National Intelligencer.

& WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

VOL. VIII. WASHINGTON CITY, PRINTED BY SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. NO. 1158.

FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNUM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1808. *PAID IN ADVANCE.*

BY AUTHORITY.

AN ACT for extending the terms of credit on revenue bonds in certain cases, and for other purposes.

BE *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That the payment of all bonds given for duties on the importation of coffee, sugar, pepper, indigo, cocoa, and wine paying a duty of twenty-three cents per gallon, which remain unpaid at the passing of this act, and have or may become due, subsequent to the 22d of December last, and whilst the act entitled "An act laying an embargo on all ships and vessels in the ports and harbors of the United States," shall continue in force, may be suspended during the continuance of the said act, on the terms and conditions hereinafter provided: *Provided,* That such extension of credit shall not apply to the duties due for any of the above described articles, which, either have been re-exported, or are not entitled to be exported with benefit of drawback, nor to any which have been, or will be sold by the importer.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the persons entitled to the extension of credit, allowed by the preceding section, shall, in order to enjoy its benefit, take up, or have cancelled, the bonds heretofore given for duties, on which the extension of credit is allowed, and give to the collector new bonds, with one or more sureties, to the satisfaction of said collector, for the sums of their former bonds respectively, payable whenever the act entitled "An act laying an embargo on all ships and vessels in the ports and harbors of the United States," shall no longer be in force: which bonds shall be accepted by the collectors respectively, upon the terms following, that is to say, the goods for the duties whereon such bonds shall be accepted, shall be deposited at the expense and risk of the importer, or importers, parties to the said bonds, in one or more store-house or store-houses, in the same manner as is now provided for the deposit of teas, by the 62d section of the act entitled "An act to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage," but no delivery of the said goods, or of part thereof, shall be made to the owners thereof, unless the duties on so much thereof, as may, on the application of the owners, be thus delivered, shall have been paid. And whenever the sum specified in any of the bonds taken by virtue of this section, shall become due and remain unpaid more than forty-five days, so much of the said deposited goods as may be necessary, shall be sold by the collector at public sale, and the proceeds thereof, after deducting the charges of safe-keeping and sale thereof, shall be applied to the payment of such sum, rendering the overplus arising on such sale and the residue of the goods so deposited, if any there be, to the person or persons, by whom such a deposit shall have been made, or to his or their agent or lawful representative. But if, the proceeds of such sale shall not be sufficient to pay the duties and charges, or if any of the goods shall, while deposited, be destroyed, stolen, lost or damaged, the bonds taken by virtue of this section, for the payment of duties on such goods, shall be proceeded with, in all respects, as other bonds taken by collectors for duties due to the United States.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That whenever any goods, wares or merchandise, which, being entitled to be exported with benefit of drawback, had, prior to the 22d day of December last, been actually laden on board a vessel, and inspected under the superintendance of a proper officer, in conformity with the provisions of the 76th section of the act entitled "An act to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage," have been detained under the act laying an embargo on all ships and vessels in the ports and harbors of the United States, so as to prevent the actual exportation of such goods, wares and merchandise, the payment of bonds given for duties on the importation of the same, may, to an amount equal to that of such duties, and no farther, be suspended during the continuance of the last mentioned act, in the same manner, and on the same terms and conditions, as is provided by the preceding section for bonds given for duties on certain specified articles: *Provided,* That the owners of such goods, wares and merchandise, shall surrender any debentures which previously have been granted for the drawback of duties on the same.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the persons entitled to the extension of credit allowed by the next preceding section, may, at their option, either deposit the goods, wares and merchandise, in a store-house or store-houses, or leave the same on board the vessel on which the same have been laden; the said goods, wares and merchandise, being in either case secured in the same manner as is provided for goods deposited in conformity with the second section of this act: *Provided always,* That whenever it may be lawful to export such goods, wares or merchandise, it shall be necessary that the same should again be inspected by a proper officer on board the vessel in which the same shall be exported, in order to entitle the exporter to the benefit of drawback: nor shall any debentures for drawback of duties on such goods, wares and merchandise, be issued or paid, until after the actual exportation of the same: *And provided also,* that nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent the owners of such goods, wares and merchandise, who may not claim the extension of credit allowed by this act, and who have not received debentures for the drawback of duties on the same, from landing and keeping in their possession any such goods, wares or merchandise.

