

1887, 1888, 1889

The predicted period has at length arrived for a dispassionate estimate of the measures, recently taken by the administration, in regard to our foreign relations. Inasmuch as the great mass of a community are not gifted with the faculty of accurately associating causes with their effects, and as they are too generally played upon by a set of men actuated by personal, and often by sinister motives it ought not to surprise us, that temporary delusion is frequently excited, productive of impatience at, if not hostility to, the measures best fitted to promote their interests. It is, perhaps, inferable from a free government, to have a body of men constantly in opposition, who not contented with a virtuous resistance of encroachment and oppression, generally endeavour to effect their purposes by misrepresenting the motives, traducing the characters, and distorting the measures of those who hold the reins of power. A mournful experience proves that these men, in the zealous pursuit of their objects, will totally lose sight of the duties which they owe to their country, and even espouse with ardor the most unjust conduct of foreign governments. By these means the public judgment is obscured, and a considerable portion of the community are led to ascribe all the evils they endure to those whom they have constituted the guardians of their rights, instead of imputing them to the unjust conduct of a foreign power; which, but for the measures they condemn, would have oppressed them with a ten fold violence. This has been strikingly the case with respect to the embargo. Those who imposed it have been represented as abandoned to French influence, as unfriendly to commerce, as hostile to liberty; Great and respectable sections of the union have swallowed the poison, and have been almost inflamed into a paroxysm of passion, ready to seek its criminal gratification in raising its arm against its own government. But the bright day of judgment and retribution has at length arrived, when a virtuous nation will not withhold the tribute of its warmest thanks from an administration, whose sole ambition has ever been to advance the happiness of its constituents, even at the sacrifice of its present popularity. Thanks to the sage, who now so gloriously reposes in the shades of Monticello, and to those who shared his confidence.

In pronouncing this judgment, every suggestion of magnanimity recommends a forbearance from opening anew the wounds which have so grievously irritated our friendship with Great Britain. Generosity requires, that we should drop a veil over them. Justice, however, does not less forcibly call upon us, to estimate aright the causes which have led to the existing state of things, as opening to us a copious volume of experience, that may serve in future to irradiate our way.

In the first place, then, it may be boldly alledged, that the revocation of the British orders is attributed to the embargo. The non-intercourse act, connected with the partial repeal of the embargo, had not taken place when Mr. Oakely left England, nor was it expected to take place. On the contrary, there was every manifestation, on the part of our government, in all its departments, to adhere to the embargo, or to take the alternative of war. Votes to this effect had passed the two houses of Congress by great majorities. Mr. Canning had, moreover, a short time before virtually put the veto of his government on the proposition of ours to raise the embargo, as to England, and retain it as to France, provided England rescinded her orders. As this is the precise proposition submitted by the non-intercourse act, it proves that there must have been some other cause for this veto, at the time it was pronounced by Mr. Canning. Mr. Canning, in fact assigns a cause, by declaring that his government would not rescind her orders till France had withdrawn her decrees. And yet France has not withdrawn her decrees

to this day. As the effect, then, is produced without the cause then assigned, it is evident that it must have flowed from some other cause. That cause is the embargo. No other cause can be assigned. That it was quickened into activity, by the disasters attending the British arms in Spain, may be true. But this proves nothing more, than that the embargo was an instrument, calculated to influence the conduct of foreign governments to us through the medium of contingent events. If I withhold my friendship from any one, it is not the particular act that injures him, but the effects, flowing from it. So, in the case of the embargo, it was the almost inevitable effects expected from it, that recommended it as a measure, the best fitted, in all human probability, to vindicate our rights by *a solemn appeal to the interests of those who violated them*. In this, and in this way only, was its efficacy contended for. It was said, that, while it secured our property by drawing it into our own bosom, it would for a time avert war, during which time it would probably teach those who aggressed upon our rights, that their own interests dictated a removal of their aggressions.

Let us go back to the period, when the embargo was laid. At that time England stood alone, (for Sweden is too trifling to form an exception) among the nations of Europe. As far as consolidation of power, unknown since the days of Charlemagno, could effect it, the trade of the continent was sealed to her. In this posture of affairs, she issued her orders in Council, interesting to us all continental trade. The Embargo was the consequence.

In imposing the embargo, it was said that England would principally feel it.—

In the diminution of her manufactures.  
In the diminution of her trade.

In the diminution of her taxes arising from imports.

In the want of naval supplies.

