

Thursday, January 19.

EXTRA SESSION.

The house, according to the order of the day, resolved itself into committee of the whole house, on the bill to alter the time for the next meeting of Congress; Mr. Pitkin in the chair.

Several motions were made to strike out of the bill the words "Fourth Monday in May," but the committee finally rose and reported it without amendment.

After the Speaker resumed the Chair, Mr. D. R. Williams renewed the motion to strike out "fourth Monday in May." This produced considerable discussion. From observations which fell from gentlemen on the subject, it appeared that there were three views taken of the question. Messrs. Macon and D. R. Williams were against an extra session of Congress, conceiving that the embargo would eventually be effectual, and that no measures ought to be taken to weaken the opinion that the policy would be adhered to. Messrs. Smith, J. G. Jackson, Bacon, Burwell, G. W. Campbell, and others, were in favor of an extra session, on the grounds that if the European belligerents did not come to terms previous to the period designated in the bill, that it would be proper for Congress to meet and consult upon the propriety of repealing the embargo and of adopting more energetic means of resistance.

Mr. Quincy observed, that the house, in passing the embargo laws, had acted under a deception with regard to the motives of administration in recommending that measure; and if they passed this law, they would also act under a deception. He asked gentlemen to recollect the arguments made use of when the embargo law was passed.—One motive was, to save our property & seamen; another, that it was better than war; another, that it would straiten Great-Britain; another, that it would have a good effect upon the negotiation then pending; another, that it would aid Bonaparte in the establishment of the freedom of the seas; [Mr. Quincy was here called upon by Messrs. Smith and Eppes, to name the member who had used this argument, as they said they had never heard it.—He said he did not recollect; but if no such motive was entertained, he would withdraw it.] Another motive for laying the embargo, was, that they knew something must be done, and did not know what else to do; and another motive had been intimated, which was, that it would operate upon France. He contended that the true motive for laying the embargo, was coercion upon Great-Britain, and not precaution; and that it was the intention of administration to adhere to it at all hazards, until it should be effectual. So far from taking it off in May next, he believed it was intended to keep it on till next May twelvemonth; nor did he believe it was intended to do any thing else. And yet we had heard nothing else for the last two years but War, War, War. He did not wish to have the old women in the country frightened any longer. A letter from a British minister is taken up and scolded; but is this the way to defend the national rights? He did not believe the majority could be brought to a declaration of war; for it was a true maxim that a man who was really inclined to fight, generally said little about it but went at it at once. Upon what principle, he asked, had the army of 6000 men been raised? If he had not been greatly misinformed, except in some few instances, by mistake or the effect of great influence, no officer had been appointed to this army unless he was a political partizan of a certain class. [Mr. Love called him to order.]—Mr. Quincy said he was performing a great national duty;—his object was to show that this army never could have been intended to fight Great-Britain, or any other nation, or it never would have been officered in so detestable a manner. We talk of going to war with Britain; and yet we have but one frigate in commission, and refuse to equip the rest. But we shall go to Canada.—What for? to obtain possession of it? No; to make citizens of refugees? No; what then? to plunder; and we might depend upon it Great Britain would plunder us tenfold.—But it was said, if the nation was plunged into war, they would turn out the present majority, and put in the Federalists.—He believed the first part of this, but not the last. The course of changes in popular commotions was not from bad to good, but from bad to worse! This was the case in the French revolution. He contended that this bill was merely intended to keep the people quiet until after the spring elections and the ordinary sessions of legislatures.—The people would be told that the new Congress would take off the Embargo.—The power of taking it off lay with the President and twelve men; he wished to see it back in the hands of this house; yet some were insisting that they would not consent to keep on the embargo longer than next June; but this house had not the power to take it off; an unanimous vote of the house would not do it. He concluded by conjuring the house not to terminate this session without giving some intimation of a design to repeal this measure. Mr. Quincy spoke about an hour and a half.

