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National Intelligencer.

REFLECTIONS on the comparative effects of a WAR on the UNITED STATES and GREAT BRITAN.

(Continued.)

6. The remaining articles imported and consumed in the U. S. consist of dry goods used principally for clothing and household purposes. The value of these goods is about forty millions.

The question is how shall we do without these goods?

To this enquiry the following answer may be made:

In the first place, we have an immense surplus quantity of this description of goods on hand, which would be of themselves probably sufficient to carry us through a war with Britain.

In the second place such a war like all wars, producing economical habits among the people, would diminish the consumption of articles, a large part of which being more subservient to show than use would be readily dispensed with.

In the third place, most of these articles being derived from Britain, as in the revolutionary war, their use would be in no inconsiderable degree unpopular.

But, in the fourth place, we can best meet the enquiry by saying that it would be the undoubted effect of war to increase our manufactures to an extent at least equal to the diminished supply of foreign goods.

Can there be a doubt of this, when we combine the following facts.

The declension of our trade would exonerate a correspondent portion of the capital at present engaged in carrying it on. That capital may be safely computed at fifty millions of dollars. Suppose then our trade should be so affected as to deprive us of half our ordinary supplies of these goods. A capital of twenty millions would be drawn from trade. How else would it gain employment than in establishing manufactories? Let then any man calculate the effect of investing twenty millions in manufactures.

For doing this we should have,

Every requisite raw material—

An abundant circulating medium—

And a sufficient number of unoccupied hands.

That we should have every requisite raw material requires no proof. But this is not all. We should have it much cheaper than it could be procured by the foreign manufacturer. For instance, take a pound of cotton, it would cost the American manufacturer twenty cents. But in addition to this price the foreign manufacturer would be charged with the freight, the insurance, which in times of war is very considerable, and with the duty laid on its importation into foreign countries; these, in the whole, would not amount to less than fifty per cent. bringing the price up to thirty cents. We export about forty millions of pounds of this article; on which therefore these charges operate as a tax of four millions of dollars, which the foreign manufacturer must charge on the price of his goods. When made, it is necessary to carry them to the depot of trade, another freight and insurance are incurred, with various commissions, which will not be found to fall short of twenty-five per cent. All these charges would be saved by the American manufacturers. Would they not collectively countervail the low price of labor in Europe? We have, it is believed, abundant proofs among ourselves that they would. But, if they should not, the worst that can happen, is our being compelled to pay somewhat dearer for the goods manufactured by ourselves than for those imported. And would this be a serious evil? The articles thus manufactured would be more durable, and would therefore be really worth more than foreign fabrics. But, even for the sake of argument, admitting that they would be intrinsically dearer, the enhanced price would be but little felt, as all the money expended would be spent among ourselves, and the individual who paid it would have the means, which he would not fail to use, to charge a correspondent price upon the products of his own labor.

But it may be asked, why have we not already established extensive manufactures, if the profit is thus considerable? The proper answer is that we have not had a sufficient capital and circulating medium, and sufficient numbers that could be spared from the plough; and war, by disengaging a sufficient amount of the former from commerce, and a sufficient number of the latter from agriculture, would give us all the means we want for this purpose. It is computed that we have now a circulating medium of twenty millions of dollars in the U. S. besides about eighteen millions in bank notes. In 1776 the circulating medium was estimated at only four millions; and with regard to numbers we have now six millions and a half; whereas in 1774 we had only two millions and a half.

Suppose then a capital of twenty millions of dollars diverted from commerce to manufactures; is there any sensible man that can doubt for a moment, its competency to supply us with twenty millions worth of domestic manufactures? So far from there being the least reason for doubt, it scarcely admits of one that one third part of this capital would be sufficient. All the incidents attending such a manufacture being among ourselves, and the obtaining of the raw material and disposition of the fabricated articles being within a narrow sphere, and there being abundant circulating medium to make all these *cash* transactions, there is believed to be no question but that a manufacturer could turn his capital at least three times in the course of a year. If this be so, it follows that a very small capital in trade will go a great way in manufactures. It may be proper, on this head, not to omit some notice of the number of hands required to be employed in the manufacture of twenty-millions worth of goods. If we compute the raw material at one third of the value of the fabrics made out of it, and the incidental expences at the difference between a third and a half, there will remain half the original sum, viz. ten millions payable for labor, for which one dollar a day will be a moderate allowance. Each working man then receiving three hundred dollars a year, there would be employed 33,000 working men, or a proportionable number of men, women and children; which is but about a one fiftieth part of those now employed in agriculture. We have made no allowance, although we might fairly have made no inconsiderable abatement for the great and even wonderful powers of machinery, which, in many of the greatest manufactories, and particularly in those of cotton, have abridged the necessity of labor at least one hundred fold, and have thereby made capital a complete and effectual substitute.

