

be considered by the eastern states as very objectionable, but as it would be rather a nominal prohibition than a rigorous enforcement, a resistance to it would be less likely to be made, and of less importance if it should take place.

The ultimate consequences of such differences and jealousies arising between the eastern and southern states would inevitably tend to a dissolution of the union which has been for some time talked of and has of late as I have heard, been seriously contemplated by many of the leading people in the eastern division.

I will not however, trouble you with any observations upon that important topic at present, but confine myself to the consequences of the measures about to be adopted in congress, affecting his majesty's interest.

Whatever may be the motives of the congress for the passing a non-intercourse law with England and France, I conceive that great advantages may be reaped from it by England, as she has the command of the seas, and can procure through neutrals any of the produce of this country, besides the immense quantity which will be brought direct to G. Britain under various pretences whereas F. will obtain but little in consequence of the high prices in markets.

This measure will operate in so partial and discouraging a manner upon the eastern states which are commercial, that it would not be submitted to very long, and its effects in preventing the introduction of British manufactures, would be trifling, as they would be smuggled into the country with the greatest facility, since the people, who alone could interfere with effect, would encourage such a traffic between his majesty's dominions in Canada, and the adjacent territories of the U. States, and in various other ways.

Another advantage arising to G. Britain from the non-intercourse law would be, that the interdiction of ships of war from entering the ports of the U. States would be general, instead of being directed solely against his majesty's ships. The non-importation law would be also general, and the consequence would be that his majesty's subjects would get a greater quantity of goods into the U. States, but French subjects could not introduce any.

Should his majesty deem it proper to consider the non-intercourse law in the light of a municipal regulation, which the U. States had a right to establish, and not a measure of hostility, I am persuaded it would not be in the power of any party in this country, even if they wished it, to bring on a war with Great Britain.

(Signed)

D. M. ERSKINE.

British Friendship Verified!

WASHINGTON CITY, July 23.

We are informed that on the 24th June, 1810, the U. States brig Vixen, lieutenant Tripp, carrying 14 guns, on her way to N. Orleans, under orders from our government, near the Bahamas, was, in a wanton and unprovoked manner, fired into by the British sloop of war, the Moselle, captain Boyce, rating 20 guns, 32 pounders—a 32 pound shot carried away the main boom of the Vixen, within a short distance of col. Pindexter, a member of congress, who, with his family, had taken passage on board on his return from congress; and a splinter from the boom wounded slightly, mr. Rodney, son of the attorney general of the U. States, who likewise was on his way to N. Orleans.

The subjoined extract of a letter from a gentleman of great respectability on board the Vixen, to his friend in this city, will give a detail of circumstances; and on the conduct of lieut. Tripp, we will forbear to make a comment, because, in our war with Tripoli, this officer signalized himself; but more especially as we are informed, that he has been ordered by the secretary of the navy to repair immediately to Washington for the purpose of an enquiry into his conduct in not returning the fire of the Moselle.

"On the 24th inst. (June) an occurrence took place which was equally unpleasant & unexpected. The character of the affair, however, corresponds with the treatment which we have so often received from the British naval commanders on former occasions. The Moselle, a 20 gun brig, carrying 32 pounders, was lying at an anchor under the St. George R. near the Bahama bank. The Vixen approached her under full sail, with her pendant & ensign hoisted.

The commander of the Moselle hoisted F. colors, and exhibited several private signals, Capt. Tripp, on perceiving a boat which he supposed wished to speak his vessel, hauled up and received the officer, who requested him to go down to the British vessel. With the request capt. Tripp declined a compliance, furnishing the officer, at the same time with the name of the vessel, and her destination. Capt. Boyce, who commands the Moselle, fired a shot at us as we passed, which capt. Tripp considered as an intimation that he wished to speak with us.—

