

AMERICAN CONGRESS.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
TUESDAY, MAY 30.
AMERICAN SEAMEN.

Mr. Dana said that he rose for the purpose of calling the attention of the House to a subject which could not but be interesting to the councils of the nation. It related to American Seamen. He wished to propose a resolution, the object of which was to designate American seamen, and to ensure to them the benefits properly appertaining to that character. He said it might be presumed that there were on board American shipping between ten and twenty thousand seamen, who were not natives of America. In the course of twelve years, the whole number of persons naturalized according to the laws of the United States, and registered as seamen, did not amount to four hundred and fifty. It might be set down for fact, Mr. Dana said, that under our existing laws not less than 10,000 certificates of protection are annually aloft which are obtained by false swearing. To this fraud he wished to put an end. At present vessels might claim privilege of carrying the American flag, without a single American mariner on board, a permission contrary to the usage of all civilized nations.—For the security and encouragement of seamen therefore, he proposed the following resolution:

Resolved, That for the benefit of the seamen of the United States, it is proper to make provision that registered ships or vessels shall not be entitled to the privilege of ships or vessels of the United States, unless a certain proportion of mariners on board the same shall be mariners of the United States.

On the suggestion of Mr. Burwell, with the consent of Mr. Dana, the resolution was ordered to lie on the table.

ARMED TRADE.

Mr. Dana said, he wished to propose another resolution, the object of which contemplated a provision for arming the commerce of the United States, not as against any particular power, but it was an attempt to draw a line of discrimination between armaments for attack between the principle of resistance to aggression of foreign nations and the principle of reprisal.

With this view he offered the following:—

Resolved, That it is expedient to make provision, by law, to allow merchant vessels of the United States to be armed for defence in voyages to ports of Europe, the West-Indies and Atlantic coast of America, and accordingly, to furnish the documentary evidence which may be proper in any such case to manifest the defensive character of the armament allowed; and at the same time by law to require securities for the vessels respectively, that they will not proceed to any port known to be actually blockaded, nor carry articles contraband of war to the dominions of a belligerent power, nor violate the laws or treaties of the United States, or the rules of public law by them acknowledged, but will observe the instructions which may be given by the President of the United States for preventing all such violations, and that due satisfaction shall be made for all damages and injuries if any should be committed in contravention thereof.

It was referred to a committee of the whole, on motion of Mr. Dana.

PHILADELPHIA, MAY 22.

Continuation of the late News from Spain.

By the Brig Cerberus, Captain Lusk, arrived at this port from Cadiz, advices from Spain have been received to the 7th of April.

It is verbally reported, that the French army had passed the mountains, and arrived within 18 leagues of Seville.—We have seen letters from Cadiz of the 6th of April, written by persons, who, we think, would have communicated this intelligence if it had been true, but they say not a word on the subject—on the contrary the jubjoined letter is received by the above arrival.

“Our affairs assume a better aspect, and will, I trust, be conclusively favorable to the cause of Spain and freedom, within a short time. The want of arms, occasioned by the great loss of them, in our first battles, has restrained our operations—but this evil will be instantly remedied, by ample supplies, which, in course of the summer, will be fully efficient in all respects.

“The Portuguese have hitherto afforded no assistance, but as the danger approaches themselves, they are rousing from their lethargy, and their troops are marching to the aid of Spain.

“Sargossa has surrendered after a close siege, and continual combat, of 75 days—And it is well ascertained that the loss of the French army, in this heroic defence, exceeds forty thousand men—Famine, and a violent epidemic, proceeding from the numerous dead, occasioned at length the surrender of the modern Sagunium, to whose glorious Chief, Soldiers, and Citizens, the Supreme Junta have ordered the most distinguished honors and rewards.”

Proclamation of the British General WILSON, to the Spaniards.

Inhabitants of the Sierra! I am come to join you in the sacred cause which you have sworn to defend. My duty, my conscience, and the love of glory, urge me to undertake any thing, and to make every possible sacrifice for your interest.—The alternate success, naturally to be expected during so great a contest, I am positive has not damped your ardent or depressed your patriotism. The evils which have been inflicted upon your countrymen by sanguinary gangs of lawless and barbarous vandals, only serve to kindle in your hearts a desire to avenge yourselves, and the outrages committed against God, your country and your captive king. The cause which we support is too interesting for us to abandon it. If you should conquer, you would bequeath to posterity the independence which you have inherited, and Spain would preserve her name and distinguished rank among the powers of Europe; but if conquered, Spain will no longer be a power. You shall only serve to enrich the nations plundered by a perfidious Corsican; and your unhappy children, doomed to a disgraceful servitude, shall be, in his hands, the instruments of the ruin of other countries, the object of his ambition and covetousness.

