the law, and strong arms the conscience of Europe. The most chivalrous, romantic notions of honor would scarcely impose on them the obligation of rubbing up the almost forgotten arms of their ancestors, and putting on their paper helmit, in order to redress the wrongs done to the puny principalities of Pappenburg and Oldenburg, by the giant conqueror of nations. So close an imitation of the renowned Knight of la Mancha, even G. Britain has left unessayed, notwithstanding her heroic spirit of enterprise. The common cause of neutrality may afford materials for many a florid phrase, and much idle speculation may be indulged about the fealty due to the commonwealth of nations, but, in the present melancholy condition of mankind, America will act both wisely and honestly by keeping aloof until her own interests are deeply wounded or her independence directly attacked.

VERITAS.

FROM THE GERMAN PAPERS.

Extract from the minute book of the office of Secretary of State.

Palace of Fontainbleau, November 13.

We, Napoleon, Emperor of the French, King of Italy, and Protector of the Rhine, upon the report of our minister of finance, have decreed, and do decree as follows:

Art. I. The enactments of our imperial decree of the 6th of August, 1807, are applicable to the cargoes of vessels which may arrive in the mouth of the Wezer; those articles of merchandize, therefore, specified in the 2d article of the said decree, shall be seized and confiscated; and all colonial produce shall be accompanied with a certificate of origin, delivered by our commercial commissaries at the different ports where they were taken on board.

II. Our commercial commissaries shall not confine themselves in their certificates, merely to attest that the colonial produce comes neither from the colonies of England, nor from her commerce; they shall also point out the place of their origin, the papers which have been submitted to them in support of the declaration made to them, and the name of the ship on board which they have been originally transported from the place where they were produced to that where the commissaries reside. They shall address duplicates of their certificates to the director general of the customs.

III. All ships which, after having touched at any English port, on any account whatever, shall arrive in the mouth of the Elbe and of the Wezer, shall be seized and confiscated, together with their cargoes, without any exception or distinction of produce or merchandize.

IV. The captains of ships arriving in the mouth of the Elbe or of the Wezer, must make declaration to the chief officer of the imperial customs on that station, of the place from which they sailed, as well as of those which they touched at; and shall deliver to him their manifests, bills of lading, sea papers, and registers. When the capt. shall have signed this declaration, and delivered up his papers, the custom house officer shall interrogate the sailors one by one, in presence of two head collectors; if it appear from this examination, that the ship has touched at an English port, beside the seizure and confiscation of the ship and cargo, the captain as well as those of the sailors, who, upon their examination, have made a false declaration, shall be made prisoners, and shall not be liberated till after paying a sum of six thousand francs by way of penalty for the captain, and a sum of five hundred francs for each of the arrested sailors, in addition to the penalties incurred by those who falsify their sea papers and registers.

V. If the advices and information communicated to the director of the customs resident at Hamburg, excite suspicions with regard to the origin of the cargoes, they shall be provisionally deposited in warehouses, till it has been ascertained and decided that they come neither from England nor from her colonies.

VI. The line of officers of the customs formed upon the Elbe, and the frontier of Holstein, shall be augmented by 100 men. The director general of our customs shall give the necessary orders for placing overseers detached from that line, at the ports situated on the mouth of the Wezer, and for their exercising the strictest inspection of all ships which shall approach.

VII. The inspectors of customs are authorised to make visits to the isle of Nieuwark, and to the Wats, or other little isles situated in the mouths of the Elbe and Wezer.

VIII. The commandants of troops of the line, and of the Gens d'Armerre, are bound to lend their aid to these inspectors, as often as they shall be required to do so, by the chief custom house officer of the district.

IX Our ministers of War and of Finance, are charged each in his own department, with the execution of this decree.

(Signed) NAPOLEON.
HUGHES B. MARET,
Secretary of state.
(A true copy) GAUDIN,
Minister of Finance.
(A true copy) COLLIN,
Director-general of the customs.
(A true copy) EUDEL,
Director of the customs.

