



(By Authority.)

AN ACT

Concerning drawbacks on goods, wares and merchandise.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That so much of the sixth section of the act, entitled, "An act for laying and collecting duties on imports and tonnage within the territory ceded to the United States by the treaty of the thirtieth of April, one thousand eight hundred and three, between the United States and the French Republic and for other purposes," as prohibits the allowance of drawbacks of duties on goods, wares and merchandise exported from the port of New Orleans, other than those imported into the same place directly from a foreign port or place, shall be and the same is hereby repealed.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That any goods, wares or merchandise, which shall be exported from the United States, or the district of Mississippi, in the manner prescribed by law, to any foreign port or place, situated to the westward or southward of Louisiana, shall be deemed and taken to be entitled to such drawback of duties as would be allowable thereon, when exported to any other foreign port or place, any thing in the act, entitled, "An act to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage," to the contrary notwithstanding.

This act shall commence and be in force from and after the first day of March next.

NATHL. MACON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives

A BURR

Vice-President of the United States, and

President of the Senate.

January 5, 1855.

Approved.

TH: JEFFERSON.

Congress

OF THE

United States of America.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY December 13.

DEBATE

On the Bill to regulate the clearance of armed merchant vessels.

[CONCLUDED]

Mr. Clarke voted for the first section under an impression that it would be proper to permit merchant vessels in some cases to defend themselves. He was therefore willing that they should have arms on board for the purpose of self-defense; but while he was willing to provide for their security, he conceived himself bound to restrain them from the commission of crimes; and this amendment does no further. It does not deprive them of the right of self defense, and the privilege of repelling force by force. They are authorized to bear arms on board when attacked, but they are restrained from becoming the aggressors. The amendment does not go to deprive a sailor of a single privilege at sea, which he possesses on shore, and surely it will not be contended that because a man is a sailor he is entitled to exclusive privileges. A man has no right to attack another man on shore, neither ought he to be privileged to attack another at sea; but his rights, be they what they may, are the same both on land and sea. If this were a proposition to put arms in the hands of a man setting out on his travels, would any one object to punish him for every unjust and criminal abuse of such arms? There is not a member on this floor, but whose mind would revolt at the idea of protecting such a man, more than if he had remained at home. Why then do gentlemen advocate a distinction between the man travelling by land, and another travelling the ocean, in each case the protecting arm of his country is extended to preserve to him his legal and constitutional rights—in each case then also should the sword of justice perform its office without distinction or favor. This regulation he was convinced would have a beneficial effect upon foreign nations, as at the same time it would show them that our citizens are not authorized to offend any other people, and that if they do they will be punished by their govern-

ment in a manner proportioned to the offence. On these two grounds he was in favor of the motion for amendment, first, it would go to prevent an offence by fear of the punishment—and second, it would have a good effect upon the belligerent nations of Europe with whom we are at peace, to preserve our commerce from wanton spoliation.

