they are not allowed wages unless they voluntarily enter into the service, and there is not one case in a hundred, in which they do it voluntarily. No, sir, they have too much respect for their own rights and the honor of their country—they never enter into the British service but under the lash of a boatswain. But the honorable Speaker thinks this measure may be accommodated by resorting to another principle, by our merchants not agreeing to employ British seamen. I think the honorable Speaker said there was no other way to save our seamen, than for our merchants not to employ British seamen. But this is impossible; it cannot be done; they could not, they ought not to accede to such a principle. Would you wish to see British seamen delivered up in exchange for your own citizens? They are not numerous. Our seamen in the eastern states are mostly natives of the country. The foreign seamen in our service enter freely. They come voluntarily among us. We pay them wages. Would you seize them on the wharves or in the streets and deliver them up? Do you recollect the case of Jonathan Robbins, which excited a fermentation in this country almost beyond example? Is the same scene to be acted over again? Upon this principle you may as well deliver up the cultivators of your soil, who are British subjects. You have many British subjects in the country, who do not go to sea. Are these persons to be delivered up to G. Britain in exchange for your seamen? I trust not. If you could procure the release of your citizens on this ground, it shall never have my support.

What is the proposition under consideration? A non-importation of British goods at a distant day. For myself and my friends, who are in favor of this resolution, I may say that it is not our wish that it should go into effect at all; we flatter ourselves that before the period arrives at which it is to take effect, G. Britain will do us justice. But gentlemen cry out this is a war measure. This is their constant argument. But, sir, it is not a war measure, it is a mere commercial regulation, which we have a right to pass and of which G. Britain cannot justly complain. Great Britain herself adopts commercial regulations, which go to interdict the productions of other countries. This she is in the daily habit of doing—her whole commercial system is a system of monopoly and exclusion. Her East India trade is a monopoly; and our trade to her West India islands is carried on as a favor. In peace she entirely shuts up, and in war opens partially her ports in that quarter. We do not quarrel with her on this account—we do not cry out it is a war measure. Look at her navigation act. She puts the commerce of all other nations in chains. She wants to engross the commerce of the whole civilized world.

If we concede this principle to Britain we must make a like concession to France, who will undoubtedly capture our vessels trading to the British islands. France would have the same right to do it that Britain has. If we abandon it we violate our neutrality, by giving to one of the belligerent nations a right not possessed by her at the beginning of the war.

I believe these unjust aggressions of Britain have arisen from a spirit of commercial rivalry, which is alarmed at our great and increasing tonnage and revenue. *In* 1790, our revenue amounted to about two millions—in 1796, it amounted to six millions—in 1804, it amounts to upwards of twelve millions; and for the last year it may be estimated at thirteen millions. Our trade has increased beyond all calculation, and this has excited the jealousy of Britain. We have seventy thousand seamen, and a million of tons of shipping. At the peace of 1783, we did not possess over two hundred thousand tons. Our exports and imports have encreased in an equal proportion. *In* the last returns they are stated at seventy five millions, and there can be no doubt of a great augmentation for the present year. Great Britain makes these aggressions on our rights, calculating on our divisions. Let us be united in resisting them, & we shall hear no more of her injustice. *In* support of this measure *I* will endeavor to prove that this trade is carried on with American capital, in opposition to the allegation that it covers enemies property. *If* it can be proved to be American property, *I* suppose gentlemen will be willing to protect it. *I* rely on the documents of the secretary of the treasury. The commercial gentleman from Maryland, (Mr. MacCreery) has proved the trade to the West *Indies* is carried on with American capital. He has shewn from the treasury statements, that 21,371,311 dollars worth of produce of the West *Indies* has come to this country the last year, and that an equivalent amount was sent from this country, and sold in the West *Indies*. The calculation is sufficiently correct. *I* have examined it. The estimate is made upon the sales of the outward cargoes, and upon the fair cost of the produce in that country. The documents on your table prove this, and the same thing may be established with regard to the trade to Europe. *I* find by the report of the secretary of the treasury, there is exported to France, Spain, *Italy* and Holland, to the amount of 24,259,114 dollars in foreign goods, and of our own productions we export to these countries 12,183,000 dollars. These two sums, added together, amount to 36,442,114 dollars, all these countries are enemies of G. Britain. The amount of importations from these countries is only 25,475,000 dollars, the balance being about 11,000,000 dollars in our favor. It follows that we import from these countries 11 millions less than we export to them. There is also the amount gained on the sales in Europe. This may be fairly estimated at 4 or 5 millions of dollars. What becomes of the difference? It goes to England in payment of her balance against the United States, amounting on an average to 14 millions; this balance exceeded 14 millions the last year. This balance is made up by remittances from the other belligerent countries. You could pay Britain this balance in no other way. Could you get the specie in sufficient quantity from other countries, or from your own to pay this immense balance? You could not do it. *It* is impossible. *It* is remitted by bills of exchange from *Italy*, from Spain, from France, and particularly Holland. And yet strange to tell, this is the very fund upon which G. Britain is continually making depredations, and which some gentlemen so fond of the trade we carry on with Britain, are anxious to destroy by withdrawing all protection from it.