COAL.
2,300 bushels just received
Per schooner Saucy Will, capt. Lewis, which will be sold low if taken from on board immediately.
ANTHONY REINTZEL.
Georgetown, March 2—3t

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22.

Debate on the bill supplementary to the act laying an embargo, &c.

CONCLUDED.

The SPEAKER said he was under the necessity of reminding gentlemen that the question before the House was on the recommitment of the bill.

Mr. LIVERMORE said he had apprehended that was the motion, and that they were not now considering the propriety of laying the embargo. For his own part he thought the bill ought to be committed; and he hoped the gentleman from Virginia would not say that he was one of those mushroom politicians or political wiseacres he had alluded to, because he concurred with him in agreeing that the bill should be recommitted to be amended or thrown into some kind of order. He should forbear making any comments on the speech of the honorable gentleman last up on the propriety of laying an embargo; but at some time when the subject was properly before the House, he would go into a discussion.

Mr. G. W. CAMPBELL said it was with more than usual reluctance that he rose to address the House on this occasion, and nothing but a sense of duty would impel him to enter into a discussion in which it might be necessary to notice charges made against the majority of this House, of the Senate and against the government in general, which if true ought to be proved and made known to the public, so as to produce a total renovation in the national councils, and if false, ought to consign their authors to that disgraceful infamy which such conduct was calculated to draw upon them; an infamy that should mark them out as common calumniators, and hold them forth as fit objects for national contempt. The petty scribblers in the party newspapers have been for some time engaged in circulating reports of French influence over the councils of the nation; these charges were in themselves so destitute of even the semblance of truth, so totally unfounded, and unsupported by any facts to give them the color of probability, that they made little or no impression on the public mind, and were rejected as slanderous falsehoods, the mere offspring of malignity, as generally as they were known. The more respectable public prints of the same party refuted these charges and treated them with that contempt which they deserved. They therefore received no serious notice from those against whom they were made, and there appeared to be a general disposition to suffer them to sink into that silent oblivion to which the good sense of the nation would most certainly have consigned them. But when those charges are borrowed from those petty scribblers, and echoed and repeated on this floor, by a person having the honor of a seat in the House, it is high time they should be noticed, to be longer silent would be criminal. Issue is now joined, and the guilty, whoever they may be, whether the accused or the accusers, must stand forth before the nation, stript of their mask of concealment, to receive the sentence of public indignation, that will frown them with contempt into obscurity. For there is no medium in this case, the accusers or the accused must be guilty—must be enemies to their country—and it is high time the nation, the people of America, should know their friends from their foes. The crisis call for it, the duty we owe the people calls for it, and the honor and dignity of this House demand that the guilty should be exposed. If the charges can be supported that any portion of the members of this House are acting under foreign influence, let the people know it, let them change their representation, let them send men of integrity, who are superior to the secret influence of a foreign power; but if on the contrary those allegations are found to be false and unfounded, then let the nation know this and let the finger of scorn point at those who have published such groundless falsehoods, and render them the objects of public contempt and detestation. This subject is now fairly before the public, & he who had made such serious charges on this floor, charges that the majority of this House is acting under the impulse of French or Gallic influence, will it is presumed produce to this House and the nation, and he is now called upon to do so, the proofs, the evidence or facts that support those charges, and if these are not produced, it must be considered by this House and by the nation, that there are no such proofs of facts, and that therefore these charges are groundless calumnies circulated abroad at this important crisis by the enemies of this country, to distract the public mind and destroy the confidence of the people in their government, which would palsy the energies of the nation, and render her more vulnerable to the attacks of a foreign enemy.