Mr. Smilie had also agreed to the first section of the bill, because he thought it useful that our merchant vessels trading to the West Indies during its present unsettled state, should be permitted to arm in their own defence; but at the same time there was another circumstance equally important to be attended to, that was to preserve a peace between the United States and other nations unfortunately engaged in war. He was of opinion that since merchant vessels were permitted to arm, every precaution ought to be taken against the improper use of their arms. The gentleman from Massachusetts, (Mr. Crowninshield) has represented the American merchants as a set of peaceable and harmless men. He did not carry his idea of the virtuous and forbearing disposition of this class of citizens quite so far; but he honestly believed they were as virtuous and honorable as any other set of merchants on the face of the globe. But he believed that they had all the infirmities to which mankind were liable, as well as other persons constituting the other classes of the community, to say nothing of the nature of their calling which many writers supposed to be bottomed on principles of avarice. Be that however as it might, he did not think it impossible that a seaman's conduct at sea might at times be as irregular and as improper as a landman's on shore. He could not think the crew of a ship at sea would be more orderly than our own citizens residing in our own territory. Yet we have here such crimes as felonies and misdemeanors, for the commission of which the law has furnished correspondent remedies, and why not make a similar provision for similar offences committed at sea. He did not know but the temptation at sea was stronger than on shore, a weaker vessel might easily become the prey of the stronger, and the impunity arising from concealment might induce men to risk something more in one case than in the other. In a moral point of view a murder committed at sea was as heinous an offence as a murder perpetrated on shore, and if committed on the body of a foreigner, the crime was as great in the eye of heaven as if committed on a fellow-citizen. But he would ask gentlemen of what they were afraid. They must allow that the crews of vessels may commit these crimes. Do they wish to rescue them from condign punishment? Surely not. But if a ship's crew make no unlawful use of the arms they are not obnoxious to any punishment. He hoped the amendment would be agreed to for the honor of congress and the security of the peace of the nation. He had good reason to believe that the agents of a certain nation had made loud complaints to our administration with respect to the conduct of several American vessels trading to the West-Indies. If this section is added to the bill, it will evince the disposition of the government of the United States to preserve peace and do justice to all the nations of the world.

On the question to insert the new section proposed by Mr. Eppes, there were 56 in its favor and 50 against it.

The committee then rose, and reported the bill with the amendments agreed to.

The House having agreed to consider the amendment.

On motion of Mr. J. Clay, an amendment was made substituting for the words "citizen or citizens, &c" the words "person or persons resident within the United States or territories thereof"

Mr. R. Griswood thought that giving bond for double the value of the vessel, her tackle, apparel and furniture, was sufficient without adding the cargo; if other gentlemen agreed with him, he hoped they would refuse their assent to the motion of the amendment. The gentleman (Mr. J. Clay) to be sure, had said that the bond taken in the case of East Indians was nearly formal. He did not think Congress ought to legislate on this principle—When securities are demanded they should be for an efficient purpose, and not merely nominal. Why should a vessel sailing with arms to India be compelled to give security on her cargo of 300,000 dollars for a million of dollars. Is there more risk in improper use of her arms than in the case of a West Indian with a cargo of 30,000 dollars which gives security only for 60,000 dollars—is a murder or felony committed by one vessel less a murder or felony if committed by another, and yet from the disparity of the bond, one would be led to suspect that such was the idea. Viewing this additional incumbrance on commerce as a thackle that would subject small traders to real inconvenience, while it would facilitate the enterprise of merchants of large capital and long established credit, he meant to call the yeas and nays on the question of agreeing to this report of the committee of the whole.

Mr. J. Clay said it was true that he had said that bonds given at the custom house for East India ships were merely formal; it is not however because they are unnecessary or improper, but because the commanders of such vessels were men of such consideration and prudence, that they would not subject themselves to the forfeiture, and so far he was willing to admit that the amendment would also be

a mere formal regulation as to the clearance of armed East Indians. But as to vessels bound to the West Indies, it was a notorious fact that the value of the vessel and her equipment formed no proportion to the profit made on the cargo, if they have a fortunate run; and it was against the illicit commerce of such that he wished to be felt. He was unwilling unnecessarily to tackle commerce as any gentlemen; but his regulation was not an unnecessary tackle, it was one absolutely required by existing circumstances, and will nowork a hardship on any merchant engaged in a lawful commerce. One thing however, he acknowledged it would effect. It will prevent in future that species of trade, which, to say the least of it, approaches very near to illicit trade at the present moment. A merchant, willing to run the risk of such a voyage as he had alluded to, would prefer to make it unarm'd rather than armed, because he knows the consequences, and the probability of ansegreging some of the provisions of the act. It had been suggested that two Inds would be required; he did not believe they would, as it was not the practice under the law of 1798 which was expressed in the same terms as the amendment before the House.—If the House should however consider this regulation as bearing hard on the East India trade, they might remedy it by refusing to concur with the committee of the whole in striking out the proviso.

