# NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER,

AND

# WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

VOL. IV. — WASHINGTON CITY, PRINTED BY SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. — No. DLXII.

FIVE DOLLS. PER ANN. — MONDAY, MAY 14th, 1804. — PAID IN ADVANCE.

NOTICE.

This is to give notice, that the subscriber of Washington City, hath obtained from the Orphan's Court of Washington County in the District of Columbia, letters of Administration on the personal estate of JAMES O'BRIEN, late of Washington County in said District deceased—All persons having claims against the said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, at or before the 16th day of October next, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate. Given under my hand this 13th day of April, in the year 1804.

JOHN O'BRIEN, Adm'r.

April 16—1w4t.

*PATENT MACHINE*

For boring Holes in Rocks under water or in any situation and blasting them.

THE subscriber having purchased the patent right from Jean Baptiste Aveilhe, the original inventor, for the counties of Frederick, Shenandoah, Jefferson, Berkely Augusta, Rockingham, Hampshire, Hardy and Bottetourt in the state of Virginia, will dispose of it to any person or company for any particular object. The model may be seen at any time, and terms made known by

A. LINDO, Fred. Co. Vir.

Winchester Jan. 28—wtf

NOTICE.

The subscriber having been legally authorised, by Messrs. Henry Pratt Thomas Willing Francis, John Miller, jun John Ashley, and Jacob Baker, trustees of a fund created from the joint and separate estates of Robert Morris, John Nicholson and James Greenleaf, and generally denominated, the "Aggregate Fund," hereby calls on all persons, having any claims or pretensions, by Mortgage or otherwise, to any of the objects of the said Fund, to make the same known to him, with a view to their adjustment. And all persons disposed to purchase any of the property of the said Fund, either for cash, or on terms of short credit, are desired to make early application to

JAMES GREENLEAF.

Philadelphia, April 13—wtf

PATENT RIGHT.

FOR painting rooms, ornamenting ceilings, borders, &c. to represent paper hangings. The subscribers having purchased the patent from John Selby the original inventor, for the district of Columbia, the states of Virginia, N. Carolina S. Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, the province of Louisiana and New-Orleans, will dispose of the same for such place or places within the above limits as may be agreed on. The model may be seen and terms made known by applying to,

Messrs. RICHARD RYLAND,
WILLIAM BYRNE.

Stocco plaisterers, Capitol Hill, City of Washington—Feb. 3—3twtf

N. B. Those desirous of blending economy with utility and elegance, will find their account in this invention. Letters post paid and addressed, as above will be attended to.

NOTICE.

This is to give notice that the Subscriber of Washington city hath obtained from the Orphan's Court of Washington county in the district of Columbia, letters of Administration on the personal estate of Richard Frazer late of said city and county deceased—all persons having claims against the said deceased are hereby warned to exhibit and render the same with the vouchers thereof to the subscriber on or before the first day of November next, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate—Given under my hand this 27th of April, 1804.

SAMUEL N. SMALLWOOD, Adm'r.

April 27—1aw4t

CHARLES VARDEN,
TAYLOR,
*FROM PHILADELPHIA.*

HAS received from Philadelphia an elegant assortment of the best quality Superfine Cloths, Cassimeres, Silk florintine, Black and fancy silk moleskin velvet, white & figure Marseilles, Swandowns, Toilinettes, Velvet teens, Fancy cords, Coating, &c.

With a variety of other articles suitable for the winter season.

N. B. Ladies Habits, Regimentals and Navy uniforms made in the first style of fashion.

New-Jersey Avenue, the second House from the Capitol Square.

November 8, 1803

Five Dollars Reward.

RAN away from the subscriber, on the 23d of April, an apprentice boy, (to the carpenters trade) his name is JAMES GARDINER, he is about 19 years of age, about five feet nine inches high, well sett, stoop shoulders, of a dark complexion and of an affable appearance; he is a son to a certain John Gardiner, a tailor in George Town. Any person taking the said boy and bringing him home, shall receive the above reward.

SIMEON MEAD, carpenter, city of Washington.

☞ All persons are hereby forewarned from employing or harboring the said apprentice on their peril.

May 2—w3t — S. M

CLOVER SEED.

DOCTOR MAGRUDER has just received for sale, a supply of good Timothy and Clover seed.

April 16—tf.

## CONGRESS.

### *HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.*

THURSDAY, March 23.

*Debate on the bill further to protect the commerce and seamen of the United States against the Barbary Powers.*

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole; Mr. VARNUM in the chair.

