

AMERICAN CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, January 4, 1813.
LEVY ARMY BILL.

The bill for raising 20,000 additional troops for one year being again called up.

Mr. Pitkin, (of Connecticut) after touching on a number of the topics of argument which have been reported, took it for granted, he said, that the Orders in Council being rescinded made no ingredient in the present contest. Indeed it seemed to be generally admitted by the gentlemen on the other side, that the whole matter for which we were encountering all the evils of war, was the principle that "the neutral flag protects all under it." The question then was, What advantage would America derive from the establishment of that principle? To him it appeared doubtful whether it would be any. All that could be imagined likely to accrue from it was the protection of our seamen; and on this he would candidly deliver his sentiments. The seamen who sailed under our flag, were, 1st, *Foreigners not naturalized*, 2d, *Foreigners naturalized*, 3d *Native citizens*. As to the first, it was not the interest of our native seamen that they should be employed at all. As competitors they drove them out of employ and lowered their wages. In 1805 there were 70,000 sailors belonging to the merchants' service of this country, of which 20,000 were foreigners—a very great proportion as competitors in another point of view to be regretted; because it was a most important consideration that in any emergency of national danger we should have our own native sailors to defend us. Now what was the consequence? A large portion of our sailors are not only foreigners, but subjects of the country with which we are at war. So far therefore the object of the war if it were obtained, would be injurious to this country.

Mr. P. said that every member in that House knew that the contest in which government had thought proper to engage us, arose out of a principle which had, time immemorial, been established in Europe, and held sacred among all civilized nations, that every country had a right to claim its own subjects and citizens. He wished to be understood while saying so, as not meaning to say that in the exercise of this claim, on the part of Great Britain there were not abuses—that was not to be disputed;—but he would aver that these disputes were greatly aggravated. It would be well then for gentlemen to ask their own hearts, whether the government of this country was not in a great measure accessory to those abuses. He alluded to the protections granted to seamen, which were so shamefully dealt with, that nothing was more universally understood than that the protections were no evidence of citizenship. And yet that was the intention of the law, which was passed in 1796 for that purpose; but being deficient in directing the evidence of the nature of the fact left it barely a provision that the seamen should get a certificate of his being a citizen, from the collector of the port he sailed from, without specifying the kind of proof without which the collector should not grant it. The consequence was that many men who had no pretence obtained them. It was known that some were got by foreigners three weeks after they arrived in this country; that certificates were actually made a subject of barter, as much as any other merchandize.

Last session a case was laid before the House of a foreigner, who at Philadelphia, had procured one by perjury; a thing known frequently to happen, but there being no law to punish for perjury, either in Pennsylvania or Columbia nothing could be done in it. What was more extraordinary, these certificates were sent abroad in vessels, and had even been bought in England.

One very singular circumstance was stated Mr. Pitkin, on such authority as he could vouch for. A capt. of an American ship in Bristol, in England, finding it impossible to man his vessel, no American sailors being at the time in port, was recommended to a kind of a broker in such articles, who undertook to match any number of men necessary to him, with American certificates of citizenship—He actually showed a drawer filled with them; and said that he would go among the sailors to find men; and did so match the men with descriptions, and the descriptions in his certificates with men that he put a crew on board of English seamen, who were tempted by the large sums offered them. But it did not end here; for the sailors on some account absenting themselves the fellow went to the press-gang, got them taken up, and obtained their return to the ship as American seamen. Ought not this subject, then to be examined into? Ought we not to confess the futility of it as a cause of national war when the evidence of the certificates of protection would not be held sufficient, even in a court of law? While the law professed to protect American seamen it injured them, the practice being the reverse of the law's intention. The House could not shut its eyes to this; unless it intended to make the country a harbor for foreign sailors, it ought to alter the law, and make them as effectual to the protection of our own real seamen as possible. Mr. P. confessed that the subject was difficult—it had occupied the attention of the first of Presidents—No remedy could be provided; but he never thought of war for it, though negotiation failed; nor is there any but a law that our own vessels shall be navigated by our own seamen, whether in peace or war. By our law the captain only is to be American, all the rest may be foreigners.—The evil we now feel is the consequence of our erroneous system, War, he said would never cure it—the legislature must cure it themselves. In all other countries a majority, at least of native seamen was requisite to constitute a national vessel. Louis XIV. who made the best standard of that regulation, ordained that two thirds should be French; after, in 1716, they went further and made it a law that every sailor should be French, but being found

injurious to merchants, the former regulation was restored. In England, the captain, all the officers, and three-fourths of the sailors must be British subjects; and yet we think the captain only enough. This is what brings such a multitude of foreigners into our service, to our native sailors' injury, and the disturbance of the peace of the country.

