

CONGRESS
OF THE UNITED STATES.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 1861.

(Dobie continued.)

On motion of Mr. Kittera, the house unanimously resolved that each member should wear a sash on his left arm for one month in testimony of their respect for the memory of THOMAS HARTLEY, a member.

The engrossed bill "concerning George Washington," was read a third time, and on the question "shall the bill pass?" Mr. DAWSON moved to recommend *in Loco*, 36 Ayes—44 Noes.

Mr. RADFORD moved to refer the bill to a select committee.—*Lost*, Ayes 32. Mr. STANTON and Mr. DAVIS then assigned their reasons for voting against the bill.

The question was then taken on the passage of the bill and carried, Yea 43—No 37.

On motion of Mr. Harper the title was amended, to be read "An Act to erect a Mausoleum for George Washington."

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 1861.

Mr. HARPER presented two papers, one of which was a defence by Governor Sargent of himself against charges preferred against him by a member of the House of Representatives; being a letter to the Secretary of State, put by him into the hands of Mr. Harper; and the others, the prefacement of a grand jury in the N. W. Territory on charges made against Governor Sargent, &c.

The papers were read and referred to the committee of inquiry into the official conduct of W. Sargent; as was a message of the President, including a copy of a letter to that Territory between June 20, and December 31, 1799.

Mr. HARPER moved the following resolutions, which were read, and referred to the select committee of inquiry.—*Resolved*, That it is expedient for Congress to assume, forthwith, the jurisdiction of Columbia.

Resolved, That the laws of Virginia and Maryland now in force in the parts of the said district continued within the limits of those States respectively, ought to be continued in force therein, until Congress shall otherwise provide by law.

Resolved, That for the administration of justice within the said district, there ought to be established two Inferior, and one Superior court; the Inferior courts to sit at Alexandria and the City of Washington for such parts of the said district, as lie in such parts of the said district, as lie in different files of the river Patowmack respectively; to have a limited civil and criminal jurisdiction with competent powers; and to be composed of three judges each; and the Supreme court to be held at the city of Washington, to have full powers as a court of Equity, original jurisdiction in all cases civil and criminal not within the jurisdiction of the Inferior courts, and appellate jurisdiction from the said courts in all civil cases above the value of dollars; and to be composed of a Chief Justice, who shall also be Superintendent of police for the said district, with competent powers; and two associates.

Resolved, That the salaries of the said judges ought to be established by law, and to be paid by the United States.

Resolved, That no provision ought to be made for the appointment of a marshal for the said district, and of clerks and other officers for the said courts, for the preference of any person committed or imprisoned.

Resolved, That for the better ordering of affairs in the said district, it ought to be divided into two townships, to be one township shall include Alexandria and Georgetown, and the other city of Washington; and that a corporation ought to be established within each of the said townships, to be composed of a suitable number of persons annually elected by the freeholders within the same; and to be vested with power to make provision within their respective townships, by bye-laws respecting streets, highways, markets, and other matters of a similar nature; and that any bye-laws made; the said bye-laws to be subject to the revision of the Superior court of the District, and to be annulled thereby, upon complaint by any person or persons aggrieved, notice to be given to the proper officers of corporation, and cause shown.

On motion of Mr. GRISWOLD the house passed a resolution of the whole on the Judiciary Bill; the house dividing—Ayes 33, Noes 33.

Mr. RUTLEDGE in the chair.

The bill was then brought up when the committee reported progress, and asked unobtainable leave to sit again.

The report of the committee of Revision of unimproved business to continue for 2 years the Session law, was taken up.

A motion was made to refer it to a committee of the whole, and carried by Yeas and Nays, Yeas 47, Nays 33.

Made the order of the day for Tuesday.

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

The following is a proposition of THOMAS PAINE, made recently in France, on a subject of acknowledge importance.

MARITIME COMPACT;

Or an Affiliation of Nations for the protection of the Rights and Commerce of Nations that may be neutral in time of war, addressed to the neutral Nations, by a neutral.