Several musket balls were fired from the boat into the vessel; and at the very moment the British officer was politely received on board the Vixen, and before he had taken a memorandum of the reply which was given by captain Tripp, to the message which was delivered—capt. Boyce fired a round shot, which came over the quarter deck, and penetrated the main boom of the Vixen. Capt. Tripp immediately discharged the British officer, and prepared for action. The English brig slipped her cable and got under way, menacing an attack on our vessel. So soon as she approached within a proper distance, capt. Tripp dispatched a boat with his first lieutenant, to demand of the British officer an explanation of his conduct; who sent his lieutenant on board the Vixen, with various apologies, which were not understood in a satisfactory manner; and capt. Tripp addressed a note to capt. Boyce, requiring a written statement of the reasons which had induced him to fire two shot at his vessel. Capt. Boyce returned for answer, that he recognized with pleasure, the existing amity between the two countries, and was extremely sorry for having fired at us—that the reasons which induced him to fire, were, that he could not distinguish our colors, and saw no preparations for taking in sail—that he had been informed that two French privateers were fitting out in the U. States, and supposed we might probably be one of them. He also pledged his honor that his shot was not aimed at our vessel. The explanation was deemed by capt. Tripp, sufficient to prevent any further conflict, and we instantly made sail, and proceeded on our course.

The injury which we sustained was trifling. Mr. Rodney's son was struck by a splinter from the boom, which occasioned his mouth to bleed a short time—no other person was touched.

"The conduct of capt. Tripp in this affair was highly honorable to himself, to the American navy, and to his country. The Vixen was prepared for action with the greatest promptitude and order, and the explanation demanded in a manner which left no doubt, as to his determination to vindicate the honor of the national flag, or perish in the attempt. The official assurances of capt. Boyce, could not be questioned in an official form, but I feel the most perfect conviction that he knew the Vixen to be an American ship of war—that he fired the second shot directly at the vessel, with a view of provoking a return of the fire, and thereby furnish him with an excuse for going into action with a vessel of inferior metal, and then shift the responsibility from himself by declaring that his shot was fired through mistake, and without any intention of injuring the vessel. I was on deck, and saw the gun on the forecastle of the Moselle, levelled directly at the Vixen, and was not more than three feet from the place where the shot struck the boom. The insolence of this transaction is not more remarkable than the meanness displayed by the British commander, in forging excuses for his conduct."

NEW-ORLEANS, July 19.

In the river, U. States brig Vixen, from Philadelphia, left from Havanna. It is with extreme regret, we are obliged to state, that capt. Tripp and his purser, died on their passage from the Havanna to this place.—[This is the same vessel and captain, that were fired at by the British—see Washington head.]

NORFOLK, July 20.

On Wednesday evening sailed from Hampton Roads the U. States brig Hornet, capt. Hunt, for New-York; from thence she proceeds immediately with dispatches for Europe. There are various conjectures afloat—some will have it that she is sent for the purpose of bringing home our minister (mr. Pinkney) from London; others, that she is destined for France.—The British packet sailed a few days ago from New York, direct for England!!!

There is something ominous in these movements.

August 1.—A report is current this morning that there are some British armed vessels off our coasts; and that the U. States frigates, &c. lying in Hampton Roads, are to sail this day in order to prevent their entering our waters. It is apprehended something serious will take place.

WEST-FLORIDA.

Just as our paper was going to press, we received a letter from St. John's Plains, (the seat of the West Florida convention) dated July 26, from which we make the following extracts—

"The Convention assembled yesterday, appointed John Rhea, esq. chairman, and Doctor Andrew Steel, secretary, with two clerks, viz. George Mather, and Samuel Crocker, esqrs.

"There is great diversity of opinion amongst them, some being for independence, and others for supporting the old Spanish laws. Their situation is difficult, and it is expected they will close their first meeting without doing much that is decisive.

"As the convention sits with closed doors, and the members are not very communicative, I cannot inform you whether any thing has been done. I send you a list of the members, as perfect as I can collect.

For New Feliciana—William Barrow, John H. Johnson, John Mills, and John Rhea.

For Baton Rouge—Thomas Lilly, Philip Hickey, Edmond Hause, and — Lopas.

St. Helena—Joseph Thomas, John W. Leonard, — Williams, and William Morgan.

Tauchipaho—Cooper, and one, name unknown.

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3 War Department, July 10, 1810.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

THAT separate proposals will be received at the office of the secretary for the department of war, until twelve o'clock at noon of the first Monday in November next, for the supply of all rations that may be required for the use of the United States, from the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and eleven inclusive, to the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and twelve, within the States, Territories and Districts following, viz:

1st. At Niagara, Detroit, Michilimackinac, Fort Wayne, Chikago, and in their immediate vicinities, and at any place or places, where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the territory of Michigan.

