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THE TERMS OF THE STAR,

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GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING.

At a meeting of the General Committee of Democratic Delegates from the several wards and precincts of the City of Baltimore, held on Thursday evening the 28th inst. at the Fountain Inn, in pursuance of the resolutions adopted at a numerous meeting of democratic citizens on Saturday evening last, all the delegates present:—

JOS. H. NICHOLSON *was called to the chair:* and

JOHN MONTGOMERY appointed Secretary.

The following resolutions, with the preamble, were *unanimously* adopted:

We the delegates of the city and precincts of Baltimore, in general committee, assembled for the purpose of taking into consideration the present situation of public affairs do resolve unanimously:

1st. That in the conduct of Great Britain towards the United States for some years past, we can perceive nothing but the most determined hostility to our national rights. She forcibly impresses our seamen, and detains them inhumanly in an odious servitude—she obstructs our commerce in every channel through which it has been accustomed to flow—she has murdered our citizens within our own waters, and has made one attempt at least, to dissolve the union of these States, thereby striking at the foundation of our government itself.

2dly. That the government of the U. States has manifested the strongest desire to maintain peace and harmony with all nations, not only by observing a course of equal and exact justice to all, but by proposing to those with whom any differences have arisen, terms the most honorable and conciliatory.

3dly. That inasmuch as Great Britain has rejected these terms, and still persists in violating every principle heretofore held sacred among nations, no alternative is left to the U. States, but to choose between War and Degradation.—In the choice of these, it is impossible that Freemen should hesitate, and in the prosecution of such a war, we pledge ourselves to support our government at every hazard.

4thly. That the conduct of France and of other powers in alliance with her immediate influence, towards the United States, has been scarcely less atrocious than that of England; and if the pending negotiation should terminate without an honorable adjustment of existing differences, we have full confidence that our government will direct the most active hostilities to be commenced against her for the redress of our grievances, and the maintenance of our rights: at the same time we wish it explicitly understood, that in our well founded complaints against foreign nations, Russia and Sweden are not to be included.

Ordered, That the above resolution be signed by all the members of the general committee, & that they be transmitted by the Chairman to the President of the U. States.

Jos. H. Nicholson	J. A. Buchanan
A. R. Levering	Lemuel Taylor
David Fulton	Luke Tiernan
Charles Bohn	William Wilson
William B. Barney	J. L. Donaldson
J. Montgomery	L. Hollingsworth
Christo. Hughes, jun.	James Martin
Benj. Berry	James Wilson
Nat. Levering	G. J. Brown
J. W. M'Culloh	Richard Mackall
William Camp	Edward Johnson
John S. Hollins	George Stiles
Joseph Jamison	James Williams
James Hutton	William M'Donald
Peter Diffenderffer	W. Pechin
S. Briscoe	James Biays
E. G. Woodyear	David Burk
Hezekiah Niles	Thorndick Chase
James Armstrong	Timothy Gardner
Joseph Smith	Thomas Shepperd
Daniel Conn	George Warner
John Kelso	N. F. Williams
Hezekiah Price	J. H. M'Culloch
George Milleman	Theodorick Bland
James C. Dew	Christian Baum

The following resolution was also submitted and adopted.

Resolved by the general committee of the city and precincts of Baltimore, that it be and is hereby recommended to the Democratic Citizens of the several counties of this State, to assemble and take into consideration the situation of public affairs, for the purpose of expressing an opinion thereon.

Ordered, That the proceeding and resolutions adopted, be published

JOSEPH H. NICHOLSON, Chairman.
JOHN MONTGOMERY, Sec'ry.