It was important to inquire who were to be under the flag we were to fight for? If that we are bound to protect, he would agree to expend the last shilling for it but otherwise not a cent. As to the foreigners not naturalized, what did the country owe to them?—Nothing. It had been the established principle of ages in Europe, that every country had, in war, a right to call its subjects to its aid.—Whether the principle was right or wrong Mr. Pitkin, would not enquire—but it was established, and sanctioned by all the able jurists. When the nations of Europe are at war with each other, America must come in contact with this principle, whether right or wrong in the abstract; and ought not to fight against it—nor was she bound to protect any foreign born person out of her territorial jurisdiction.—For want of due consideration some gentlemen might revolt at this old law, as not savouring sufficiently of the new code, but to silence objections Mr. P. stated that the now President of the United States had recognized it very lately as the established principle of this country. By a court-martial one Elijah Clarke was brought up, and as a spy condemned to suffer death. The commander suspended the execution of the sentence till the President's opinion was known. It turned out that Clarke was born in New-Jersey and had moved 18 months before into Canada, where he married, settled, and had his wife and property in the British dominions. Yet the President ordered him to be liberated, using on the occasion these words "said Clarke being considered as a citizen, unless arranged of treason, must be discharged." Yet he was condemned under the law, which enacts that every one not being a citizen, or owing allegiance to the United States, lurking about a camp must suffer as a spy. This man, though settled in British dominions, is still held by the laws as expounded by the chief magistrate to be a citizen.

The case of naturalized subjects of foreign countries, Mr. Pitkin observed, was a more delicate and difficult subject—and this was an evil induced by the facility of naturalization—no evil we did not experience till war brought it to our very doors. Fortunately very few of them were seamen. Only 1332 naturalized seamen in all, of which not one half now in service. And that a number surely would not be sufficient to implicate a nation in a mischievous war. To that class he would have the country fulfil its obligations—but what were these? Full protection on our shores in our territorial jurisdiction—but not when they put themselves in contact with precedent claims upon them.

As to the recognition of the rights of the neutral flag, it was attempted to be obtained by WASHINGTON—attempted by ADAMS—attempted by JEFFERSON—MONROE and PINKNEY were unable to effect it, even in Mr. Fox's administration, so favorable to America—No administration—nay the very opposition in England—all the friends of America—Mr. Baring himself declared that it was a point which, in the present state of the world, could not be yielded. Did gentlemen then really flatter themselves it could be done by war? Did they think it worth while to shed oceans of blood in such a contest? The result of the late elections in England showed what was to be expected, and what ought to be done. What did Mr. MUNROE say when he and Mr. PINKNEY were unable to accomplish it? After describing the felicitous situation of America, he goes on saying "I am strongly of opinion that such blessings ought not to be hazarded on such a question!" Is there any more cause now (asked Mr. Pitkin,) I am sure not; but rather less—for the impressments are much less numerous.

If then there was so little prospect of gaining the point, and if, when gained it would be so little beneficial, Mr. P. wished the House to consider how much on the other hand might and would be lost by the pursuit of it. Our commerce quite, our revenue annihilated or reduced to nothing—our cities laid in ashes—a debt accumulated of a size to sink us—and an endless train of taxes.

Mr. P. observed that before the restriction this country was second only to England in commerce and in carrying. In 1806 and 1807, our exports were greater than those of France ever were in her most flourishing period—with 30 millions of population, Russia had not quite, 30 millions of dollars, while we had 130 millions—equalling our exports that of England in 1792 and 1793.

In a whole century Great-Britain had not increased in as great a ratio in commerce as we had in 20 years only. But all this is lost by our present evil policy—so lost that our revenue has fallen from 17 millions a year to 2½, while our debt for two years is fifty millions, and that of the whole revolutionary war was but forty.

