

OTSEGO HERALD.

Historic Truth our HERALD shall proclaim..... The Law our guide, the Public Good our aim.

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Chalia.



THE PAMISHED MOTHER.

Loud, loud blows the wind on the moor,
And chill is my path through the snow;
An outcast, unfriended and poor,
O'er the face of the wide world I go.

Hush, hush, my sweet babe, for thy cry
Is more than my anguish can bear;
O God! with thy merciful eye,
Not look on thy frantic despair!

At the door of the rich man I knock'd,
For plenty was written thereon;
But the rich man my poverty mock'd,
And scornfully bid me be gone.

The post-boys witness'd my grief,
And he told me he pitied my sigh;
But I spurn'd at his proffer'd relief,
For rags was the plume of his eye.

My steps by a barquet-house pass'd,
Where puerils enter'd joyous and free;
I smother'd in the wintery blast
But there was no entrance for me.

Then the squire's mansion I pass'd,
Most land my little one roam;
But the squire's momentary cold,
Shall we both reach a fair quiet home.

Cease, babe, thy foreboding so wild;
There I creep to this half-frozen hearth;
And now will the mother and child
Lie down on the deep snow to rest.

Political.

From the Democratic Press.

AN EXAMINATION OF THE
CONDUCT OF G. BRITAIN,
Respecting Neutrals, and the peace of
Amiens, in 1803, and before the French
Berlin decree, in 1806.

No. IV.

The motives which occasioned this examination, are the most powerful, and, it is trusted, the most justifiable, which can influence the mind of an individual acting without any concert, and writing without the least invitation, from public or private men.

A new, and, it is believed, a generous prince, has assumed the government of a great nation, from which through the long course of nineteen years, with little intermission, the neutral states have sustained that variety of wrongs and injuries which are stated in the first and second series of these publications. It may please divine providence to influence the mind of the regent of Great Britain to that happy course of wisdom and virtue which shall decrease the enmities and increase the friendships of his interesting country, and which may eradicate its internal evils and successfully defend it from external ills.— Voluntary justice to all those, at home and abroad, who are justly dissatisfied, will best promote the strength and energy of the British kingdom.

It has already pleased divine providence to render manifest to the emperor of France the real and substantial impartiality of our public councils, and the genuine neutrality of our deportment.— The beneficial consequences to that great country and to ourselves are already evident.— The superior virtues twice test mankind. Justice to us upon France substantial, while it leaves to this

country equal and rightful advantages.

The eminent body in the U. States which holds, under providence, in high responsibility, the solemn power to declare war, has not forgotten the accompanying duty and opportunity to confer peace. Nor has our national chief omitted the employment of the means, in any wise affecting those great concerns of our country and of Europe, which the constitution and the laws have placed in his hands. The executive measures have gone to the utmost extent of executive authority.

To a country impressed with convictions and feelings like these; awake to the happiness of our fellow-men of every nation, but not of course regardless of its own prosperity, the condition and prospects of the civilized world, are subjects of unceasing attention, and we accept with pride.

Extraordinary as may have been at any crisis, the actual situation of the United States, during the several wars, which have arisen from the French revolutions, their present condition, in relation to G. Britain, is indeed new; and, according to our well considered ideas of prudence and justice, was not to have been reasonably expected.

It is said, and in a manner entitled to full credit, by persons of standing in Europe and America, that the British ministers on one or both sides of the Atlantic, have announced an intention to adopt measures to be denominated "retaliations," against the U. States. The execution of our law of the last March, is said to be the cause. It is supposed that the British government has advanced to ours, an allegation that France has not adopted a repeal of the Berlin and Milan decrees sufficiently extensive to satisfy them; or that France has not completely rescinded those decrees; and that in one or the other view, our law of May, 1810, cannot be in force against Great Britain, without producing from them such "retaliatory" measures, as have been generally mentioned.

It appears right, to consider this subject in its whole extent of fact, of equity, and of law; from its earliest events to the present time. As a well intended contribution of a mere individual, the former and present series of these papers, from No. 1, to No. 125 in the pamphlet copy, and from No. 1, to No. 4, in the recent gazettes, are respectfully submitted.— The end of the first series was to show that G. Britain, in the war which began on the 1st of February, 1793, and which was ended at Amiens, on the 10th of October, 1801, did not in reality, receive such anterior injuries from France, through neutral commerce, navigation and persons, as to justify in fact, in reason or in law, measures of "retaliation" against

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France; nor any measures, under the name or of the character, nature or quality of retaliation, which might be designed or might tend directly to injure the U. States. The end of this second series is further to show, that the government of G. Britain, by the renewal of the former grounds of just complaint, and by various new and distinct aggressions on neutral navigation, trade, and people, subsequent to the breach of the peace of Amiens, in 1803, and actually prior to the French Berlin decree of November, 1806, had given to us abundant cause for a just war; and had laid a reasonable and legitimate foundation for several various acts of retaliation by the government of France upon the commerce, the property, and the people of G. Britain. It is true that this evident and strong right of France against Britain gave no right whatever to the French against us. But as France derived no right against us, from her own right fully to retaliate on G. Britain; so G. Britain could not derive any right from the correct or incorrect retaliations of France upon her, to injure us by pretended retaliations upon France.