Is it not then manifest that to make us entirely independent of the manufactures of Europe, but a feeble effort is required, an effort whose inconvenience would be only felt for a moment, while its benefits would last for ages. Great, virtuous and independent, as we are free from intercourse with a corrupt world, let us break the ignoble shackles of an interest, the more indefensible as it is altogether imaginary, that at present binds us in some measure to its destiny, and, which, at any rate, subjects us to the inconveniences attendant on its mutable state. To be truly independent we must supply our own wants. War, with all its evils, will have this effect; and however justly we may condemn the injustice that provokes it, or deprecate the evils which it brings to the innocent as well as the guilty, it is no irrational opinion that it might, in the scale of interest, by rendering us permanently independent of Europe, ameliorate our condition.

(To be CONTINUED.)

It is at length ascertained, that the outrage lately perpetrated against the flag and citizens of the United States, on board the frigate Chesapeake, was an emanation from the illumined mind of "The hon. George Granfield Berkeley, vice-admiral of the white, and commander in chief of his majesty's ships and vessels employed in the river St. Lawrence, along the coast of Nova Scotia, the island of St. John and Cape Breton, the Bay of Fundy, and at, and about the island of Bermuda, or Somers' island." and that the execution might correspond to the design of this enlightened expounder of the law of nations, it was specially confided to his flag captain, the amiable and heroic Humphries.

That these gentlemen have involved either their nation or themselves in a dilemma, more inextricable than they were aware of, requires no demonstration, nor is it difficult to conjecture on whom the responsibility of this atrocious proceeding will be ultimately placed. We doubt not Mr. Berkeley believed that the concession which he made of having the crews of his own ships mustered by American officers, would establish the right, which he claimed to muster the crews of our national ships, for the purpose of apprehending British deserters. Whether such concession will be excused by the British government, admiral Berkeley will be fully informed within a very short time. Had he conceded the great contested point, "That neutral ships make free goods," he would not have committed either the rights or the interests of his nation in an equal degree, with his prostration of the British flag, in the proposed humiliation of having the crews of their king's ships mustered and inspected by the officers of foreign powers.

The folly of his order, and the brutality with which it was executed, will ere long be expiated by personal or national atonement, and the reflections that may, in the mean time, arise to admiral Berkeley & captain Humphries, will be but a small part of the punishment which they so richly deserve.

Register.

From the Richmond Enquirer.

Extract of a letter from an officer in the Virginia Detachment, in the Elizabeth river, July 25th.

"We have at length bid adieu to Norfolk and its hospitable inhabitants. Believe me, I have never experienced so much heart-winning kindness; and it is with the utmost amasement that I have heard the miserable misrepresentations which have circulated in your city on this subject. Every door seemed opening upon its hinges to admit us: and every table was spread with the luxuries of the season to receive the volunteers of their country. The same hospitality extended to the men as well to their officers.

"A few short reflections will conclude the correspondence which I have maintained on the subject of our short campaign. I had intended to have *decorated* my pages with a miniature picture of the character and conduct of our commander in chief; but I have no personal resentments against gen. Matthews; and the arrangements which are likely to be adopted into the detachments about Norfolk, will probably disrobe him of all his importance as a public character. It was more to my wish to show the absurdity of employing cavalry instead of infantry, on the hilly sands of Lynhaven Bay; but I reserve this task to abler hands.

"The scenes which I have lately visited, naturally suggest one question to my mind, that is peculiarly interesting at *this* crisis. What is the best policy which we can adopt towards Great Britain?"

"I cannot myself entertain a moment's doubt, that Humphrey's conduct has been dictated by his government.—Still the position is not absolutely certain; and it may behove us to give the British an opportunity of making an effectual reparation. In the mean time prudence would dictate the making of every necessary preparation. An embargo would have been an impolitic measure; because it would have been contravened by a similar measure on the part of G. B. and we have more property in *their* ports, than they have in *ours*. The merchants now know enough of our precarious situation to be satisfied that war with Great Britain is a probable event; when they see the government adopting military measures let them look to that event. Let them be securing their property, and our seamen now in British ports and on the ocean. Mean time our government may secure our armed vessels now in the Mediterranean. Our regular force may be in a state of equipment—and the officers of the 100,000 militia, now called out by the President, should not relax one moment in their preparation. Forts may be equipping—and gun boats may be building. And it is believed, that all negociations with G. B. on other points will be suspended until the amplest reparation for this outrage has been obtained. If she refuses, the information may arrive in this country about the middle of October *when* Congress perhaps may be expected to meet.

