

of the harbour, defended inside by gun-boats, flanked on the right by a strong and regular fortification, and on the left by a battery of several heavy guns.

These preparations rendering it impracticable to afford any essential co-operation by sea, I considered that an attack on the enemy's strong position by the army only, with such disparity of force, though confident of success, might risk a greater loss than the possession of the town would compensate for, while holding in view the ulterior operations of this force in the contemplation of His Majesty's government; and, therefore as the primary object of our movement had been already fully accomplished, I communicated my observations to Col. Brooke, who coinciding with me in opinion, it was mutually agreed that we should withdraw.

The following morning the army began leisurely to retire; and so salutary was the effect produced on the enemy by the defeat he had experienced, that notwithstanding every opportunity was offered for his repeating the conflict, with an infinite superiority, our troops re-embarked without molestation; the ships of war dropped down as the army retired.

The result of this demonstration has been the defeat of the army of the enemy, the destruction, by themselves, of a quantity of shipping, the burning of an extensive ropewalk, and other public edifices, the causing of them to remove their property from the city, and above all the collecting and harassing of his armed inhabitants from the surrounding country; producing a total stagnation of their commerce, and heaping upon them considerable expenses, at the same time effectually drawing off their attention and support from other important quarters.

It has been a source of the greatest gratification to me, the continuation of that unanimity existing between the two services, which I have before noticed to their Lordships; and I have reason to assure them, that the command of the army has fallen upon a most zealous and able officer in Colonel Brooke, who has followed up the system of cordiality that had been so beneficially adopted by his much lamented chief.

Rear Admiral Cockburn, to whom I had confided that part of the naval service which was connected with the army, evinced his usual zeal and ability, and executed his important trust to my entire satisfaction.

Rear Ad. Malcolm, who regulated the collection, embarkation and re-embarkation of the troops, and the supplies they required, has merited my best thanks for his indefatigable exertions; and I have to express my acknowledgments for the counsel and assistance which, in all our operations, I have received from Rear Admiral Codrington, the Captain of the fleet.

The Captains of the squadron who were employed in the various duties afloat, were all emulous to promote the service in which they were engaged, and, with the officers acting under them, are entitled to my fullest approbation.

I beg leave to call the attention of their Lordships to the Report Rear Admiral Cockburn has made of the meritorious & gallant conduct of the Naval Brigade; as well as the accompanying letter from Colonel Brooke, expressing his obligations to Capt. Edward Crofton, who commanded, and Captains T. B. Sullivan, Rowland Money, and Robert Ramsay, who had charge of divisions; and I have to recommend these officers, together with those who are particularly noticed by the Rear Admiral, to their Lordships favourable consideration.

Capt. Robyns, of the Royal Marines, who commanded the Marines of the squadron on this occasion, and in the operations against Washington, being severely wounded, I beg leave to bring him to their Lordships' recollection, as having been frequently noticed for his gallant conduct during the services on the Chesapeake, and to recommend him, with Lieut. Sampson Marshal, of the Diadem, who is dangerously wounded, to their Lordships' favour and protection.

First Lieut. John Lawrence of the Royal Marine Artillery, who commanded the rocket brigade, has again rendered essential service & is highly spoken of by Col. Brooke.

Captain Edward Crofton, who will have the honour of delivering this despatch, is competent to explain any further particulars; and I beg leave to recommend him to their

Lordships' protection, as a most zealous and intelligent officer.

I have the honour to be, &c.
ALEX. GOCHRANE,
Vice Adm. and Commander in Chief,
To John Wilson Croker, &c.

CONGRESS. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(Wednesday, Nov. 30.)

TAX BILLS.

The House resumed the consideration of the report of the committee of the whole on the two tax bills; and the amendments made thereto were taken up and considered. And the bills having been further discussed and amended, were ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

MILITIA DRAFTS, &c.
The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill from the senate authorising a draft of 80,000 militia for the defence of the frontiers, and on the bill for filling the regular army by a classification of the free male population.

The bills were no more than read through, when, the House being thin, the committee rose, reported progress and adjourned.

Thursday, Dec. 1.

On motion of Mr. Pleasants of Va.

Resolved, That the committee on the Judiciary Establishment be instructed to inquire into the propriety of authorising the judges of the Circuit Courts of the United States to hold special courts for the trial of appeals from the District Courts in admiralty, and especially in prize causes.

Mr. Robertson of Lou. offered for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That so much of the rule of this House as is supposed to preclude the re-examination of a subject decided on be suspended, so far as relates to the establishment of a National Bank.

The resolution, according to the rule, must lie on the table one day of course.

A report was received from the Secretary of the Treasury on the petition of John Appleton, embracing an opinion in favour of his claim, which however he conceives may be settled without legislative interposition.

