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FROM BELL'S WEEKLY MESSENGER, A LONDON PAPER.

Consequences and impolicy of a war with America.

The intelligence of the week has produced one event upon which it is impossible to reflect, without a sentiment of indignation. The intemperance of one of our admirals has nearly involved us in a war with America. The intemperance of the party writers at home has hurried them not only to approve of the conduct of our officers, but to make the unqualified assertion, that a war with America would be an undoubted good—an absolute advantage to us.

A war with America an undoubted good! We really wish that those advocates for war would consult the merchants of London, Liverpool and Bristol. They would soon be compelled into other conclusions.

America, say these advocates, monopolizes the whole of our colonial carrying trade. This a manifest injury to British commerce. Indeed! Why is it, good friends, that our merchants prefer the Americans as carriers to carriers of their own nation? For no other reason, but because as a neutral, America can afford to take their commoditions at a lower freightage. And is not this an indispensible advantage both to the individual merchant and to the general commerce of our country? Are not our commodities thus enabled to come cheaper to market, and thereby ensure a more certain and more speedy sale.

It appears, therefore, in this point of view, the carrying trade of America is of real benefit to the general commerce of England.

But the shipping trade say the party writers, must proportionally suffer—certainly. But it will not, we hope, be contended, that the interests of the general commerce are to be sacrificed to one particular branch—the shipping or country trade.

There are, indeed, certain advantages which are essential to neutrals, and which no belligerent power should grudge to its neutral neighbour, inasmuch as they themselves fully participate in the benefit. Commerce would not only languish, but in many respects would be totally extinguished, if these neutral mediums were to be prohibited.

In what manner, for example, is it that our colonial produce obtains admission into France and Germany, in despite of all the oppressive regulations of the French emperor? It is only through these neutral mediums. In a word, what America takes with one hand, she gives us tenfold with another. She is above a carrier or an agent.—Her flag covers the English as well as the French manufactures. She has no partiality but that of gain, and as this may be procured equally on both sides, so will America be found equally advantageous to both.

If America were to be cut off from the carrying trade, says the party writers, the British merchant would be compelled to employ his own countrymen.

We have already answered this argument. The employment of the neutral medium is of benefit to the general commerce, and the interest of the one branch must not be consulted at the expence of the whole. The merchants must not send their commodities into foreign markets, at a price amounting to a prohibition of all purchase, for no other purpose but that they would employ their own countrymen. They must not pay convoy and insurance on the commodities, (sugars, for example) which will scarcely pay the simple freight.

A very shallow objection is here made.—These commodities, say they, are articles of necessity; the buyers must have them, and will therefore pay the price, be what it may.

In the first place, other commodities will enter into competition with them, and though not so good, the difference being more than compensated by the inferior price, will assuredly find a preference.

In the second place, in the circumstance of any advanced price, even the necessary buyers take a less quantity than usual. But this diminished consumption is so much dead loss to the merchant and manufacturer. It will not, we hope, be contended, that there is a new thing in the advance of price which can indemnify him for his diminished sale. The advanced price is but the defrayment of his advanced expence. If he add any thing beyond it, it is a forced augmentation of his profits beyond their natural level, and of course subjects him to be undersold by those, who will sell at a fair profit. He gains nothing, therefore, as we have above said, by his advanced price and therefore must necessarily lose by his diminished sale.

Such, then, would be the necessary effects of forcing trade into an unnatural channel—of compelling our merchants in any event, and under every circumstance, to employ only British shipping, and dismiss the neutral medium.

Our commerce would suffer, and ultimately our shipping. We should shortly have more ships, but fewer commodities. The ship builders would then have just cause of complaint, that had employed their capitals in building vessels, which have only to rot in the docks.

The result is, that nothing is to be gained by a war with America. In her carrying trade, she carries for us, and she carries for our enemy. It would be a manifest injury to our general commerce to deprive her of the former, and with respect to the latter, we should not gain that of which we should deprive that of America. We could not supply her place becoming carriers to our enemy; neither should we much distress the enemy by cutting off this mean of conveyance—we should only throw his carrying trade into another channel—whilst the Danes are neutral, it would be to no purpose to cut off the neutral medium of America.