To these imputations of Mr. Quincy, Mr. Eppes rejoined, as did Mr. J. G. Jackson, vindicating the friends of the embargo from his imputations of insincerity in their professions of a disposition to raise the embargo at an early day, and retorted upon Mr. Quincy his charge of deluding the people, inquiring for what purpose Mr. Quincy had made the speech he had uttered? Whether that was not intended to influence the minds of the citizens at the East?—A speech, said Mr. Eppes (in substance) which appears to be a very polished composition, and very well cut and dried for the purpose intended.

The house adjourned at a late hour without coming to any decision.

Friday, January 20.

The house took up the unfinished business of yesterday, the bill fixing the time for the meeting of Congress.

Mr. J. G. Jackson proceeded with the remarks which he commenced yesterday. He denied that the majority intended to keep on the embargo at all hazards. He said some of the declarations made by Mr. Quincy yesterday would in former times have been crowned by the cry of *Treason*. If any gentlemen of experience (said Mr. J.) would bring forward a proposition to address the President, and request him to institute an enquiry, into the source from which Mr. Canning's letter was first derived, and if it should appear to have come from the British minister, that he should be dismissed, I would cheerfully vote for it. He deprecated the charges made by Mr. Quincy against the executive. Mr. J. spoke about an hour.

When Mr. Jackson concluded, the question was taken on striking out the words "fourth Monday in May," and lost. The question was immediately taken on engrossing the bill for a third reading, and carried.

Mr. Macon rose in reply to Mr. Quincy's speech. He said the time of making that speech was worthy of notice. The legislature of Massachusetts would meet some time next week, just about the time the gentleman's speech would reach them. Did the gentleman think the legislature of that state were not sufficiently inflamed against the general government? or was he anxious to hasten the approach of his favorite crisis? The crisis alluded to could not be misunderstood—it was a *revolution*. He should deplore such a calamity; he would use his utmost endeavors to avert it; but if it should arrive, he was prepared to meet it, although it would be no common struggle. He admitted with the gentleman, that a change of rulers in popular commotions was always from bad to worse; but he warned the gentleman to remember, that those who fomented such commotions were generally the first victims to them.—He intreated the gentleman to reflect on the fate of the celebrated Philip D. Egalite, Duke of Orleans. He said if a dis-jointed confederacy should ever take place, it would be governed by a Viceroy appointed on the other side of the water.—Mr. B. then went on to defend the policy of the Embargo, and protested against the doctrines advanced by Mr. Quincy. He repeated that the embargo was not intended as a permanent measure, and pledged himself to bring forward a proposition to fix its termination which would satisfy all reasonable men. He was in favor of passing the bill immediately.

The bill was then ordered to be read a third time to-day. It was immediately read the third time, when the Speaker put the question, "Shall the bill pass?" The ayes and noes were ordered upon it.

Mr. Quincy rose to make some remarks on what had been said in reply to him. He maintained his former opinion, that the original motive of the administration in recommending the Embargo, was to coerce Great-Britain, to keep it on until it should be effectual, and to do nothing else. What had man (Mr. Q.) to get up and say that he could not suffer the cry of war to be continued, detraction, dastardly defamation, falsehood, Essex Junto, old Tory, Nero! He could not answer such arguments; and this was owing to a defect in his education: he had had existed in any part of the country. He insisted that Mr. Q.'s speech was merely intended for electioneering purposes. He said that as to the charge of Billingsgate, that gentleman's language partook more of it than any he had ever heard. Mr. C. concluded by declaring, that any assertion of being led to vote either for war or against it, as far as it applied to him, was a base slander and an unfounded falsehood.