The hon. Speaker does not seem to know how this balance stands. He cannot depend on the information he receives from your custom houses. But though he may not rely on the accuracy of your exports to particular countries, as a vessel does not always go to the port for which she clears, he may implicitly rely on the state of the imports; there can be no deception in the imports, and the value of the exports cannot be materially erroneous; and he may rest satisfied that if G. Britain seizes property destined to belligerent nations, your merchants will be unable to pay her the balance they owe her. But it is said I do not understand calculation; and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Randolph) has made an allusion to a debate on a former occasion, but which has no possible bearing on the present question. On that occasion I said, that if I were to buy 3 per cents. I should be obliged to give for them more than one half their nominal amount; but that if I meant to keep them I would not choose to give more—and I say so still. The only question, however, sir, before us is, whether we will interdict the importation of British goods? We are not fixing the value of 3 or 6 per cent. stocks. We are driven to the necessity of taking some measures to compel G. Britain to do us justice. The friends, however, do not wish the non-importation measure ever to go into operation; they hope that Britain will do us justice, rather than submit to the injuries it will inflict upon her. But if she will not release our sailors, and restore or make payment for our ships, I do wish it to go into operation, and to continue until she has restored them. The luxury of a woolen blanket is not such as I wish to enjoy at the expence of the rights and honor of my country. The gentleman from Maryland, (Mr. Nicholson) may enjoy it if he pleases, and he has told you he does not wish to relinquish a luxury of that nature. But I would rather submit to be clothed in a bear skin—rather than submit to this degradation I would agree not to wear a single article of British manufacture during my life. Sir, I would rather go naked. I ask pardon of the committee, but I speak the honest sentiments of my heart.

I will not however detain the committee with many additional remarks: I will only call on gentlemen not to sacrifice the best interests of commerce, by giving way to the principle which Britain has assumed. In sacrificing them, will they not at the same time sacrifice the interests of agriculture? I cannot see a distinction between them. Without we protect commerce, what can we do with our surplus productions? But because we call upon you to protect commerce, are we to be stigmatized as the friends of a fraudulent trade? No; we are willing to let those who cover enemy's property with a neutral flag take care of themselves. I am further charged with a wish to meet G. Britain in war. But, sir, I have no such wish: my only wish is to obtain an honorable compensation for the injuries she has committed. We are charged with going back to the times of the revolution, and comparing the temper of our country at that time with its present temper. Sir, I was a child when the revolutionary war commenced—I have scarcely a recollection of the times of the revolution; but would such language as we have heard on this occasion been then tolerated? that a gentleman should get up and tell us we ought to succumb to Britain, because she had 800 ships on the ocean, is astonishing to me. I cannot comprehend its tendency. Such sentiments were not uttered during the revolution. Then, with a population of two and a half millions we boldly met that nation, and triumphed over her arms; and if necessary, we *can* meet her again, or any other nation that shall treat us with the same injustice. Under like circumstances I would meet France, Spain, or England—I would meet them all collectively, if necessary, and I have no doubt we would be a match for them all, though for saying so I may be denominated a madman. I would hold this language if I belonged to one of the smallest nations of the earth—I would hold it were I a citizen of the petty republic of St. Marino,—were my rights invaded I would fight till I could fight no longer. Do you want to damp the ardor of the American people, because G. Britain and France are powerful nations? And the former has determined to annihilate our commerce.—Mr. Chairman, I am no public Speaker, and I have not arranged my ideas, or clothed them in the language I could have wished; but I do say we have reached a crisis which imperiously demands the adoption of measures for the maintenance of our commercial rights, which so far from impairing, will promote the interest of agriculture. For, sir, they are inseparable; they are twin sisters—children of one birth, of the same parents, begotten by one common father—they must live or die together—you cannot separate them—by sacrificing the one you sacrifice the other. More than this, sir, the people of this country will not submit to these aggressions on their rights. The people are both agricultural and commercial, and they know that the fall of commerce will be soon followed by the destruction of agriculture. And should this Congress or any other abandon their commercial rights, they will send other men to represent them. They ought to do it, and you may be assured they will do it. Mr. Chairman, what is to become of the surplus productions of agriculture? Shall they be suffered to rot or perish in your warehouses or on your plantations? If they cannot be sold abroad, and the returns be permitted to be made to this country, and afterwards re-exported, this will be the case with a large part. What will become of a number of people employed in agriculture? Will you dispose of the slaves in the southern states? Gentlemen will not consent to it. Then, I say, afford a reasonable protection to commerce.

