

they remain the same, an honest government would not hesitate to comply with them.

But should it be admitted that the stipulations entered into by Mr. Erskine were totally unauthorized, inasmuch as he was possessed of the full powers of a minister of the highest standing, and as the American government had a right to consider him as acting strictly in obedience to the views of his government, there can be no doubt but that that government, on disavowing his act, was bound to indemnify those who had reposed their confidence in it. 'A nation,' says a writer on this head, 'is bound in honor, and by the principles of justice and the duty of self-respect, to see that those governments who treat with her accredited agents, shall sustain no detriment from their mistakes or misconduct.' This is so obvious, that we find it admitted even by Mr. Canning himself on the face of the order of the 24th of May. Let us examine whether this indemnity has been made.

By the agreement with Mr. Erskine, all the British orders were stipulated to be revoked, so as, in the language of the act of Congress authorizing a renewal of commerce, 'to cease to violate the neutral commerce of the U. States.' Thus revoked the trade of America was free to take any destination except to ports actually blockaded. Every other restriction upon it was dependant upon our own laws, which of course we might enforce or relax at pleasure. By the order of May 24, American vessels sailing from the U. States to Holland between the 19th of April, and the 20th of July, are permitted to pursue their voyage. American vessels sailing from the U. States during the same period for any other permitted ports (under the orders April we presume) which shall have changed their destination and are proceeding to Holland shall not be molested, unless informed of this order, and warned not to proceed. American vessels clearing after the 9th June for Holland from ports permitted by the order of April 26th, shall not be molested, unless advised of this order, or during the periods fixed for constructive notice by the previous orders. American vessels may clear out from Holland to any ports not declared to be under the restriction of blockade between the 9th of June and the 1st of July.

From these provisions it appears that the time not less than the degree, of the suspension of the order of April, is extremely limited and narrow. To extend an adequate indemnity to our merchants it was essential to have been liberal in both these respects.

With regard to time, as the order disavowing the arrangements, only reached this country on the 21st of July, and must have taken a considerable time to be known throughout the U. States, even taking the widest latitude allowed, a large number of vessels must have cleared out in violation of it, and thereby subjected themselves to capture and condemnation. Another description of vessels are allowed the periods fixed for constructive notice by the order of 11th November, thus subjecting to like capture and condemnation all those which shall not have completed their voyages within the narrow limits assigned. While all vessels clearing from permitted ports for Holland are restricted to the 1st of July. This general indulgence allowed to the trade between the ports of Britain and Holland.

It requires no great mercantile knowledge to estimate the immensity of the loss

that will be incurred by our merchants from these unjust and narrow limitations in point of time. The greater part of our property embarked was destined in the first instance to England, on which, as soon as it gets there, the violently shuts the door, gains a monopoly, creates a glut, and brings down the prices as actually ascertained in some important articles, above 100 per cent. Such goods as are shipped to Holland are obliged to be carried off with the greatest haste, instead of being exported as a favorable market offered, and thus exposed to all the risques and dangers of precipitation; vessels bound from Holland to permitted ports are exposed to still narrower periods, and in many cases advice being given them of the new order is sufficient to stop their voyage on the pain of capture and condemnation. Can any thing exhibit a livelier mockery of justice? Every place to which our vessels are permitted to go from the limited time allowed becomes a trap to the unsuspecting confidence of our citizens, and just in proportion to our loss is the gain of G. Britain. As well might a highway man offer to indemnify the victory of his robbery by returning to him a portion of his spoils. Had a solid indemnity been intended, such a time would have been allowed as would have enabled our merchants to have carried into full effect their adventures. For this purpose a year would scarcely have been adequate.

But the degree in which the orders in council have been suspended, independent of the limitations of time, still more forcibly proves the hollowness of the indemnity offered. The order of April 26, more injurious to our commerce than the preceding order, is reinstated with only a few exceptions. The trade to Holland is tolerated under conditions which, connected with subsequent events make it a mockery; for we learn that the ports of that kingdom are declared to be under strict blockade, and all intercourse consequently inhibited, until, indeed, that order British license; thus, annihilating our resources for the sale of our goods on the continent, at the very moment their own subjects are licensed to play the part of smugglers, and in this ignominious character to build up their fortunes on our ruin.

With the exception of Holland, which from the blockade of its ports, is a perfect nullity, the order of April is enforced, an order, which we have in preceding articles shewn to be more rigorous, more invasive of neutral commerce than even the orders of January and November, 1807. So far then from our trade experiencing a temporary relief from the arrangement of Mr. Erskine, and the indemnifying order of May 24th, the dangers to which it is now exposed are greater than those which sprang from the celebrated orders of November, which produced our non intercourse law, which was safely removed on the stipulations to annul them. Such are the tender mercies of the British government!

It is not however, on account of the depressed price of our exports occasioned by this iniquitous order that we have the greatest reason to complain.

It may be allowed as generally correct that our importations are equal to our exports. This order confines almost entirely our importations to the British market, and altogether destroys those circumitous voyages, which, it is well known have proved the greatest sources of our gains. If it be com-

puted that our exports amount to fifty millions, by being limited to the British market an immense demand will be created for goods, which will have the inevitable effect of raising their prices, and of producing correspondent lots to this country. We shall thus be loser in every way, as from the diminished value of our exports as from the augmented value of British fabrics, which if we compute at only 20 per cent, will saddle us with a loss of twenty millions, a sum double the amount of our annual commercial profits. With what colour of face, then, can it be contended that the order of May indemnifies us?

We have as yet abstained from one consideration still more important than any to be had upon. The disavowal of Mr. Erskine's arrangement, and the iniquitous refusal to indemnify us for our confidence in it, does not merely affect the commercial capital of the U. States; but it likewise deeply affects the whole internal commerce of the U. States, every sale that has been made either of products of the soil, or the soil itself. Such was the universal confidence and animosity inspired by that event, that our produce to our property rose, new directions were given to our wealth and the labor of our citizens under the liveliest expectation of remuneration and profit. The order of May, in its instantaneous operation, by its cruel execution indeed in many cases before it was known, blasts all these hopes, and in its fatal moment destroys the prosperity, the comfort of thousands, annihilates millions at a blow, & fattens the remaining wealth with the sickliness of fortune.

Nat. In-

FOR THE WESTERN SUN.

To the Citizens of Indiana.

Our political affairs are daily becoming worse.—Our situation is truly alarming. One of our supreme judges, better known by the scurrility of his style in various publications in the Western Sun, than by the 'sauvage' of his manners, deserts from the dignity of his station to defend in a newspaper controversy, the abominable and treacherous administration of our governor, by his jingling in palliation of the acts of his patron, which he could neither defend nor justify, attempts to cheer the desponding hopes of the credulous few who yet adhere to the executive, and deceive those who have remarked his conduct, and have decided him to a dignified retirement. In a subsequent paper I shall successfully expose the fallacy of the reasons which 'Jeremiah Jingle,' a most appropriate signature, adduced to palliate the administration, the influences to which he has adverted: other instances of mal administration &c. in my former, not having been defended are to be considered by the citizens as established. In the mean time I can assure the honorable 'Jeremiah Jingle,' that his jingling neither tickles the fenses, nor concretes the understanding; that it is no more creditable than the oracles of Justice Midas, and that I am,

A FRIEND TO TRUTH.

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