

At the request of several subscribers, we republish the following law.

AN ACT

To prohibit the Importation of certain Goods, Wares, and Merchandize.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That from and after the fifteenth day of November next, it shall not be lawful to import into the United States or the territories thereof, from any port or place situated in Great-Britain or Ireland, or in any of the colonies or dependencies of Great Britain, any goods, wares, or merchandize, of the following description, that is to say:

All articles of which leather is the material of chief value; all articles of which silk is the material of chief value;

All articles of which hemp or flax is the material of chief value;

All articles of which tin or brass is the material of chief value; tin in sheets excepted;

Woolen cloths whose invoice prices shall exceed five shillings sterling per square yard; Woolen hosiery of all kinds;

Window glass and all other manufactures of glass;

Silver and plated wares;

Paper of every description;

Nails and spikes;

Hats; clothing ready made;

Military of all kinds; playing cards, beer, ale, and porter; and pictures and prints:—

Nor shall it be lawful to import into the United States or territories thereof, from any foreign port or place whatever, any of the above mentioned goods, wares, or merchandize, being the growth, produce or manufacture of Great Britain or Ireland, or any of the colonies or dependencies of Great Britain; provided, however, that no articles which shall within fifteen months after the passing of this act, be imported from any place beyond the Cape of Good Hope, on board any vessel cleared out before the passing of this act, from any port within the United States, or the territory thereof, for the said Cape of Good Hope, or any place beyond the same, shall be subject to the prohibition aforesaid.

Sect. 2. And be it further enacted, That whenever any article or articles, the importation of which is prohibited by this act, shall, after the said fifteenth day of November next, be imported into the United States or the territories thereof, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, shall, after the said fifteenth day of November next, be put on board any ship or vessel, boat, raft or carriage, belonging to the owner of such prohibited articles, shall be forfeited, and the owner thereof shall moreover forfeit and pay treble the value of such articles.

Sect. 3. And be it further enacted, That if any article or articles, the importation of which is prohibited by this act, shall, after the said fifteenth day of November next, be put on board any ship or vessel, boat, raft or carriage, with intention to import the same into the United States or the territories thereof, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, and with the knowledge of the owner or master of such ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, such ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, shall be forfeited, and the owner and master thereof, shall moreover each forfeit and pay treble the value of such articles.

Sect. 4. And be it further enacted, That if any article or articles, the importation of which is prohibited by this act, and which shall nevertheless be on board any ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, arriving after the said fifteenth day of November next, in the United States or the territories thereof, shall be omitted in the manifest or report of entry of the master, or the person having the charge or command of such ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, or shall be omitted in the entry of the goods owned by the owner or consigned to the consignee of such articles, or shall be imported or landed, without a permit, the same penalties, fines and forfeitures shall be incurred, and may be recovered, as in the case of similar omission or omissions landing, importation, or attempting to land or import in relation to articles liable to duties on their importation into the United States.

Sect. 5. And be it further enacted, That every collector, navy officer, surveyor, or other officer of the customs, shall have the like power and authority to seize goods, wares and merchandize imported contrary to the intent and meaning of this act, to keep the same in custody until it shall have been ascertained whether the same have been forfeited or not, and to enter any ship or vessel, dwelling house, store, building or other place, for the purpose of searching for and seizing any such goods, wares and merchandize, which he or they now have by law in relation to goods, wares and merchandize, subject to duty; and if any person or persons shall conceal or buy any goods, wares and merchandize, knowing them to be liable to seizure by this act, such person or persons shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay a sum double the amount of the value of the goods, wares and merchandize so concealed or purchased.

Sect. 6. And be it further enacted, That the following addition shall be inserted to the oath or affirmation taken by the masters

or persons having the charge or command of any ship or vessel arriving at any port of the United States or the territories thereof, after the said fifteenth day of November next, viz. "I further swear (or affirm) that there are not to the best of my knowledge and belief on board (insert the denomination and name of the vessel) any goods, wares and merchandize, the importation of which into the United States or the territories thereof, is prohibited by law: And I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover or know of any such goods, wares and merchandize on board the said vessel, or which shall have been imported in the same, I will immediately and without delay make due report thereof to the collector of the port of this district."