We all recollect the immediate sensation

produced by it in England. The table of the House of Commons was filled with remonstrances against the orders in Council, and the Gazette's overflowed with manifestations of the national sensibility. At this moment, when but a few months had elapsed, which had however afforded the best ground for the hope, that the orders would soon be rescinded, the memorable Spanish revolution blazed out, and the British ministry seized it, without delay, as the glad harbinger of brighter days. The popular flame was kindled on the side of the patriots, unprecedented exertions was made on their behalf an immense army was raised, the navy increased, and the rich American as well as European possessions of Spain thrown open to England.—Her languishing manufactures received new life blood, her commerce expanded on a bolder wing, and she languished at our folly in giving her a monopoly of the trade of the world. For a time things go on swimmingly—Success inspires confidence, and we are sternly told, that the British orders will not be revoked till the French decrees are rescinded. While the tide of good fortune flowed thus impetuously, the empaired effects of the embargo, although far from inconsiderable, are either lightly felt, or are submitted to in the hope of our soon abandoning it. It is resolved to see who can stand out the longest.

But this prosperous tide turns, with a revolution equal to its original impetuous; and now it is, that the florid complexion of hope is sicklied o'er with the pale hue of melancholy. Reflection is substituted for action, and it is foreseen, perhaps, that the people of England, however able to support the animated exertions of courage, will sink under the required patience of fortitude. Fortunately, at this crisis, the intelligence reaches them, that the government of the United States strong in the affections of the nation are determined not to relax; that a new magistrate had been elected by a vast majority, whose unbending course would pursue the same line with his predecessor; that the embargo would be continued, unless exchanged for war. Under these circumstances the British government wisely determines for peace with us. She feels the appeal carried to her interests, spontaneously renders reparation for the attack on the Chesapeake; and offers to rescind her orders on our resuming a free commercial intercourse with her.

However, then, the appeal of the embargo to her interests was delayed, it was not frustrated, by the Spanish revolution. Had