On the subject of the embargo, Mr. Campbell said he had hitherto been silent in this House; he thought it more important to act than to speak. The reasons for passing the law laying an embargo, said Mr. C. appeared to me, as they did I presume to a majority of the House, so strong, so self evident, that they must produce conviction without argument, and to discuss a measure under such circumstances appeared like a useless waste of time, and as it were admitting a doubt where none existed. And since the passage of that law events have succeeded each other so rapidly, which prove to every American friendly to his country, whose mind is not warped by prejudice, not only the propriety and policy of the law, but the great importance and absolute necessity of it at the time for the security of our merchandise and seamen, the preservation of peace, and to prepare the country for war, that even those who opposed the measure at first, seemed to be convinced of its utility, and appeared disposed to support it as the only means in our power calculated to preserve the honor and promote the general welfare of the nation. The public sentiment throughout this union so far as it has been in the power of the people to express it, in their legislative, as well as individual capacity, has not only sanctioned this law, but warmly approved the policy of it, and pledged the energies of the nation to support the measure. Thus it would seem that the reasons for passing it appeared as self evident to and made as strong an impression on the minds of the people at large, as they did on the minds of the majority of the national legislature. It was therefore deemed unnecessary to enter into an investigation of those reasons on this floor.

But when charges of the most serious nature are made on this floor against the majority of the House—charges that they are acting under & governed by French influence (for this is in substance the allegation), charges which I believe to be unfounded with respect to every member in the House, of the majority, and which so far as regards myself I know to be, and now so declare them, infamous, groundless falsehoods, it may be proper, and I deem it my duty to state very briefly some of the reasons that governed my conduct in voting for the law laying an embargo, and the subsequent supplemental act, for carrying into more compleat effect the same object, and which will also induce me to vote for the bill now under discussion. These reasons arise from the situation in which this nation was at that time placed in relation to the great belligerent powers of Europe. We were then officially informed that Bonaparte had determined to execute in the most rigorous manner, his decree of the 21st Nov. 1806, declaring the British Isles in a state of blockade. By this measure our commerce with G. Britain and her dependencies was interdicted—at the same time was made known to us a proclamation issued by the British government relative to seamen asserting her right, and declaring her determination to pursue a certain line of conduct on the ocean incompatible with the hitherto acknowledged laws of nations, a conduct which has been the subject of dispute between that government and ours for several years past, and to which she was well assured, by the representations of our government, we would not assent, and could not submit, without sacrificing at the foot of British power, our national honor and independence: in addition to these it was known that the British ministry had informed our embassadors at London that they would adopt orders to countervail the French blockading decree, and a note to this effect was annexed to the treaty which had been agreed upon by the commissioners of the two countries, and afterwards rejected by our government. This note appeared in the public prints previous to the passage of the embargo law, and was sufficient to convince every man, that G. Britain would act according to this declaration. About the same time it was stated in the government prints of that country which had reached us, that orders on the part of G. Britain, countervailing the French decree, and declaring France and all her dependencies (being almost the whole continent of Europe) in a state of seige, had been prepared, and were about to be published. That this measure therefore either was adopted by G. Britain, or certainly would be in a short time, was fairly calculated upon, and generally believed. The event has justified the expectation. The countervailing orders have been since issued by G. Britain, interdicting all commerce with France and her dependencies, and these have been following by orders after orders almost innumerable. In what situation then were we placed by those decrees and orders? Prohibited from all commerce with England and her territories by France; and on the other hand, interdicted from all commerce with France and the rest of the continent by the orders of Great Britain. Where then could our vessels go without being exposed to capture? Not to a single port in Europe or her dependencies. In this situation what were we to do? We had but one alterative, either to go to war with all the powers of Europe at once, or suspend for a time all intercourse with them, and keep at home our merchandize, vessels and seamen—we were not prepared for the former, either with men or resources—nor could it possibly be our interest to enter into such a contest if it could be avoided—we chose to adopt the latter, it was certainly the least evil of the two. It was the only measure that left us the chance of preserving peace, and at the same time enabled us to be prepared for war. There was no other means by which war could be avoided. Our vessels were liable to seizure on the ocean, if bound to any port in Europe or her dependencies. Seizures under such circumstances would have been just cause of war—had our vessels gone out and been captured, we should have been forced into a war from which we could expect to derive no benefit, and which it was our interest to avoid, if possible. Placed as we appeared to be in the midst of danger, as it were between Scylla and Charybdis, we endeavoured to steer a middle course at equal distances from the violence of the waves and the dangers of the rocks on either shore—We have hitherto succeeded in that object—we have persued such a course as has not put it in the power of either of the belligerents to charge us with partiality in our conduct—they have not attempted it; this charge has been confined to the minions of disaffection within our own country. There is scarcely a reflecting man who denies at this day the policy and correctness of the law laying the embargo. It has hitherto saved us from the dangers and calamities of war—and it would seem as if the finger of Providence had pointed out this measure as the most fortunate that could under existing circumstances have been adopted. It will no doubt press hard on ourselves in some respects, and it must be expected that any measure that we could have adopted which would produce any effect on others, would press hard on ourselves, but it will bear much harder on those powers, who occasioned it, and make them feel the necessity of our commerce. It will bear in a great degree equally hard on the great belligerent powers of Europe, England and France—their West India colonies will suffer equally for want of provisions. France will lose more of the colonial trade hitherto carried on by neutrals, in consequence of the embargo, than Great Britain, and indeed the loss of trade in general by France, on this account will be greater than that of G. B. as the former for some time past received a great proportion of her trade by the American shipping—But on the other hand G. B. may suffer more for want of the raw materials furnished for her manufactures heretofore by this country than France, but both will sensibly feel the loss of our trade—and the measure so far as regards us, is calculated to operate equally on both, and no possible difference can be discovered to exist.