MONDAY JANUARY 7.

Mr. Elliot presented a petition from Barnabas Strong and sundry other inhabitants of Vermont, praying a grant of a tract of land, six mes square, in the territory of Indiana.

Mr. Olin opposed this application, as being a speculation upon the public property of the Union and hoped the petition would be rejected.

Mr. Elliot did not view the application in the same light with Mr. Olin, but were it the thing urged, he thought still it might be suffered to go to a committee for enquiry.

On the motion to refer it to a select committee, there was thirty seven Yeas, and thirty two Nays.

The Speaker laid the votes did not amount to a quorum, and, having called in the members to their seats, the motion was put a second time, and there were forty one in favour of the reference and thirty seven against it. It was accordingly referred to a select committee of three.

A message was received from the President, informing that he had approved and signed the act, supplementary to the act, for the collection of duties on goods, wares and merchandise imported into the United States.

Mr. Thompson reported from the committee appointed for the purpose, on the petition of William Rollins, praying a grant of land, to him than that he had located, and which possessed the mill seat he had contemplated to purchase of the United States, that he have leave to withdraw his petition. The report was considered and agreed to by the House.

Mr. Olin moved the appointment of a select committee, for the purpose of considering the propriety of increasing the allowance, made to the persons employed in bringing to the seat of government, the returns of the election of President and Vice-President of the United States.—The allowance made by law being two dollars and fifty cents for every twenty miles travel to Washington, and nothing allowed them for their return.

On the question to raise such committee, there were fifty-six members in its favor, and twenty-one against it. A committee of three was appointed.

Mr. Crowinshield reported, from the committee of commerce and manufactures, on the petition of Benjamin Bailey and others, of New-York, praying a remission of the bonded duties due on sundry articles of merchandise, confounded in their stores by the late conflagration in Pearl, Dock and Water streets, in that city.—The resolution annexed to the report and agreed to by the House, was that the petitioners have leave to withdraw their petition.

A letter and report from the Postmaster General, on the case of M. Henderson, a contractor for carrying the mail in a stage, from Charleston, South Carolina, to Fayetteville recommending a further allowance of 4,200 dollars for that service, was received and referred to a committee of the whole to report.

Mr. Findley laid upon the table a resolution to be added to the rules of the House, directing the Speaker to call upon the chairmen of committees to report the progress they had made in the several items of business referred to them, every Friday morning during the residue of the session.

Mr. Vanhorne presented a petition from a number of the inhabitants of Bucks county, Pennsylvania, praying the establishment of a new post road through the western part of the same. This petition was referred to the committee on post offices and post roads.

Mr. Holmes presented a petition from John McIntire, stating that an error had been made in his patent for certain lands purchased at public sale, in Marietta, and praying that the error might be corrected. Referred to the committee of claims.

Mr. Stanford called for the order of the day on the resolutions moved by him in November last, relative to the recession

of the territory of Columbia, excepting the City of Washington, and the house having resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

Mr. TENNES in the chair,

An interesting debate arose, in which Messrs. Stanford, Smilie, Early and Eppes advocated, and Mr. Dennis opposed the recession. The debate continued till the usual hour of adjournment, when, on motion of Mr. Nelson, the committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

Adjourned.

NEW-YORK January 7.

The weather for the last five days has been unusually cold which has filled the rivers and harbor full of floating ice, which has prevented the sailing and in a great measure, the arrival of vessels. Several, however, got up yesterday very unexpectedly, as it was supposed to be impossible to avoid being driven ashore by the ice.—Amongst the number is the pilot boat schooner Harriet, captain Boyer, in 11 days from Cape Francois. This arrival has furnished us with an interesting marine and commercial detail which will be found in our marine department.—The Harriet, and indeed all the vessels arrived yesterday are completely covered with ice, and some on board of each vessel have been frost bitten.

