state.

And in favor of neutrals, who had been, or should be induced to visit our ports, Mr. King also moved to amend the amendment of the senate by striking therefrom the following words, in the first section of the bill—"whose officers and crews shall consist wholly of such foreigners as did belong to nations in amity with the United States, at the time of the arrival of said ship or vessel in the United States, and which shall not have, nor take on board for the voyage any citizen of the United States, except such as may produce a passport therefor, to be furnished under the authority and direction of the president of the United States.—But both motions were negatived by the usual majority of the friends of

embargoes, commercial restriction and war.

From the Portsmouth Oracle. GREAT & DISTRESSING FIRE!

It is our painful duty to record another fire in this town, which has desolated that part of it, which contained its most flourishing and compact population, and thrown numerous individuals and families upon the charities of their more fortunate neighbours. We have endeavoured to collect an accurate account of its ravages, in which may be seen chiefly the names of those persons who have suffered by this distressing calamity. The fire commenced in the barn of the late Col. Woodward, and there is too much reason to fear, it was the work of premeditation and design. It is impossible to describe the rapidity of the flames. A few moments past 7 on Wednesday evening, the whole barn was enveloped in flames; and it spread so rapidly in every direction, that but a small part of the furniture from the neighbouring houses was saved. Judicious and persevering exertions prevented its communication to buildings greatly exposed by their contiguity, in whose conflagration must inevitably have resulted the loss of the North Meeting House, the Universalist Meeting House, besides other valuable buildings. About 6 hours the fire raged with the greatest fury conceivable, and threatened a much wider and more extensive desolation. In the catalogue of sufferers, must be included a number of industrious & aged individuals, who have been their lives long acquiring their property, and by this event, have been deprived of the substance which they had laid up for themselves, and the support of their families. Many worthy individuals have lost their all. Others have experienced losses to a very great amount. We forbear to particularize. It is ascertained that 108 dwelling houses, and 34 public buildings, stores and shops have been burnt. This is the third great fire, which has taken place in this town within 11 years. If on any occasion relief can be requested from a generous community, the wants of those unfortunate sufferers will not plead in vain.

We are happy to state that no lives were lost at the fire; and the most serious injury we noticed was the falling of a partition wall whereby a Mr. Smith had his leg broken. We understand a gentleman who arrived here in two hours from Newburyport, and who was seeking objects of distress, plunged into a deserted house, enveloped in flames, and tore a child of two years from the cradle, crying for its mother, and with great hazard bore it off in safety. This child though safely lodged, was not found by its parents till late the next day, which gave rise to the report of its being burnt up.

Of the many valuable stables, barns, and out buildings, attached to the houses enumerated, not a solitary one escaped destruction—every thing in the course of the fire was levelled with the ground; many horses, cows, and swine, were burnt up. The loss in furniture and merchandize was immense, as the fire raged with such savage fury, that few articles within the scope of the flames, could be removed in season for safety.

One of the greatest proofs that the fire was the work of an incendiary, is the fact, that the town was infested with thieves. Property to the amount of many thousands of dollars was carried off, and several pockets picked; but the most diabolical act of villainy of this kind we have ever heard or read of, was that of Nathaniel Brown, Esq. who whilst generously using his utmost exertions for the preservation of his friend, and brother in business, John Davenport, Esq. his pocket, (containing 2,000 dollars) was cut from the skirt of his coat, with a knife, and carried off!

Among those who exerted themselves on this distressing occasion, the officers of the navy now in this harbour were conspicuous. The services rendered by them are felt and acknowledged.

About forty men arrived from Salem at 3 o'clock in the morning, having come 48 miles in 6 hours. Such noble ardour in the cause of humanity deserves the warmest acknowledgment. A number arrived from Newburyport in season to be useful at the fire. But the zeal and promptitude with which the town of Newburyport despatched a large number of men, (said to be 80 or 90) to assist as a guard the night after the fire, deserve the most grateful

acknowledgment of the people of Portsmouth. Fatigued and exhausted as they were, the timely aid was a great relief.

The people from the neighbouring towns generally were prompt in hastening to the scene of destruction, and their aid was essentially beneficial.