"This picture naturally brings the naval preparations of Norfolk full into my view. These principally embrace the forts, the gun boats and the Chesapeake.

"The gun boats which are now on the stocks, are of a different construction from those which were formerly built—Instead of being very flat at the bottom, and containing 2 32 pounders, one in the stern and one in the bow, the present boats are smaller, shaped like pilot boats and sharper in the keel, and contain but a single 32 pounder in the bow. They are of course more rapid in their movements, and still capable of going into a sufficiently shallow water to answer the purposes for which they are intended. The former gun boats which are already equipped and lying at Norfolk around the Chesapeake, are of the old construction—The four that I saw at Gosport, (the southern extremity of Portsmouth) building under the superintendance of the U. S. naval agent, the respectable Mr. Bedinger, are on the new plan. These will be completely equipped in a very few days. Four others have been constructed at Hampton, and four more (I believe) in the county of Matthews. The whole of these will be in a state of complete equipment in a short time. On Friday evening, I saw the shell of one of the Hampton boats, towed by another vessel, about a half of a mile below Fort Nelson. It was about to be conducted to the naval yard at Gosport to receive its rigging and equipment.

"The Elizabeth river is defended by 2 forts; Fort Nelson on the south side of the river, about 3 4 of a mile below Portsmouth, and Fort Norfolk, about half a mile below the other fort. Fort Nelson is in the most complete state of preparation. It is commanded by capt. Saunders, from whose intrepidity, too much cannot be expected. At present, it contains 24 18 pounders—and its situation is also so advantageous, as to expose every vessel, that is destined to Norfolk, a considerable time to its point blank cannon. The rear of the fort is however defenceless. A body of marines might land, attack it on that side, seize it, spike its cannon, blow up its magazine, and do incalculable mischief to its parapets, before the military force of Portsmouth could march to its rescue. I have understood that capt. Saunders is now on a negociation with the government to this effect. He proposes to dig a posse at the rear of the Fort, which may communicate with the water of the Elizabeth river. The situation of the ground is so admirably adapted to the purpose, that a complete line of circumvallation might be drawn around the fort. Fort Norfolk was a few days past in a very deplorable condition. Its parapets were overthrown—and its guns dismounted. But owing to the volunteer exertions of the patriotic citizens of Norfolk, it is now rising from its ruins, and will be in a very respectable state of preparation in a few days. It is intended to contain nine eighteen pounders.

"Commodore Decatur has displayed the most astonishing activity and skill in the expeditious refitting of the Chesapeake. All her masts are up, and the wounds inflicted on her sides by the perfidious balls of the British, are completely healed. But not so is her honor! As our troops descended the Elizabeth river, we were saluted by the company of artillery on the shore—by the cannon of the two forts—by the French frigate, the Cybelle, who cheered us from all her shrouds, and paid the extraordinary honor of lowering and lifting her national flag nor less than five times. But the salutations of our own frigate was much less honorary and complete. We were cheered from her shrouds—but no artillery, no flag announced our departure. We were at first inclined to be wounded by this cold civility: But, on enquiring the reason, our astonishment was converted into compassion. Alas! she was a disgraced vessel; and it was a rule in the navy that the ship whose honor was under a cloud, could confer none upon others. We heard this explanation with a sigh, but immediately an involuntary exclamation burst from our lips—"If Baron has disgraced you, Decatur will retrieve your honor."

"Two other arrangements are necessary to a more complete defence of Norfolk. The one is a battery at Craney Island, about 6 miles below the town. The other is a battery on the point of land, between Norfolk and Gosport, where the Marine Hospital is situated. I understand that gen. Dearborne, when he visited Norfolk to inspect its fortifications, had adopted the very same opinions."

The general meeting of the citizens of Charleston, held on the 8th instant, having requested the governor, as commander in chief, to direct the militia, promptly to arm and equip themselves, and to be prepared to obey the call of the general government—in pursuance of their request, His excellency has sent the following circular letter to the major generals and brigadiers of the militia, with a request to have the same communicated to the officers and privates of their respective divisions and brigades.

FELLOW CITIZENS,

I have the honor to enclose you the proceedings and resolutions of a general meeting of the citizens of Charleston, held on the 8th inst. and to refer you to the same, for the causes which gave rise to it, and the consequences which may be expected.

