

AMERICAN AFFAIRS.
DOCUMENTS ACCOMPANYING THE MES-
SAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

(Concluded from our last.)

Mr. Pinckney to Mr. Canning.
Great Cumberland Place, February 23, 1808.
Mr. Pinckney presents his compliments to his excellency Mr. Canning, and has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of his note of yesterday, relative to an alteration on the subject of cotton, in the legislative regulations by which the late orders in council are intended to be carried into execution, which Mr. Pinckney will hasten to transmit to his government.

Mr. Pinckney requests Mr. Canning to accept the assurances of his high consideration.

Extract of a letter from Mr. Pinckney to Mr. Madison.
London, May 9, 1808.

"I had a conversation with Mr. Canning on Friday last, in consequence of the arrival of the *Osage*.

"As it was obviously expected that I should seek an interview with him, I went to Downing-street on the 5th with that object. He had been indisposed, and was not at the office; but in answer to a note which I sent him in the evening, he asked to see me next day at his house in Bruton-street.

"That the *Osage* had been for some time looked for with considerable anxiety; and the government had apparently anticipated a communication [and perhaps a proposal] of some importance from me, as soon as my dispatches should be received. As I had in fact no communication to make, it seemed to be proper that I should render the disappointment of as little moment as possible, by the manner of announcing it, without however, putting any thing to hazard, by an indiscreet manifestation of unnecessary solicitude.

"The little which I supposed it requisite to say on this occasion, appeared to be very well received; and if any disagreeable impressions was left on the mind of Mr. Canning, it certainly was not visible. A feeling of regret was perhaps perceptible, and a hope was intimated that the time was not far distant when I should be enabled to do what at present was out of my power; but nothing occurred which could be construed into a symptom of impatience, jealousy, or dissatisfaction. There was undoubtedly no real ground for any thing of this sort; but it was, notwithstanding, quite possible that the importance which it had become a habit to attach to the arrival of the *Osage*, from circumstances principally accidental, might have produced a disposition to think otherwise.

"I thought it advisable to make use of this opportunity (though the topic was in many views more delicate than it had been) to suggest the propriety of yielding, as the moment was sufficiently favorable to such a course upon the subject of the late orders in council, of which I had seen nothing to change my original opinion. There was reason to apprehend however, that it might be worse than useless to press the suggestion, upon my own authority merely, while I could say nothing of the French decrees; and accordingly I forbore to do so.

"An idea has evidently gone forth since the *Osage* arrived, founded upon rumours of a doubtful description, that our relations with France have grown to be extremely precarious, and that we are consequently about to come to an understanding of a friendly kind with Great-Britain. It is not improbable that the government has, in some degree at least, adopted this idea.

"I have the honor to enclose a copy of a notification recently received from Mr. Canning of the blockade of Copenhagen, and the other ports in the Island of Zealand, which I have caused to be communicated in the usual manner to all our consuls and citizens.

"There being no particular inducement for detaining the *Osage*, the Lieut. Lewis, who will be charged with my letters, will leave town the day after to-morrow, and the ship will sail as soon after he reaches Falmouth as possible."

NEWPORT, DECEMBER 10.

Mr. RANDOLPH'S SPEECH.

In the House of Representatives of the United States on Wednesday the 30th ult. when the House had again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, upon the report of the select committee on our foreign relations, (published in the last Mercury,) Mr. JOHN RANDOLPH (Virg) delivered a spirited and animated speech, in which he went over the whole ground, and attacked the troops of the palace with great success.—He remarked that one fourth part of the time allotted by the constitution for the continuance of the session had already elapsed, and the house were merely debating on an abstract proposition, which whether adopted or rejected, was perfectly nugatory, and could not be rendered the basis of any measure. They were merely making speeches for the amusement of the gallery, the people of Washington, George-Town and the vicinity.

He inquired on whom that declaration contained in the first resolution was to operate. Was it upon the House themselves? Had their conduct been such heretofore, or was it now such as to render it necessary for them to swallow this dose for their own good? Was it for the people, to rouse their courage to the sticking place? Or was it for the belligerents of Europe, to be sent to General Armstrong and Mr. Pinckney to be administered to France and England, for the purpose of convincing them of our resolution and prowess. He thought it too late to produce such an effect upon them by such means. He regretted the introduction of this report, as it goes to establish the belief which has too long been entertained that words are all the means to be used for the vindication of our rights. To make an impression upon Europe, something more substantial must be resorted to. This mode of defence by words had been tried long enough.