We beg leave to notice the extraordinary good conduct of Captain Odiorne, of the privateer schooner Frolic, of Salem, Mr. Swaine, and his other officers and crew, whose great exertions were the means of saving several valuable vessels at the wharves; his own vessel in the stream being in imminent danger & frequently on fire.

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

ANNAPOLIS, SATURDAY, JAN. 8 1814.

The celebration to be held in this city in commemoration of those glorious achievements which have snatched not only Europe, but the whole civilized world, from the grasp of universal domination, will take place on Thursday the 20th inst.

An occasion so worthy the attention of every philanthropist, every citizen of this great republic, whose bosom glows with enthusiasm in the cause of liberty and his country, we hope will collect on that day a respectable number of citizens from different quarters of the state. Events of such moment are calculated to awaken in the mind the liveliest emotions of gratitude to the Governor of the Universe.

By a gentleman who arrived here yesterday, from Washington, we understand, that the communication from Lord Castlereagh had been read to the Congress of the U. S. The leading features of it are, that the British government had been apprized of the mediation of Russia, but had declined accepting it, because they could not submit their maritime rights to the interference of a third power. It states, however, that they are willing to treat with the American government on all points of difference between them, and will receive our ministers at London; but if that should not be agreeable to this government, they will appoint ambassadors to meet ours at Gottenburg.

For the Maryland Gazette. Mr. Editor, The glad tidings announced in your Gazette of the 1st instant, "ought," as you justly observe, "to fill the hearts of all true patriots and philanthropists with joy & exultation;" for Napoleon the scourge of Nations, has been arrested in his career of devastation, and we may hail the year 1814 as the *annus redemptivus* which is to restore peace and happiness to a bleeding world: the temple of Janus will be once more closed, and the sword will be converted into a ploughshare, and the halbert into a pruning hook—Again will the earth teem with fertility, and the sails of commerce whiten the ocean. To whom, it may be asked, are these blessings to be attributed, but to the Lord of Hosts, who went forth with the combined armies, and conducted them to honour and victory. He inspired the Russians in the winter of 1813, with the grand idea of burning Moscow, their capital, as a means of security: the thought was uncommon, and so different from the ordinary efforts of the human mind, that it may fairly be attributed to the spiritual influence of the Almighty. From that auspicious moment, the power of the tyrant began to decline, and the late victories at Dresden and Leipsic, are only a continuation of the successes of the winter of 1813. Truly then may it be said, "*Dus nobis hec otia fecit.*" Every mind impressed with such sentiments as these, must have felt considerable delight at seeing the "resolution of some of the friends of national independence and American liberty, to assemble at Annapolis, on the 18th inst. and celebrate by a public expression of their joy and thankfulness, this signal, and as may be justly hoped, final triumph of the cause of mankind."

This celebration has been styled, "a duty sacred and delightful." For the purpose of giving it, as much publicity and splendour as possible, I would beg leave to suggest to the committee of arrangements, the propriety of procuring select bands of music from the neighbouring cities—Many amateurs no doubt would volunteer their services on so joyful an occasion—Let a procession be formed on the state house hill, consisting of the members of the executive, legislative, and Washington societies, and other friends of Freedom, bearing aloft the banners of Russia, Austria, Sweden and Prussia, by whose instrumentality the victories have been obtained—Let there be also suitable emblems of agriculture, commerce and manufactures, as the attendants of peace. The ladies will close the procession in their carriages; and in this order, after passing through the principal streets, let them repair to St. Anne's Church, where the *Te Deum* may be chanted in full chorus; and after divine service, a variety of odes, composed for the occasion, may be recited, accompanied by the band—the whole to conclude with an appropriate oration. A liberal collection may at the same time be made, & at the discretion of the committee applied to the benefit of the Washington Schools, our suffering brethren at Portsmouth, or any other laudable purpose. In my humble opinion, this mode of celebrating the late glorious events is more consonant to the blessings we have received, more consistent with the dignity of human nature, and on account of its novelty, more likely to excite the public sympathy, than the usual practice of testifying our joy by tavern dinners; from which many religious persons, although alive to every feeling of patriotism, and desirous of expressing it in a suitable manner, are compelled from conscientious motives, to absent themselves, on account of the inebriation and other indecorous proceedings that are the usual concomitants of public dinners—for they think, that "revelling and drunkenness" are expressly prohibited by that sacred volume, whence they derive their rule of life. Do not suppose from any thing that has been said, that I am averse from social mirth and the innocent pleasures of hospitality; the good things of this life are given us to be used, and there can be no doubt, if there be no public dinner on the eighteenth instant, but that the members of the executive, and other gentlemen residing at Annapolis, will throw open their doors, and afford a plentiful board to the numerous strangers that may resort there, where innocent gaiety may be enjoyed, and patriotic toasts drank, "decently and in order;" and where the scrupulous will not feel his hilarity diminished by the bitter reflection that he is acting in opposition to his conscience.