Yesterday a large field of ice got jam'd between New-Slip and Brooklyn Ferry—and hundreds of people were imprudent enough to cross and re-cross on the ice between this city and Brooklyn. When the ice began to move with the first of the ebb, the people ran, and all reached the shore except a boy, who fell through the ice and perished.

One of the Powles-Hook ferry boats, in coming to this city on Saturday afternoon, got surrounded by large cakes of ice, and as the wind was light and the tide ebbing, it was feared the would be lost.—But, about dark, by great exertions she was extricated, and got in fair, to the great amusement of hundreds who were witnesses of her situation. There were on board this boat upwards of 30 passengers and four cart loads of dollars from one of the Banks in Philadelphia.

The ship Sampson for St Domingo reported to have been driven ashore by the ice got safe to sea on Saturday evening.

The British Packet Princess Charlotte, sailed yesterday for Falmouth.

A gentleman who came passenger in the barque Nixon, from Rotterdam to Savannah, informs that Mr. Monroe, the American minister, arrived at Rotterdam on London on the 14th October, & left it in two days afterwards for Paris and Madrid.

The fire which we on Saturday mentioned had been discovered in the house of No. 83, Pearl street, and had been extinguished without doing any damage, was the effect of design. A servant girl of captain Greenfield, aged about 13 years placed live coals in a box filled with hay with an intention of setting fire to the house. On suspicion being entertained of her, she was examined before the Mayor and confessed that she had done it. She has since been committed to Bridewell.

WASHINGTON CITY, January 9.

RECESSION.—On Monday, agreeably to notice, Mr. Stanford called up the resolutions for a recession of the district of Columbia, with the exception of the City of Washington. Mr. Stanford first took the floor, and in a speech of about half an hour's duration, supported the constitutionality and expediency of a recession. The arguments on the constitutional point varied but little from those usually urged. He considered the measure to be expedient, from the relief it would give Congress from the consumption of much time and expense, and by promoting the happiness of the people by giving them legislators of their own choice more competent to govern them than Congress. Mr. S. declared himself hostile to a removal of the seat of government, and gave it as his opinion that there was not the least connection between it and a recession.

He was followed by Mr. Dennis, who in a speech of considerable detail, denied the constitutional power of Congress to recede the District without the consent of the whole people of America, and that of the people of the District. Having, by various arguments, enforced this opinion he examined the expediency of the measure. He contended that, although the people of the District were not specially represented on the floor of Congress, yet from their vicinity to the legislature, they were virtually better represented than any other section of the Union. It was true that they did not enjoy political rights according to the theory of writings on government, but they in fact possessed a good government; for that deserved the name where the governors had no interest to oppress the governed. The people, he said, from the time of the cession, had relied on the justice of Congress to maintain them in the enjoyment of the advantages resulting from an act, which they had hailed with greater joy than they had before manifested on any event that had occurred in the annals of their country. The people in every part of the District, he said, had declared their hostility to a recession; and should a recession take effect, without the City of Washington, he ventured to say her prospects were funk forever.

Mr. Smilie rose in reply. We disclaimed any intention hostile to Wash-

ington remaining the seat of government, and decided that the recession would have any influence upon it. Having elucidated the constitutionality of the measure, he exhibited in strong colours, the degraded situation of the people of the District, and the dangers which might hereafter arise from a continuance of it.

Mr. Early, in a speech of much energy, asserted the right of congress to recede the district as well as the expediency of the measure. Whatever might be the opinions of the people of the district; congress notwithstanding possessed the absolute right of controlling them, congress were their masters, and the people their subjects. The privileges they possessed were not held of right, but by courtesy. Such a state of political despotism he could not but deplore; nor could he avoid contemplating with alarm the hazard to which the liberties of the nation would be exposed, should an enterprising president, at some future crisis, make use of the militia of the district over which he had a full control, to continue himself in office by intimidating the legislature, whose constitutional duty it was to decide contested elections.