A report was received from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting a voluminous report in compliance with a resolution of this House of the 3d of March last, of the cost, expenditures and state of the various Navy-Yards, &c.

Mr. Johnson of Ky. offered for consideration the following resolution, premising that his object was first, the despatch of public business, and 2dly a recess in the close of this month from the 20th, to New Year's Day, during which time it was well known the House was generally so thin as to do little business, &c.

Resolved, That the hour to which the House daily adjourns shall be 10 o'clock in the morning, until the 20th inst.

The motion was agreed to without debate, by a large majority.

DUTIES ON POSTAGE, &c.

The engrossed bill to provide additional revenue for defraying the expenses of government and maintain public credit, by duties on sales at auction, on the postage of letters, and on licences to retail wines, spirituous liquors, and foreign merchandise, was read a third time. The question on the passage of the bill was decided—yeas 114, nays 35.

So the bill was past and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The engrossed bill to provide additional revenue for defraying the expenses of government and maintain public credit, by duties on carriages, &c. was then read a third time and passed without debate, by the following vote:

For the bill 120
Against it 54

THE NEGOCIATION.

The following message was received from the President of the United States by Mr. Coles, his Secretary:

MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. States.

I transmit for the information of Congress the communications last received from the Ministers Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States at Ghent, explaining the course and actual state of their negotiations with the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain.

JAMES MADISON.

December 1, 1814.

[Accompanying this message was a volume of documents, beyond the capacity of a newspaper to present them all at one view. We have therefore selected those which are calculated in the smallest space to give the best general view of the state of the negotiation reserving the publication of the remainder, almost equally interesting, until our next and succeeding papers, in which we shall be able to publish the whole series.]

Nat. Int.

No. 1.

Copy of a letter from Messrs. Adams, Bayard, Clay, Russell and Gallatin, to the Secretary of State, dated Ghent, 25th Oct. 1814.

SIR,
We have the honour of transmitting herewith copies of all our correspondence with the British plenipotentiaries, since the departure of Mr. Dallas. Although the negotiation has not terminated so abruptly as we expected at that period that it would, we have no reason to retract the opinion which we then expressed, that no hopes of peace as likely to result from it, could be entertained. It is true, that the terms which the British government had so peremptorily prescribed at that time, have been apparently abandoned, and that the *sine qua non* then required as a preliminary to all discussion upon other topics, has been reduced to an article securing merely an Indian pacification, which we have agreed to accept, subject to the ratification or rejection of our government.—But you will perceive, that our request for the exchange of a project of a treaty, has been refused, and that in their last note, the British plenipotentiaries have advanced a demand not only new and inadmissible, but totally incompatible with their uniform previous declarations, that G. Britain had no view in this negotiation to any acquisition of territory. It will be perceived, that this new pretension was brought forward immediately after the accounts had been received that a British force had taken possession of all that part of the state of Massachusetts situate east of Penobscot river, The British plenipotentiaries have invariably referred to their government every note received from us, and waited the return of their messenger before they have transmitted to us their answer, and the whole tenor of the correspondence, as well as the manner in which it has been conducted on the part of the British government, have concurred to convince us, that their object has been delay; their motives for this policy, we presume, to have been to keep the alternative of peace, or of a protracted war, in their own hands, until the general arrangement of European affairs should be accomplished at the congress of Vienna, and until they could avail themselves of the advantages which they have anticipated from the success of their arms during the present campaign in America.

Although the sovereigns who had determined to be present at the Congress of Vienna have been already several weeks assembled there it does not appear by the last advices from that place, that the congress has been formally opened. On the contrary, by a declaration from the plenipotentiaries of the powers, who were parties to the peace of Paris of 30th May last, the opening of the Congress appears to have been postponed to the 1st of November. A memorial is said to have been presented by the French ambassador, Talleyrand, in which it is declared, that France having returned to her boundaries in 1793, can recognize none of the aggrandizements of the other great powers of Europe since that period, although not intending to oppose them by war.

These circumstances indicate that the new basis for the political system of Europe, will not be so speedily settled as had been expected. The principle thus assumed by France's very extensive in its effects, and opens a field for negotiation much wider than has been anticipated. We think it does not promise an aspect of immediate tranquillity to this continent, and that it will disconcert particularly the measures which G. Britain had been taking with regard to the future taxation of this country, among others, and to which she has attached apparently much importance.

We have the honor to be, with great respect, sir, your very humble servants,
JOHN QUINCY ADAMS,
J. A. BAYARD,
H. CLAY,
JONATHAN RUSSELL,
ALBERT GALLATIN.