I am, Gentlemen, a subscriber &c. WASHINGTONIAN. Prince George's County, 2 January 4, 1814.

Legislature of Maryland. HOUSE OF DELEGATES. THE COMMITTEE. Appointed on so much of the communication of the executive of this state, dated December 8, 1813, as relates to the loan made by virtue of the resolve of the last general assembly, together with such parts thereof as concern the financial resources of this state, and to whom was referred the resolution relative to the payment out of the treasury of the quota of this state of the direct tax imposed by an act of congress, entitled, "An act to lay and collect a direct tax within the United States."

REPORT—That congress, at their last session, passed sundry laws providing for the collection of internal duties on a variety of articles.

Amongst other articles taxed, are lands, lots of ground with their improvements, dwelling houses and slaves.

In the formation of this system of taxation, it either has been, or ought to have been, a primary consideration so to arrange it, that it should not be more burdensome upon one part of the country than another, and that every citizen should, as far as was practicable, bear his equal proportion of the public burthen.

Whether this desirable result will take place in the operation of the system of the general government imposing direct taxes, your committee do not consider themselves at liberty to enquire into at large; but they do conceive, that the adoption

of the proposed resolution would, in its effects, produce that inequality which in the opinion of your committee should be avoided.

Should the proposed resolution be adopted, and the quota of the direct tax imposed upon the people of this state by congress be paid out of the public treasury, it will become necessary, at no distant period, to pass a law laying a state tax, the operation of which would be unequal upon our constituents; for in that case all the assessable property in Maryland would have to bear its proportion of the burthen, together with that which the said resolution proposes to exempt from bearing its proportion under the system adopted by congress.

By the thirteenth article of the bill of rights, a principle is established which we cannot disregard, "that every person in the state ought to contribute his proportion of public taxes according to his actual worth" in real or personal property within the state.

The effect, therefore, of the proposed measure, if adopted, would be, that one portion of property in Maryland will be taxed twice, while another portion will be taxed only once.

A consequence so manifestly unjust, your committee cannot believe the house will have any agency in producing.

There are, in the opinion of your committee, other objections against the adoption of the resolution proposed.

From the situation of our finances, it is obvious that we should be under the necessity of resorting to additional loans for the purpose of meeting the payment of our proportion of the direct tax, unless we are prepared to make an immediate sacrifice of a considerable portion of the capital of the state, which has been accumulated by the economy and foresight of our ancestors.

It is equally obvious, as has been before remarked, that a state tax must be imposed; in that case it would soon be made manifest, that the fifteen per cent deduction offered to the state for the speedy payment of its proportion, would produce no saving to the state.

The interest on the loans which must be negotiated—the expense of organizing a new system of taxation, and the expenses of collection, would, in the estimate formed by your committee, exceed fifteen per cent.

Your committee cannot see any reason to believe that this offer to the several states, on the part of the General Government, will only be made for the ensuing year, on the contrary there is cause to fear that its recurrence will take place annually for years to come.

If the state Governments will release the General Government from the responsibility of collecting taxes, it is easy to foresee that our troubles and burthens will be increased in magnitude, and extended in duration.

Your committee cannot forbear also to remark, that whether we consider the present war in its nature, in its continuation, or in the manner and spirit in which it has been conducted, there is no circumstance connected with it which ought to induce this legislature to interfere for the sole purpose of relieving the General Government from the odium of policy has brought upon the country.