"For such a point at issue as this (said Mr. P.) are we to sacrifice all good past, present and to come? Are we to be entangled in the broils of Europe? It was madness and worse than madness to enter into the contest. Get out of it as soon and as whole as you can. But if you make those sacrifices for honor go through with it, and make Bonaparte do us justice! What, Sir, has he not impressed and imprisoned our citizens; plundered our commerce; robbed us of millions and hundreds of millions, and refused us the least satisfaction? Were not our ships most knavishly decoyed in by a treacherous invitation, and then confiscated under the Rambouillet decree, to the amount of 20 millions of dollars?—Has he yet made, or are you wild enough to hope that he ever will make any compensation?—

Has he not told you that he would compel you to be his ally or his enemy? If honor then be your object; be impartial to both, and do not let the nation be the open gull of his pretences and false promises, and pretended repeals of the Berlin and Milan Decrees, done to cheat you into a war with Great-Britain; but even now avowed by him not to be repealed!!—As to the talk of national rights, and laws of nations, continued Mr. P. they are but a tale of other times—when tyrants arise, there is no national right or law, but the will of the conqueror.—Did ALEXANDER, did CÆSAR did CHARLEMAGNE regard them? No: nor now, nor ever will they be regarded by conquerors or tyrants, but as power enforces them. Will gentlemen say they think it possible for us to restore them? Idle thought! 'Twere vain—'twere ridiculous to imagine it."

Here Mr. PITKIN observed, that the hour was so late, he was unwilling to trespass further on the House.—There were many other topics, however, which he wished to have touched upon, as to the mode of carrying on the war. To the regret of every man of judgment and to the joy of every hungry gentleman in the House, he sat down. Adjourned.

LIVERPOOL, N. S. JANUARY 20, 1813.

At six o'clock yesterday morning, three very heavy claps of thunder, preceded by vivid flashes of lightning, were heard here, apparently very near. They were followed by a heavy squall of wind, hail and rain, to which succeeded a calm, with rain, which continued until half-past eleven, A. M. when an uncommon bore, or influx of the sea, rising to the height of 5 feet, and ran up the harbor very swift, taking in its course the brig Parker & Sons, and prize brig Economy: they struck the prize schooner Polly, and stove in her stern—then the prize ship Factor and schooner New-Forge, and carried them a considerable distance up the river, where the whole at last grounded. The Liverpool Packet, and prize schooners Edward and Hiram, and Landlady were driven on an island in the river; brig Ocean broke her fastenings, and, not grounding before the ebbing of the tide, drifted out of the river: she was however followed by a boat with a cable and anchor, and fortunately brought up under the lee of the fort—A new ship, owned by Mr. Dewolf, broke adrift, but was saved by great exertions.

The tide continued its rapidity until it reached the Falls, where it rose to a great height and carried away Salmon Island Bridge.

Though the damage done is considerable, we have reason to be thankful it was not more: for all the vessels, wharves, and stores at first it was feared would be destroyed.—No lives were lost, though many were much in danger.

NOTICES.

ALL Persons having any demands against the Estate of the late WILLIAM GARDEN, Esq. of Fredericton, deceased, are requested to present the same duly attested within twelve calendar months from the date hereof; and all those indebted to said estate are desired to make immediate payment to

JANE GARDEN, Administratrix.
JAMES FRASER, Administrator.

Fredericton, 14th November, 1812.

ALL Persons having any just demands against the Estate of HENRY McKAY, late of the Parish of St. Mary's, York-County, deceased, are requested to send their accounts to the Subscriber, duly attested, within Twelve Months from the date hereof, and those indebted to said Estate, are desired to make immediate payment to

DANIEL BLACK, Administrator.

Hempstead, (Queen's-County) March 12, 1812.

ALL Persons having any just demands against the Estate of JAMES DAWSON, late of Dipper Harbour, Farmer, deceased, are requested to present the same duly attested, within Twelve Months from the date hereof; and those indebted to said Estate are desired to make immediate payment to

MARGARET DAWSON, Executrix.
JOHN FERGUSON, Executor.

Saint John, February 10, 1812.

ALL Persons having demands against the Estate of JAMES PLACE, late of Manguerville, deceased, are requested to present the same, duly attested, within Twelve Months from the date hereof, and those indebted to said Estate, are desired to make immediate payment to

JONATHAN HARDING, Administrator.

Manguerville, March 31, 1812.

ALL Persons having demands against the Estate of the late WILLIAM CHEW, of Fredericton, deceased, are requested to present the same to the Subscriber within twelve months from the date hereof, and those indebted to said Estate, are desired to make immediate payment to

DUNCAN McLEOD, Admr.

Fredericton, April 10, 1812.

ALL Persons having any just demands against the Estate of GEORGE HARTLEY, late of the Parish of Woodstock in the County of York, Farmer, deceased, are requested to exhibit their accounts to the Subscriber, duly attested, within Twelve Months from the date hereof; and those indebted to said Estate, are desired to make immediate payment to

ABIGAIL HARTLEY, Administratrix.

JAMES HARTLEY, Administrator.

Fredericton, 3d September, 1812.

FOR SALE

At JACOB S. MOIR'S Office,
An ALMANACK for the year 1813.
Monday, 18th January, 1813.