National Intelligencer.

& WASHINGTON ADVERTISER

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LETTER

From the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting a general view of the state and disposition of the vessels belonging to the navy of the United States, and of the gun-boats.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
MAY 24th, 1809.

SIR,

I have the honor of transmitting to you herewith, to be laid before the House of Representatives, the enclosed paper marked A, which will afford a general view of the state and disposition of this fleet, of the vessels belonging to the navy of the United States, and of the gun-boats.

It appears proper here to observe, for the information of the House of Representatives, that the frigates Constitution and Chesapeake, the ship Wasp, the brigs Hornet and Argus, and the schooners Revenge and Enterprize, were in commission prior to the passage of the act, entitled, "An act authorising the employment of an additional naval force," passed 31st January, 1809; and that the frigates President, United States and Essex, the corvette John Adams, the brigs Siren, Vixen and Nautilus, and the cutter Forrest, have been put in commission since the passing of that law. Seventeen of the gun-boats, that the frigates United States and Essex, and the corvette John Adams, have had such thorough repair and improvement, that practical gentlemen pronounce them to be at this time, better and more efficient vessels than they were when originally launched; and that the frigate President is now undergoing a thorough repair, which is nearly completed, and being repaired under the advantages afforded by extensive experience, she will be, in all respects, greatly superior to what she was when first launched.

Respectfully submitted,
PAUL HAMILTON.

The Hon. Joseph B. Varnum,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(A)

Return, showing the state and disposition, at this time, of the vessels belonging to the Navy of the United States, and of the gun-boats.

Vessels' Names.	*Where Stationed.*	REMARKS.
Frigate Constitution.	New-York.	Officered, manned, victualled, and in other respects prepared for service.
U. States.	Norfolk.	
Chesapeake.	Boston.	
Essex.	Norfolk.	
Corvette John Adams,	Baltimore,	Officered, and nearly manned and prepared.
Frigate President,	Washington,	Officered, and nearly manned—will be ready for service in July.
	Philadelphia.	
Ship Wasp,	Norfolk,	In all respects prepared for service.
Brig Hornet,	New York,	Do. do.
Argus,	Gone to France,	Do. do.
Siren,	Charleston,	Do. do.
Vixen,	New York,	Do. do.
Schooner Revenge,		
Enterprize,	Norfolk,	Officered, victualled, and completely repaired—and nearly manned.
Brig Nautilus,	Washington.	Prepared for service, but requiring orders not issued.
Cutter Forrest.	Do.	
Frigate Congress,		
Constellation,	At the Navy Yard, Washington,	Require repairs.
New York,		
Adams,		
Boston.		

GUN BOATS.		
24 Gun-Boats at	New Orleans,	
15 do.	Charleston,	
23 do.	Norfolk,	
10 do.	Baltimore,	
10 do.	Philadelphia,	
22 do.	New York,	
2 do.	Westerly, R. I.	
2 do.	Norwich, Ct.	
4 do.	Wiffington, N. C.	
1 do.	Boston,	In ordinary
1 do.	Portland, Maine,	
1 do.	Lake Ontario,	
1 do.	Lake Champlain,	
9 do.	Washington,	

Orders given to reduce their crews to the number required for their navigation and safety.

In the yard without expence.

RANDSOME TEETH.

The greatest personal ornament of the human countenance.

R. C. SKINNER,

SURGEON DENTIST, &c. &c. RESPECTFULLY informs the Ladies and Gentlemen of the city of Washington that having concerted that respectable continental character, the son of government until the 6th of June, proposes (during the leisure hours) to attend to his professional business; persons patronizing him will have the advantage of a practitioner who has been so numerous in the last three first years, have therefore a favorable opportunity of having them replaced in a very superior style, (in most cases without the least pain) and in a manner not to be excelled in beauty and general appearance, by art, or even nature herself. Those persons who have lost any, or, perhaps, all their teeth (occasioned, may frequently implication) have the happy prospect of being supplied with gold Gum-wood for that purpose, (the pain of extracting them occasioned, and thereby prevented free from pain, permanently united. R. C. S. having served an entire apprenticeship with one of the most eminent dentists in London, had near 20 years extensive practice in New York, and possessing the highest recommendations from a number of the most exalted characters in that state, presumes he may be entitled to the confidence of those persons that require his professional assistance. He may be consulted any hour at Lloyd's Hotel, Capitol Hill. Letters will be attended to (free) post paid.

May 31—eo

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the subscriber, of Calvert county, hath obtained from the Orphans Court of Calvert county, in Maryland, letters of administration on the personal estate of GILBERT SMITH, late of the said county, deceased. All persons having claims against the said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, at or before the first day of December next; they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate. Given under my hand this 30th day of May, eighteen hundred and nine.

