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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1866

From the NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

REMARKS

On the measures of the last session of Congress. THE events of the last session of Congress, connected with the circumstances accompanying them, are too important not to merit the general attention of the people.

Professing ourselves to be the friends of truth, and of truth only, willing to support her cause by all honorable means, and determined to support no other cause, no apology need be offered for occupying a part of our columns with those plain statements of facts, and the natural inferences deducible from them, which we believe will be of use to enlighten subjects wrapped in uncommon obscurity, and to insure that sober conviction of mind which reposes in confident security on the results to which it is led by a full investigation.

Some apology may, perhaps, be due for the silence which, under existing circumstances, we have for some time maintained. We have not been insensible to the duties of a print at the centre of the union. But such has been the extreme pressure of other duties, and particularly that of reporting the proceedings of Congress (which of itself affords full occupation for one person) that we have felt a total inability, from a want of time, to submit any original matter to our readers worthy of their attention.

In the remarks we shall offer, we promise our readers to maintain the same temperance which has invariably characterized our columns. We shall abstain from all personal remarks, we shall state facts as we believe them to exist; and if, from the obscurity attendant on some of the transactions, we are involved in any incorrectness, we shall, on its exposure, be the first to acknowledge it.

It is unnecessary, we trust, for us to say that on political subjects we think, as we ever have thought; and that we have not forfeited our respect and veneration for those republican principles which we imbibed at an early period of life. It may, however, be necessary to premise, in order that the object of our remarks may be fully understood, that our confidence in the virtue and talents, the motives and measures of those who administer our national concerns, is unshaken; to declare that recent events, so far from impairing, have strengthened that confidence, by furnishing us with new and additional evidence that the great end of the administration is the public good, and the means used by them for accomplishing this result such as prudence, wisdom and true republican policy recommend.

The most prominent measures respect our foreign relations. On these, therefore, we shall bestow the first attention. These measures principally respect Spain and Great Britain.

Those relative to Spain are involved in some obscurity. We know the measures taken; but we do not know distinctly the reasons on which they were founded, or the arguments urged against them, as the discussions relative to them were conducted with closed doors, and as several important documents are still reserved from the public eye. The want of information thus important should inspire us with diffidence in our opinions. It should, however, at the same time not be lost sight of that the negotiation for the purchase of the Floridas, the measure ultimately adopted, did not receive the sanction of the House of Representatives until several weeks had elapsed after the submission of the proposition, and until it had been fully discussed; until ample time had been allowed for its elucidation in every aspect in which it could be presented. Having too received a strenuous opposition, it is but fair to infer that the judgments of the representatives were maturely formed on an abundant stock of materials. When this circumstance is considered, in connection with the fact that the measure was sanctioned by a

majority of 22 members of the House of Representatives, and by a large majority of the Senate, we have strong presumptive proofs that, inasmuch as it was approved by those who were necessarily the best informed, who are to this moment better informed on this subject than their constituents, and who feel the full weight of responsibility, it is, all things considered, the best measure which could have been adopted.

Viewed as an abstract question the possession of the Floridas must be allowed on all hands to be of infinite importance to the United States. The view taken of this subject by a committee of the House of Representatives, so long ago as January 1803, has been justly pronounced conclusive. The time when, and the circumstances under which this report was made, entitle it to peculiar notice.

Our readers will recollect that at the period referred to, our right of deposit at New-Orleans was invaded, attended by various symptoms of hostility on the part of Spain. At the session immediately ensuing the occurrence of this event, the President submitted a message to the House of Representatives on the subject. From the deliberations of that body emanated this report, which we subjoin at full length.

The committee, to whom was referred a resolution proposing an appropriation of two millions of dollars, in addition to the sum usually appropriated for the purposes of intercourse between the United States and foreign nations, submit the following:

REPORT:

The object of this resolution is to enable the executive to commence, with more effect, a negotiation with the French and Spanish governments relative to the purchase from them of the island of New Orleans, and the provinces of East and West Florida. This object is deemed highly important and has received the attentive consideration of the committee. The free and unmolested navigation of the river Mississippi, is a point to which the attention of the general government has been directed, ever since the peace of 1783, by which our independence as a nation was finally acknowledged. The immense tract of country owned by the United States, which lies immediately on the Mississippi, or communicates with it by means of large navigable rivers rising within our boundaries, renders its free navigation an object, not only of inestimable advantage, but of the very first necessity. The Mississippi forms the western boundary of the United States from its source to the 31st degree of North latitude, and empties itself into the Gulf of Mexico about the 29th degree of north latitude. It furnishes the only outlet through which the produce of the Indiana territory, of the states of Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee, and of the western parts of Pennsylvania and Virginia, and a portion of the Mississippi territory, can be transported to a foreign market or to the ports of the Atlantic states. From the 31st degree of north latitude which is the southern boundary of the United States, to the mouth of the river, the territory on each side has heretofore been in possession of the Spanish government; the province of Louisiana lying to the west, and those of East Florida, with the island of New Orleans, to the east. Although the United States have insisted on an uncontrollable right to pass up and down the river, from its source to the sea, yet this right, if admitted in its most ample latitude, will not secure to them the full advantages of navigation. The strength and rapidity of the current of the Mississippi are known to render its ascent so extremely difficult, that few vessels of burthen have attempted to go as far as our boundary. This circumstance obliges the citizens of the western country to carry their produce down the river in boats, from which it is put on board of ships capable of sustaining a sea voyage. It follows, therefore, that to enjoy the full benefits of navigation, some place should be fixed which sea vessels can approach without great inconvenience, where the American produce may be deposited until it is again shipped to be carried abroad. This great point was secured to us in the year 1795 by the Spanish government, who agreed in the treaty of San Lorenzo el Real, that Americans should have the right of deposit at New Orleans. This right has been used from that time till a late period; but the conduct of the Intendant at that place, shews how liable the advantageous navigation of the river is to interruption, and strongly points out the impolicy of relying on a foreign nation for benefits which our citizens have a right to expect should be secured to them by their own government. It is hoped that the port of New Orleans may again be opened, before any very material injuries arise; but should this be the case, or if as the treaty provides, a new place of deposit should be assigned, the late occurrence shews the uncertainty of its continuance. Experience proves that the caprice or the interested views of a single officer, may perpetually subject us to the alternative of submitting to injury, or of resorting to war.

The late violation of our treaty with Spain necessarily leads to the enquiry how far the western country may be affected in other points, not connected with New Orleans. The Mississippi territory extends from the confines of Georgia to the river Mississippi, and from the 31st

to the 31st degree of north latitude. It is estimated to contain more than fifty millions of acres, and from its numerous advantages must one day or other possess an immense population. The variety, richness and abundance of its productions, hold out to settlers the strongest inducements to resort thither, and the United States may safely calculate on drawing a considerable revenue from the sale of lands in this, as well as in other quarters of the western country. The value of these, however, may be diminished or increased, and the sale impeded or advanced by the impression made on the public mind, by shutting the port of New Orleans, and by eventual measures which may be adopted to guard against similar injuries.

West Florida is bounded on the north by the Mississippi territory, from which it is separated by no natural boundary; on the east by the river Apalachicola which divides it from East Florida; on the west by the river Mississippi, and on the south by the Gulf of Mexico. The Mississippi territory is intersected by many large and valuable rivers which rise within its own boundaries, and meander through it in a general direction from north to south, but empty themselves into the Gulf of Mexico through the province of West Florida. In fact with the exception of that part of the territory, which lies immediately on the Mississippi, the whole must depend on the Mobile and the Apalachicola, with their numerous branches, and on some other rivers of inferior note, for the means of sending its produce to market, and of returning to itself such foreign supplies, as the necessities or convenience of its inhabitants may require. In these rivers too, the eastern parts of the state of Tennessee are deeply interested, as some of the great branches of the Mobile approach very near to some of those branches of the Tennessee river, which lie above the great muske shoals. Even if it should prove difficult to connect them, yet the land carriage will be shorter, and the route to the sea more direct, than the river Tennessee furnishes. These rivers possess likewise an advantage which is denied to the Mississippi. As their source is not in the mountains, and their course is thro' a level country, their currents are gentle and the tide flows considerably above air boundary. This circumstance together with the depth of water which many of them afford, render them accessible to sea-vessels; and ships of two hundred tons burthen may ascend for several hundred miles in the heart of the Mississippi territory. These rivers, however, which run almost exclusively within our own limits, and which it would seem as if nature had intended for our own benefit, we must be indebted to others for the beneficial use of, so long as the province of West Florida shall continue in the possession of a foreign nation. If the province of West Florida were of itself an independent empire, it would be the interest of its government to promote the freedom of trade, by laying open the mouth of the rivers to all nations, this having been the policy of those powers who possess the mouths of the Rhine, the Danube, the Po and the Tagus, with some others. But the system of colonization, which has always heretofore prevailed, proves, that the mother country is ever anxious to engross to itself the trade of its colonies, and affords us every reason to apprehend that Spain will not readily admit us to pass through her territory to carry on a trade either with each other or with foreign nations. This right we may insist on, and perhaps it may be conceded to us; but it is possible that it may be denied. At all events it may prove the source of endless disagreement and perpetual hostility.

In this respect East Florida may not perhaps be so important, but its acquisition is nevertheless deemed desirable. From its junction with the state of Georgia at the river St. Mary's, it stretches nearly four hundred miles into the sea, forming a large peninsula, and has some very fine harbours. The southern point, cape Florida, is not more than one hundred miles distant from the Havana, and the possession of it may be beneficial to us in relation to our trade with the West Indies. It would likewise make our whole territory compact, would add considerably to our sea coast, and by giving us the Gulf of Mexico for our southern boundary, would render us less liable to attack, in what is now deemed the most vulnerable part of the union.