J. B. VARNUM, *Speaker of the House of Representatives.*
GEO: CLINTON,
Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

March 10, 1808.

APPROVED,
TH: JEFFERSON.

AN ACT

For procuring an additional number of arms and for the purchase of salt-petre and sulphur.

BE *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That a sum of money not exceeding three hundred thousand dollars, be, and the same is hereby appropriated, out any monies in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of procuring by purchase, or causing to be made within the United States, and under the direction of the President of the United States, an additional number of stands of arms to be deposited in safe and suitable places. And for the purchase of salt petre and sulphur, a sum not exceeding one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

J. B. VARNUM,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
GEO: CLINTON,
Vice President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

March 11, 1808.

Approved,
TH: JEFFERSON.

FROM THE WASHINGTON FEDERALIST.

We are happy to announce that a Bridge is again completed across the Potomac near the Little Falls, three or four miles from the City and Georgetown. This bridge brings several miles nearer to Georgetown and to the Capitol of the U. States, the finest part of Virginia; and is important, not only to the convenience of a well cultivated populous country, but to the commercial growth of the seat of government.

This is the third bridge that has been erected at the same place within the last 12 or 14 years: the first was built by M. Palmer, entirely of wood, and fell in about 7 years, from natural decay; the next was made by Mr. Burr, the architect of the celebrated Trenton bridge, and on the same principles, also of wood, and remained scarcely six months. The cost of the first, including very strong abutments of stone and iron, raised on each side of the river 37 feet higher than its bed to place the bridge out of danger from floods, was little less than 80,000 dollars. But the abutments, which formed at least a moiety of the expence, remain unimpaired, and promise to do so for ages.

The bridge just finished is constructed on the principles of that built a few years ago by judge Findley, near Union Town, in Pennsylvania over Jacob's Creek. It is supported solely by iron chains, extended across the river, thrown over piers erected on the abutmens, about 20 feet high. The ends are well secured in the ground, and the chains passing over the river from pier to pier, describe a curve line, touching in the centre the level of the floor, which is just as high as the abutments. The lower tier of joists are hung to the chains, by iron pendants or stirrups of different lengths, so as to form a level of the whole 18 or 20 inches below the top of the abutments—another tier of joists is laid across the first, and receives the floor.

There are four chains to support this bridge, two on each side of it—the pendents are hung on the chains alternately, about 5 feet apart, on each side, so that each chain receives a pendent in every 10 feet. Judge Findley advised but one chain on a side, and the pendents to be 10 feet apart, but as it only created additional labor and expence, it was thought best for greater security, and this mode ct bridging being entirely new, to double the strength, by doubling the chains, pendents and joists—but it is now seen, that the ingenious inventor was correct in his advice, and that half the number would have been abundantly sufficient for the support of many times the weight which the bridge can ever be required to bear—and that the additional chains and pendents only add useless strength.

Judge Findley has made many experiments to ascertain the strength of iron in different positions, and asserts that one inch square bar of tolerable iron in the position these chains hang, will bear from 30 to 40 tons weight. The four chains employed in this bridge, are equal to 7 1-2 bars of one inch square, and are sufficient, according to his experiments, for the support of 225 to 280 tons. The pendents on the same principles would support, equally distributed over the bridge, 600 tons:—each pair of pendents, supporting one joist, would bear at least 50 tons; but from their frequent occurrence, and the length of the joists of the second tier, no one of which rests on less than four joists below, supported by 8 pendents, it is next to impossible that any one pair of pendents will ever be required to support one fortieth part of what they are able to bear.

The span of this bridge is 128 1-2 feet—the width 16 feet, and the weight about 22 tons. The cost is less than 4,000 dollars—perhaps the expence properly belonging to the bridge, less than 3,000—as a portion of the money expended has been laid out in repairing, and better securing from damage by floods, the inclined plane leading up to the abutment, on the Maryland side. The wood part of the bridge, which is but trifling, can always be repaired, by taking out any decayed timber, without disturbing what remains sound. The iron part is the chief expence, and that will endure for a century. We hear that judge Findley is about obtaining a patent for his invention, which is perhaps the most important that the world has yet discovered in the art of bridge building; uniting as it does, great strength and durability, with extreme cheapness.