RICHARD SMITH, Administrator of GILBERT SMITH.

May 31—3t.

MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

THE STOCK HOLDERS are hereby notified, that the subscribers, of Calvert county, will be at Mackey of June next. As the election for officers of the City Council will come on that day, the treasurer will, for the accommodation of the stockholders, attend in person at the depot, at each of the polls in the respective wards, to receive the installments due.

A set of Machinery is expected from Philadelphia by the first week. Purchasers by the payment of installments due, will enable the directors to commence manufacturing immediately. Those who have omitted to pay their 2d and 3d installments, may be excluded if they are not punctual on the day above stated.

May 25—

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Friday, May 26.

VOTE OF APPROBATION.

Mr. HANDERS said that for the last eight years or thereabouts an alteration had taken place in the manner of doing business at the commencement of each session of Congress. He had been considered when his first Congress under the administration of Mr. Jefferson had met at this place, instead of Congress being opened as heretofore by the President in person and by a speech, a note in these words had been received by the Speaker, inclosing a message from the President:

"*December 8, 1801.*

"SIR,

"As the circumstances under which we find ourselves at this place rendering inconvenient the mode heretofore practised of my meeting persons of all ages the first communications between the Legislative and Executive branches, I have adopted a mode of message as used on all subsequent occasions through the session. In doing this I have had principal regard to the convenience of the legislature, to the economy of their time, to their relief from the inconvenience of immediate answers on subjects not yet fully before them, and to the belonging thence resulting to the public affairs. Trusting that a procedure founded on these motives will meet their approbation, I beg leave through you, sir, to communicate the inclosed message.

"It is unnecessary, I believe, (said Mr. R.) to state that the hint contained in the message, whatever was to be expected, was taken by the House; and from that day no answers have been given to the messages of the President at the opening of Congress. It would ill become me, who was so highly approved then and who so highly approve now the change introduced I mean to propose to the two Houses by message instead of a speech, to say any thing that might be the subject matter of it. I like it, sir. To tell the truth, the idle of communicating by speech was more in the nature of the opening of the British Parliament by the king, therefore like the mode of communication by message. But I am not so clear, though we were then half right, that we were wholly right; tho' on this subject I do not mean to give definite opinion. No man can turn over the records of the first six Congresses of the United States without being sickened, fairly sickened, with the adulation offered to the Presidents, and with the pitiful, the pitiful answer to an address. Although that answer might finally contain the most exceptionable passages, was in fact the greatest complaint which the opposition to the measures of the administration had of canvassing and sifting its measures; and, in my mind, whatever goes to take away this opprobrium, goes to lay more fast down the rights of the minority or opposition commonly so called, and to lessen the weight of the minority in the administration party as called—and I beg leave not to be understood as speaking of a state of parties at this time, but of that which has always existed. This opportunity of presenting of the answer to an address, however exceptionable the address might be when it had received the last sanction, with the President's pitiful, did afford the best opportunity to take a review of my predecessor in the administration, to canvass them fully and fairly, without there being any question taken upon the address, whether it was in order or not—and I believe the time spent in canvassing the answer, was time well spent, and had spread as a great deal that we have expended since we discontinued the practice. I do not say that it was a proper one, or ought to be given; but I do believe that when this House goes into a consideration of the address on the state of the Union, it is for purposes a little more elevated than to dissect the message of the President of the United States, or to strip it up and transfer it to select and so ruling committees. If that be the whole object of going into a committee of the whole on the state of the Union, I can see no reason for having any such committee, nor why the message should not be taken in the first instance, dissected by the knife of the operator most in the fashion of the day, and referred to different committees. And it has a tendency to cast a sort of ridicule on our proceedings, when this august assembly resolves itself into a committee of the whole on the state of the Union, and resolves that the message shall be referred to such and such committees—and would induce fellow observers to believe that in fact there is little or no use for such a committee. But whatever may be my opinion on the subject of opening the two Houses by message, I do think that there are occasions, and that this is one, on which it behoves this assembly to express its opinion on the state of public affairs. I will not recal to your recollection sir, because perhaps, and most probably it passed over your mind without making a strong impression, that sometime during the last session of Congress, I stated that the proclamation in whose hand the release of government were about to be placed did not seem tolerably perfect. On a subsequent day, I stated that a proclamation had been made for the purpose, which was found unexceptable. And, sir, when I see the situation of the country so materially changed since that period, and I feel the duty to sit still and regard it but as newspaper talk of the day and express my opinion on it? And what is that opinion? It is either in approbation or disapprobation of the conduct of the Executive. In any opinion is due to the Executive that he have an expression of our sentiments on this subject. In the part of the country in which I live dinners have been given, toasts have been tacked, and the song and toast have passed round in commemoration of the event—And if the House is to be insensible, and to leave the President of the United States in ignorance as to doubt whether their conduct has or has not received the sanction of their approbation? Or is to be yet that information from unofficial sources? I hope not, I hope not good from ourselves. I therefore move you—

"That the promptitude and frankness with which the President of the United States has met the overtures of the government of Great Britain towards a restoration of harmony and commercial intercourse between the two nations, meets the approbation of this House."