No. 2.
Is the answer of the American Ministers, dated Aug. 24, 1814, to the first note of the British Commissioners, dated Aug. 19, 1814, viz. that note which was received by the last cartel, and is already before the Public.

No. 3.
Is a note from the British Commissioners, dated Sept. 4th, 1814.

No. 4.
Is the answer of our Commissioners, dated Sept. 9, 1814, to the last mentioned note.

No. 5.
Is a note from the British Commissioners, dated Sept. 19, 1814.

No. 6.
Is a note from our Ministers, dated 26th Sept. 1814, to the note of the British Ministers last mentioned.

No. 7.
Is a note from the British Commissioners dated Oct. 8, 1814.

No. 8.
Is the answer of our Commissioners to the last mentioned note, dated Oct. 13, 1814.

No. 9.
BRITISH NOTE.
FROM THE BRITISH TO THE AMERICAN MINISTERS.

October 21, 1814.

The undersigned have had the honor of receiving the note of the American Plenipotentiaries of the 13th inst. communicating their acceptance of the article which the undersigned had proposed on the subject of the pacification and rights of the Indian nations.

The undersigned are happy in being thus relieved from the necessity of recurring to several topics, which, though they arose in the course of their discussions, have only an incidental connection with the differences remaining to be adjusted between the two countries.

With a view to this adjustment the undersigned, preferring in the present state of the negotiations a general statement of the formal arrangement of articles, are willing so far to comply with the request of the American Plenipotentiaries contained in their last note, as to waive the advantage to which they think they were fairly entitled, of requiring from them the first project of a treaty.

The undersigned having stated at the first conference the points upon which His Majesty's Government considered the discussions between the two countries as likely to turn, cannot better satisfy the request of the American Plenipotentiaries than by referring them to that conference for a statement of the points which, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government yet remain to be adjusted.

With respect to the forcible seizure of marines from on board merchant vessels on the high seas, and the right of the King of Great Britain to the allegiance of all his native subjects, and with respect to the maritime rights of the British empire, the undersigned conceive that, after the pretensions asserted by the Government of the United States, a more satisfactory proof of the conciliatory spirit of His Majesty's Government cannot be given than by not requiring any stipulation on those subjects, which though most important in themselves, no longer in consequence of the maritime pacification of Europe produce the same practical results.

On the subject of the fisheries, the undersigned expressed with so much frankness at the conference already referred to, the views of their government, that they consider any further observations on that topic as unnecessary at the present time.

On the question of the boundary between the dominions of His Majesty and those of the United States, the undersigned are led to expect from the discussion which the subject has already undergone, that the North Western Boundary from the Lake of the Woods to the Mississippi the intended arrangement of 1803 will be admitted without objection.

In regard to other boundaries, the American Plenipotentiaries in their note of August 24th appeared in some measure to object to the propositions then made by the undersigned as not being on the basis of *uti possidetis*. The undersigned are willing to treat on that basis, subject to such modification as mutual convenience may be found to require; and they trust that the American Plenipotentiaries will shew by their ready acceptance of this basis, that they duly appreciate the moderation of His Majesty's Government in so far consulting the

honor and fair pretensions of the United States as in the relative situation of the two countries, to propose such a proposition.

The undersigned avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the American Plenipotentiaries the assurance of their high consideration.

Signed GAMBIEB,
HENRY GOULBURN,
WILLIAM ADAM.

Ghent, Oct. 21st 1814.

True copy G. HUGHES, jr.

Secretary of Legation U. States.

No. 10.
AMERICAN NOTE.

FROM THE AMERICAN TO THE BRITISH MINISTERS.

24th October 1814.

The undersigned have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the note of the British Plenipotentiaries of the 21st instant.

Amongst the general observations which the undersigned in their note of the 24th Aug. made on the propositions then brought forward on the part of the British government they remarked that those propositions were founded neither on the basis of *uti possidetis*, nor on that of status ante bellum. But so far were they from suggesting the *uti possidetis* as the basis on which they were disposed to treat, that in the same note they expressly stated that they had been instructed to conclude a peace on the principle of both parties restoring whatever territory they might have taken. The undersigned also declared in that note, that they had no authority to cede any part of the territory of the United States, and that to no stipulation to that effect would they subscribe; and in the note of the 9th Sept. after having shewn that the basis of *uti possidetis*, such as it was known to exist at the commencement of the negotiation, gave no claim to his Britannic Majesty to cessions of territory founded upon the right of conquest; they added that even if the chances of war should give to the British arms a momentary possession of other parts of the territory of the United States, such events would not alter the views, with regard to the terms of peace to which they would give their consent.