We might add, that we perhaps gain as much on one hand as we loose on the other by this neutral communication. America carries English manufactures, as often at least as she carries French. We might almost say, that in her character as a neutral trader she carries scarcely any thing else but English goods.

We have entered into some detail upon this subject, as there seems to be a strange misconception upon the very first principles of political economy. It is contended, for the first time, that the merchant will lose nothing by being compelled to sell dear; and that is a matter of perfect indifference in commerce, whether the commodity reaches its market by a direct road, and therefore at a natural price, or through all the obstacles of possible interruption, and therefore at a very disproportionable and a very unnatural price.

"The only difference would be," say they, quoting the words of Mr. Randolph, an American senator, "that the Americans will have to give a Joe for a commodity, where they formerly gave a dollar."

This might be the difference to such a man as Randolph, who could equally afford to have a commodity whether it cost a Joe or a dollar. But it would be very different with respect to the Americans in general. Every one could not purchase at a Joe who purchase at a dollar. Some would endeavour, therefore, to do without it, others would begin to think of substitutes.—Necessity is the mother of invention.—Let us not drive the Americans to resources from which it may be afterwards very difficult to recall them.

FROM THE EVENING POST.

The nativity and citizenship of *Ware, Strahan and Martin*, the three seamen feloniously taken from the *United States* frigate Chesapeake, after the *murder* of several of her crew, by the *British* ship of war Leopard, acting under the orders of admiral Berkley, being now completely ascertained, whilst I deplore their fate, and my heart is ready to burst with uncontrolable emotions of indignation, at the unprecedented and villainous outrage, I have to congratulate the public upon another instance of that accuracy of information which our government has obtained on a subject of so great national concern: the statement originally published, and believed to be from official information, is most completely substantiated by a host of testimony—the greater part of which is from gentlemen of *this* state whose depositions cannot be called in question by the most thorough-going advocate of Great Britain, however prone his heart may be to equivocation, or his wishes be inclined to debase his country for British gold—for we have hundreds of base wretches amongst us that receive secret service money from the ministry of Great Britain, and who merit a halter as richly as their king does a situation in an hospital of incurables.

The tories driven from their former ground respecting the citizenship of these men, will now aver, *nay prove*, by some "authentic" intelligence from their brother tories in Halifax, that these men entered of their own accord into the British service, and that having once engaged in it, they had no right to leave it, &c.—While oaths are so easily obtained, and while so many hundreds of thousands of pounds sterling are spent in *nameless* services for the British government, we may presume that some "*gentlemen of the first respectability*" will *swear* to it. Witness the trial of Whitby, for the murder of Pearce, the flogging of Jessup, and a hundred other instances of insult and outrage.

Sometime since there was published an account of the manner of making Volunteers for the British navy, and these men *may* have entered to save their lives—though I believe they never did.

The fact in regard to the place of their nativity or the punishment of the men themselves, considered on a broad scale, is a matter of but little importance when the PRINCIPLE is taken into view; and except for the discomfiture of the tories, who have made a liberal use of lies fresh from the British manufactory upon this subject, I deem the facts unworthy of much consideration; for our flag *must protect those who sail under it*, or our rights and independence are not worth the regard of a moment. If our vessels are to be overhauled as they have been, if our shores are to be insulted, our people violently carried away or murdered at the discretion of a mercenary blood hound, let us give up that liberty our fathers purchased, and acknowledge ourselves a miserable set of degenerated rascals, unworthy of the name and rank they obtained for us, and place ourselves under the protection of some power able and willing to defend us.

THIS WILL NOT BE THE CASE—The government possesses the full confidence of the people, and the people will support its measures at the hazard of their lives and fortunes. The conduct of the present administration has been strongly marked with a desire to preserve peace with all nations, and the people have admired the ability, the temper and moderation, yet perseverance and firmness of its negociations to retain the blessing: if war must come, it will be a war of the *people* of the United States against the *ministry* of Great Britain—for the great body of the subjects of that power are our friends; and necessity alone will compel them to enter into the unprofitable contest.