He would not follow the example of gentlemen by recounting in detail the wrongs we had received and submit-

ted to from the great belligerents, and the little belligerents. He had no stomach for such reprisals. It was no pleasure to him to be repeating, like Shylock in the play, "On such a day you called me dog, and on such another day you spit upon my gabardine." He had no pleasure in reading the reports of committees made in this and in the other house of Congress, however finely they might be dressed in argument. He wished that the aggressors had more of the argument, and that we had less of the injury. As long as we would quietly submit to the insult and the injury, they would consent to let us have the best of the argument. He felt deep mortification and humiliation in this perpetual theme of wrongs, and injuries and insults, and our only means of repelling them words—words—words—correspondencies of ministers abroad—reports of committees at home. In this whole report there was not one word of substance. All was prologue, episode, and epilogue.—Still he did not mean to find fault with that particular report. It was pretty much after the fashion of the times—the old dish which had so often been served up, but not of quite so exquisite cookery as he had seen before.

It might perhaps be answered that though the resolution was nothing by itself, yet that taken in connection with the others, it had a meaning. He asserted that it meant nothing, or that it meant more than meets the eye or ear. If it has any meaning, it is a declaration of war. The resolutions taken together are inconsistent with each other. In one breath it is asserted that we cannot without a sacrifice of national honor, independence and the rest, submit to these edicts; in the next we declare that we will submit! It would be objected that a temporary suspension of commerce is not submission. But the suspension is not temporary—there is not a word in the statute book which limits the duration of this suspension. If an unlimited suspension of commerce, in compliance with the orders of foreign governments be not submission, he knew not in what submission could consist.

He said he had not the assurance to pronounce upon that floor that the embargo was a measure of resistance, when the government had officially declared to the government of Europe that it was no such thing, but merely an internal regulation. If not resistance it must be submission.—Mr. R. then went into an examination of some of Mr. Quincy's arguments, to prove that the pressure of the embargo is much greater in the eastern than in the southern States—he compared the distress occasioned by the embargo, with that produced by the excise law, when the father of his country was obliged to raise his arms to chastise his undutiful children, and concluded that the former is much more severe than the latter ever was, and consequently that the virtue and patriotism of the country are much greater at this time than they were at that period.

He next took a view of the origin of the present constitution—proved that it had its rise in a wish to make some general provision for the protection of commerce—that under it commerce rose and flourished beyond every thing that had been anticipated—and now, to the astonishment of every body, without any warning, the navigating section of the union, and that section which produces most of the articles of exportation, have united in destroying both!

He then adverted to the 3d resolution to make immediate provision for the more effectual defence of the country, and asked what was the plan of defence. He asked whether a man who felt himself insulted beyond all power of forbearance usually resolved upon providing more effectually for his defence by adding another bolt to his street door, another nail to the embargo. To increase the standing army he supposed would not be urged. The proposition to arm the militia, the appropriate means of defending such a country as this, had, in the slang of the day, received the *go by*. Nothing then remains but to build more gun boats, and the President had informed the House that he had not found it necessary to equip those which had been built. We had tried every cord and not one of them would vibrate. He was sorry to be under the necessity of speaking with freedom of the report, but was compelled to it from the disappointment which he had experienced. The house had asked of that committee bread and received a stone. As one of the gentlemen had said much of confining himself to the naked report—he would adopt the language—naked came this report into the house, and naked must it go out of the house, clothed with no measures, followed by no consequences. Mr. R. did not wish to destroy unanimity of resistance; but he wished to know in what that resistance was to consist. He saw nothing proposed that looked like resistance. He proceeded to account for the degradation of our national character from our tame submission to an invasion of our territory by Spain in 1805, and to every other aggression from that period to the present, when we are despised and trampled on by all nations, and concluded that this temporising special-mission policy will no longer do. Still we have nothing presented to us but embargo. The embargo is to be our sword and shield—war in disguise—a measure which would bring all Europe in general and England in particular, to our feet. We had been watching for the downfall of England till our own was near. After it had been urged in the house as a reason for adopting the embargo that it would coerce England, and in Europe that it was intended merely as an internal regulation, which government had offered to rescind, we are answered with contempt by one nation and with insult by the other. We have offered to take off the embargo in respect to each, provided they will revoke their edicts; and both have refused. Our present situation, Mr. R. said, reminded him of the story of Jack in the Tale of the Tub. We had hanged ourselves for spite, in hopes that they would cut us down—but to our utter disappointment they preferred letting us dangle in our garters.

Mr. R. concluded his speech by saying, that it was perfectly well known to him and other members of the house, that the embargo was not laid in consequence of the British orders in Council—they were not known at that time, and not a word was said of them in debate at the time of laying it. It was occasioned by a knowledge that the Berlin decree was to be executed in the fullest extent and by the British proclamation, calling home the British seamen.

From the New-York Evening Post of November 26.
FROM WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 23.
IMPORTANT.

