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FROM COBBETT'S REGISTER OF OCTOBER 17TH.

AMERICAN WAR.

When the French war was closed in a manner so satisfactory to those who had been its most strenuous advocates, they nevertheless, perceived the want of *war* with somebody or other, as being absolutely necessary to the support of that system on which they lived, and which a long war had introduced, and in some sort, established. It was curious to observe the effect which the peace had upon this description of persons. They *mourned* in their hearts at the success of the projects of the government. They had been for years, reviling Napoleon: they had been cursing all those who did not join them in these revilings; and yet they *lamented his fall.* In short, they, as I once observed, found themselves in that sort of state which our reverend divines would find themselves in if my worthy friend, Mr. Fordham, were to succeed in his strenuous, but I trust, fruitless endeavors to persuade the good people of England that there is no such being as the DEVIL. There were at the close of the French war, thousands upon thousands who dreaded the effects of peace:—who, in fact, were likely to be almost starved, literally starved by that event.—To these persons, a very numerous and very busy and noisy & impudent class, any thing that would keep up the expences of war was hailed with joy; and as the American war was the only source of hope, in this respect, the outcry was, at once, transferred from Napoleon to Mr. Madison, who now became the devil; the man of sin, against whom it was necessary for this *chosen* and *pious* nation to wage war. Unluckely for the cause of peace, the coin in England had become cheap during the last half year of the war; and all that numerous and powerful class who derive their incomes from the land, whether as landlords, tenants, or tythe owners, began to cry out against the effects of peace. With them the American war was better than no war at all. They did not consider what *burthen of taxes* this war would cause.——This was quite out of the question. The whole nation, with the exception of the few remaining *Jacobins*, went "ding dong" to work "to give the Yankees a good "*hearty drubbing.*" Things are, however, now somewhat changed.—The kings are gone; the wiseacres have had their feastings and rejoicings; the *drunk* is over, and nothing but the noisome fumes left. The people, who appeared to exult at the peace, now seem to wonder why they did so. The nation, after the departure of kings and their generals, and after the *glorious sights* in the parks at London, seems to resemble a battered old hag, who, in the morning after a route, sits gaping and yawning sick of the world & of herself. Every thing is *dull*; and all appears to be changed for the *worse*; the farmer cannot sell his corn at a price proportioned to his outgoings; the French send us all sorts of produce, down even to garden stuffs, at half the price at which we can raise them. The farmer cries out at this; the shop-keeper and tradesman revile the farmer and landholder; they rejoice to see them brought down, and at the same time complain that their business falls off; forgetting that this is the natural consequence of the bringing down of the farmer and land owner. Those who have fixed incomes, and those who carry on no business of profit, those in short who are not compelled to remain in the country in order to get their living; a very great portion of these have quitted the kingdom, and have gone to avoid taxes, and to purchase bread and meat upon the continent. This has proved a dreadful stroke to all that part of trade which depended upon luxury; and what is worse, the evil is daily and hourly increasing; for, one tells another: one who has lived in France a *month* for what would have been required to support him here a *week*, tells the news to his relations and friends. A quartern loaf for three pence, a pound of beef for three half pence, a fowl for four pence, a turkey for two shillings, a bottle of wine for six pence! What news for an Englishman, who has a family, who lives upon what is called *his means*, and who, with a thousand a year, is really in a situation to envy a coachman or a footman! No income tax to pay; no assessed tax to pay—no excisemen to enter his house when he pleases—no tythe of the produce of your meadow and garden, and pig stye and hen house. What news for an Englishman! who with the outside of a gentleman, lives in constant dread of a taxgatherer! No poor rates to pay!