Spain will shake off the infamous yoke, if she be firm and steady in her determination: the armies of one nation shall ever prove impotent against the population of another, if the latter be armed and united to defend its freedom and independence. What! are one-hundred and twenty thousand Banditti to subjugate ten millions of Spaniards? No! Ah! if the Spaniards preserved the memory of a Gonzalo of Cordova, of the conquerors of France, of a Francis I. and of so many other heroes who triumphed over so many nations; and if they should think, but one moment, on the contemptible forces with which the tyrant hopes to subdue Spain, they would soon be sensible, that it is not for the shrub to contend with the ilex, or for the soft grass to lord it over the hard oak. The enemy of humanity wants to persuade you, that his black eagles are victorious in every quarter, and that England has abandoned Spain forever.—All his victories will shortly be like those of Balen and Aragon; and the king of England will keep his royal word, provided the Spaniards do not desert the sacred cause for which his Majesty feels so lively an interest. Europe expects every Spaniard to prepare for vengeance; and so long as there is one with arms in his hands, he shall find an Englishman to stand by him, at all events in an honorable manner. Beloved Spaniards! let us fly to arms; the time of glory is close at hand. Vengeance, victory, death! Let these be the consoling words which shall fire your souls.

[Signed] WILSON, Brigadier-General.

FROM A LONDON PAPER.

SHIPWRECK AND MIRACULOUS ESCAPE.

We stated in a former paper, that the ship Monticello, from Lima, fell in with the wreck of a vessel at sea, on which was found a man, the last of the crew, who had preserved a precarious existence of a number of days by feeding upon the bodies of his comrades.

This statement, in the first instance, was considered too extravagant to be true; but it is now known to be a fact. It was also said that the crew cast lots which of them should die, to sustain the lives of the remainder; but this is not confirmed by the narrative of the survivor. He admits however, that where any of his comrades died from hunger or thirst, he was driven to the necessity of exiling upon their remains.

When the Capt. of the Monticello, took this wretched man on board his ship, he gave him a change of cloths and linen, and would not suffer him to take much sustenance at one time. The first nutriment he gave him was two cups of coffee and a small piece of toast, and by adhering to this system, in the course of a few days, the man was quite restored to health. He proved a most excellent sailor, and was a great acquisition. But it is a curious fact, that not one of the crew of the Monticello would, for a length of time, associate with him, on account of the diet he had fed upon—hoping to cure them of their prejudice, the Captain kindly invited the unfortunate seaman to his table; but this had not the desired effect; on the contrary, those persons who usually messed with the Captain, deserted his table.—Time, however, and the general good conduct of the man, restored him to the society of his shipmates. In relating to them his sufferings on board the wreck, he obtained, as much as possible, from mentioning the manner of his subsistence; but the crew themselves had witnessed his food hung up in the shrouds, at the time he was taken from the wreck.

Particulars given by the wrecked mariner are these: his name is Thomas Moorhead, a native of the county of Durham; he served his time to the sea in the coal trade; the ship in which he was wrecked was the Acorn, Capt. M'Leod, of Stockton, to which they were bound, from America, when, on the 30th October, a severe gale of wind came on, in which the ship made a great deal of water and finally filled, and overset, in lat. 51, long. 48, by which misfortune, the carpenter, and black man, were drowned. In about ten minutes the sea carried away the mainmast and the rudder again. At this period the sea made a clear passage over the ship, but she could not well sink, being laden with timber. The master, Andrew Brads, and John Simpson, a boy were washed overboard, but at day light the maller was washed on board again, having been for some hours clinging to the pieces of the wreck. All hands next proceeded to the foretop, and in five hours time two more of the crew died in consequence of the inclemency of the weather. Soon after the timberman, Francis Bradley, Christopher Baly, and Thomas Bales, boys, nearly the whole of the remainder of the hands, were frost bitten. In this deplorable situation they all remained in the top four days, when not a fragment of the cabin was to be seen.—Every thing was washed out of the cabin windows, except three pieces of meat, which were found in the stern sheets. The ship's rudder parted on the 12th of November. Thomas Charlton, and the boy, Charles English, died on the 23d. The master prolonged a miserable existence to the 12th of December, on which day he died. William Pearson fell a victim to thirst. All the water casks were swept off the deck when the vessel upset on the 31st; the little moisture they procured was from the rain that fell, and which they caught in their hats, &c. in the foretop. The Monticello fell in with the wreck of the Acorn, in lat. 41, long. 35, when the Capt. humanely sent a long-boat for Moorhead. He was taken out of the top where he had been fifty-one days, and towards the latter end expecting to share the unhappy fate of his companions.

LONDON, APRIL 15.

The gallant Captain Seymour, of the Amethyst, has added to the glory he has already acquired by the capture of another very fine French frigate, being the second taken by the same officer within these few months; and, what is singular, after a night action, which was contested with the utmost obliquity on the part of the French. The particulars are contained in the following letter:

PLYMOUTH, APRIL 13.

“It is with very great pleasure we have to announce to the public the capture of another beautiful French frigate, of the first class, by that gallant and very fortunate officer, Captain Michael Seymour, of the Amethyst, 36 guns, who so recently captured the Thetis, of 44 guns, after a long,

oblique, and well-fought action. The ship that we have now to speak of, is called the Niemen, of 44 guns, and 380 men, which the Amethyst fell in with in the night of the 6th instant, and, after a running and close fight of five hours and forty minutes, the French Captain struck his colours to British bravery.