Federal misrepresentation.—There is no end to them, and it would be a tedious and thankless task to crush them one by one. But there is one, which those who know the facts ought to notice, because it must be, on the part of those who first circulated it, the offspring of wilful and premeditated deceit. It is said that Mr. Stephen Girard has been permitted freely to enter certain British goods in the face of the non-importation law, whilst others, *native* citizens as they are called, (a description of citizens, by the way, neither recognized as such by the law or constitution) have been denied the like privilege. The facts we believe are these: The vessel of Mr. Girard entered contrary to law, was forthwith libelled by the proper authority. Under a right exercised by our courts of admiralty the vessel has been released by the District Judge, in opposition to the wishes and official representations of the Treasury Department, on the defendant's giving bond to abide the judgment of the court. A similar course has been pursued by other judges in the relation to other vessels similarly situated. In the case of Mr. Girard, we believe, instructions have been given to prosecute with the utmost rigor of the law this violation of the statute. In relation to the right thus asserted and exercised by the judicial authority of the country, we can only say that its tendency is, (if not to subvert the law) to defeat its obvious intention, which is the essence of every law, by admitting into our ports and throwing into the market, goods, the importation of which the law specially prohibits. And though the violator may be mulcted in a penalty four fold the value of the importation, and the violation thus punished, yet by the infraction of the essence of the law, sanctioned by judicial authority, all the evil which it could produce has already been done to the community, and cannot be remedied even by a four fold penalty. It is to be hoped that in future laws the judicial officers will be precluded by the Legislature from rendering the measures of government nugatory, by the exercise of this dispensing power. In the name of truth, we demand of those editors, who have innocently given currency to this misrepresentation, to contradict it in such manner as they may think proper. *Nat. Intel.*

FROM THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

LETTERS FROM SPAIN.

To a gentleman in England, on the subject of our differences with that country.

ALICANTE.

Foreigners of every nation are pressed into your sea service and then some are seduced to enter. 9-10ths *of the men on board your vessels of war are serving by compulsion.* Englishmen and Irelandmen are lovers of liberty. Who, when deprived of that greatest of earthly blessings, will not regain it when in his power? *Many Americans amongst them.* With feelings of the most acute resentment; thousands more have been in America and known the blessings enjoyed there, & greater numbers have near connections in the United States.—The discipline of your navy is well known but will not avert the danger—it is true British seamen will not, even when they mutiny, go over to the French, the Spaniards or the Dutch, but remember these prophetic warnings.—The Americans are like themselves: in the Revolutionary War the event was uncertain—their asylum was of course precarious; *not so now*—on your navy your safety depends—*your tars have taken command not only of single ships, but of fleets.* You will threaten our coasts and our cities; your ships may arrive, but they will never depart under the British flag—100 acres of land and 500 dollars in cash will be given to every man, besides a full share of the ship (share and share alike) bro't into any of our ports—they will be admitted to the rights of citizenship, be employed in our Navy Yards, Sail Lofts and Rope Walks get two hard dollars per day instead of two shillings in paper, and purchase every necessary of life at one fourth part of the price they pay it in England or Ireland. Rum and Whiskey is at one dollar per gallon instead of eight or ten, & tobacco at four cents per pound instead of two shillings. Bread and meat in proportion. Their wives and children will be provided for, and the sons of some of those sailors and soldiers take rank and fortune in the new world, which in their own they can never expect, & if any of these men should by accident be taken and punished by your government retaliation will certainly follow——man for man. Those who are 2 years in your men of war, merchant vessels or privateers, are declared *ipso facto* British subjects. The United States have an equal right to declare that two hours or two days in our service shall have the same effect.

Our privateers will prey upon your commerce, and instead of suffering, we shall on the general account be gainers; if in infancy the people of these countries only in America were able to take 2450 sail of your vessels (which is a fact) and in all above 3 5ths of your whole mercantile tonnage at that time* what severe depredations may not be expected to result, from an exertion of strength, of skill and of resentment, for unprovoked continued aggression, robbery & insult, now they have the means so ample, and are stimulated by persevering violence & wrong?