Mr. Gardenier then spoke in support of the bill. But, he said the freedom of debate had been this day violated in the house.—A gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Quincy) had exercised a constitutional privilege in expressing his sentiments; and he had been answered in a manner calculated to wound his feeling as much as language could do it. He considered the purport of such language to be, either that a man must submit to disgrace or an appeal to cold iron. [He was twice called to order by Mr. Fisk; the Speaker decided each time that it was improper to refer to personal combat.] Mr. G. expressed his horror of the use of abusive language. He said that although the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Q.) came from a country where the term *cowardice* was not known; yet it was equally disgraceful to resort to a certain mode of resenting injuries practised in other states. He hoped irritating language would in future be dropped.

He contended that forging the bill through the house in that manner was a gross violation of the rights of the minority, and through them, of the nation; for there were constitutional objections to that bill which could not be answered, but there was no opportunity afforded to urge them. Insinuations had been thrown out that there was a party in this country in favor of disunion.—Nothing could be farther from the truth. If there were any hostility to this union, it rested with those who were breaking down every constitutional barrier.

He did believe there was a cloud impending in a certain part of our horizon. Let it be dispelled by abandoning the present system, which as a measure of coercion was totally discredited in that part of the country. Let the citizens be armed, and our little navy fitted out. These measures would be approved by the men called federalists. Mr. Q. concluded by expressing his conviction that the New-England states could not endure the embargo laws six months after May.

Mr. D. R. Williams said that the gentleman had himself insisted at the fire-side that it would be necessary to adopt the parliamentary rule of fixing on certain days for settling questions. He believed that the federal gentlemen had come to the house on the evening alluded to, perfectly prepared to sit out the question; most of them went home to dinner, while one gentleman had remained to call for the ayes and noes in order to delay the business until they got back; others had the good things of this life brought to the house. Mr. W. entered into a justification of the last embargo law; he said there were loop-holes in the former laws which required a remedy.

Mr. J. G. Jackson spoke in reply to Mr. Quincy. He entered into a defence of the measures pursued by the administration. He made some very severe remarks on what had fallen from Mr. Quincy. He said that although that gentleman professed to feel nothing but pity for him, he did not even feel pity for that gentleman—he felt nothing but contempt, sheer contempt! [Mr. Quincy rose to explain, but Mr. J. would not give way.]

Mr. G. W. Campbell said the remarks of the gentleman (Mr. Quincy) must either be the result of ignorance or wickedness.—If the gentleman had boldly expressed his sentiments without a veil and risked his character and his person upon them, he should give him some credit for his feelings, if he had any, of which he now entertained a doubt. [Mr. Quincy here rose to explain; but Mr. Campbell would not give way; he said he did not want to hear him.] Mr. C. said there could not be a doubt but that there was a party in this country connected with Great-Britain—and he mentioned the publication of Canning's letter as a proof of it. He thought it argued a degree of arrogance and insolence, little becoming the gentleman (Mr. Q.) to say that this house had acted under a deception for more than twelve months, without finding it out. As to the assertion that the majority had not the spirit to go to war, he presumed the gentleman (Mr. Q.) could try the spirit of any one of them at a proper opportunity. [Mr. Lyon inquired whether this kind of gasconade was in order—whether they were to be gasconaded out of the house? Mr. Q. hoped the gentleman would be allowed to proceed. A cry of "order" was reiterated in different parts of the house.] Mr. Campbell proceeded. He said all the want of spirit complained of was the refusal to fit out the frigates, and if the gentleman who had interrupted him (Mr. Lyon) had a little more of that spirit, he would not have done so. [Mr. L. said he had enough of it.] Mr. C. said there were some persons commending the Embargo, was to coerce Great-Britain, to keep it on until it should be effectual, and to do nothing else. What had man (Mr. Q.) to get up and say that he could not suffer the cry of war to be continued, detraction, dastardly defamation, falsehood, Essex Junto, old Tory, Nero! He could not answer such arguments; and this was owing to a defect in his education: he had had existed in any part of the country. He insisted that Mr. Q.'s speech was merely intended for electioneering purposes. He said that as to the charge of Billingsgate, that gentleman's language partook more of it than any he had ever heard. Mr. C. concluded by declaring, that any assertion of being led to vote either for war or against it, as far as it applied to him, was a base slander and an unfounded falsehood.