From the foregoing view of facts, it must be seen that the possession of New Orleans and the Floridas will not only be required for the convenience of the United States, but will be demanded by their most imperious necessities. The Mississippi and its branches, with those other rivers above referred to, drain an extent of country not less perhaps than one half of our whole territory, containing at this time one eighth of our population, and progressing with a rapidity beyond the experience of any former time, or of any other nation. The Floridas and New Orleans command the only outlets to the sea, and our best interests require that we should get possession of them. This requisition however, arises not from a disposition to increase our territory; for neither the Floridas nor New Orleans, offer any other inducements than their mere geographical relation to the U. States. But if we look forward to the free use of the Mississippi, the Mobile, the Apalachicola and the other rivers of the west, by ourselves and our posterity, New Orleans and the Floridas must become a part of the United States either by purchase or by conquest.

The great question then which presents itself is, shall we at this time lay the foundation for future peace, by offering a fair and equivalent consideration; or shall we hereafter incur the hazards and the horrors of war?—The government of the United States is differently orga-

nized from any other in the world. Its object is the happiness of man: its policy and its interest, to pursue rightly right means. War is the great scourge of the human race, and should never be resorted to but in cases of the most imperious necessity. A wise government will avoid it, when its views can be attained by peaceful measures. Princes fight for glory, and the blood and treasure of their subjects is the price they pay. In all nations the people bear the burthen of war, and in the United States, the people rule. Their representatives are the guardians of their rights, and it is the duty of those representatives to provide against any event, which may, even at a distant day, involve the interests and the happiness of the nation. We may indeed have our rights restored to us by treaty, but there is a want of fortitude in applying temporary remedies to permanent evils; thereby imposing on our posterity a burthen which we ourselves ought to bear. If the purchase can be made, we ought not to hesitate. If the attempt should fail, we shall have discharged an important duty. War may be the result; but the American nation, satisfied with our conduct, will be animated by one soul, and will unite all its energies in the contest. Foreign powers will be convinced that it is not a war of aggrandisement on our part and will therefore feel no unreasonable jealousies towards us. We shall have proved that our object was justice; it will be seen that our propositions were fair; and it will be acknowledged that our cause is honorable. Should alliances be necessary they may be advantageously formed. We shall have merited and shall therefore possess general confidence. Our measures will stand justified not only to ourselves and our country, but to the world.

In another point of view, perhaps, it would be preferable to make the purchase, as it is believed that a smaller sum would be required for this object, than would necessarily be expended, if we should attempt to take possession by force; the expenses of a war being indeed almost incalculable. The committee have no information before them, to ascertain the amount for which the purchase can be made, but it is hoped, that with the assistance of two millions of dollars in hand, this will not be unreasonable. A similar course was pursued for the purpose of setting our differences with the regency of Algiers, by an appropriation of one million of dollars prior to the commencement of the negotiation, and we have since experienced its beneficial effects.

Under these impressions therefore the committee recommend the adoption of the resolution referred to them in the following words, viz.

Resolved, That a sum of two millions of dollars in addition to the provision heretofore made, be appropriated to defray any expenses which may be incurred in relation to the intercourse between the United States and foreign nations; to be paid out of any money that may be in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, and to be applied under the direction of the president of the United States; who if necessary is hereby authorized to borrow the same or any part thereof, an account whereof, as soon as may be, shall be laid before Congress. (To be continued.)

NEW-ORLEANS March 26. Spirit of the Times.

We are indebted to the politeness of an esteemed friend, for a copy of the following spirited and patriotic resolutions. We understand that they have been entered into, in the To-nagby and Alabama settlements in consequence of the Spanish order for shutting up the river Mobile. They were agreed to by all who saw them, and were expected to be generally adopted.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI TERRITORY, MARCH 14 1866.

Whereas, the officers of his catholic majesty at Mobile, have by an unprecedented and arbitrary regulation inculcated all direct commercial intercourse between this country and New-Orleans, have, in palpable violation of the treaty between the king of Spain and the U. S. stopped and detained vessels bound from New-Orleans to the port of Fort Stoddard, and absolutely prohibited their proceeding to the place of their destination, and have in so doing prevented our receiving these supplies which are necessary for our comfortable subsistence. We whose names are hereunto subscribed, have mutually covenanted, and do solemnly bind ourselves one to another, and to all the people of the U. S.—

That we will not sell or in any manner furnish to any of the subjects of his catholic majesty, any corn, pork, beef, or other provisions, whilst the said arbitrary regulations and restrictions are continued in force.