Mr. Eppes, in a speech of much argument and fire, advocated the resolutions. Having discussed the constitutional point, he took a view of the effects of a recession in the people of the district. Pointing in lively colors the blessings of equal riches, he affirmed that the restoration of them, so far from lessening, would increase their happiness. Alluding to the assertion that they were hostile to a recession, he asked whether it was a fact. For one he could not believe it. But if it were a fact, it would furnish him with one of the strongest arguments for the measure, as it would show the necessity of sending them back to their original states, in order that they might re-learn the first lessons in the rights of man.

Meaning to give the debate at full length, we have taken this rapid notice merely to gratify in an imperfect degree the public curiosity.

German Linens. We have received by the Hamilton from Varel, 100 pieces of various kinds, 1 1/2 do. Cross a la Morlaix, 5 0 do. Bretagnes, 200 do. Pistillas, 150 half pieces Blefekl Shirting Linens, 16 bales Bremen Tickenburgs. Which we offer for sale on the usual credit, or in barter for coffee, good Maryland tobacco. KENT R & VON HARTMAN, December 31

Wanted Immediately, TWO or three journeymen Copper-smiths and a Journeyman Blacksmith, to whom liberal wages will be given by CH: STROPHOR RABORG & SON, who have on hand and continue to manufacture of their manufactory, 11, Water-street, Stills of every size and description, with or without power crane no. 10 and worms; brass coppers; hatters' dye, wash and fish kettles; stew, sauce, and preserving pans, &c. &c. with a general and extensive assortment of tin wares. Brass andirons, fenders, shovels and tongs, of the newest and most approved patterns; composition belts and spikes, raddle bands, sheathing nails, pump chambers and mill brasses and every other article in the shoe branches of business, the whole of which will be sold as low, and warranted equal to any in the city. N. B. An APPRENTICE will be taken to the Brass-founding business. July 11

Looking Glasses. FOR SALE, at N. 2, Calvert-street, west side, next to Dr. A. Matthews's an extensive assortment of Pier and Scoote Glasses, in gilded, ornamented, mahogany and plain frames, with Toilets, Dressing and Stand do. CONVEY MIRRORS, Girandolaes, and elegant Prints, Varnishes, Paints, PRINTING INK, &c. The whole of the above articles will be sold very low for cash, or approved notes, by JOHN M. LEEWE. Old glasses repaired, and plates silvered or taken in exchange—Paintings, Prints, &c. framed. October 5

A Valuable Improved Farm, IS OFFERED FOR SALE, Consisting of five, six, seven or eight hundred acres, at the option of the purchaser, of a table and wood Land, well proportioned—eighteen miles distant from the city of Baltimore, well improved, with good inclosures, in a country that yields to none, on this or any other continent for salubrity of air and wholesome water. The terms, as to time of payment, for a considerable part of the purchase money, will be made as accommodating as could be wished. For further information, apply to the subscriber, near the said city. THOMAS JONES, December 1

To be sold at private sale, By the subscribers, at their auction room, 15 pipes first proof Bordeaux Brandy, 25 casks do Claret, 95 boxes do do, 20 do. superior do Cordial, 8 hds. Cloves, 38 bales Cinnamon, 1 case Nougats, and A few hds. first quality Mucovado Sugar. VAN WYCK & DORSEY, January 4

Geo. C. Muller, Two doors below the Custom House, Has imported in the Atlanta from Amsterdam, and on hand from foreign importations, Extra fine pistillas, Brown & white hempen, Fine do. Highland gin, 1st & 4th proof, Brown do. Glass cases, Cress a la morlaix, Hollow glass, assorted, Dowels, in half pieces, White lead, dry and ground in oil, Listados, Lestados, A few cases Drugs, consisting of Sarsaparilla, Chamomile Flowers, Flour of Sulphur, Gentian root, &c. Which he offers for sale on a liberal credit, or in barter for West India produce. November 23