From a contest so induced, for the motives are evident—it is not to retaliate on France, but to curb and cripple the rising envied Republic—From the trial the United States have nothing to fear—youthful vigor gains fresh evidence even from suffering, and in so just a cause, the God of battle will preside but G. Britain has every thing to apprehend——pause, for Heaven's sake pause! she has passed the meredian, and whether the sun of her decaying splendor will set in the rich effulgence of honorable and gradual decay, or in tempest and precipitate disgrace, is firmly believed at issue—whether the present race shall sit upon the Throne or a new dynasty or Republic be established. Yours.

* *See Cox's view of the United States, page 346 and following Of the prizes which will be taken from Great Britain how few seamen will be so silly as ever to return.*

FROM THE WHIG.

Extract of a letter dated Paris April 28, 1812

"The denouement of the mighty preparations opens every day more distinctly to ones's view, and the most incredulous will now admit that the gigantic power and ambition of France are directed solely to the subjugation of the world.—An army of 500,000 men and all Germany marching against Russia and to other conquests—France itself put into a new armour, which secures her internal tranquility, her frontiers from attack, and places every soldier of the line at the disposition of the emperor—add to this, the immense revenue of the empire; the most devoted and well disciplined troops, commanded by the ablest generals of the day,—and you have a combination of means unparalleled even in history.—New organizations are talked of, such as the re-union of Westphalia and other confederates of the Rhine to the empire Jerome to have either Prussia or Poland—the king of Prussia to become duke of Silesia—and the dispossessed German princes to be ecuyers, chamberlans, &c. These speculations, which fifteen years ago would have appeared ridiculous, are now reasonable and require but the will of one person to verify them. France however is in the greatest distress, at this moment, for the want of corn; in the provinces bread has more than quadrupled in price—and even in Paris (where every exertion is made to keep up the supply) the people are not able to pay the price, and it often happens that not a loaf is to be had. Potatoes, rice and such articles rise in proportion. This want of bread creates serious alarms, and has already caused insurrections in several places.—The discontented speak out, notwithstanding the severity of the government. It may be a question whether the emperor will think it safe to leave his empire under such circumstances. I have no idea he will start before the campaign commences.

"I have no knowledge of the state of our affairs here; but, I shall be very much astonished if the Hornet take out any thing other than fair promises. Mr. Barlow will no doubt tell his government that the *Wasp* will without fail, carry out their accomplishment; but, I would tell them, that if they were to send out swarms of Wasps and Hornets, they would all return home empty. It is not to be expected that our littleness will obtain from this omnipotence any advantage that would in the smallest degree interfere with its system; if any thing were granted, it would be only with an object to throw us into a war with Great Britain, and, when we got there, we might get along the best way we could.

"I have seen some late American papers filled with paragraphs about Mr. Barlow's reception, &c. To show you in what favour he is—two of Mr. Russell's messengers are now at Morlaix, and all his applications in their behalf remain unanswered. One of the messengers, Mr. Didier of Baltimore, has been there these two months—he would not give up his dispatches, but stood by them manfully—Barlow at last directed him to give them over to the police, and they came up to Paris in the Dilligence!!! Since then Col. Perkins has arrived at Morlaix with dispatches; he will be company to Didier—the Lord only knows how long they will remain—P's dispatches have not yet come up. I shall be happy when they arrive, as I have not letters from home later than the 24th of Dec All letters coming from America *are seized by the police*, and the correspondence with England becomes daily more difficult."

DOCUMMNTS

Accompanying the President's Message of the 26th of May.

[CONTINUED.]

MR. MONROE TO MR. BARLOW.

Department of state,
November 21, 1811.

SIR—I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of the President's message to Congress at the commencement of the session, and of the documents which accompanied it.

In this very interesting communication you will find that the President has done justice to both the belligerents.—He has spoken of each as it deserves. To France he has given the credit due for the revocation of her decrees, while he has bestowed on those injuries which remained unredressed their merited censure. Of England he has spoken in terms of censure only, because she had in no respect changed her unfriendly policy. Thus the whole subject of our foreign relations is presented fully and fairly before the legislature and the public, and, I am happy to add, that so far as an opinion can now be formed of the impression made, the public sentiment is in strict harmony with that expressed by the executive. Few, if any, seem to be willing to relinquish the ground which has been taken by the non-importation act; and most seem to be resolved, if Great Britain does not revoke her orders in council, to adopt more decisive measures towards her.