Mr. GRISWOLD moved to strike out the first section, which is as follows:

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that for the purpose of defraying the expenses of equipping, officering, manning, and employing such of the armed vessels of the United States, as may be deemed requisite by the President of the United States, for protecting the commerce and seamen thereof, and for carrying on warlike operations against the regency of Tripoli, or any other of the Barbary powers, which may commit hostilities against the United States, and for the purpose also of defraying any other expenses incidental to the intercourse with the Barbary powers, or which are authorised by this act, a duty of two and a half per centum ad-valorem, in addition to the duties now imposed by law, shall be laid, levied and collected upon all goods, wares and merchandise, paying a duty ad-valorem, which shall after the thirtieth day of June next be imported into the United States from any foreign port or place; and an addition of ten per centum shall be made to the said additional duty in respect to all goods, wares and merchandise, imported in ships or vessels not of the United States, and the duties imposed by this act shall be levied and collected in the same manner and under the same regulations and allowances as to drawbacks, mode of security, and time of payment respectively, as are already prescribed by law in relation to the duties now in force on the articles on which the said additional duty is laid by this act".

I regret very much, said Mr. Griswold, that the bill should be clogged with any provision for which all the members of this House cannot vote. For this section I for one cannot vote. I object to the adding two and a half per cent. duties on all goods imported after the 30th of June, which now pay a duty ad valorem. It is well known to the members of this committee, that goods imported into the United States charged with ad-valorem duties, now pay twelve and a half, fifteen and twenty per cent. when imported in American bottoms; and an addition of ten per cent. on these duties, when imported in foreign bottoms, of course, if two and a half per cent. be added, it will bring up the duties to fifteen, seventeen and a half, and twenty two and half per cent. In my judgement these duties are higher than trade will bear. In laying duties on imported goods, there is a point beyond which it is neither proper or safe to go. If we go beyond this point, we create a temptation to smuggling, so strong as to be uncontroulable by any revenue laws. In my opinion the present duties are as high as it is safe to carry them; and I believe that nothing but the honesty and integrity of our merchants, and its being considered disreputable to smuggle, has hitherto prevented its extensive practise. If we carry the duties higher, and impose our whole taxes on commerce, and embarrass it in this way, the measure will have a tendency to bear down the only barrier which has heretofore been a security for a safe collection of duties; the feelings of our merchants will be changed; the temptations to smuggling will be increased, and the practise will be gone into. For these reasons, I think, unless the necessities of government are very pressing, it is improper to increase the existing duties.

I cannot, on this occasion, see any such necessity. By an official report, laid before the House, it appears that on the 1st of last October, there was a specie balance in the treasury of 5,860,000 dollars. The President also at the opening of the session informed us that it amounted to near six millions. Now, with this sum in the treasury at that time, which I know is chargeable with payments under the conventions with France and Great Britain, but which cannot be swallowed up by them, I think this extraordinary tax unnecessary. We have been told from time to time that our revenues were progressing.

What expense it is contemplated to incur on this occasion I know not. Yesterday I thought it my duty to go to the Navy Yard and to enquire what ships were ordered to be got in readiness. I found to my surprise there were only two, in addition to those in the Mediterranean. This loose information, I am sensible, ought not to be relied on; and I only mention it to ascertain, from gentlemen better acquainted with the contemplated measures, what additional force it is intended to send out. What will be the expense of this expedition? By turning to the estimates of the last year, I find the annual expense of a 44 frigate is stated to be 98,000 dollars; a 36, 84,000; a 32, 65,000; a vessel of 12 or 14 guns, 21,000. This estimate is, I believe, a little short of the estimate of the present year. If this estimate be taken the following will be the result. If there be sent into the Mediterranean two vessels of 44 guns, one of 36, one of 32, and 4 of 12 or 14 guns, the annual expense will be 388,000 dollars. This, perhaps, will be a sufficient force. I do not, however, know what is sufficient. I certainly wish a sufficient force to be sent to prevent a new disappointment, and on an occasion like the present, we ought not to begrudge the expense. If this force be sufficient, the annual expense of it will be 388,000 dollars. In addition to this, there will be some further expense in fitting out the vessels.

Under these circumstances, this question presents itself. Are the necessities of government such as to justify this great addition to the duties on imported goods? If fairly collected, what will they produce? I am sensible this is a matter of estimate. The whole importations, exhibited by the last statement, amounted to forty millions. Two and a half per cent. on that sum, will produce a million of dollars. An allowance is to be made for drawbacks on goods exported. Making this & all other allowances, on no computation can we estimate less than 750,000 dollars. Why lay this large tax at this time; when our existing revenues are so productive, and when we had on hand on the 1st of October last, five millions of dollars? Why make this great addition to duties so high already? I do not perceive any necessities of the government so pressing as to require this.