Present Claimant.	Original Claimant.	Quantity.	Situation.
Joseph Hennett entrd. by Jos. Archambeau,	Francis Hennett,	10 arpt. in front 340 acs. from foot of hills to Mis.	
Joseph Archambeau same	Frs. Janis & wfe	8 arpt. in front extending to Mis. adj. com. field, 1 1/2 arpt. part of nine arpt. claimed by P. Minard	
William Atchison,	Peter Smith	400 acres impt. in the hills above P. D. Reeper	
Widow Alexis	Widow A. Beauvis	1 arpt. in front 34 acres from fence com. field	
John Aft, by	R. Reynolds, adm.	400 acres impt. east of the grand tower	
William Berry	William Berry	400 acres in the forks of Muddy	
Jacq Baultillet same	Ant. Langlois	1 arpt. front 34 acres in common field P. D. Q.	
same	same	do do do do	
Widow Blay	Louis Laufier	do do adjoining the prairie	
Shadrack Bond, jr.	James Currey	400 acres at a place called petite paf	
Widow Buyatt	Efienne Page	do impt. between Plumb creek and nine mile	
Christian Benk	Charles Benk	1 arpent in front 34 acres	
Mayrett Bently same	Raphul Beauvis	400 acres improvement	
Antoine Bevenue	A. Bevenue	1 arpt. ent. by Edgar from K. com. fence to Mis.	
Ephraim Bilderback	John Sidden	do claimed by do 68 acres do	
Amos Bailey,	Amos Bailey	1/2 arpt. 17 ac. from the fence of com. field to Mis.	
Pie-re Boquett, his	Father	400 acres improvement	
heirs of Jas. Boswell	James Boswell	do do at a place called the round nobb	
The widow Charleville		2 arpt. 68 acres from Mississippi to hills	
Frs. Derouffe, in right of	Louis St. Pierre	400 acres improvement on Mississippi	
Louis Denoyer	Widow Denoyer	10 arpt. front & 40 deep 340 acres w. side Kas.	
Timothy Demumbreau,	Frs. Demumbreau	2 arpt. front 68 acres ext. to Mis. Kas. prairie	
Joseph Dugy	Barrois	5 do in depth from Mis. to hills F. C. 178 acres	
John Doyle heir of	Henry Smith	400 acres improvement on the east side Kaskaskia	
Edw. Mathews, entrd.		10 arpt. front 60 deep east side Kas. river 510 acrs	
by Jas. Gilbreath	Ed. Mathews	400 impt. on east side Kas. river to a spring head	
James Gilbreath for same for	Godfrey Camifs	do do near Kaskaskia	
Louis Germain	Wm. McFarlad	do do about six or eight miles E of Silver cr.	
heirs of Degrace	James Harris	do do on the waters of the river Marie	
James Gilham, by	Thos. T. Gilham	2 arpt. front 68 acres from com. fence to Mis.	
John Fulton,	Saml. Findley	400 acres improvement	
same adm. of	Robt. Forsyth	do do do on the waters of nine mile cr.	
Isaac Hannery,	Thos Flannery sen. do	do do do claimed by col. Edgar	
same	Jos. Henry dec. do	do do do thirty miles above mouth Ohio	
same	Abm. Hanney dec. do	do do do on the N side Mur. island Mis.	
William Hanneffe	Thomas Hanney	do do do on north side island	
David Haley	David Haley	do do do below the village St. Pierre	
Joseph Henne	Jacque Henne	do do do one mile above the river Ganne	
same	Francis Henne	1 arpt. wide 34 acs. from the grand cowler to hills	
James Haggin	William Moore	10 do front 340 do from hills to Mis. prairie	
widow Hebert, her mother wid. Michael	Thos. Hanney	400 acree improvement six miles east of Kas.	
Lydia & Wm. Hanneffe	John Fowler	2 arpents in front 68 acres	
James Hughs	Neife	400 acres impt. below the village St. Pierre	
Joseph Herne	James Scott	do do do E. of Kas. four miles from village	
same	John McClane	2 arpents in front sixty eight acres	
heirs of Jas. Scott	William Kelly	do do do do	
William Kelly	John Murtrey	250 acres impt. three miles from vil. St. Phillips	
Jas. M. Roberts entrd. by Wm. Kelly	do do	400 acres impt. on east bank Plumb creek	
William Kelly	do do	do do do on the Vincennes road	
entrd. by Wm. Kelly for David Johnston	do do	do do do near Cape St. Hommes	
Richard Loid and	Gasper St. Clair, Mi-	do do do	
William Kelly	chael St. Clair Solomon		
	Walker, Thos. Walk-		
	er, Richard Walker	2000 acres impt. five rights waters of nine mile cr.	
John Kidd	James Harris	400 acres impt. American bottom	
Moses Laracey	Moses Laracey	do do do above Murreys station Mis.	
Richard Loid,	John Murphy	do do do above the mouth of Plumb creek	
same	John Taylor	do do do about six miles E. Kaskas.	
same	James Taylor	do do do about do do	
same	Thomas Kelly	do do do one & a half miles below G. Tower	
same	Thomas Griffin	do do do three miles above Grand Tower	
same	Elijah Rowth	do do do	
same	Robert Higgins	do do do on E. side Kaskaskia creek	
Akijah Lovett	Barnett Pumpilley	do do do one & a half miles below C. St. H.	
same	same	do do do do do do	
Jean Lafouard	Jacque Boutelette	1 arpt. front ext. from hills to Mis. P. D. Rocher	
Saucier Lauvierre	Ant. Lauvierre	400 acres impt on hills opposite village St. Phillips	
Jas. H. Murild, heir of J. B. Bagiat	J. B. Bagiat	12 arpt. wide 408 acres from Mis. to hills P. Sav.	
G. Morgan,	Saml. Wharton, Ant. Byn-	three and a quarter miles long by seven acres wide	
same	tor, George Morgan	about 440 acres from Mississippi to hills	
same	J. Boutelett & wife	fix acres wide 240 acres from hills to Mississippi	
same	Francis Gobidon	one acre wide from hills to Mis.	
William Murrey	Joseph Dubardo	nine acres Kaskaskia	
same	Thomas Chaldron	20 acres or thereabouts in the vil. St. Phillips	
same	same	3 acres with a water mill & 1/2 arpt. each side same	
heirs of M. Phillip entr. by Chas. Davis	Louis Turpin	7 arpt. front 238 acres from hills to Mis.	
The heirs of J. Pigot	John Edgar	5 do front 170 acres on Kaskaskia river	
same	Louis Pittit fen.	four hundred acres improvement.	
Thomas Newberry	Elijah Smith	one square acre in Kaskaskia	
M. Derouffe St. Pierre	S. Deske	four hundred acres improvement	
L. Peacan, alias Virbuncan,	Pat. McFall	40 arpt. joining Kas. village 34 acres	
same	L. Marchdown	1 arpt. 34 acres in common field	
Louis Petit jun.	Abm. Mirral	2 do front 68 acres in common field	
heirs of Elijah Smith	Wm. Whitelides	400 acres impt. 15 mil-s above Kas. on E side riv.	
William Wilson	David Hunter	do do do on Nine mile creek	
same	William Kelly	do do do on a fork of Murrays road	
John Edgar	Phillip Huff	4 1/2 arpents in front, 153 acres	
same	same	1 arpent 6 perches front eighteen acres	
William Wilson	Abm. Mirral	400 acres impt. five miles below the river Mary	
Samuel Allen	Wm. Whitelides	do do do between Kas. & Silver creek	
David Hunter	David Hunter	do do do on Cox's creek	
Joel Park	William Kelly	do do do on the Mississippi	
Robert Reynolds		do do do on Clarks trace to Vincennes	

*JAMES GILBREATH, Collector.*