Sect. 7. And be it further enacted, That the following addition be inserted after the said fifteenth day of November next, to the oath or affirmation taken by importers, consignees or agents, at the time of entering goods imported into the United States or the territories thereof, viz. "I also swear (or affirm) that there are not to the best of my knowledge and belief amongst the said goods, wares and merchandize, imported or consigned as aforesaid, any goods, wares or merchandize, the importation of which into the United States or the territories thereof, is prohibited by law: And I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover any such goods, wares or merchandize, among the said goods, wares and merchandize, I will immediately and without delay report the same to the collector of this district."

Sect. 8. And be it further enacted, That all penalties and forfeitures arising under this act may be sued for and recovered, and shall be distributed and accounted for in the manner prescribed by the act, entitled "an act to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage" and such penalties and forfeitures may be exempted, mitigated or remitted in like manner, and under the like conditions, regulations and restrictions, as are prescribed, authorised and directed by the act entitled "an act to provide for mitigating or remitting the forfeitures, penalties and disabilities accruing in certain cases therein mentioned."

NATH. MACON,

Speaker of the house of representatives.

S. SMITH,

President of the senate pro tempore.

APRIL 18, 1806 - Approved,
TH: JEFFERSON.

From a late Boston paper.

By the Edward, Capt. Eliot, arrived at this place on Saturday, in 28 days from Liverpool, we have received our regular file of papers to Nov. 10. They contain much interesting and important matter. The most prominent articles are those which relate to the British Decrees for interdicting all commerce in neutral bottoms, with the continental ports, subject to or under the controul of France. Those against Denmark, and the Italian States, the former of which is declared to be in a state of war with England, are given officially in our preceding columns. The dependencies to be included in the latter, are thus stated:—Tuscany, Ragusa, Naples, the Seven Islands, and all other the states in the Mediterranean and Adriatic, in possession of France or her allies." The general retaliating Decree, or Order of Council, which the public have had reason to apprehend, ever since the enforcement of the French Decree against neutral powers, has at length passed the British Cabinet. An official copy has not been received here; but several letters of later date than our papers, affirm, that it was published in the authorised Gazette of the government, on the evening of the 19th Nov. The Courier of this date, in alluding to the expected measure, has the following remarks. They are probably from the pen of Mr. Canning, or some cabinet friend, who was fully acquainted with the subject, while under discussion in the closet:—

"A proclamation it is said, will be signed by his Majesty, either this day or to-morrow, (some expect it will appear in this night's Gazette) declaring France and every other country under her controul and influence in a state of siege, prohibiting all intercourse with her or them, and forbidding all ships to enter her or their harbours, except such as have cleared last from a port in G. Britain, or in a port in the colonies belonging to Great Britain.

"Thus whilst Bonaparte is boasting his decree against our Commerce will reduce us to solicit peace, he will find that so far from being daunted by his decrees, or dismayed by his menaces, we boldly meet him with a measure of great vigour and decision, cut him off from all intercourse with three quarters of the globe, and say, that he shall receive none of the commodities and produce of the East-Indies or the West, Asia, America, or of Africa, unless he consents to receive them from us.