No body who has authority to make you give part of your property to support those, who perhaps, are really less in want than you. What news for the poor Englishman, who is eternally called upon for money by the overseer and church warden! In short what an escape from expenses and cares! No man here can tell on what day, or at what hour, he will be called upon by the government agents for a sum of money; and it is only in certain cases that any man can guess at the amount of the next sum that he will be compelled to pay. What a relief to be at once out of the reach of all such demands! This, together with the cheapness of living in France, cause people to emigrate to that and the neighboring countries; while all foreigners, of course, have quitted England for their native countries. Those which cannot emigrate have all the taxes to pay, while great part of their sources of payment are gone. Thus, that peace, that overthrew Napoleon, which was to bring us a compensation for all our sacrifices, has really made our situation worse, seeing that, in this AMERICAN WAR, we have a ground for continuing all the taxes, while the peace with France has taken from us all the means of paying them. Amongst those who wished for the overthrow of Napoleon, were those who had to pay ten per cent. out of their fixed incomes to support the war against him. Oh! said they, let him be beaten, let that cause of the war be put down & then the tax on us will cease. He is put down. He has been put down many months. The tax has not ceased, and, if it cease, some other tax, of equal weight must be imposed in its room, or, if this be not done, the American war must cease—and that, too, without "giving the *Yakves a hearty drubbing*;" for, up to this time, they have rather been drubbing *us*, which is a most lamentable fact to go down to posterity.

☞ To be sure we have, if report be true, given it them upon the *Serpentine River*, where the British naval flag was everywhere seen, flying over the American flag reversed. But, say the Yankee readers, what does this Serpentine River mean? What is the story of this achievement, so glorious to Old England, and her wooden walls?—I will tell them.

The Regent in the name and behalf of our "goodold king, God bless him," as they say in the toasts at the city feasts; the Regent, in order at once to amuse and instruct the people of the metropolis, caused, at the epoch of the peace, fleets in miniature to be set on float on a peace of water, in a park near London, called Hyde Park. The piece of water spreads, perhaps, over a space equal to about eight or ten acres. Here the English fleet performed wonders against the Americans, whose frigates they sometimes sunk, sometimes burnt, sometimes destroyed, and sometimes captured. There were some *hottish* fights: but our tars always, in the end, overcame the yankee dogs; and, at the close of the day, the Yankee flag was seen flying reversed, under the English, in token of the defeat and disgrace of the former. But this was not the only instance, in which the Yankees were beaten and disgraced. In Portsmouth harbor, a few days before the Continental kings visited that port, I saw the Yankee flag flying reversed under the English on board of several ships. The Regent I understood, came to Portsmouth that very night. How pleasing it must have been to his royal highness to behold such a sight!—The spectators were in raptures at it.—They shouted amain; and for the moment, seemed to forget even the taxes. Well, then, who has any ground of complaint? The government cannot obtain for us the reality of what was here exhibited in *vision*, without collecting from us the taxes necessary to support and carry on the war; and until we petition against the American war, we can have no reason whatever to complain of the taxes.☜