WHEREAS the inconvenience and injuries which the commerce and rights of neutral nations are exposed in time of maritime war, render it absolutely necessary that a law of nations be formed to prevent a continuation or repetition of national hostilities which are so common, and to secure to neutral nations the exercise of their just rights as to the following, association and compact, establishing there, by a law of nations with respect to the sea.

ART. I.

That the common rights of nations, such as are exercised by them in time of peace, in their intercourse with each other, are, and ought to be, the rights of neutral nations at all times; because they have not forfeited them, and cannot, of their right be lost to them, in consequence of breaking out into war, or of making more nations.—Such war making, either the act of the nations making it, or not of the neutral nations, cannot in itself, or in its consequences, affect the rights of the nations neutral and continuing in a state of peace.

II.

That the ships or vessels of nations that may be neutral during such war, have a right to pass unimpeded on the seas, as in time of peace, (it being peace with them) and to enter the port or ports of any of the belligerent powers, with the consent of that power, unimpeded, and unsearched, by the party or parties with which that nation is at war.

III.

For the maintenance of the aforesaid rights, the undersigned powers declare, and for the performance thereof bind others in honour to each other, that if any belligerent power shall, in war, molest or search any ship or vessel belonging to the citizens or subjects of any of the powers composing this association, that all and every of the parties composing this association, will be at liberty to permit to be imported in any ship or vessel whatever, any goods, wares or merchandise, from the nation so offending against the law of nations hereby established.

IV.

That all the ports appertaining to the powers composing this association shall be shut against the flag of the offending nation.

V.

That no remittance in money, goods or bills of exchange, shall be made by any of the citizens or subjects of any of the powers composing this association, to the citizens or subjects of the offending nation, for the term of one year, or until further repairs be made.—The reputation to be times the amount of the damage received.

VI.

When any ship or vessel belonging to the citizens or subjects of any of the powers composing this association shall be seized by any ship or vessel of any belligerent power, or be forcibly prevented from entering the port of that nation, to be seized, or molested in coming therefrom, or forcibly prevented proceeding to the place where he is next bound, to be searched or visited by any person con-

ing from on board such ship, or execution of government of the nation to which the vessel is bound or sailed belong, shall, unauthorizing the said, make proclamation of the same, and send a copy thereof to the executive of each of the Governments composing this association, who shall publish the same through his dominions, and proclaim, that at the expiration of days after the date thereof the execution of the execution of the principal articles against the offending nation, shall commence.

VII.

If separation be not made within the space of one year, the proclamation to be renewed for one year more, and so on.

VIII.

The association establishes a flag for itself to be carried by the ships and vessels of every nation composing this association, an additional national flag, which shall be taken by the respective cruisers as ample sufficient. The two parties bind themselves reciprocally not to admit under protection of their convoys, any vessels carrying contraband merchandise defined for an enemy.

IX.

And whereas it may happen that some one, or more, of the nations composing this association may, at the time of forming it, or in some future time, be a state of war, the ships and vessels of such nation shall omit carrying the flag at the mast-head, but it shall be bound round the main-mast to denote they are members of the association and respectors of its laws.

We the undersigned powers declare themselves to be a law of nations, at all times, until a Congress of nations shall meet to form some law more effectual;

And we do recommend that immediately on the breaking out of war, between any two or more nations, that deputies may be appointed by all the neutral nations, whether members of this association or not, to meet in Congress, in some neutral place, to take cognizance of any violations of the rights of neutral nations by the belligerent powers.

It may be judged proper for the order of the President to the executive of nations have a President for a term of years, and to pass by rotation they all the parties composing the association. In that case, and for the sake of regularity, the first President to be the executive of the most northerly nation composing the association, and his Deputy or Minister at the Congress to be President of the Congress; and the next most northerly to be Vice President, until the expiration of the term, and so on. The line determining the geographical division to be the latitude of the capital of each nation.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

From the *Albion*, Oct. 27.

According to the treaty between the United States of America and France, the line of demarcation between the two States, as maritime trading nations, are alike explicit and generous. Every citizen of the two countries may know the extent of the immunities, and the nature of the privileges, which are guaranteed him; and certainly so much is conceded on both sides, to secure the rights of property, the policy is to liberal which confers this character on the system of mutual trade, once an actual treaty, that we may justly anticipate a success fulfillment of acts reciprocal benefit and favour to exist and confirm the good understanding which happily has been reduced between the regenerate Commonwealths of the old and new world, America and France ought never to have experienced a moments cessation of the blessings of friendship.