The undersigned can now only repeat those declarations and decline treating upon the basis of *uti possidetis*, or upon any other principle involving a cession of any part of the territory of the U. S. As they have uniformly stated, they can treat only upon the principle of a mutual restoration of whatever territory may have been taken by either party. From this principle they cannot recede, and the undersigned after the repeated declarations of the British plenipotentiaries that Great Britain had no view to acquisition of territory, in this negotiation, deem it unnecessary to add, that the utility of its continuance depends on their adherence to this principle.

The undersigned having declared in their note of 21st of August, that although instructed and prepared to enter into an amicable discussion of all the points on which differences or uncertainty had existed, and which might hereafter tend to interrupt the harmony of the two countries, they would not make the conclusion of peace at all depend upon a successful result of the discussion, and having since agreed to the preliminary article proposed by the British government, had they not long protracted, could not be brought to an early conclusion, otherwise than by the communication of a project, embracing all the other specific propositions which Great Britain intended to offer. They repeat their request in that respect, and will have no objection to a simultaneous exchange of the projects of both parties. This course will bring fairly into discussion the other topics embraced in the last note of the British plenipotentiaries, to which the undersigned have thought it unnecessary to advert at the present time.

The undersigned renew to the British plenipotentiaries the assurance of their high consideration.

Signed JOHN Q. ADAMS,
JAMES A. BAYARD,
HENRY CLAY,
JONATHAN RUSSELL,
A. GALLATIN.

To the Plenipotentiaries of H. B. Majesty, &c. &c. Ghent.

True copy G. HUGHES, jr.

Sec. of Am. Mission Extra.

No. 11.

Copy of a letter from our Commissioners to the Secretary of State, dated Ghent, Oct. 31, 1814.

Sir—The detention of the Chauncy at Ostend, enables us to send you

enclosed note from the British plenipotentiaries, which we have received.

We have the honor to be, with perfect respect your obedient servants.

Signed JOHN Q. ADAMS,
J. A. BAYARD,
H. CLAY,
JONATHAN RUSSELL,
A. GALLATIN.

To the Hon James Monroe,

Secretary of State.

No. 12.

BRITISH NOTE.

FROM THE BRITISH TO THE AMERICAN MINISTERS.

October 31st.

The undersigned have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the note addressed to them by the American plenipotentiaries on the 24th inst. in which they object to the basis of *uti possidetis*, proposed by the undersigned as that on which they are willing to treat in regard to part of the boundaries between the dominions of His Majesty and those of the U. States.

The American plenipotentiaries in their note of the 13th inst. requested the undersigned to communicate to them the project of a treaty embracing all the points insisted on by G. Britain, engaging on their part to deliver immediately after a contre projet, as to all the articles to which they might not agree, and as to all the subjects deemed material by the United States, and omitted in the project of the undersigned.

The undersigned were accordingly instructed to waive the question of etiquette, and the advantage which might result from receiving the first communication, and confiding in the engagement of the American plenipotentiaries, communicated in their notes of the 21st inst. all the points upon which they are instructed to insist.

The American plenipotentiaries have objected to one essential part of the project thus communicated, but before the undersigned can enter into the discussion of this objection, they must require from the American plenipotentiaries that pursuant to their engagement, they will deliver a contre projet containing all their objections to the points submitted by the undersigned, together with a statement of such further points as the government of the United States consider to be material.

The undersigned are authorized to state distinctly that the article as to the pacification and rights of the Indian nations having been accepted, they have brought forward in their note of the 21st inst. the propositions they have to offer. They have no further demands to make, no other stipulation on which they are instructed to insist, and they are empowered to sign a treaty of peace forthwith in conformity with those stated in their former note.

The undersigned trust therefore that the American plenipotentiaries will no longer hesitate to bring forward in the form of articles otherwise, as they may prefer, the specific propositions upon which they are empowered to sign a treaty of peace between the two countries.

The undersigned avail themselves of the present opportunity to renew to the plenipotentiaries of the United States the assurance of their high consideration.

Signed GAMBIEB,
HENRY GOULBURN,
WILLIAM ADAM.

True copy,

G. HUGHES jun. Secretary

American Mission.

The reading of the above documents, which occupied the order of this day's session, was attended with the deepest attention, and latter papers, as well as the were read over a second and a third time.

After the reading was finished some conversation took place on the number of these documents which it would be proper to have the usual number on file.

In the course of some remarks in favor of the latter number, Picketing took occasion to say that the letters of our Ministers did not exhibit an ability which was highly estimable to them.

In the end 5000 copies were ordered to be printed.

And the house adjourned.

NOTICE.

The Commissioners of the Town and Arundel county, will on the first Monday in February next, Henry S. Harwood, Clerk. c. r. December 9, 1814.