Under these circumstances, what pretence, what foundation is there for saying that in adopting this measure there was any partiality manifested for France? There is none that can be perceived. There is another circumstance attending the case which at once seems to baffle any attempt to shew partiality in the operation of the law before the House. It is said this law is to operate as a non-intercourse law—that you are going to cut off all intercourse with the colonies of one of the belligerent powers (G. B.) bordering on our North-East frontier, and partiality has been charged on this ground. But gentlemen seem to have forgotten that Spain possesses territories on our South and South western frontier, on which this law will operate as severely as it will on the territory on our North Eastern frontier—and that Spain is the ally of France, and that of course what operates on Spain, operates on France. This law will therefore operate equally on those powers even in this respect. There is not therefore the least foundation for the assertion that the embargo is calculated to favor France. If there were no other data to judge from but the effects it must have on that power and her allies, who derived the greatest advantage from our neutral trade, the thing is unfeasible and absolutely abused.

No man of sense can suppose that France would wish or dictate a measure that would produce as great, if not greater injury to herself than to her enemy. Such a supposition would be next to madness. From these considerations, it would be supposed that no man, who had made himself in any degree acquainted with the situation of this country in regard to the belligerent powers, and had considered the effects that this measure would have on them, could for a moment entertain the opinion, or even hazard a conjecture that it was adopted under the influence of any foreign power, much less under that of France. The allegation is so wild, so inconsistent in itself—so destitute of the least semblance of probability, and altogether unsupported by the least shadow of proof, that nothing but the basest malignity of heart could engender and publish so shameless, foul and infamous a falsehood, and yet, sir, said Mr. Campbell it has been echoed on this floor—sounded in your ears in the frantic strains of a raving maniac, and in the discussion of a subject, no ways calculated to excite such extraordinary passions. Hence it may be supposed it was a premeditated scheme to seize on that occasion in order to give vent to those vindictive passions against the goverment and the republicans of this nation, which seem entirely to occupy and engross the minds of certain persons. In noticing what was said by the member from N. York, I beg to be understood, as not considering these statements as deriving any sort of consequence or importance from him who made them here. It is not on that account that they merit or receive the least notice. That person can only be considered as the mere conduit used by those behind the screen to convey these groundless slanders to the public—the common trumpeter who gives no importance to what he makes public, except what is derived merely from the place he occupies, or the duties assigned him to perform. It is not therefore apprehended that what has been said on this occasion by that member will make any other or stronger impression on the public mind than was made by the same tale, when handed to the public through the medium of party or hireling newspapers.