We have seen that thirteen several acts of G. Britain; various proceedings of her admiralty courts; the odious and dangerous enormity of recruiting her naval forces, by the illegal imprisonment of neutrals, with some unlawful and offensive British conduct, as to capturing Frenchmen, not military, in neutral ships; actually bro't on the Berlin decree. It was so avowed, and (appears to have been, in most of all its sections connected with "public law") a retaliatory operation. As to its sections not connected with public law, or the law of nations, our act of congress gives to the President of the U. States no power whatever. Nor has the presidency any power or duty concerning these, derived from the constitution.

The interests of our country surely do not demand that we should endeavor to procure the admission of British produce or manufactures into foreign markets, which will receive our own produce and manufactures. Nor can Great Britain expect such endeavors from us, since she excludes from her own ports, colonial and European, all our manufactures and many of the productions of our soil and fisheries. It might prove offensive in us to urge France to alter her independent municipal laws against the trade and manufactures of her enemy, G. Britain. It would be manifestly a fruitless request of our president, were he to apply to France. It cannot be expected, that the French government would consider it, with some reasonable jealousy of us, as a mere apology on the part of G. Britain for her continuing the May and November orders in council, in force against neutrals, and throwing the odium entirely upon France

It is an unprecedented requisition of the British adversary belligerent, made to the neutrals, that they, after redress to themselves, should begin a commercial war upon France, with a view to coerce her to receive the manufactures and produce of that adversary belligerent. It would involve the plain duty of procuring G. Britain to receive the like productions of the soil and industry of France, of Holland, of the hostile parts of Germany, Italy and Denmark; and above all, of our own country. We should, in fact, inconsistently throw ourselves into the very situation, we have so much and so justly reprobated, in the case of G. Britain—that of attempting to coerce independent sovereigns, to modify and pursue their commerce at our will, and according to our views. Indeed it would be worse, for it would give to the world an undeniable evidence of a British influence (of a coercive character) on our national councils.

It has been long considered that Great Britain has intended to make her king in council despotic over the trade of neutral friends, and belligerent allies, for the purpose of modifying the commerce of the states of Europe and of their colonies, so as to subserve her commercial interests and her military operations. The British parliament have openly lent their aid, in the form of actual and implied indemnities to the ministers and advisers of the crown, and in the monstrous shape of retrospective statutes, confirming the taxation of neutrals, by their king, on the high seas.— The courts of admiralty, metropolitan and colonial, and the court of appeals, have become willing auxiliaries, by receiving and avowedly obeying orders, rules and regulations, from their municipal council, manifestly deviating from "the public law" of the civilized world. Nay, they have affected to treat, with the most severe penal and destructive regimen of the law of the belligerent nations, the innocent, the peaceful and the rightful commerce of neutrals, passing from one port in amity with another, upon a presumed meaning of the crown in the orders in council, when the true and plain meaning of the words of those orders entitled the neutral to a release with costs and damages. In proof of this we have shown that various districts of Denmark and Germany, and the free cities of Hamburg and Bremen, in unbroken amity and peace with G. Britain, with a preposterous parade of naval arrangement, have been affected to be held in a state of blockade; and the innocent and rightful entry into those places, has been pretended to be made a ground of legal condemnation, under the text of an order expressly directing and contemplating their judicial treatment according to the law of nations. These gross and scandalous opera-

tions have produced the utmost injustice and injury to the trade of our country, by the British belligerent; and we trust, that we have shown, in the nineteen numbers of the two series, that they have likewise, actually brought on a variety of great and similar evils from the opposite belligerent.

Determined, at length, to affect, by some considerable restrictive measures, that belligerent power, (which ever it might prove) which should continue lawlessly to waste our substance on the high seas, to arrest our mariners and to destroy our commerce, the congress of the U. States (after various monitory statutes and proceedings) passed our operative law of the 1st May, 1810, in a spirit and in terms of perfect impartiality.

France, by the repeal of those parts of her decrees, which violated our neutral rights, has enlisted herself, on that law, to the same amity and commerce with our country, as Russia, Sweden, Austria, Portugal, Turkey, Morocco, and China, &c. to no more. G. Britain, tho' we have proved her to have begun first, in both wars, may entitle herself to the same, but she refuses to repeal her orders in council.— Our restrictions, of mere course, remain in operation, with respect to her, but it is solely for want of that easy and dutiful repeal. G. Britain, with a destitution of reason, that has shocked the heart & understanding, forgetting her departures from the usages of war among civilized belligerents, and her known aggressions on the property of neutrals, (when met by the other belligerent with substantial retaliations) always affected to treat those retaliations as original aggressions, and pretended, with an astonishing countenance, to possess, herself, the right to retaliation on her enemy! And now, when America, preferring to try first her present commercial remedies, has after nineteen years of enormous wrongs, held this ardent monopolist in a state of exclusion from a portion of her trade, (terminable by herself) Great Britain, wonderfully outdoing all her former extravagance, pretends to a right to retaliate the mild arrangements of the U. States! We, it is avowed, must compel France and her numerous allies to open their ports to their British adversaries, or G. B. already little, if at all, short of hostility in her captures, more than hostile in her imprisonments, and wanting in the illegality of her executive operations and judicial proceedings, signifies her intention to retaliate our measures! Deprived, by her conduct, of much of our rightful commerce, it is avowed, that we shall be, under pretence of retaliation, deprived of more, if we do not repeal our independent municipal acts, or control the municipal acts of France and her allies!

It is no part whatever of the design of this examination