If the United States experience any embaarassement in the course which they are pursuing in support of their rights, or fail in the ultimate success, it will be owing to the conduct of the French government. It cannot be doubted, if France remains true to her engagements by a faithful observance of the revocation of her decrees, and acquits herself on the various other points on which you are instructed to the just claims of this country, that G. Britain will be compelled to follow her example; in which event the war will immediately assume a new character, such as has been the professed wish of both belligerents, mitigating its calamities to both of them, as well as diffusing the happiest effect on neutral states.

The part which France ought to act is a plain one. It is dictated in every circumstance, by the clearest principles of justice and soundest maxims of policy The President has presented to view, in the message to Congress, the prominent features of this plan by stating equally our rights and injuries. It will scarcely be necessary for me to go into any of the details, which are already so well known to you. I will briefly advert to them.

It is not sufficient in the final decision of a cause brought before a French tribunal, that it should appear the French decrees are repealed. An active prohibitory policy should be adopted to prevent seizures on the principles of those decrees. All that is expected is that France will act in conformity to her own principles. If that is done, neutral nations would then have an important object before them, and one belligerent at least prove that it contended for principal rather than for power; that it sought the aid of neutral nations in support of that principle, and did not make it a pretext to enlist them on its side, to demolish its enemies. The abuses they are practised by French privateers in the Baltic, the Channel, Mediterranean, and wherever else they cruize, have, of late more especially, reached an enormous height. In the Baltic they have been more odious from the circumstance that it was expected that they had been completely suppressed there. Till of late these abuses were imputed to the privateers of Denmark, which induced the President to send a special mission to the Danish government, which, it was understood, was producing the desired effect. But it is now represented that the same evil is produced by a collusion between the privateers of Denmark and those of France. Hence it assumes a worse character to seizures equally unlawful, are added, by carrying the causes to Paris, still more oppressive delays.

If the French government is not willing to adopt the general rule alluded to, in favor of American commerce, it is presumed that it will not hesitate to define explicitly the causes of seizure, and to give such precise orders to its cruizers respecting them, with an assurance of certain punishment to those who violate them, as will prevent all abuse in future. Whatever orders are given, it would be satisfactory to this government to be made acquainted with them. The President wishes to know, with great accuracy, the principles by which the French government intends to be governed, in regard to neutral commerce. A frank explanation on this subject will be regarded as a proof of the friendly policy which France is disposed to pursue towards the United States.

What advantage does France derive from these abuses? Vessels trading from the United States can never afford cause of suspicion on any principle, nor ought they to be subject to seizure. Can the few French privateers which occasionally appear at sea, make any general impression on the commerce of Great Britain? They seldom touch a British vessel. Legitimate and honorable warfare is not their object. The unarmed vessels of the United States are their only prey. The opportunities of fair prize are few, even should France maintain the British principle. Can these few prizes compensate her for the violation of her own principles, and the effect which it ought, and cannot fail, to produce here?

Indemnity must be made for spoliations on American property under other decrees. On this subject it is unnecessary to add any thing to your present instructions. They are detailed and explicit.

The trade by licences must be abrogated. I cannot too strongly express the surprise of the President, after the repeated remonstrances of this government, and more especially after the letter of the duke of Cadore to Mr. Russell of the last, informing him that that system would fall with the Berlin and Milan decrees, that it should be still adhered to. The exequaturs of the consuls who have granted such licences would long since have been revoked, if orders to them to discontinue the practice had not daily been expected, or, in case they were not received, the more effectual interposition of Congress to suppress it. It will certainly be prohibited by law, under severe penalties, in compliance with the recommendation of the President, if your despatches by the Constitution do not prove that your demand on this subject has been duly attended to.