"Rather than have done that thing" (*deliver* up Jonathan Robbins) said a highly respectable member of the society of friends, "I would enter into a ten years war." This man could not reconcile the doing of an action morally wrong and a temporizing with *right*, to prevent events which might be more calamitious in their result, than that under his immediate controul. He looked to *principle*—he *felt as an honest man.*

Like the old friend, I freely declare, that I had rather this country was plunged into a hundred years war, than that the outrage upon the Chesapeake should pass over unrevenged or unatoned for, and that the American flag is of no more value in the estimation of G. Britain than a rag stuck up in a corn field to *scare* away black birds and crows.

I most ardently wish the business may be amicably settled; that Berkley may expiate his crimes at the yard arm, *as a warning to others*; that the *nine hundred stripes* inflicted upon our unfortunate fellow citizens at Halifax may be avenged; atonement be made for the past, and security given for the future, and harmony completely restored yet I would rather meet *any event* than suffer the thing to be passed over by the *common course* of a *British court marshal*, composed of men alike criminal as the accused, and having a *fellow-feeling* for his *difficulties*.

A world of ourselves—independent of all nations—with an increasing population and a progressing spirit for manufactures, we may defy the whole hordes of Europe. On our native fields and in defence of our birth-right, the grave to American liberty will, I trust, be the grave of the *last* American. The spirit of freemen is unquenchable—extermination alone can prevent its operation; for

"Even in the dark and deadly damp of
"dungeons The soul can rear its sceptre.
"smile at anguish, And *triumph* o'er op-
"pression."

It may be alledged that I am *warm* upon this subject—let those be *cool* who can—It is not in my constitution willingly and passively to become a slave; nor can I patiently sit down and hear a parcel of ungrateful scoundrels, who have obtained their fortunes amongst us, traduce our government, thwart its measures, and, bending on their knees, drink the health of that man by whose servants we have been injured. I would retrieve the credit of Baltimore by tarring and feathering a dozen of them, and fixing them up as "monuments" for toryism to look at and bewail.

The feelings of an injured people should be respected; and when men who have been nourished and cherished by us, as some persons have been, would now take up arms against us, if they dared, it is time for the people to *mark* them: I would do as the farmer does his *sheep* and present a front to Great-Britain for derision and firmness, which, like the phalanx of ancient Greece, shall not be assailed with impunity.

A YANKEE.

At a meeting of the Officers of the 27th Regiment of Maryland Militia, and of the Independent Light Dragoons, attached to the said Regiment, the following resolutions were unanimously entered into:—

Resolved unanimously. That as citizens and soldiers, we feel the deepest interest in the present state of public affairs, and at this moment deem it not merely our undoubted right, but consider it to be our sacred duty to give a solemn pledge of our services to our country and an open avowal of our opinions to the public.

Resolved unanimously, That our attachment to and confidence in the president of the United States, do not result from any party considerations whatever, but proceed from the tried qualities, virtues and services of the man and the patriot. What he has done is a guarantee for what he will do, and on the future we repose with as much confidence as we reflect with satisfaction on the past. On his enlightened and vigorous policy towards our enemies we as securely rely, as we sincerely applaud his mild, wise, and beneficient administration over our common country.

Resolved unanimously, That without courting war, we shall never deprecate it. The honor of our country is dearer to us than its wealth, congress shall determine, that, as citizens, we obey, or as soldiers we assert. Until the decision be known our vigilance and preparation shall not relax.

Resolved unanimously, That we neither acknowledge nor feel a preference for any *foreign power* whatsoever, and are ready to assert our independence, our honor, and our rights, against all without distinction, who upon any pretext may outrage or invade them. The real American has no foreign leaven in his character; but views a national injury with an equal eye, whether it is the result of British aggression, or of French violence.