2nd. At any place or places, where troops are, or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the states of Kentucky & Tennessee.

3rd. At Belle Fontaine, Fort Osage and Belle Vue, and at any place, or places, where troops are, or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the state of Ohio, and the Illinois, Indiana and Louisiana territories, except Fort Wayne and Chikago, and their immediate vicinities.

4th. At any place or places, where troops are, or may be stationed, marched or recruited, within the Mississippi and Orleans territories.

Proposals will be received at the same time for supplying rations within the districts aforesaid, for two years, commencing on the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and eleven.

5th. At any place or places, where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the district of Maine, and state of New Hampshire.

6th. At any place or places, where troops are or may be stationed, marched, or recruited, within the state of Vermont.

7th. At any place or places, where troops are, or may be stationed, marched, or recruited, within the state of Massachusetts, the town of Springfield excepted.

8th. At any place or places, where troops are or may be stationed, marched, or recruited, within the state of Connecticut and Rhode Island.

9th. At any place or places, where troops are or may be stationed, marched, or recruited, within the state of New York, Niagara and its dependencies excepted.

10th. At any place or places, where troops are or may be stationed, marched,

or recruited, within the state of New Jersey.

11th. At any place or places, where troops are or may be stationed, marched, or recruited, within the state of Pennsylvania.

12th. At any place or places, where troops are or may be stationed, marched, or recruited, within the states of Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia.

13. At any place or places, where troops are or may be stationed, marched, or recruited within the state of Virginia.

14th. At any place or places, where troops are or may be stationed, marched, or recruited, within the state of North Carolina.

15th. At any place or places, where troops are or may be stationed, marched, or recruited, within the state of South Carolina.

16th. At Ocmulgee, Old Fields, and at any place or places, where troops are or may be stationed, marched, or recruited, within the limits of the state of Georgia.

17th. Proposals will also be received, as aforesaid, for the supply of all rations which may be required by the United States, for the troops which are or may be stationed, marched, or recruited, within the town of Springfield, in the state of Massachusetts; and for the armorers, and other persons employed in the United States army at that place, from the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and eleven, inclusive, to the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and twelve.

A ration to consist of one pound and one quarter of beef, or three quarters of a pound of pork, eighteen ounces of bread or flour, one gill of rum, whiskey, or brandy, and at the rate of two quarts of salt, four quarts of vinegar, four pounds of soap, and one pound and a half of candles, to every hundred rations. The prices of the several component parts of the ration shall be specified; but the United States reserves the right of making such alterations in the price of the component parts of the ration aforesaid, as shall make the price of each part thereof bear a just proportion to the proposed price of the whole ration. The rations are to be furnished in such quantities, that there shall at all times during the term of the proposed contract, be sufficient for the consumption of the troops at Michilimackinac, Detroit, Fort Osage, and Belle Vue, Chikago, for six months in advance; and at each of the ports on the western waters, for at least three months in advance, of good and wholesome provisions if the same shall be required. It is also to be permitted to all and every of the commandants of fortified places or posts, to call for at seasons when the same can be transported, or at any time in case of urgency, such supplies of like provisions in advance, as in the discretion of the commandant shall be deemed proper.

It is understood that the contractor is to be at the risk of issuing the supplies to the troops, and that all losses sustained by the depredations of the enemy, or by means of the troops of the United States, shall be paid by the United States, at the price of the articles captured or destroyed, as aforesaid, on the deposition of two or more persons of credible characters, and the certificate of a commissioned officer, stating the circumstances of the loss, and the amount of the articles for which compensation shall be claimed.

The privilege is understood to be reserved to the United States, of requiring that none of the supplies, which may be furnished under any of the proposed contracts, shall be issued, until the supplies which have been, or may be furnished under the contracts now in force, have been consumed; and that a supply in advance, may be always required at any of the fixed posts on the sea board, or Indian frontier, not exceeding three months.

W. EUSTIS.

3 BEEF! BEEF! BEEF!

THE subscriber willing to furnish the citizens (Indians and negroes excepted) with good BEEF, will give Two Dollars and Seventy Five Cents per hundred, in CASH, payable in two months, for good fat wholesome Beef Cattle, delivered in Vincennes—he hopes to meet with encouragement from every good American.

William McGovern.
Vincennes, 9th Aug. 1810.