Sir, I must have fatigued the committee—I fear I have been troublesome at this late hour of the day—I hope I will be pardoned. Weak and feeble as has been my defence, and the support I have attempted to give this resolution, I have done what I considered a duty, and I trust my motives will not be called in question. I shall not trouble the committee any further on this subject.

[It being now about the usual hour of adjournment, Mr. Smilie moved that the committee should rise, and said that he would to-morrow agree to take up in committee the proposition of the gentleman from Maryland. The committee then rose, and the House adjourned.]

[*To be continued*]

New-York, May 9.

Captain Lewis, who arrived at Baltimore on Monday last in 17 days from Jeremie, was informed that a schooner belonging to Baltimore, White, master, with one gun, had been captured by a large French privateer, and *every one put to death.* The news was received at Jeremie 10 or 12 days before he left it, by some Indigenes that had been captured by the same privateer and put on shore.

The editors of the New-York Gazette are indebted to captain Carpenter, of the ship Projector for London papers to the 16th, and Liverpool papers to the 18th of March. From the papers they have made such extracts as appear worthy of insertion.

The letters brought by the Townshend packet from Lisbon were delivered yesterday morning. We received some Madrid Gazettes by the same opportunity. The Gibralar Gazette of the 1st inst. contains the following intelligence: "Mr. Cartwright, his Majesty's consul general at Algiers, landed here on the 27th ult. from the Niger frigate. Mr. Cartwright, after trying in vain every means in his power to obtain satisfaction respecting various demands, consistent with the treaties between our government and the Regency, and finding it impossible to avert the daily insults which the Dey and his agents offered to the British legation & subjects, intimated he intended to depart, and demanded his passports, which were granted him without difficulty."

LIVERPOOL, MARCH 26.

Batavian Gazettes to the 19th inst. have been received. The French troops evacuated the Austrian territory finally, Brannau excepted, on the last day of Feb. On the 7th inst. a detachment of the French army, under the command of Marshal Bernadotte, who occupies the Margravate of Anspach, in trust for his Bavarian majesty, entered Nuremburgh; which, however, according to the assurances given by the Marshal commandant to the Senate, was but the effect of an indispensible military measure, without any prejudice to the city. The news of the establisment of a perfect understanding between France and Prussia, with regard to the interior changes in Germany, has been lately circulated with increased credit throughout the Empire. A letter from the Hague of the 17th says:

"A courier extraordinary, dispatched on the 12th inst. by gen. Dumonceau, from his head-quarters at Nassau Deitz, arrived yesterday afternoon, with intelligence that the Batavian division, which has hitherto made a part of the French grand army in Germany, has commenced its march for this republic. It marches in four columns, commanded by generals Quaita and Hadel, col. Murtuchewitz, and gen. Heldring. It is expected that the whole will reach Nimeguen between the 25th and 28th inst. Gen. Dumonceau, the commander, is expected here on the 19th.