"The die is cast.—The fate of the Commerce of our country is fixed.—The long expected Decree of the Committee on Foreign Affairs has been issued, and the two Houses, like the old Parliaments of France, must enregister it. A more one-sided production never has been seen.—Many things are asserted for facts which are not true. It is in the worst style of Talleyrand: and I have no doubt was delivered to the Chairman of the Committee ready 'cut and dried' from Madison's office. Campbell, we all know, has very little commercial knowledge. The report, you may rely, speaks the language of the Executive—and the Executive influence, in both houses of Congress is the Lord of the ascendancy. Be not deceived.—The Embargo will be continued indefinitely, and rendered ten times more obnoxious by new regulations. A *Non Intercourse* with England and France will be rigidly enacted. This has the outside show of impartiality; but there is not a back-woodman in Tennessee so ignorant as not to know, that France has no means of intercourse, and that her trade, comparatively speaking, has long since been annihilated.—Depend on it, the great object in these measures is, the injury and destruction of England; at the same time effecting the complete destruction of every vestige of American trade.

"The history of our country is pregnant of facts to prove, that a party, the most deadly hostile to commerce, has existed in the United States, for twenty years.—All our papers, and debates, and even Washington himself, have complained of the designs of this party; which owes its origin to the democratic-aristocracy of Virginia. The wisdom and firmness of the American people, for twelve years, kept this party down; and frustrated their plans. Alas, they then came into power; and we have seen, how eagerly they have watched, and fastened on any pretext, which has enabled them to execute their darling objects—the annihilation of the American carrying-trade; and the seclusion of the commercial community from the ocean. This Chinese, mud-turtle policy, was first only heard in whispers.—But the recent elections in favor of Madison; the strange proceedings of some of the democratic towns, on the subject of the Embargo; with the counter-memorials which have been sent on here; have emboldened them beyond all measure;—they now throw off the mask, and with Patriotism and National Independence on their tongues, aim the naked dagger at the vitals of the Commerce and Prosperity of the Country.—This they do too, at a time, when they know, that the policy of WASHINGTON, in 1796, would extricate our country from most of its embarrassments: and when too, a great field of enterprise still continues open to the American navigator; and which are as free from the influence of French decrees and British orders, as they were before they were issued. But a false spirit is the order of the day:—And mock-patriotism the watch word. In this situation of affairs, you will ask, what must the commercial portion of the community do? I answer, submit; bend the neck to the yoke, and bear the burthen with the best grace it can; at the same time recollecting, that it is what a part of the commercial interest deserves, for basely deserting the maxims and policy of WASHINGTON and ADAMS; and permitting a party, known to be hostile to commerce, to gain the superiority. Yes, submit you must—or you will be dragged into it; and kept in awe by a force as efficient as that which keeps the black slaves in Virginia in due subjection. You will have this to console you, that your submission will be called Patriotism. The Genius of Navigation is now bound to the stake; the pile is prepared, and you are now called upon, as you will be by the Report, to 'rally round' the stake, and like our red brethren of the desert to *pow wow* triumphantly at the sacrifice."

FROM A NEWPORT PAPER OF DECEMBER 2.
CONGRESS.

On Monday the 21st ult. the motion of the Hon. Mr. HILLHOUSE of Connecticut, for the repeal of all the Embargo Laws, was taken into consideration by the Senate.—Mr. HILLHOUSE and Mr. LLOYD of Massachusetts, delivered able speeches in favor of the repeal, and Mr. SMITH and Mr. POPE spoke against it. The same subject was debated on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, but no decision was had. It was to be resumed on Monday last; but no favourable result can be expected.

The following is the speech of the Hon. Mr. LLOYD, as given in the "National Intelligencer" of the 25th ult.

MR. LLOYD said, he considered the subject now under discussion, as one of the most important which had occurred since the adoption of the Constitution. He considered it as deeply implicating the commerce of our country—a commerce, which had afforded employment to nearly a million and a half of tonnage; which had afforded sustenance to many thousands of citizens; which had furnished to the government a great support; which disposed of an amount of exports equal to one hundred millions of dollars, an amount three times as great as was possessed by the greatest commercial nation in the world, at the commencement of the present century an amount of exports equal to that of Great-Britain within 15 years of this day—a commerce not to be trifled with, not to be offered up as the victim of fruitless experiment. No doubt it has been much harassed by the conduct of the two belligerents, but in a very different manner by each. Look at one contending as for universal dominion, the other as for her *natale solum*. One professes reluctance at measures which she takes in retaliation on her enemy; the other treats you cavalierly, undertakes to legislate for you, tells you she considers you at war with her enemy, arrests your property, and retains it till she knows whether you fervently echo submission to her mandates.—No doubt, Mr. L. said the conduct of the belligerents had caused the Embargo; but if it should be found that it was fraught with mischief to ourselves, and productive of no beneficial effects, it ought to be withdrawn.

Mr. L. said he considered the motion as a naked prohibition. Subsequent measures might be taken if this passed; and he trusted that gentlemen who advocated a repeal of the