I am sensible that by the second section it is contemplated to keep the fund by itself, and that is distinctively called the Mediterranean fund. But gentlemen must perceive that this provision is fallacious; and that it holds forth an idea not strictly correct. The whole expense of the navy is incurred in the Mediterranean, and the whole expense of the navy may be paid out of this fund, and in this way the treasury may be liberated from it entirely. I must, therefore, consider this as a bill introduced, to liberate the other resources of the country, from the expenses attending the naval establishment.

For these reasons, I hope the committee will not reject the first section. The government will have resources enough without the proceeds of new duties. As I said before, I regret that the bill is encumbered with this section. As to the other sections, there is not a member on this floor that will give them a more cordial support. We are all interested in protecting our trade, and in obtaining relief to our suffering citizens. This relief, I trust, will be obtained by the vigorous measures of our government.

Mr. NICHOLSON regretted that it was not in his power to furnish the information desired by the gentleman from Connecticut. Had he been solicitous to learn the extent of the armament about to be fitted out, he would not have gone to the navy yard for information; but to a higher authority, equally accessible to the gentleman as to himself. He had not himself sought this information, because he knew that the President, having confided to him a discretionary power as to the armed force of the nation, would use it in such a manner as would be most effectual. His only object, therefore, was to give him the power of using the means of the United States with energy; leaving the discretion in him, as it necessarily must be, to use it as he should think proper. If we were about to raise an army to commence hostilities against a large nation, it would not be the province of the House to enquire how it should be directed. Having authorised the raising and equipping it, it would forthwith come solely under the power of the Executive department; our power being confined to supplying the means by which it may be raised.

In introducing this bill, Mr. N. said he had thought it proper, when the government were about to incur a very heavy expence, that means should be provided by which it should be defrayed. The gentleman from Connecticut who has moved to strike out this section seems extremely willing to incur the expence, on condition that no means shall be provided by which it shall be defrayed. Mr. N. said he held it a sound doctrine in politics, and more particularly applicable to a government like ours, when provision was made for incurring expences, to provide likewise the means of meeting them. This was the doctrine by which the legislature ought to be governed. They ought not to authorise any expence, without at the same time providing the means, unless on great emergencies when the means are not in their power. There may be such emergencies, when it is proper to authorise the Executive to loan considerable sums, when no other means can be resorted to by the government.

We are now about to authorise a greater expence than usual, and the legislature are called upon to provide means for its discharge. For one, said Mr. N. I can never consent to add to the public debt, while the resources of the country are adequate to its wants. These are my ideas; and I feel somewhat surprised at the calculation of the gentleman from Connecticut, on the expence about to be incurred. He estimates this expence at 388,000 dolls. though yesterday when this subject was laid before the committee of ways and means, and it was contemplated to provide 750,000 dollars, he moved to strike out 750,000, and insert a million. And yet he now tells us that only 388,000 dollars are required. As to the specie in the treasury, the gentleman states that on the 1st of October there were five millions. But with what disbursements is this chargeable? Out of it there are to be paid American citizens for French spoliations, the sum of 3,750,000 dollars in cash, which must remain in the treasury that just claims may be paid as soon as presented. Under the British convention there is to be paid 800,000 dollars; and there is likewise to be paid the interest on Louisiana stock, amounting to 685,000 dollars; the aggregate of which sums is 5,235,000 dollars. Not having made this calculation until the gentleman made his observations, it is possible that it may not be perfectly correct.

When the loss of the Philadelphia was announced, my first enquiry of the Secretary of the Treasury was what money could be spared from the treasury for the prosecution of vigorous measures. His answer was, that the greatest sum which could be spared would not exceed 150,000 dollars. I did not, like the gentleman, go to the clerks or to the navy yard; but I got the best information I could.