"It has been stated that such a measure will be highly injurious to our commerce—perhaps this statement will be found to be exaggerated—but even were the measure productive for a time of great injury, we are placed in a situation in which we cannot act otherwise. Bonaparte has proclaimed to all Europe that he has found out the secret to reduce our tone and our pretensions to the line an level to which he wishes to reduce them—he has proclaimed to the world that we shall solicit peace; the moment our commerce begins to feel severely the pressure of war—that as the chief object we have in view in all war, is the extension of our trade, the monopoly of the trade of the

whole world, we shall sue for peace as soon as we find that its circulation is checked and fettered by an enemy, who has the continent at his command. We must convince him that his calculations are erroneous and his assertions false—that our commerce tho' it has made us rich, has not made us mean; that it is not, as he has affirmed it to be, our master but our slave—that as we have acquired it by the glory of our arms, we shall render it at all times subservient to our public virtue, and our public honor—that we are not dismayed by the danger of difficulties to which it may be exposed—that we are prepared to encounter any inconvenience or injury rather than truckle or yield to any insulting enemy; that we are determined to act greatly, and we are aware none can aspire to act greatly, but those who are of force greatly to suffer—that we are not a nation overpowered with unexpected reverse, disposed to get out of a present inconvenience with any risk of future ruin, or to follow & bow to fortune—The present situation of affairs, will be the touchstone of our character.

If we act with the firmness, with the energy, with the perseverance which have marked all our contests with France, and which now are more, infinitely more necessary than in any former contest, we shall secure a peace at once honorable and advantageous, and place our commerce on a firm and secure basis. There is no position more incontrovertible than this, and we wish particularly to impress it on the public mind, that a peace too eagerly sought, is not always the sooner obtained. The discovery of vehement wishes generally frustrates their attainment; and our adversary has gained a great advantage over us when he finds us impatient to conclude a treaty. Our situation is difficult—we do not deny it. "In all situations of difficulty," we quote the opinion of Mr. Burke—"men will be influenced in the part they take, not only by the reason of the case, but by the peculiar turn of their own character. The same ways to safety do not present themselves to all men, nor to the same men in different tempers. There is a courageous wisdom; there is also a false reptile prudence, the result not of caution but of fear. Under misfortunes it often happens that the nerves of the understanding are so relaxed, the pressing peril of the hour so completely confounds all the faculties, that no future danger can properly be provided for, can be justly estimated, can be so much as fully seen. The eye of the mind is dazzled and vanquished. An abject distrust of ourselves, an extravagant admiration of the enemy, present us with no hope but in a compromise with his pride, by a submission to his will. This short plan of policy is the only counsel which will obtain a hearing. We plunge into a dark gulph, with all the rash precipitation of fear. The nature of courage is, without a question, to be conversant with danger; but in the palpable night of their terrors, men under consternation suppose, not that it is the danger, which by a sure instinct calls out the courage to resist it, but that it is the courage which produces the danger. They therefore seek for a refuge from their fears themselves, and consider a temporising meanness as the only source of safety. The rules and definitions of prudence can rarely be exact; never universal. I do not deny that in small truckling states a timely compromise with power, has often been the means, and the only means of drawing out their puny existence; but a great state is too much envied, too much dreaded to find safety in humiliation. To be secure it must be respected. Power and eminence, and consideration, are things not to be begged. They must be commanded; and they who supplicate for mercy from others, can never hope for justice through themselves."

Communication from Washington, to the Editor of the U. S. Gazette.

THURSDAY, Dec. 24.

You have before this time received information of the embargo; the law has gone into operation, and the measure has already been felt in some degree by the people.

Whether the policy which dictated this law be wise or foolish, I presume not to determine. It is now a law of the land; it must be obeyed, and complaint or resistance will be vain. Let the measure be felt for a few months; let the merchant lay up his ships in his docks; let the farmer and planter destroy their superfluous produce. After a little experience they will judge by the event of the policy of the measure; they will ascertain its operation, and how they can subsist under it, for know that the law is without limit; it is intended to be in force until Great Britain shall be prostrate at our feet. Such is the language of the friends of the measure; they declared in secret session that the law would never be relinquished till Great Britain and France had given us complete satisfaction. How long it will take to produce this effect I am not mathematician enough to calculate. Some skilful friend may perhaps by a fluctuating process ascertain the time. It will take at least three months for information of the law to be transmitted to Europe, for it to produce its effect there, and for us to receive notice of it; so that the most sanguine friends of the embargo cannot entertain the idea of its being removed in less than three months at the soonest. In truth they declare they expect it will not be removed in less than a twelve-month, if it is even then.