The Courier du Bas Rhin, published at Wesel on the 12th inst. observes:

"It appears as if we were near the moment in which the future fate of the different countries, districts, cities, &c. was about to be decided, and the cessions to be realised. Every thing appears to indicate that our territory is also about to change masters: for the movements perceived here, leave no longer any doubt with respect to the evacuation of the place by the Prussian garrison.

In a day or two after the arrival of the Expose a French flag of truce arrived, bringing, it is said, some pacific overtures to our government. Various reports about this proposition are circulated—it was, on Saturday, mentioned, that the basis proposed was *uti possidetis.* We cannot, from the commendable secrecy Ministers have preserved, take upon us to confirm or deny the truth of any of those reports. We have, therefore, only to say, that we trust the honor and interest of the nation to his majesty's ministers, and rely upon them for all the care due to so sacred a deposit.

From the Aurora of May 10.

The latest dispatches from Mr. Monroe are to the 11th March—these we are informed by the National Intelligencer, are of a more favorable complexion, relative to an amicable adjustment of our differences with Great Britain, than any previously received.

The happy progress of Mr. Monroe's negociations may be attributed, to the peculiar state of Europe, to the change in the British ministry, and to the alarm excited by the measures proposed in Congress. We had the means for compelling an ultimate adherence to justice, but it is questionable, if Pitt had lived, whether he would have consented to such an early adjustment as we have now a right to expect. It is interesting, indeed, to remark the anxiety of the public prints of England to develope and recommend the best means for creating and strengthening a friendship with this country: this anxiety is general.

"Our maritime strength (says a London print) does not so much depend upon our power of seizure, as on the freedom of our commerce: and we ought not either in justice or policy to drive America to measures of reprisal. If she should lay an embargo on all exports to our West India islands, for only six months, what would be their and our condition? And, even without that act of vengeance, a non-importation agreement of British manufactures for one year, would be a loss to this country of seven millions sterling."

Such is the language of an English ministerial writer, it expresses a knowledge of that power which this nation ought to know it possesses, it points out the true and only warfare that we ought to pursue in retaliation for British injustice. Let us hope, however, that for the future there will not be many, if any, instances of such indignity as we have so long suffered.

The objects of negociation, between Mr. Munroe and the British ministry are so various, complex and important that we shall for a long time learn nothing but conjectures of the probable result, founded on the progressive developement of British views, principles and concessions. The trade, carried on by Americans between the colonies of France, Spain, and Holland, and the mother countries, and the impressment of American seamen, were the principal subjects, heretofore under discussion—our trade with the East and West India possessions of Great Britain, is we believe the subject now in negociation. On all these points, there is ample room for investigation and deliberation, and these could never have been conducted at a moment more favorable to the interest of the United States.

We find, in the London Morning Chronicle of the 3d March, the following interesting article—it is the substance of the remonstrance presented by Mr. Monroe:

"The remonstrance presented by Mr. Monroe to this government states, that he had flattered himself he should have had an early answer to his former remonstrance. But the subject, he says, has become the more important, by the continuance of the same policy, and the frequent seizures which are still made of American vessels, places him in a state of great responsibility. He adds, that the more he reflects on the subject the more he is convinced it is contrary to the understood law of nations, and equally repugnant to the agreement between the two governments, in respect to the commerce in question.

"By the law of nations, as settled by the most approved authors, no other restraint is acknowledged on the trade of neutral nations, with those at war, than that it shall be impartial between the latter; that it shall not extend to articles deemed contraband of war; nor to the transportation of persons in military service; nor to places actually blockaded or besieged. Every other commerce of a neutral with a belligerent is lawful, and every other restraint by a belligerent on a neutral unlawful.

"The list of contraband is well defined, as are also the circumstances which constitute a blockade. The best authorities have united in confining the first to such articles as are used in war, and are applicable to military purposes; and require to constitute the latter the disposition of such a force, consisting of stationary ships, so near the port, as to make it dangerous for the ships of a neutral power to enter it.