With regard to the objections made to the subject before you they seem to be founded in error, and in not attending to or understanding the object of the embargo. It is objected that this bill is intended to operate as a non-intercourse bill. The embargo was certainly intended to operate as a non exportation law; no man ever denied this; otherwise we could not keep our merchandise at home; and it is as important to prevent its being exported by land as it is by water. The object of this law is to do equal justice to all parts of the union, and not permit those in one part to have a market, of which those in another part are deprived; & that operating to def at the very object of the embargo. No honest man can wish to do injustice; he could not wish to favor one part of the country at the expense of all the rest.

Mr. Campbell said he had not particularly attended to the details of the bill, the principle he considered correct, which was to make the embargo bear equally on all parts of the union. The member from N. York said we were rivetting chains on the people. No, sir, said Mr. C. we are not rivetting chains on them; we are using our best endeavors to vindicate their rights; but those who oppose the true interests of of their country on every occasion in their power, are rivetting on themselves chains of infamy that they never can shake off.

MR. ALEXANDER said he was not amongst those luminous gentlemen who upon any subject could take up the time of the House in discussion. The bill seems to have been variously amended and not to be very distinctly understood; and therefore I think it highly proper to let it go to a committee. The gentleman from New York, said Mr. A. objects to the bill, because it is radically distinct from the original bill called the embargo act; and in confirmation of this introduces the message of the President recommending an inhibition which the gentleman supposes only to have included our vessels. If there be any thing in the terms of the message which limits the communication by water exclusively, it will be found just policy also to extend it to prohibit exportation by land. But the gentleman says the bills are different; that this is a non-intercourse bill. Indeed I cannot see the difference: the embargo is a total restriction of trade, not upon one part of the community, but upon the whole. It is a misfortune in a debate of this sort, that gentlemen will not confine themselves to the question, but range wide from it. If the gentleman from New York is of this opinion, he has a right to retain it, and support it with all the argument he can. This is an homogeneous part of the original measure, and the question is whether it shall or shall not be committed. I have not formed a distinct opinion for or against it, but when I see gentlemen for whom I have a respect, and to whom no suspicion can attach of being disposed to delay the bill, think it would be just and proper policy to commit it, I shall vote with them.

To the embargo I was opposed; and I do not regret the opposition now, though I admit that certain subsequent events do tend to shew the utility if not the wisdom of the measure. My principal objection then was and now is in point of time: but since it is adopted it is my wish that it should operate equally. I do not wish to hear gentlemen expatiate in debate on the relative pressure of the measure on foreign powers; it is immaterial to me whether it operates more on one or on the other; it is necessary that it should be a just measure. So as to our own citizens by the same rule, the embargo should be just. The southern citizen cannot export his cotton and tobacco; the same is the situation of the citizens of the middle states with respect to their produce, while those states on the confines of some adjacent territories will have an immense advantage over those who are otherwise situated. On the confines of Canada and on our southern extremity we find this to be the case. It is entirely unjust that the citizen of one district of the country should be permitted to trade, while another is obliged to endure these privations. Therefore I think this bill is not objectionable on the ground taken by the gentleman from New York.

I will here observe that any man entering into debate is at liberty to make use of such language as he pleases if it be not personal. I heard nothing from the gentleman from New York giving me any kind of offence, except that we were under foreign influence. So far as relates to myself the observation has no application; I shall always pursue what I believe to be true policy with regard to any man or set of men. I wish the bill to be recommitted to have such amendments made to it as are necessary.

MR. BIBB wished to make one or two observations. It will be recollected (said he) that the embargo law did not pass with my assent; but since the majority thought proper to pass it, I determined that nothing should be wanting on my part to render it as effectual as it can be made. My conduct has gone to this effect. I have done every thing I could consistently with my own opinion, to reconcile my constituents to the measure. But in the course of this discussion it has been urged on the one hand that the House were governed by French in-