It will be imprudent and unsafe for either merchants or farmers to calculate on a repeal of the law. Why should it be repealed? The reasons which now exist in its favor will probably exist for a length of time.—Should the merchant be made bankrupt, should the produce of the country rot in the hands of the farmer, these are indeed evils to be lamented; no doubt the government lament them, but the policy of the measure must be supported; and with what face can any man who has voted for the law, propose its repeal? No; let every man in the community prepare himself for patience and submission. These are excellent virtues, and there is likely to be chance enough for their exercise. Recollect that we should never have heard of the virtues of Job had he not previously been subjected to so great privations.

Communicated for the Register.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.

"The embargo, as a measure of general precaution and bearing, was proposed by Mr. Randolph, and at first concurred in unanimously—but the moment that the French papers explained it to be an affair of foreign suggestion, it was spurned at by Mr. B. and the most enlightened members of the house whose eloquence and energies were employed, but in vain, to avert what they deemed a national disgrace."

RICHMOND, Dec. 22.

Yesterday the house of Delegates postponed to a subsequent day, the discussion of Mr. Gholson's resolution.

The following address was offered by Mr. Semple.

Resolved that the following address be signed by the speaker and forwarded to Colonel James Munroe.

Sir,

The house of delegates most cordially congratulate you on your return to the bosom of your country, after an absence of almost five years.—Whilst you have been laboring in European courts to secure and preserve to us the advantages of peace, and to avert the calamities of war, we have been enjoying the fruits of your labor, and all the blessings which flow from republican institutions and a wise and virtuous administration.

When we take a view of the unceasing efforts you have made for thirty years past to

promote the public good, and the many and important services you have rendered to your country in the field and in the cabinet; when we reflect on your undeviating attachment to our republican institutions and the liberties of our country, your stern and inflexible integrity and patriotism, your distinguished talents and energy of character we are proud to own you as our fellow-citizen and to return you the thanks of a grateful people.

Mr. Noland moved to strike out the words "wise and"—expressing a willingness to vote for the resolution and address if this amendment should be made.

With a wish to procure an unanimous vote, Mr. Watson proposed to enlarge the amendment by striking out the words "and a wise and virtuous administration." In this motion with the same object in view he was supported by several other friends of the administration.

The question on striking out the above words was taken by yeas and nays. In favor of striking out 19.—Against 141.

The question was then taken by yeas and nays on the address as moved by Mr. Semple and passed in the affirmative—yeas 143 nays 20.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 29.

Arrived, ship Gen. Eaton, Bowles, Tonningen, 80 days merchandise; sch'r D. Ily, Bradford, Boston 16, salt; Emily, Fletcher, New-York 7, wines &c.; Federal, Noyes, Portland 12, plaster; sloop Talmout, do. 10.

Cleared, sch'r Charlotte, Phinney, N. Carolina; Nancy, Allen, New Bedford; Sloop Farmers Branch, Bird, New-York.

Ship Herald, Sandborn, from Tonningen and ship Dispatch, Baush, from St. Kitts, are below.

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It will be imprudent and unsafe for either merchants or farmers to calculate on a repeal of the law. Why should it be repealed? The reasons which now exist in its favor will probably exist for a length of time.—Should the merchant be made bankrupt, should the produce of the country rot in the hands of the farmer, these are indeed evils to be lamented; no doubt the government lament them, but the policy of the measure must be supported; and with what face can any man who has voted for the law, propose its repeal? No; let every man in the community prepare himself for patience and submission. These are excellent virtues, and there is likely to be chance enough for their exercise. Recollect that we should never have heard of the virtues of Job had he not previously been subjected to so great privations.

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