# National Intelligencer.

## & WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

VOL. VIII. WASHINGTON CITY, PRINTED BY SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. No. 1037.

THREE DOLLARS PER ANNUM, PAID IN ADVANCE.

FRIDAY, JULY 8, 1808.


## CONGRESS.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

### Mr. CAMPBELL'S SPEECH

ON THE

*Resolution for authorising the President under certain conditions to suspend the Embargoes.*

Mr. G. W. CAMPBELL said, it was with considerable diffidence he addressed himself to the House on any occasion at any time, and his reluctance to do so had been much increased by indisposition, with which he had been afflicted and much debilitated during the whole of the present session. But upon this occasion which he himself considered highly important, and which had been so considered by others, and respecting which, in his opinion, many misrepresentations had been made, he felt it a duty he owed to his country and to himself, to lay before the House some of those reasons that induced him to introduce the measure and which still convinced of him that it ought to be adopted. With regard to the remarks of the gentlemen from Virginia, (Mr. Randolph) respecting a profession in this country, which it has become very fashionable in certain circumstances to asperse, (said Mr. C.) I shall say very little—I shall not deign to enter into a vindication of those who complained against general and vague aspersions which scarcely seemed to have any object but to give a loose to a vein of invective, and can have no other effect than to produce irritation, and provoke the number and disposition of those who utter them. I do not suppose the gentlemen meant any reproach to any of us, nor having spoken on the subject since he did, if he had so intended them, he will, I presume, have expressly said so, as every candid man ought to do. If however he did, I shall be ready to prove it. If not this applied to me, I am willing to leave it to the House and the nation to determine the disparity of such an attack on a whole profession, and, to judge whether such conduct be consistent with the exalted character of a representative, or the decorum that ought to prevail on this floor. If I had supposed that any allusion was intended to be made to me in that vituperative, I would have said that they were so far unauthorized and totally unfounded in fact. Further, sir, if any insinuation was intended, that I as one of that profession, am in the habit of acting in this House under the influence of fees and other rewards, that the approbation of my own conscience and the good of my country, or otherwise than my judgment indicates me believe is correct, I pronounce it a groundless and slanderous assertion. I have no interest in coining here but the good of my country, and no inducement but those arise to perform those duties in society, which have been assigned me by my fellow-citizens when I have had honour to represent—I have therefore thought proper to resist any illiberal insinuation that may have been uttered so far as they can be construed to apply to me.

I will now (said Mr. Campbell,) return to the subject before the House. The gentleman last up (Mr. D. R.) has thought his conduct it necessary for me to enter into a discussion of a part of this subject, which might uncovered the cankered sore upon which he notice. With that gentleman I agree in every thing he said, except as to the effect which this resolution would have upon foreign nations. If I supposed that this measure held out to foreign powers the slightest pretext for believing that we are actuated by fear, or any, as he is inclined to repeat it, under any circumstances whatever, except such as are consistent with the utmost dignity of the nation, I would be the last man to propose it to this House. But under a conviction that this measure can have no such effect, that it holds to foreign powers a language directly opposite to this, and that they will see in it the only object which its supporters can be fairly supposed to have, to put it in the power of the Executive to remove a pressure, so soon as circumstances will render it proper, which is acknowledged to bear hard on the American people, and must continue to do so, so long as the causes that produced it remain unchanged, I have brought it before the House, and under this impression alone am I disposed to support it. So far, sir, from thinking that it will induce foreign nations to believe we are disposed to remove the embargo, before the cause as that proposed is no first withdrawn, I am clearly of opinion, that this resolution will convince them that we are determined the embargo laws never shall be repealed, until they make their offences and decrees, or change their conduct in such a manner as to render our commerce safe. What does the resolution say to the belligerent powers? Is not its language clear and explicit? It says to them you must cease from your decrees, and the embargo shall be removed. The council of the nation have solemnly so determined; your orders and decrees have produced the embargo, and it shall continue until you withdraw them. It is accordingly in these resolutions in the strongest language in our power that we are determined not to shrink from the ground we have taken, that we will not relinquish the measures we have adopted, until they first withdraw their decrees so destructive to our commerce, and then the embargo shall be removed and our commercial world will be unshackled and trade restored to its usual channels, and the probable effect of this resolution will turn the eyes of the American people to the real source of their injuries, difficulties and dangers, and of the belligerent powers, in passing their orders and decrees, by which our commerce is so greatly injured and annihilated the commerce of the civilized world—In these they will see the real cause of all our difficulties, reasons that rendered it essentially necessary to resist the decrees, from certain quarters; and to these they must look to unlimed those chains and permit trade to return to its usual channels, and pursue its natural course—on these grounds and with this view, this measure is proposed, and I hope, and may be supported by me.

I will now (said Mr. Campbell) notice the remarks made by the last speaker on the subject of the embargo laws. I am willing to be governed in our any time, and therefore declared it was and still is my principal object, in answer to such considerations and objections, it would seem almost unnecessary to be repeated, but they appear to destroy the other. Those who made them have been equally inconsistent in asking the vote of those who imposed the embargo as they have been unfortunate and inconsistent in the grounds upon which they have opposed it. No one could reasonably suppose the embargo was intended to be a permanent, or even permanent unalterable measure, or to continue longer than the necessity of the causes that produced it. Neither ought it to be supposed that it would be removed by the existence of those causes, unless some alternative was resorted to in its place. These reasonings have been so varied, and so contradictory, that I have thought proper to make a short, and I hope, a plain and intelligible statement of the ground, and our reasons, from being captured by foreign powers, to produce a great and preserve our house, our country and our seamen