"The vessels condemned were engaged in a commerce between the United States and some port in Europe, or between those states and the West India islands, belonging to the enemies of G. Britain. In the European voyage, the cargo consisted of the production of the colonies. In the voyage to the West Indies, it consisted of the goods of the power to which the colony belonged, & to which the ship was destined. The ship and cargo, in every case, were the property of American citizens; and the cargo had been landed, and the duty on it paid, in the United States. It was decided that these voyages were continuous, and the cargoes were condemned on the principle, that the commerce was illegal

"These seizures are incompatible with the law of nations as above stated; they involve no questions of contraband or blockade. On what principle then can these seizures be defended? On principles laid down in a series of orders issued by the British government in 1793, 1794, 1798. By the first of these orders, all commerce between neutrals and enemy's colonies is forbidden, though the other orders afterwards a little relax this rule. In support of those orders it has been urged, that a colonial trade is a system of monopoly in peace, neutral powers have no right to participate in it in time of war, and that belligerents may interdict it, although allowed by the parent country. But does it follow, because a parent country in time of peace monopolizes the whole trade of its colony, that in time of war it has no right to regulate it at all; on the contrary, that that right passes to the belligerent.—If this doctrine was sound, it would certainly establish a new and singular mode of losing and acquiring rights. But are not in every state the colonies a part of her domain, and do they not continue so until they are severed by conquest? The right of regulating trade rests in the state over its whole territory, and no distinction can be taken in reason between different parts of the same state. Let neutrals have a right to trade with colonies in as ample an extent as the mother country will allow it. The right depends not on the chance of war, nor on the will of the belligerent. If the orders of the British government alluded to contained the known law of nations, there would have been no occasion for any of them, nor could they have varied from each other, in the manner in which they do so vary. I now, says he, proceed to shew that the decisions are contrary to the agreement between the two governments on this subject. By the order of November 1793, some hundred American vessels were carried into port and condemned. Those seizures were submitted to commissioners, who condemned them and awarded compensations, which G. Britain has honorably paid. It is impossible not to consider what passed on that occasion, but as an adjustment of the present principle, and until the case of the Essex, not one American vessel engaged in this commerce had been condemned, although frequently met with by the British cruizers. In Robinson's reports, page 368, it is clearly established by the learned judge of the admiralty, that an American has a right to import the produce of an enemy's colony into the United States, and to send it afterwards for the general commerce of Europe; and that the landing of the goods in the United States, and paying the duties, should preclude all further question upon the voyage.

"Lord Hawkesbury afterwards, in a communication of the eleventh of April, expressly stated the same thing—that the produce of the colonies might legally be imported into the United States, and from thence into the mother country; and thus the produce of the colonies and the manufactures of the mother country might find their way to each other by this circuitous route. He complains, that after this understanding between the two countries, that this opinion should be departed from in the case of the Essex, which served as a signal for the British cruizers, and that since that time above fifty American ships, engaged in this commerce have been carried into British ports, and are detained. He complains, that Britain gave no intimation of an intention to change her conduct on these points.—He adds, that he makes this communication in hopes of a friendly adjustment, not only on this subject, but also on the other, of impressing American seamen, which he admits is a matter of peculiar delicacy, by reason of the similarity of persons and manners, and particularly from the identity of language with the two nations."

By Captain Glenn we learn, that Admiral Gravina died at Cadiz, on the 9th of March, of the wounds he received in the battle of Trafalgar---That about two weeks before he sailed, four French frigates and two brigs with six months provisions on board, sailed on a secret expedition——That there were 14 or 15 French and Spanish ships of the line at Cadiz, 7 or 8 of which were preparing for sea, with the utmost expedition.

Bradford.

Baltimore, May 12.

An officer of the frigate Constitution, Commodore Rodgers, who left Malta on 25th January, and arrived here last evening on his way to Washington, assures us that no altercation whatever had taken place between the commodore and captain Gale at the time of his departure and that he believes the report malicious and destitute of truth.

Norfolk, May 6.

We believe the oldest inhabitant does not remember so long a droughth; the consequences of which, it is feared, will be ruinous to the agriculture, which is now greatly injured for want of rain. The Great Dismal Swamp has been for some weeks on fire, which has extended for many miles. We have conversed with some gentlemen of information from that quarter, who assure us that the damage already done is moderately estimated at one hundred thousand dollars. Two millions of 3 feet shingles, ready for market, are consumed; a number of buildings, bridges, and an immense quantity of timber are also consumed; and the fire was yesterday raging in every direction with the greatest violence. Without rain there is no hope of its stopping, short of the entire destruction of all the timber in this great tract of country. The rapidity with which our informants state the flames to spread, exceeds any thing that can be described.