It is well known that a great part of the people are opposed to the war itself upon principle.

The committee would ask, what good reason can there be why the General Assembly of Maryland should step forward and waste the funds of the state merely to relieve the Administration of the National Government from the displeasure of public feeling and opinion?

In a state in which landholders alone have any power or influence in regulating public affairs, in the Commonwealth of Virginia for example, it is very natural the constituted authorities, when they have the means, should be willing to pay their share of the direct tax, out of the general resources of the state, because it might have the effect of favouring the wealthy holders of property, and leaving the poorer classes of society to bear an unequal burthen.

Upon the same principle, if the amount of the carriage tax which each state has to pay could be ascertained, it would become the interest of the richer classes, that such a tax should be paid out of the common treasury of the state, leaving the state afterwards to provide means, for itself, by laying such taxes as would operate upon the poor as well as the rich; the humble as well as the fortunate ranks of life.

In no point of view, in which your committee consider this subject, they think that this Legislature ought to take upon themselves an accountability. They think that fair policy, honest principles, the permanent interests of the all combine in rendering it the duty of the house of delegates, as representing the people of Maryland, not to interfere in the way proposed, but that the General Government ought themselves to be answerable for the operation of those measures which their own course of measures the present unnecessary and ruinous war, have inflicted upon suffering people of this country.

In the language of the resolution submitted to your committee, proposed that the payment should be made out of any unappropriated moneys in the treasury.—But there is in fact no money unappropriated to meet such payment, as will be by the treasurer's account, a report of the committee of claims.

It will appear by the said statement, that the state, provident care and economy of ancestors, is in the possession of a consisting of stocks yielding an annual revenue which, for years has relieved the good people of the state from the burdens of taxation.

Upon the credit of these funds a loan to the amount of three hundred and seven thousand dollars has already been negotiated, during the year, to provide for those expenses of defence for which it is the duty of the General Government to provide.

Your committee believe will again become necessary, the state to resort to another loan for similar purposes, as we have reason to expect that any provision will be made for our relief by the Government.

Your committee conceive, instead of diminishing, it is our duty to increase, our resources, as far as is practicable, without increasing the burthens of the people.—They therefore beg leave to submit the following resolutions:

Resolved, That it would be expedient to adopt the said resolution.

Resolved, That instead of advances of money to the General Government, it is our duty that the amount of expenses incurred by this state on account of the war be reimbursed.

By Order, LOUIS GASSAWAY, Adjourned.

Monday, January 3. The house met. Present Saturday. The proceedings of the preceding day were read.

The report of the committee on the memorial of Philip Key, Esq. of St. Mary's county, read the second time, and the motion put. That the house concur in the same?

The yeas and nays being called appeared as follows: AFFIRMATIVE. Messrs. Jervis Spencer, Browne, Dorsey, Sellman, W. Hall, Reynolds, Blake, Turner, Stonestreet, Fordham, Rogerson, Randall, Hatfield, Warner, Stansbury, Bennett, J. Spencer, S. Stevens, Cottman, Waller, Long, Lecompte, J. R. Evans, Hogg, R. Evans, Somervell, Claude, Duvall, Burgess, Wilson, Williams, Quinton, J. Thomas, Delaplaine, J. K. Mulsby, Saulsbury, Culbreth, Willis, Barney, son, Mason, Kershner, Gabby Kilgour, Crabb, Hilleary, R. McCulloh, Howard—63.

So it was unanimously resolved in the affirmative.

The amendments proposed to the bill to establish and incorporate a company under the title of the Bank of St. Mary's, were read the second time, and the bill ordered to be passed.

Mr. Wilson delivers a bill for the relief of the district of western county; which was read a second time by especial order, and passed.

On motion by Mr. Bayly, following resolutions were read: Resolved, That the Governor of Maryland, as commander in chief of the militia when in actual service, is entitled to the pay of a major general of the militia.

Resolved, That the Governor and they are hereby authorized to liquidate the account of the militia, the Governor for that have been or shall be a commander in chief of the