That we will not buy any merchandise or other articles of any subjects of the king of Spain, or which we have reason to believe have been purchased at or brought from the town of Mobile. That we shall regard any man who holds any commercial intercourse with the subjects of the king of Spain, as indifferent to the welfare of the good people of Washington county, and as an enemy of his country. And we moreover hereby call upon our fellow citizens seriously to reflect, whether after the late open manifestation of hostility on the part of the agents and subjects of the king of Spain, any one owing allegiance to the American government, will not be guilty of a high crime in offering them aid and comfort, and justly expose himself to all the pains and penalties of high treason against the United States.

Mrs. Lee & Mrs. Spalding, No. 1, Sharp-street, Baltimore, HAS just received a large and elegant assortment of

MILENARY, Among which are, Grape Bonnets, split straw & Leghorn Dittos, and Hats, where town and country merchants may be supplied on the shortest notice and the most reasonable terms. April 21

WANTED

IN a genteel family—a Young Woman who will undertake the care of children, and occasionally sew—She must produce good recommendations. Apply at this office. April 20

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1866

The Criterion, Drinkwater, hence, has arrived at Boston. The ship Union, Porter, of this port has arrived at Montevideo, from Belfast.

Arrived at the City of Washington on Saturday last, from New Orleans, the United States brig Franklin, in which had been sent, sixteen twenty-four pound cannon, for the eight gun boats, built on the western waters. Other gun boats, it is said, have been ordered to New Orleans, and Lake Ponchartrain.

POSTSCRIPT.—Just as this paper was put to press, ten cart-loads of provisions, which had been procured in this city for the British squadron, now blockading our harbor, and which had been arrested on the way to the ships, and brought back to town, were conveyed to the Almshouse, amidst the loud huzzas of the multitude. A. Y. Com. Adv.

INTERMENTS

In the burying grounds of the city and precincts of Baltimore, during the week ending on Monday morning at sunrise:

Table with 2 columns: Disease/Category and Number. Includes Consumption (4), Cholera (2), Fits (2), Convulsions (1), Drowned (1), Dysentery (1), Child bed (1), Old age (1), Sudden death (1), Dropsy (1), Worms (1), Cholera (1), Adults (11), Children (6), Total (17).

Mr. Pechin, SOME remarks which appeared in a periodic print, called the COMPANION, on Saturday last, concerning the performance of a player here, who is said to be a man of much personal worth, have caused the following strictures:

If the person be unworthy, it does not follow that the mind should be weak—the utterance be hesitating, the usual retarding need not necessarily be defective. If the gesticulations be not those of Pegasus, the attitude might not be such as to offend; and, measuring the capacity by the will, Mr. Robbins ought always to pass without public censure, even if his performance do not uniformly give private satisfaction.

Whether this gentleman has mistaken his present, for his former walks, in which the citizens of Baltimore have so often borne towards him such high testimonials of praise, is one thing—how far the ill-natured observations of criticism should injure him in his capacity of a player, another.—We may, however, assert that, if report be true, Mr. R. would not suffer by comparison with Mr. F. in those qualities for which we are all indebted to nature—nor in others for which we depend more immediately on our own industry.

The remarks of F. appear to be ill-timed—the criticisms unchaste—and the cause for publication un-called for—at any rate, let it be remembered, that it is always easier to find fault, than to correct error—and to discover defects, than to point out rules for their reform.

SPECTATOR.

The Richmond Enquirer of the 25th inst says, "We understand from a member of congress, who arrived in town last evening, that congress adjourned late on Monday night. Dispatches had just been received from Mr. Munroe, stating that he had had an interview with Mr. Fox, who expressed the greatest anxiety to adjust all our differences. In consequence of these dispatches, Mr. William Pinkney of Maryland, had been nominated minister to London, and warmly approved by the senate on Monday night."

We have learned that, among the documents sent to congress by Ogden and others, there was a copy of a presentment made by the grand jury of the district court U. States against the judge of that court, Mr. Talmadge: we saw in the federal papers, hints to the effect that such presentment had been made against the judge for unconstitutional and tyrannical conduct towards Messrs Ogden and Smith, but until now doubted their correctness. As we never were the friends of court tyranny or law tyranny, we hope, if such was practised, that it may be punished—"equal and exact justice to all men, of whatever sect or persuasion, religious or political," was one of the most honorable sentiments ever uttered.

Aurora.

The Republican Spy, says, that in Hampshire County, the Federalists have lost 700 votes in one year, after all their arts and impositions. In Rowe, a busy youthful Clerk, engaged in writing votes for the election, was asked to write some votes for Sullivan, and instead of James, he wrote Jonas Sullivan, and the votes were lost.

(Salem Reg.)

According to the last statement the Republican votes stood with the federal in Rhode-Island, as 15 to 13, but the Republicans had two candidates. Nothing is to be apprehended from the strength of