The Amethyst arrived here this morning, with the loss of her main-mast, mizen-mast, and otherwise disabled, and left her prize to the westward of this port, totally dismasted, in tow of the Emerald, of 38 guns, which ship hove in sight just after the action had ceased, consequently may participate in the profit, but cannot share in the glory, which we understand is exclusively the Amethyst's: during the action, she had 6 men killed, and 20 wounded, among whom we have the pleasure to say, that there is no officer killed, and only one wounded, who is the gunner, who was gunner's mate at the capture of the Thetis. The Niemen was from Bourdeaux and bound to the Ile of France, is quite new, not having been off the stocks above three weeks, and in addition to her stores, which are in great abundance, for a long voyage, she has on board a valuable cargo, to reward the brave Tars that have been engaged in this arduous conflict. The Niemen had about 47 men killed and 73 wounded; she was discovered by the Amethyst and Emerald frigates, and chased the whole of the day preceding the action, when towards evening, the Amethyst ran the Emerald out of sight, and it is supposed that if the night had not come on, the Amethyst would not have got up with her, owing to her very superior sailing. She was brought to close action about one o'clock in the morning which lasted upwards of four hours, when she struck: but the main-mast of the Amethyst went over the side, before the Niemen struck, at which the Frenchmen gave three cheers, though it had no other effect on the British tars, than to stimulate their exertions to victory. All the Lieutenants of the Amethyst, and about forty of her crew, were absent in prizes, and she had on board a great many Frenchmen.

APRIL 18.

LORD FOLKSTONE moved yesterday—

“That a Committee be appointed to enquire into the existence of all corrupt practices in any department of the State, or into any agreement, negotiation, or bargain, either direct or indirect, for the sale of places, and also into any corrupt practices as to the sale of commissions in the army, and the raising of men for levies.”

A motion so sweeping, yet so general, which specified nothing, yet involved every department of Government in suspicion, was very properly scouted by a large majority. Many of those even who are in the constant habit almost of voting against Ministers, opposed the Motion; and besides the Mover, there were not more than two or three Members who spoke in favour of it.—Where abuses are known to exist, or where there are strong grounds for suspecting that they do exist, let there be full and strict investigation—But do not let us appoint an inquisitorial Commission, merely upon the supposition that abuses may be discovered. This would be a proceeding after the manner of ROBESPIERRE, who accused, arrested, and guillotined hundreds, on suspicion of being suspected. The principle that all Governments are corrupt is taken up; and those who do take it up, go on with proposing a fishing enquiry to hook up abuses.—The Noble Lord and those who are with him, doubt, no doubt, find out in the course of his investigation, that abuses exist in Governments, as he would find out that even the election of some of his own friends, who make the warmest professions of purity and patriotism, would not have been accomplished without having recourse to those corrupt practices and abuses, which we are desirous to believe are the exclusive property of the Executive Government.

The Noble Lord in a recent investigation saw the benefit of putting the subject in a tangible shape—Let him put his motion in a tangible shape, and he will find every disposition in the Legislature and the Government to accede to it. But do not let him, by making a motion so indefinite that it cannot be agreed to, run the risk of inflaming the public mind, and giving rise to a clamour that Parliament and Ministers are the determined opposers of all inquiries into abuses. He expresses the deepest attachment to the Constitution, let him act then upon one of its best and soundest principles which requires that accusation shall not be general but specific.

Before we conclude, it may not be amiss to state that the Opposition, who have been in power themselves, are just as much responsible or censurable for these abuses in the administration of our affairs as the present Ministers.—They are not the offspring of this or that Ministry, they are not the growth of a day. Though that is no argument for their continuance, yet it is a sufficient reply to those who would attach the whole blame and censure to those who are charged, at present, with the administration of our affairs.

APRIL 19.

Dutch papers, which have been received to the 9th, containing news from Paris to the 5th, afford us additional reason to believe that no arrangement of the differences between Austria and France has taken place, or is likely to take place. If Austria had recourse to military preparations against France, because Bonaparte had manifested intentions and adopted a system subversive of her independence—if she was convinced that he only waited until he had reduced Spain to obedience, to direct against her the whole weight of his means, and the whole force of his vengeance—if she felt that an opportunity for the recovery of her independence, and the re-establishment of her security, was afforded her by the insurrection of the universal Spanish nation, which, if she neglected, might never occur again—if she was impelled with the conviction that hostilities, though unsuccessful, would not be productive of greater misery and ruin than that which would be the inevitable result of remaining at peace—if, we say, Austria felt all this when she resolved to have recourse again to military preparations, we do not see how any amicable arrangement between the two powers is practicable.—The delay, however, in the commencement of hostilities, has been a reason with some for believing that an accommodation may take place; but it should be recollected that Austria is adopting a different policy from that