The question of *justice* or of *injustice*, seems to have been wholly laid aside, for some time past.—The giving of the hearty drubbing to the insolent Yankees has supplied the place of all such topics. But, I do not know how it has happened, there are people, who now begin to ask, *why* we are still at war?—I will, therefore, once more state the grounds of the present war with America, in as clear a manner as I can, consistent with brevity. In 1810, and on to 1812, there existed two subjects of complaint on the part of the Americans against us.—They complain that, by virtue of certain *Orders in Council*, issued by us, we violated their neutral rights; and also, that we were guilty of a gross attack upon their independence, by stopping their merchant vessels *at sea*, and taking out of them *persons*, under pretence of their being British subjects. The orders of council were repealed in 1812 and, therefore that ground of complaint then ceased. But the other ground of complaint still existed. We continued to take persons out of their ships; and, upon that ground, after divers remonstrances, they declared war against us.—I ought here to stop to observe, that a great error was adopted by the nation at the time when the orders of council were repealed. It was said in parliament and believed by the nation, that, if the orders in council were repealed, all would be well, and that a settlement of all differences with America would immediately follow. This assertion I contradicted at the time, knowing that it would prove to be false; because the congress had repeatedly declared, that they never would yield the point of *impressment*, that being the term which they gave to the forcible seizure of *persons* on board their ships *on the high seas.* The minister, Perceval, opposed the repeal of the orders in council as long as he could, alledging, as one objection to it, that it would not satisfy the Americans and prevent war. The advocates of the repeal insisted that it would satisfy the Americans; and, as a proof of the sincerity of this their opinion, they *pledged* themselves, that, in case the repeal did not satisfy America, *they would support the war against her with all their might.* This pledge obtained, the minister had no opposition to fear, within doors or without; for the opposition were pledged to support the war, and their prints became, of course, pledged along with them. The people were led to believe, that it was only the council orders that had formed the ground of complaint with America: and, when they still found, that she persevered in the war after the repeal of those orders, they set up a charge of treachery and breach of faith against her. This error, which originated in the desire of the opposition to beat the minister, has produced much mischief. It obtained favor to the war at first; and, things taking a lucky turn upon the continent, all idea of a dread of America vanished, and nothing was thought of but *punishing* her for her insolence.—But still her great subject of complaint existed.—She went to war on that ground; and, therefore, let us now see what that ground really was. It is well known, that, whether in language, manners, or person, it is very difficult, if not quite impossible in most cases, to distinguish an American from a native of England. We alledged, that the American merchant captains sailed with English sailors on board their ships, some of them deserters from the English navy, and that as the American ships were very numerous, and frequently sailed from ports where Englishmen of war lay, such harboring of our seamen became dangerous to the very existence of our naval force, and, of course, put our national safety in jeopardy. Upon these grounds we adopted a remedy, which was to authorise the commanders of our ships of war to stop American vessels *at sea*, and to impress out of them all persons *appearing* to *them* to be British subjects. The Americans alledged, that in virtue of this authority, our officers impressed out of their ships *many thousands of native Americans*, forced them on board of our ships of war, compelled them to fight against nations at peace with America, and in a service and cause which they abhorred, took them into distant climates, exposed them to danger and to death, ruined their prospects in life, and filled America with distressed parents, wives and children. That this *was* the case in *numerous instances*, our government has never denied. Indeed, they could not—for a great number of persons, native Americans, so impressed, were at different times, released by the admiralty, on the demand of the American consul in England. But it must have followed of necessity, that many borne away into battle or into distant seas, would never find the means of obtaining their release; and, indeed, it is well known, that many lost their limbs, and many their lives in our service, subjected to the discipline of our navy. Those, who are for giving the Yankees a good hearty drubbing, will hardly be disposed to feel much for the fathers and mothers thus bereft of their sons, or for the wives and children thus bereft of their fathers. But, I can assure them, as I assured the Prince Regent in 1812, that the people of America felt very acutely upon the subject; that the newspapers of that country were filled with their lamentations, and with their cries for vengeance. The American government remonstrated with our's; it besought our government to desist from this practice, which it asserted to be a violation of the known laws of nations, an outrageous insult to America as an independant state, and an aggression, in short, which the American nation was resolved to resent.

Our government asserted, that it had a right to the service of its own sailors; that the danger to our very existence was so great, that the practice could not be given up; that if American citizens were taken by *mistake*, they were sorry for it, and would give them up when demanded by their government, but, that the practice was of vital importance; for that without it, our navy would be ruined. The last argument has, indeed, always been the main one with those who have justified the practice of impressment. The American government, in answer to this, said, "We *do not want your seamen*; we would rather that they were never again to serve on board of American ships; we want none but our own seamen, leaving you yours.

But, if it be really true that your seamen have so great a partiality for our service and our country, as to quit you, or, as to be disposed to quit you in numbers so great as to endanger your very existence as a nation; if this be really so, it is *no fault of our's.* We cannot help their prefering our ships and our country to your's any more than a pretty girl can help the young men liking her better than they like her ugly companions. The fault is their *want of taste* perhaps, but, at any rate, the fault cannot be *our's.* Therefore, you have no reason to complain of us: nor have you any right to interrupt our commercial persuits, under pretence of recovering those whom you call your subjects.—There are perhaps, some Americans who have *a taste for your service.* Keep them, in God's name. We never do and never will attempt to impress them from on board your ships; and, indeed, we have no right so to do, such a practice being without a single precedent in the whole list of writings on public law, and in all the long history of maritime nations."—This was the substance of the language of the American government. But they did not stop at asserting, that we had no right to do what we did. They said further, "Nevertheless, in order to convince you of our sincere desire not to employ your seamen, we will do much more than strict right calls upon us to do.