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Mr. Macon made some remarks in reply to Mr. Quincy. As to fitting out the frigates, he did not want them: he was willing to give them to any body that would take them; they were kept here at a great expense for no earthly purpose that he knew of.

Mr. Quincy said it had been and would be the pride of his life to maintain his honor among honorable men; and his honor was to be maintained by his conduct in public and private life. It was his fortune, perhaps some gentlemen might think it his misfortune, to represent a people not only brave, wise and intelligent, but what was still more, a religious people; it was well known that his character there was gone forever if he should, even successfully to himself, resort to a certain practice adopted in other parts of the country.—He would not, however, abandon his ground for fear of any of the relations of the executive, or any of their royal cousins. It was not his fault if men would not or could not understand his arguments; he was not to set them right while they were dressing their rag-babies and beating them about.—The insinuations which had been thrown out against him would not injure him in the country where he was known; and he much questioned if they would any where else.

The question was then taken on the passage of the bill, and it was carried in the affirmative, ayes 80 nays 26.

Mr. Eppes now rose, and said it was with surprise he had understood Mr. Quincy to allude to him, as a member of the executive family, as being governed by an extraneous influence. He had delivered his sentiments with independence and with freedom, and he would appeal to the house whether he had not done so as became a man.—After the gentleman had urged his religious principles as an apology for not fighting, he was astonished that he should make the allusions he had. When I was a boy, (said Mr. Eppes) I remember to have read a fable about an ass clothing himself in a lion's skin, and that he had been stripped of his covering and cudgelled for his pains.—

Mr. Quincy disclaimed any allusion to Mr. Eppes in the sense he took it. As to the words *royal cousins*, he had used them in a general sense.

Mr. Eppes said, as the gentleman disclaimed all allusion to him he was satisfied. Adjourned.

THE EXPOSITOR.

GENEVA:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1809.

EMBARGO.

From Washington, Feb. 3.

"The Resolution to repeal the embargo has been again under discussion this day, in committee of the whole house. The question was finally taken to fill the blank with the 4th of March, and carried by a great majority. To-morrow we shall debate the question to permit our merchantmen to arm."

Extract of a letter, dated

SATURDAY EVENING, Feb. 4.

Latest from Washington.—In the House of Representatives this day, Mr. Randolph moved, that on the repeal of the Embargo, "Merchant's vessels should be allowed to arm in self defence."—He observed this would be a proper substitute, and he did not believe that it would produce war with England. It was debated some time, when the committee of the whole rose, reported progress, and had leave to sit again. Mr. Dutton then introduced a resolution to this effect:—"that the first capture made by either of the belligerents, in consequence of the Decrees and Orders in Council, should be considered ample cause of WAR, and the President be directed to withdraw our Minister forthwith," which was carried."

A Meeting of Federal Delegates from the several counties in the Western District, was held in the town of Onondaga, the 26th ult. at which the following gentlemen were nominated as candidates for Senators from said District, viz. JONAS PLATT, of Onondaga county; AMOS HALL, of Ontario county, and SETH PHELPS, of Cayuga county.

At a Meeting of Republican Delegates, held in Canandaigua, the 31st ult. Colonel PHILETUS SWIFT was nominated to be supported as Senator of the Western District from the county of Ontario.

The President has transmitted to Congress a letter recently received from Mr. Pinkney, covering one to him from Mr. Canning, and his reply. These form a sequel to the Letters which are concluded in the Expositor of this day.

The Senate of the United States on Thursday passed the Fortification bill, with an amendment for erecting a fortification in Vermont, near the outlet of Lake Champlain, for the defence of the Canadian frontier at the head of the River Sorel; and sent it to the House of Representatives for concurrence. 165,000 dollars is appropriated for New-York.—*Aurora*.

The Senate of the U. S. has confirmed the appointment of Col. Duane—21 to 10.

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