Resolved unanimously, That it is with indignant astonishment, and a sentiment of the most profound resentment, that we contrast the illusory declarations of British ministers, with the continued and harrassing violation of our national sovereignty and honor, within our own jurisdiction, and even within our very harbors, by the ships of War of the British king;—while such insults and outrages unattoned, unrevenged, every American citizen is lessened in his own esteem, and feels a portion of the dishonor reflected on himself! The trial and punishment of the guilty, although some atonement to our murdered and captive countrymen, if nothing more is done, will leave the principle like the suspended sword, hanging over our heads; a magnanimous policy disdains a compromise of national honor and rights, nor can our claim stop short of *indemnity for the past, and security for the future.* If this be refused to our just demand, we are prepared under the will and sanction of our government, to abide the worst, and are firm in the consciousness, we are soldiers in a just cause. Rather than behold a surrender of principles so dear to our hearts, our wish is that the issue may be committed to him who gives the "Battle" and the "Race."

Resolved unanimously, That we have beheld with abhorence and indignation, a wicked and unprincipled attempt to separate the western from the atlantic states, and in consequence to destroy our free and happy form of Government, dissolve our constitution, overthrow our laws, and plunge us into all the evils of anarchy, confusion, and civil war: We bless the manly and vigilant policy and the protecting arm, which averted the danger and saved our country: But while we exult in the mild, just, and benignant spirit of our laws, whose great distinction is that while they punish guilt, they protect innocence, we cannot but lament that they should hold out an entire impunity to designs which have for their object the destruction of civil liberty and law; and thus encourage the ambitious and unprincipled in their pursuit of plunder and of power. Against such attempts, it is the duty of the citizen soldier, to be ever on the alert, and by his vigilance exertion, and patriotism, to supply that guard over the public welfare, which in this instance the law refuses, until the collective wisdom of the country shall furnish a remedy for the evil.

Resolved unanimously, That the members composing the companies of the 27th Regiment, be invited by their respective officers to join heart and hand in the foregoing Resolutions.

At the request of the officers.

WM. LOWRY, Lt. Col. Com.

On behalf of the officers of the 27th Regiment.

JOS. C. WHITE, *Sec'ry.*

FROM THE VIRGINIA ARGUS.

GREATNESS.

The word GREAT, I have very frequently of late heard applied as an epithet of distinction to certain characters, and in my mind, so indiscriminately that I have been led to enquire into its meaning: one of Johnson's definitions is—"having any quality in a great degree," and he seems to use it rather in a good sence; but I am apt to think that his is not the general acceptation of the term; for in history we see it applied to Alexander of Macedon, who certainly had no other title to Greatness, than that he carried havoc and destraction through all the known parts of the world; unfeeling and regardless of the misery and distress with which he afflicted mankind. His greatness then seems to have consisted not only in the ability and disposition to do mischief, but in having actually done it.

Cesar, is also called GREAT, for nearly the same reasons, because he knew how to discipline and command a mercenary army, whom he liberally rewarded, with the riches of others, for promoting his selfish and wicked designs. Many other instances might be adduced from history, to shew that the word *great* as applied to men, has been used in a bad sense; and has by the common consent of mankind been ascribed to those characters who have commited the greatest outrages upon society In this sense, Henry Fielding has very properly bestowed this epithet upon the renowned *Jonathan Wild*; in the history of whose life; we find the definition, and distinction, between *greatness* and *goodness* to be as follows:—"*Greatness* consists in bringing all manner of mischief on mankind, and *goodness*, in removing it from them"—So, that every little glimmering of goodness, discoverable in the disposition of a truly *great man*, may be properly considered as so many blemishes in his character, which serve to shew that he partakes in some degree, of the frailty and imperfection of human nature: Whence it follows that those men, in all ages of the world, who have distinguished themselves by killing vast numbers of their fellow-creatures, and in spreading horror and destruction in every quarter, for no other purpose than to gratify their own depraved passions, have merited and acquired the appellation of GREAT.

But at the present day, I fear we are about to depart from ancient usages, and are likely to prevent the true meaning of a very significant and appropriate term by an improper and inconsiderate application of it to characters not deserving that honor.

From what has been said, it would seem that one who has only meditated planned and coveted to do the greatest mischief that it is in the power of the most depraved, abandoned mind to conceive. But who from a redundancy or deficiency of some constituent quality, has failed of success in his diabolical purpose, is not entitled to be ranked amongst the great men of antiquity, or of more modern date; who always accom-