"We think it strange, that the Jack Tars of England, the jolly, sincere, brave, faithful, patriotic, and loyal sons of Neptune, to whom that Deity has so long delegated his trident, and who are, as we learn from all your national sayings and singings, so firmly attached to their beloved King and his family; we think it passing strange, that these admirable and single-hearted persons should be disposed to leave your glorious fleet, and to flock to our poor Yankee service; and, we cannot but believe, that some evil-minded people have calumniated your honest, jolly Jack Tars, when they have persuaded you to believe, that the impressment of the jolly Jacks from on board of our Yankee ships is *necessary to the existence of your navy.* However, supposing this really to be the case, we are willing, for the sake of peace, to provide an effectual remedy." They then made these propositions:—That whenever an American ship was in *any port*, no matter in what country, any person, authorised by our government, might go to any *civil magistrate* of the port or town, and demand to have surrendered to him any man out of the American ship, upon the allegation of his being a British subject; and that if the civil magistrate, upon hearing the parties, should determine in favor of the claimant, the man should at once be surrendered to him, though such magistrate *should be one of our own justices of the peace* either in England, or in any of our colonies. And, further, in order most effectually to prevent any British subject from being even *received* on board an American ship as a sailor, the American government offered to pass an act, imposing a very heavy pecuniary penalty (so high, I believe, as a *thousand dollars*) on every master of an American ship, who should engage a British subject to serve on board his ship; so that any such person, so engaged, would have had nothing to do but to give information, and receive, I believe, 700 dollars out of the thousand. With this regulation, and this penal enactment, it appears to me, that it would have been impossible for any number of our countrymen to have served in the American ships. Reader, can *you* imagine any way by which the American government could have more fully proved its sincere desire not to injure England by affording a place of refuge to English sailors? If you *can*, state it; if you cannot, I must leave you to discover, why these offers were not accepted, and *why* this war was not avoided. But, supposing these offers not to have been satisfactory, *why* are we not at *peace* now? The peace in Europe put an end to the *cause* of dispute. Our sailors could no longer desert to American ships, when they were discharged from our own. The peace in Europe put an end to the quarrel, as naturally as the cessation of a shower puts an end to the quarrel of two persons who are contending for the shelter of a pent-house. We had nothing to do but to make a treaty of peace, and *say nothing more about the impressment of seamen.* If the Americans were willing to do this, I am at a loss to discover how the continuance of the war is to be justified. I am aware, indeed, that it has been strongly inculcated in the *Times*, and other newspapers, that we ought *now, now, now, now*, while all goes on so smoothly; now, while the tide is with us, to *crush America forever; to clip her wings for a century*; to annihilate her means of forming a navy to be our rival on the ocean.——Alas! if this be the project, it is not *America* that we are at war with; it is *Nature* herself, in whose immutable decrees it is written, that no such project shall succeed. We must to effect this famous project, annihilate her woods, her waters, and her lands; and though our parliament has been called *omnipotent*, its omnipotence is not of that sort, which is requisite for such an undertaking. It can do what it pleases with us in these islands;——but it cannot reach across the Atlantic, except by its fleets and armies; except by means of the same sort, which are opposed to it. *Here* it is omnipotent, because here is no power to resist it; but *there*, a power exists in open defiance of it. Therefore, it cannot do there what it pleases.