Mr. *Findlay* said that this proposition contemplated a novelty in the legislative proceedings of this House. What would it and if the House were now to make a solemn resolution approving of the conduct of the President? The answer returned to the speech of the king in monarchical governments committed the Parliament to all that was contained in it. The practice in this country has been long considered an evil; indeed he thought he could shew by the journals one instance in which the discussion of a single section in a message occupied the House 13 or 14 days. It was a practice too which introduced at the very opening of the session that irritation that commonly arose in the progress of business. He had he supposed there was not a member in the House but did approve of the President's conduct of the business vested in him. He presumed that they approved equally also of the same office therefore made to the Court of London. If the House were to approbate the conduct of one President, they must approbate that of others and the conduct of the different administrations under the constitution would be brought into view. He was totally against this motion, or any other of the kind.

Mr. *Davis* said that at the present time he should certainly not be for adopting the resolution. The opening at *this* time would certainly not comport with the object professed by the mover, which he understood it was, he to present a question on which there might be a general view of the conduct of the Executive in relation to the object in question. If the object was to bring up the question in a regular form that gentlemen might express themselves fully in relation to our affairs, it was very proper. In that, subject should be referred to a committee of the whole on the state of the Union. For himself, Mr. D. on said that he thought the mode of answering speeches might do very well in such a government as this, but whatever might be said of economy of time, by an attention to the actual expence it would be found that in not very little time was lost by it. At the last session of Congress a committee had reported a resolution to which there were but two dissentients, the discussion of which occupied nearly three weeks. All agreed as to the resolution, but gentlemen combined each other's arguments. And undoubtedly, Mr. D. said, they rapidly with which the message was shot through a committee of the whole, was rather a fertical piece of business—was, indeed, it was not without some little surprise that, when he had come to the House this morning, he found the whole subject disposed of. If he had a convenient opportunity, Mr. D. said he should have no objection to express some of his opinions on points in the conduct of the administration. Yet he was not certain that an abstract proposition of this kind was a desirable thing to be adopted; although he admitted that it was desirable that there should be some mode of expressing an opinion on the measures adopted by the Executive during the recess, without being narrowed in the discussion by the rule of debate.

Mr. W. Alston said, that when a resolution like the one proposed was presented to him, he considered it would not his appreciation, if he was compelled to vote directly upon it, he would rather vote for it than against it. But it is were the object to bring before the House a deception upon the message of the President and to turn an answer to his Excellency's most gracious message, he should certainly be opposed to it. If ever the time had been one particular part of the conduct of the former administration which had met the approbation of the Representatives of this country generally, it was the discussion of this practice. The result of the alteration was, that although some time along during the sessions of the Republican congresses, they terminated then three or four weeks sooner than ever had been done before. As to the opportunity which the answers afforded for debate, could any one say that sufficient *latitude* had not been taken in debate? Had not gentlemen even called others by name, and discussed every subject on any question? Mr. Alston said he was not prepared with what had been done, and he could not vote that he was not pleased; but he was certainly opposed to introducing a full discussion at the opening of each session, of every thing which was to come under the consideration of the House. If they were to take up this resolution, they might as well take some abstract act of Mr. Adams's, as being skillfully, and discuss his political life—Washington, at least he hoped, have departed from us, would be permitted to rest in peace.

Mr. *Bacon* said that with other gentlemen he could not but regret that this proposition had been brought forward. If he would attempt to move upon it, he need not tell the House that he should cordially vote for it; but it was really out of the last observation which he had expected to have heard from any gentleman that we wanted fuel for debate. He had thought the grievance was the other way; that the cause of complaint was, that they come around too much in debate. He said he should certainly vote for the resolution, were it brought to a direct vote; but for the purpose of placing before the House the view of the subject which he entertained he should take the liberty to move an amendment to it, and then move to refer it to a committee. The amendment was in these words, proposed to be added to the motion—"A full information and approbation of the spirit of accommodation on the part of the government of the United States, which has at no time been interrupted."

Mr. *Lewis* moved that the whole subject be postponed indefinitely.

(To be Continued.)

BOARDING HOUSE.

MRS. DOYLE, will be able to accommodate a few gentlemen with boarding and lodging during the ensuing session.

THIS IS TO GIVE NOTICE,

THAT I intend to continue in the TEN Company floors of Charles, for the rest of most of residence.

GEORGE HARMAN.

Charles County, April 20—3w.