It is expected also that the commerce between the U. States and France and her allies will be placed on the basis of a fair reciprocity. If the oppressive restrictions which still fetter and harrass our commerce there are not removed, it cannot be doubted that Congress will, as soon as it appears that a suitable change may not be expected, impose similar restraints on the commerce of France, Should such a state of things arise between the two countries, you will readily perceive the obvious tendency, or rather certain effect on the relations which now subsist between them.

This is a short sketch of the policy which it is expected France will observe in regard to neutral commerce, and the other just claims of the United States. A compliance with it will impose on her no onerous conditions; no concessions in favor of the U. S. She will perform no act which she is not bound to perform, by a strict regard to justice. She will abstain from none, the abstinence from which is not dictated by the principles which she asserts, and professes to support. What is also of great importance, the course pointed out cannot fail to prove, in all its consequences, of the highest advantage to her.

Among the measures necessary to support the attitude taken by this government it is more than probable that a law will pass authorising all merchant vessels to arm in their own defence. If England alone, by maintaining her orders in Council, violates our neutral rights, with her only can any collision take effect—But in authorising merchant vessels to arm, the object will be to enable them to support their rights against all who attempt to violate them. This consideration ought to afford a strong additional motive to France to inhibit her privateers from interfering with American vessels. The United States will maintain their neutral rights equally against all nations who violate them.

You will find among the documents which accompany the President's Message, a correspondence between Mr. Foster and me, by which the difference relative to the attack on the Chesapeake is terminated. It was thought advisable not to decline the advance of the British government on this point, although none was made on any other: &, as the terms offered were such as had been in substances approved before, to accept them. The adjustment, however, of this difference, does not authorise the expectation of a favorable result from the British government on any other point. This government will pursue the same policy towards Great Britain, in regard to other injuries, as if this had not been accommodated.

You will also find among the printed documents a correspondence with Mr. Foster, respecting the Floridas. To his remonstrance against the occupation of West Florida by the troops of the United States, he was told that it belonged to them by a title which could not be improved. And to that relative to East Florida, he was informed that Spain owed the United States for spoliations on their commerce, and for the suppression of the deposit of N. Orleans, more than it was worth; that the United States looked to East Florida for their indemnity; that they would suffer no power to take it, and would take it themselves, either at the invitation of the inhabitants, or to prevent its falling into the hands of another power. With so just a claim on it, and without any adverse claim, which, under existing circumstances, is any wise sustainable, more especially, as the necessary severance of the Spanish colonies from Old Spain is admitted, and the known disposition and interest of the inhabitants are in favor of the United States, the idea of purchasing the Territory, otherwise than as it has been already more than paid for, in the property wrongfully taken from the citizens of the United States, does not merit, & has not received a moment's consideration here. You will therefore, discountenance the idea every where, and in every shape.

You will be furnished with a copy of my correspondence with Mr. Serrurier on the subject of a vessel called the Balaou, No. 5, (formerly the Exchange) bearing a commission from the Emperor of France, lately libelled in the district court of the U. S. for Pennsylvania. The decision of that court was in favour of a discharge of the vessel. An appeal was taken from it to the circuit court, by which the sentence was reversed. The cause was then carried by appeal, at the instance of the government, to the supreme court of the U. States where it is now depending. The whole process in favor of the French government is conducted on the part of, & at the expense of the U. S. without, however, making themselves a party of it.

This vessel was one of those that was seized under the Rambouillet decree.—The French government took her into service, as appears by the documents in possession of the commandant, and sent her with dispatches to some distant quarter. She came into the Port of Philadelphia, it is said, in distress; she having on board a cargo, distress may have been a pretext. As this government denies the justice of the Rambouillet decree, has remonstrated against it, & expects an indemnity for losses under it, you will be sensible of the delicacy and difficulty which it has experienced in interfering, in any respect in the case.—