It is impossible to say what exploits our armies and navy may perform in America. I shall leave the military and naval operations to *time*, the great trier of all things. But certain it is, that the gentry, who were so hot for the drubbing, begin to be very impatient. The war, in their view of the matter, appears to languish. Little or no blood is drawn. We hear of no fine towns demolished: none of those fatal things, the manufactories of woolens and cottons have been destroyed; there are still *American* public ships of war afloat and more building—and, as to the private ships of war, they swarm even upon the coasts of the '*mother country*,' to the great vexation of the Morning Chronicle, who calls them '*insolent marauders.*' Oh! insolent dogs! Come into our own channel, and almost into our own ports! Come three thousand miles to insult their natural mother! I wonder they are not afraid of being destroyed by the 'British *thunder.*' But Mr. Perry, who makes use of inapplicable terms? A *marauder* means one that goes to seek plunder, *unlawfully*; and if he be detected, he is generally hanged. Whereas these privateers from America come with *commissions on board.* They are fully authorised by the laws of their own country to do what they do; and even if we chance to capture them we can treat their crews only as *prisoners of war.* Perhaps Mr. Perry, or his editor, thinks that we ought to be allowed to destroy American towns, and to lay waste the country, without any opposition, or any act of retaliation. Is it not '*insolent*' in us to threaten to reduce the Americans to '*unconditional submission.*' Is it not insolent in us to say in our public prints and under the form of a speech in parliament by one of the lords of the admiralty, that Mr. *Madison is to be deposed.* In us all this is allowable, and even praiseworthy. This, however, is not the way to put an end to the war. The dilemma, in which the foes of freedom are placed is one of great difficulty.—America is the very hot bed of freedom. While the people in that country retain their liberties—that is to say, while that country remains unsubdued, despotism, under whatever name she may disguise herself, is never safe; and, if peace takes place with America, not only will she instantly start, with enormous advantages, in the race of manufactures and commerce, but millions of men and money will flock to her from Europe, whom her example will soon again shake to the centre. On the other hand, if the war be persevered in against her, all our taxes must be continued, and loans must annually be made. Which our statesman will prefer, it would be presumption in me to attempt to predict, and therefore, I shall, for the present, leave the subject with just observing, that those who are still for giving the Yankees a *drubbing*, ought to receive the tax gatherer with open arms, and greet him with an almost holy kiss.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Saturday, Dec. 24.

Mr. Skinner, of Vt. obtained leave of absence for 4 weeks.

Mr. *Sturges of Con.* presented the petition of sundry inhabitants of Fairfield, Con. praying that the mails may not be transported or opened on Sundays.—Referred to the Post Master General.

Mr. *Pearson* of N. C. presented petitions from sundry inhabitants of Salisbury, of Iredell, and adjacent counties in North Carolina to the same effect; which were in like manner referred.

Mr. *Calhoun*, from the committee to whom was referred on the 23d ult. the report of the Secretary of War relating to an uniform system of discipline for the army of the U. States, reported the following resolution.

"*Resolved*, That the Secretary of War be directed to appoint a Board of Officers to modify "the rules and regulationa for the field service and manoeuvres of the French Infantry," as translated by Macdonald, so as to make them correspond with the organization of the army of the U. States, and to make such additions and retrenchments as may be thought proper; and to lay the same as soon as possible before this house."

The said resolution was *agreed* to.

NATIONAL BANK BILL.

On motion of Mr. *Fisk* of N. Y. the house again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. *Macon* of N. C in the chair on the bill to incorporate the subscribers to the Bank of the United States of America.

The whole of the day was consumed in the discussion of the details and propositions to amend this bill, without giving birth to any material amendments.

The amendments made in the committee were reported to the house, and agreed to, before the house adjourned

As amended, the bill exhibits the following features, viz:

The capital to consist of fifty millions of dollars, divided into shares of five hundred dollars each; subscribable and payable as follows; by the government, in stock to bear an interest of four per cent. per annum; fifteen millions, by individuals, the remaining thirty five millions, payable as follows, viz: *five* millions in specie, *ten* millions in treasury notes, and *twenty* millions in what is usually called the war stock. The bank to commence its operations so soon as 11,500,000 are paid in, in the proportions before mentioned, of specie, treasury notes and stock.

Other amendments were proposed to the bill; when the house adjourned at dusk, without taking a question on the bill's going to a third reading.

From the National Intelligencer.

St. INIGOES, Dec. 28.

Messrs. Gales & Seaton,

I read in your paper, some time ago, an account of a boat's crew having landed at St. Inigo, near the mouth of Potomac, and committed various excesses, but particularly had taken away the sacred vessels, &c. consecrated to divine worship and the service of the altar. Those facts were true, and the individuals concerned, as well as the crimes perpetrated, required such excesses to be published, but as by the annexed letter we are assured that these excesses were unauthorised, and that a public acknowledgement and reparation has been in part made, by a return of almost all the articles, justice, even to an en-