The former part of liberty from the devouring embrace of a rapacious cabinet, and the latter, from the hired supporters of a despot and a fool. But if we rejoice to adopt that principle at once just, manly, and open, which has been the basis of that State Papers, we must not be supposed to regard it as a lighter matter that not only France and America, but Great Britain, and the whole of maritime Europe are to find their rights, as trading nations, injured, wronged, recognized or respected. Not one provision in the treaty has for its object to disturb the privileges we now enjoy by virtue of our treaty with the United States. Hence it is obvious that the present go-

vernment of France in violation, on all occasions, to obtain from wanted immunities of the rights of other nations. France and England are to enjoy in common the advantages of the most favoured nations, for should it not be the Constitution of the Presidency be with any colour of justice, to be considered as having sacrificed even the interests of rival countries in that treaty of reciprocal commerce and friendship.

In order to prevent captures on frivolous suspicions, and the damage thereby resulting, it is agreed, that when one of the two powers shall be at war, and the other neutral, in case the ships of the neutral power be under convoy, the intention of the party being to observe all the respect due to the flag hoisted on board ships of the fleet, no vessel shall be made. But the verbal declaration of the commander of the fleet, that the ships under his convoy belong to the nation whose flag he carries, and that they are an additional national flag, shall be taken by the respective cruisers as ample sufficient. The two parties bind themselves reciprocally not to admit under protection of their convoys, any vessels carrying contraband merchandise defined for an enemy.

Thus the question which has recently so much agitated maritime Europe has been not only drawn into that treaty, and the line of demarcation between the two powers, is to be established. The profound common mind of the Chief Consul of France is easily to be traced in the whole of that article. Evidently he has for his object to conciliate the claims of France, and confirm the friendship of other of those powers; and when we recollect how much the Courts of St. Petersburg, Stockholm and Copenhagen have expected, that the principle of the armed neutrality, there formed to be no policy better suited to their purposes. Our cabinet may however disappoint the Consulate of part of the advantages which he expects to gain, by the means of a treaty without diminishing our means of legitimate warfare; the recognition of those claims would give to us that ascendancy, which our cabinets which the Chief Consul has so unfortunately there seems but too little reason to expect that our councils will be speedily guided by wisdom and prudence.

The following is a correct copy of the several Resolutions moved by Mr. Ryder and agreed to by the English House of Commons.

Resolved, That there be given on every quarter of wheat, the weight of 42 lbs. each, shall be imported into the port of London or into any of the principal ports of each of Great Britain, before the first of October, 1861, a bounty equal to the sum by which the fair average price in London, published in the Gazette, in the third week after the importation of such wheat, shall be less than 100s. per quarter.

Resolved, That there be given on every quarter of barley, weighing 35 lbs., which shall be imported into the port of London or into any of the principal ports of each of Great Britain, before the first of October, 1861, a bounty equal to the sum by which the average price in London, published in the Gazette, in the third week after the importation of such barley, shall be less than 45s. per quarter.

Resolved, That there be given on every quarter of rye, weighing 40 lbs., which shall be imported into the port of London or into any of the principal ports of each of Great Britain, before the first of October, 1861, a bounty equal to the sum by which the fair average price in London, published in the Gazette, in the third week after the importation of such rye, shall be less than 65s. per quarter.

Resolved, That there be given on every quarter of oats, weighing 36 lbs., which shall be imported into the port of London or into any of the principal ports of each of Great Britain, before the first of October, 1861, a bounty equal to the sum by which the average price in London, published in the Gazette, in the third week after the importation of such oats, shall be less than 20s. per quarter.

Resolved, That there be given on every barrel of superior white wheat flour of 49 lbs. weight, which shall be imported into the port of London or into any of the principal ports of each of Great Britain, before the 1st of October, 1861, and sold by public auction within two months after importation, a bounty equal to the sum by which the actual price of such flour, as traded for, shall be less than 70s.