You will see by this statement, that, in a time of profound peace, while our harbors were filled with their vessels of commerce, and some of them of war; our stores with their manufactures, and our towns with their merchants and subjects; while every act, not only of just and honorable neutrality, but of hospitality and friendship, was exercised towards them; while special missions of ministers plenipotentiary were resident at their court, for the express purpose of removing every cause of dissention, and drawing still more closely the bonds of amity—the Leopard, a ship of war belonging to the government of Great Britain, and of very superior force, has attacked the Chesapeake, a frigate of the United States, in a most wanton and unprovoked manner, killed and wounded a number of her seamen, and grossly violated every principle of neutrality.

That the indignation of every class of our citizens is excited by this event—that they consider it paramount to every consideration; and that they have pledged, most solemnly, their lives and fortunes, to support the government of their country in every measure which its wisdom may adopt, to obtain complete and honorable reparation.

The great respect and attachment always due to a government so remarkable for its justice and moderation, for its desire of honorable peace and its maintenance of our public rights as our own, will no doubt, induce us all to confide implicitly in its decisions; but, as it is always safest, and particularly when events like these occur, to be prepared for every extremity, I have, in pursuance of the recommendation of the general meeting, addressed you, requesting you who are the officers, to use every means in your power to have the militia under your command promptly armed and equipped, and prepared to obey the call of the federal government, should they require the services of any part of them; and I earnestly intreat our fellow citizens who are the privates to second your efforts by every means in their power.

It is to be hoped this atrocious act of violence has not been authorised by the British government, and will be promptly and honorably disavowed by them—that on the demand being made ample and satisfactory reparation will be ordered and the intercourse and friendship of the two nations restored on honorable and equal grounds. Should, however, proper satisfaction be refused, you will then doubtless recollect that no common occasion has aroused you—that not only your rights but your national honor has been attacked, and in a way to make accommodation extremely difficult. The least reparation that even the most moderate government must conceive indispensible, may be refused by a nation long accustomed to control the ocean and little used to concession.

Under this aspect, I fear the equality which we must respect and never lose sight of, may not only be forgotten by her, but even former resentments and situations be recollected.

Should this unfortunately be the case, should the only satisfaction which can be received be denied and things be driven to extremities, you must in your turn remember your own and the conduct of your ancestors, under circumstances much more trying than can again occur. In the former struggle with Great Britain your population was not one half so numerous as it is at present. You had neither government, laws or revenue; a great proportion of your inhabitants was opposed to your revolution. You had neither ammunition, or the means to obtain it; or friends, or allies to support you.

You were destitute of manufactures, and literally without the comforts or even the necessaries of life; you had at that time, the most powerful and victorious people in Europe to contend with. You were a handful of colonists scattered over an immense continent, the name of which was scarcely known to other nations.

But under all these discouraging, nay, hopeless circumstances, when her rights were attacked, what was the language of America? From the moment she saw honorable reconciliation at an end, she spurned at every thing that was otherwise.

She met the struggle with the firmness and moderation always essential to true dignity—she soon convinced the world, that men who could forego their profits, their pleasures, and the peaceable enjoyment of their dearest connexions, and all for liberty, could never be reduced to vassalage. The prevalent & steady language of America then was to risque their towns, to give up the luxuries and even the convenience of life, to be prepared to resist the power of their enemy, and not to lament their losses, while their woods, their honor, and their liberty was left to them; thus determined, they resisted not in vain. The Almighty Disposer of events crowned their efforts with success, and stampt our country the freest, and until this moment, the happiest residence of the human race.

Amidst, however, the vicissitudes that attend every state, I fear that removed as we supposed we were from almost every possibility of interference with the general confusion and war that every where prevails, even our distance and unexampled moderation will not much longer protect us from participating in their evils.

If the crisis does arrive—if you are obliged to defend your rights by arms; you will have the solid comfort of reflecting that your government is right, and that the pretence by which it is attempted to justify this act, is totally unfounded; that the laws of nations give no right to demand the seamen who were said to be mutineers, and that our constitution and laws forbid their surrender.

Having thus, justice on your side; an honorable and patriotic government, around which the people rally unanimously; vast national resources and means of defence within yourselves—numerous and powerful friends in Europe; domestic manufactures which, in time of war, will soon be abundantly sufficient for your own supplies—thus situated I am sure you will meet any event, as freemen ought—that you will recollect the manner in which your ancestors atchieved your independence & supported its rights—that having, thro' their firmness and love of liberty, received them uncontaminated, you, too will consider yourselves bound in honor to transmit them, unimpaired, to your posterity.

CHARLES PINCKNEY.

Charleston, July 11, 1807.

Savannah, July 7.

At a meeting of the citizens of Savannah, at the exchange, in consequence of a notification by John Y. Noel, mayor, to take into consideration certain resolutions transmitted from the committee of correspondence of the