The gentleman from Connecticut, who appears willing to incur an expence of a million of dollars, while he is unwilling to provide the means of meeting it, objects to the mode of raising revenue proposed by the committee of ways and means, without proposing any other. He objects to the laying additional duties on imported goods. In his remarks he has made an erroneous statement of the quantity of goods on which ad-valorem duties are paid. His error has arisen from not deducting the amount of drawbacks. By an official statement, made this session, it will be found that during the year 1802 goods paying ad valorem duties were as follows:

| *Rate.* | *Amount.* | *Duty.* |
|---|---|---|
| 12 1-2 p. c. | 23,377,717 | 2,922,214 |
| 15 | 7,888,614 | 1,183,292 |
| 20 | 439,830 | 87,966 |
| Amounting to | 31,706,161 | 4,193,472 |

The average duty on goods charged ad valorem is about 13 and a half per cent. Let us consider the duties paid by other articles. The gentleman says in laying duties there is a point beyond which we cannot go in safety on account of the temptation to smuggling. This is true. But of all goods imported those chargeable with ad valorem duties are the most difficult to smuggle. The invoices are made out in the country from which they are imported. These must be authenticated, and presented at the custom house and sworn to. If the collector has any reason to suspect that there are goods on board of a vessel, not in the entry, he is to make a thorough examination of the vessel. If he sees a bale in which he suspects there are goods not stated in the invoice, it is in his power to have it examined. I believe there is but little smuggling at this time; but that the articles on which there is most smuggling are, rum and coffee. If the gentleman allows that the duty on articles charged specifically is not so high as to encourage smuggling to any great or dangerous extent, he will allow the same in the case of articles charged ad valorem. The great articles from which revenue is obtained, are—

*Spirits*, which pay an average duty of 29 2 10 cents, and which produce 2,253,496 dollars, and cost the importer from 25 to 50 cents per gallon. Spirits which pay 25 cents a gallon do not cost the importer more than 50 cents, and consequently pay a duty of 50 per cent. on the price of the article. Spirits of the third proof pay 28 cents, and do not cost more than 56 cents a gallon, which is equal to a duty of 50 per cent. So with spirits of higher proof. From this article is derived more than a fifth of our revenue, and yet I never heard the amount of the duty complained of until a few days since a petition was presented from the merchants of Connecticut. It is certain that Congress have never considered it so high as to encourage smuggling.

Of imported *Sugars* 39,443,814 lbs. are consumed within the United States, which pay, on an average, a duty of two and a half cents per pound. The price of brown sugar to the importer is about five or six dollars the hundred. The duty is therefore between forty-five and fifty per cent. Is this duty considered so high as to encourage smuggling? If not shall gentlemen complain when we are about to lay an additional duty of two and a half per cent. upon articles now chargeable with duties of from 12 and a half to 20 per cent.

Of *salt* there is consumed 3,244,309 bushels in the United States. It pays a duty of 20 cents a bushel. In many instances this is equal to the first cost; and amounts therefore to 100 per cent.

The consumption of *wines* amounts to 1,912,274 gallons, and the average duty is 33 cents. The duty on Madeira wine is 58 cents, and it costs the importer one dollar and twenty-five cents. The duty therefore amounts to near fifty per cent. If the cost be taken at one dollar and fifty cents the duty will be thirty-three and a third per cent. And yet it is not complained that it encourages smuggling.

Sherry and St. Lucar pay 40 cents per gallon, and the original cost is not more than 66 cents. This duty is above fifty per cent. The duty bears the same proportion in the case of Lisbon.

Taking the average duty on wines we find it is from 33 to 50 per cent; and yet gentlemen say if the duty on articles chargeable ad-valorem be raised from 12 1-2 to 15 per cent, it will encourage smuggling.

*Teas* produce 382,669 dolls. Bohea Tea pays a duty of at least 100 per cent. and Souchong, Hyson and other teas pay in the same proportion.

Thus it appears that articles of great consumption, and many of them of almost indispensible necessity, pay a duty of from fifty to one hundred per cent. and yet gentlemen are unwilling to lay an additional duty of two and a half per cent. on articles now paying duties of twelve and a half and fifteen per cent. As to those charged with twenty per cent. they are not worth considering, as the whole duties on them only amount to 87,966 dolls. and as they are in themselves unimportant.

I have heard an idea thrown out, that instead of laying a duty on articles now charged with ad-valorem duties, it would be more adviseable to lay a duty upon all imported goods. I think I have shewn that this would be unjust, and that the articles which at present pay specific duties are charged relatively sufficiently high. I believe if the emergencies of the country required it we might, without disturbing the proper proportion, lay an additional duty of from ten to fifteen per cent. on goods charged ad-valorem, and without the increase being felt by the country, or its producing smuggling. At present it is only contemplated to raise them two and a half per cent.

I repeat it, That I consider it the duty of the legislature when they authorise extraordinary expenditures to provide so far as it is in their power, extraordinary means; for I believe we have no right to burthen posterity with taxes which we dare not ourselves meet. The protection now asked for our trade is for our own benefit; we ought not, therefore, to shrink from the burthen it necessarily creates. This is no [illegible]