At a meeting of the Republicans of Wilmington N. C. & its vicinity, convened by public notice at Dick's Hotel on Saturday 27th February, 1808, Joshua Potts was chosen chairman, and Alimand Hall, Secretary.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Whereas we consider the present as the most eventful and important crisis that has occurred in our political affairs since the establishment of American independence. In addition to the unfortunate affair of the frigate Chesapeake, the belligerent powers, after exhausting their invention and pursuit, of all other means of mutual annoyance; have at length to the total subversion of the usages and long established laws of nations, determined on a total annihilation of every vestige of neutral right.—Whether we consider our government as at this time pressing demands of satisfaction for insults and indignities received; or as contending for acknowledgment and security by negociation; or preparing to defend if necessary by force, rights deeply affecting the future welfare and prosperity of our country; we deem the present a period pregnant with events so highly important as to call on every good citizen in a peculiar manner to support the constituted authorities.

Resolved therefore, That wholly disregarding the inconsiderate speculations of inexperienced, misinformed, or designing men; but entertaining full and unabated confidence in the wisdom and integrity of the President and Congress of the United States; we pledge our support of every measure, which they in their wisdom may think proper to adopt, to vindicate the honor, and secure the rights of the nation.

Resolved, That perfectly unbiassed towards any foreign power, viewing all impartially, as 'in war enemies—in peace friends'.—We feel no other interest in the result of their conflicts, than so far as it may hereafter affect our own safety and independence; but the outrages committed on our rights under the pleas of necessity or counteraction, excite equally our resentment and abhorrence, whether they be committed by the one, or the other of the belligerents—It is therefore with sentiments of the highest indignation, we learn that the French Emperor, in addition to his former spoliating orders, has lately issued a decree rendering every American vessel that could be sent to sea, even if bound to his own ports, under some pretence or other, subject to condemnation.

Resolved, That taking into view the enforcement of the French Decree of Nov. 1806—the late British orders of council, and the more recent supplemental decree of Buonaparte; interdicted as we are on the one hand by France and her allies, at the peril of condemnation of vessel and cargo, from any commerce whatever with Great Britain and her dependencies; and on the other hand, interdicted also by Great Britain at the same peril, from any commerce with France and her allies, which now compose almost all Europe. Had the constituted authorities slumbered at their post; had they not foreseen, and as far as practicable averted the injurious effects of such orders and decrees, they would have been either guilty of a dereliction of duty, or obnoxious to the just reproach of deficiency in political foresight. We therefore consider the embargo as a measure founded on principles of a wise and provident policy; inasmuch as no American vessel could have traversed the seas subject to the operation of such restrictions, but must have fallen a prey to the depredations of one or the other of the belligerent powers.

Resolved, That we fully approve of the firm and dignified conduct displayed on all occasions by our Representative in Congress Thomas Kenan, Esq.

Resolved, That it is recommended by this meeting to the Republicans of the several counties composing the District, to send four delegates from each county, to meet at S. Washington on the first Monday in May next, for the purpose of selecting a proper person to be supported as an elector, to vote for a President and Vice-President of the United States, at the ensuing election—and that the chairman request Major [illegible] Nixon, and A. F. Macneille, to attend at such meeting, in behalf of the Republicans of this county; and that A. F. Macneille, Thomas F. Davis, Wm. Giles, Hinton James and Christopher Dudley, Jun. be a committee to correspond on this subject.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEBATE

On the bill concerning public contracts.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25.

The bill being on its passage, and a motion having been made to re-commit it,

Mr. Basset said he did not rise to make objections to the re-commitment of the bill. Being as he professed himself a real advocate of the principle he wished it to be so presented to their consideration as to attach to it as many friends as possible, and that it might go forth as perfect as they could make it. He therefore unequivocally consented to the re-commitment. But, that gentlemen might know the grounds on which the bill was founded he took this opportunity to give an explanation of them.

It is not to be wondered at, said he, that a subject which has gone through the House without debate as this has should need explanation. I did believe and do still believe that there is so much intrinsic merit in the bill itself as to carry conviction to the minds of the majority, and weigh down all opposition. It would certainly have been better if some of the objections which are now made, had been made while the bill was before open to amendment; but such as have been made, I will now endeavor to answer.

It certainly was never supposed by the friends of the bill, that by passing it we should violate the constitution. What says the constitution as to the principle? "No Senator or Representative shall, during the time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil office under the authority of the U. S. which shall have been created or the emoluments whereof shall have been increased during the time for which he was elected; and no person holding any office under the United States, shall be a member of either House during his continuance in office." This short provision of the constitution seems to me to speak in answer to many objections to this bill; certainly it is a sufficient answer to those who would assume for granted that we are always trust worthy. Our constitutents in this rule of conduct (the constitution) have told us that suspicion is a virtue; they have laid it down as a fundamental principle that the purity of the Representative body is most desirable; they have intended to put out of view every thing which could affect our selfish feelings; they have said that any man who might be liable to be operated on by private motives, should not have a vote in the Representation of the nation; that social motives only shall be known; that the Representatives shall be actuated only by those feelings common to the whole community. This is the most lively feature in our whole government—that the Representative and the represented shall feel one common sentiment—that each shall feel the acts of the actor. Why does the constitution prohibit a public officer from holding a seat? Because a public officer has an individual interest in public measures not connected with the common good. For instance, the public good requires of the public officers the most zealous attention to the execution of the laws. What says a person making omission in his duty? Indulgence and gratification. Is not here a dissimilarity of feelings? The interest of the individual would prevail, and the rights of the community would suffer; and therefore they should not be put in competition. Has not a contractor the very same bias as a public officer? Is it not the interest of the public that contracts should be made as cheaply as possible, and of the contractor that they should be as dear? Is not here a distinction of interest, and is it not correct that a person who receives the public money in a contract ought not to have a vote in authorizing that contract? Is it not one of the great advantages secured to the people by our government, that their Representatives shall appropriate their money to the people's good? Is it the interest of the contractor to apply this scale of justice and impartiality? Certainly not. Therefore he stands in a different relation to the people than other citizens, and comes within the rule of the constitution.

With the exception of one gentleman (Mr. Holland) all who have spoken on this subject have admitted the principle to be correct. The constitution has declared it so; the officers of our government have evinced their conviction of it, by a refusal to make contracts with members. Where then is the necessity for this law a gentleman asks us, and at the same time answers that we have no contractors here. This is evidence of the propriety of passing this bill. Our officers have felt it improper, and have declined making contracts with members. We in common with them have felt its impropriety; and thus no contracts have been made. What argument on earth can confirm us more in the principle than looking each way, and seeing that every thing wise and virtuous recommends its adoption? This argument that we are as yet pure, is the strongest recommendation of this preventative measure that can be conceived instead of an objection.

The bill would appear to me to be equally correct and effectual, if some words which have been objected to were omitted, and which go to a removal from office and disqualification to office, for making a contract with a member of Congress. But these words are not subject to exception, and the provision they contain is not without the constitutional power of this House. The constitution, speaking of impeachment says "The Senate shall have sole power to try all Impeachments, &c. Judgement in cases of impeachment shall not extend farther than to removal from office and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit under the U. States, &c." Is not here the principle recorded? Who is to ascertain the effect of a judgment? Is it not one of the general powers incident to Congress? The constitution has enacted that disqualification shall follow impeachment? Who shall attach it? The Executive? No. Shall the judiciary? At this moment I need not make a protest against increasing judicial power: it is pretty well understood in this House, and in the nation that the judiciary officers are disposed to take sufficient power upon themselves. Therefore I would not agree that the judiciary department shall have authority to say to what extent judgement in cases of impeachment shall go. If we profess to maintain a government of laws, it is one essential part of law to fix the extent of punishment, and gentlemen must see that it is one of the strongest and most certainly incidental