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CONTAINING

POLITICAL, HISTORICAL, GEOGRAPHICAL, SCIENTIFICAL, STATISTICAL, ECONOMICAL, AND BIOGRAPHICAL

DOCUMENTS, ESSAYS, AND FACTS;

TOGETHER WITH


H. NILES, EDITOR.

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NILES' REGISTER—MAY 21, 1823—PRETENCE AND REALITY.

tries. Herein is the foundation of the "balance of trade"—not the treasury tables of export and imports, but to operate in behalf of the people of the United States than in any other country, because his subsistence costs more; and this is a just cause of congratulation, since the fact must be supposed to rest on the amount of his comforts; and, whatever then, that increases the sum of his profits on production, without diminishing that of his comforts, is so much added to his means of trading with foreigners—as if gold, the general medium of commerce, was found on the surface of the earth, and thrown into the mass of what is regarded as property, without the expenditure of labor to obtain it.

The treasury-system folks may talk as they please—but there is no other way to national prosperity and individual happiness, than through the ample employment and profitable industry of the productive classes of the people. The smith, who by his labor makes a horse-shoe, is more of worth to society for that act, than the merchant who, by the sale of goods to his own countrymen, "makes" $100,000. The first creates a value, the second only gathers to himself the value already created; and if the class of laborers were to cease creating, it is very certain that the merchants would soon cease selling: yet the encouragement and protection afforded to commerce has cost nearly one half of the whole public revenue, while production has been left to do as well as it could—"as if despised by those who looked everything to it, in the view of their own personal existence on the earth. My friends, Messrs. Gales and Seaton, receiving a ton of sugar per annum, might tell us all about this, if they would. They understand it fully.

It is time that the laboring classes should look to these things, and force their rights on the consideration of their government, in virtue of their own unassailable sovereignty. They have suffered by rallying under names, in many cases got up by the most profligate of mankind, whose leading purpose it is to riot on the profits of production, without producing anything themselves—let them recur to proper pursuits, and the office-hunting, power-seeking tribes will be annihilated, and the working classes be relieved, and as to ceasing to be dependents on the public welfare to glut their own lusts. They should follow reason—not office-holders or aspirants for office, for the purpose of most of these is in their own preternatural and advancement—not the good of the society.

PRETENCE AND REALITY. We are very now and then favored with pompous accounts of the zeal of British statesmen and of the efforts of their naval officers, to suppress the slave trade, and also with manifestations of their desire to abolish slavery; and about as oftentimes honored with the abuse of British writers, because Britishupidity and inhumanity entailed the curse of slavery on the soil of the U. States; though the fact is notorious, that, when petition after petition against the illegal traffic failed of success, the pursuit of it entered into the great causes that led to an appeal to arms, and the secession from the United States of the great Southern states, and the "tyrant." It is impossible not to believe that some of the leading men in Great Britain really and honestly detest the slave trade, or that they are less zealous for the abolition of slavery than are the mass of the people of the United States but we have seen no act of the government that strikes at the root of the existing evil, whereby its amount may be diminished; and have thought that the proceedings had on the subject were more designed to secure a monopoly of the supply of sugar from the British West Indies, (well stocked with slaves), than to operate in behalf of the people of the United States.

It is the opinion of many that those presumed to be most interested in the holding of slaves in the U. States, would embrace any plan that afforded a reasonable prospect of a gradual emancipation, safe to themselves and beneficial to the subjects of our solicitude; neither of which, we sometimes fear, can be brought about until some scheme shall be adopted for the ultimate reception of the blacks, or their descendants, into the common society, or by colonizing those to whom freedom may be given. No reasonable project to effect either of these has yet been suggested, and so the people of the south feel as if an evident necessity existed to continue the blessed estate that the mother country imposed on her colonies. If the editor of the London Quarterly Review, (who throws so much filth at us because we hold slaves), doubts this necessity, let him give us proof of his philanthropy, by sending his daughter, (if he has one), to Jamaica, there to be wedded to some hapless Congo negro, that he may be freed from his class, and eventually become the ward of one regarded as the policed society of the island. Many black people are well respected and sincerely esteemed by their white neighbors; but it appears morally impossible with us to extend to them that sort of correspondence and communication which is indispensable to a redemption from their degraded condition—and in any place where slaves are numerous), is rather productive of evil than good; and experience has fully shown the fact, we apprehend, that the mixture of freed negroes with slaves is very injurious to the morals, and productive of misery and debasement to both.

Though the general character of the people, even of the slave holding states, is opposed to slavery, still there are some that are willing to profit by it, even beyond what they reasonably might, (if there is any reason in slavery)—and who are also desirous of holding and extending political power through the agency of a system that weakens that power in the nation of which they are a part, and that is the very object of the country from its defense in war, to the maintenance of order at home. It is with solemn-regret that we have seen this desire avowed by a member of congress from the state of Virginia, who would have created two slave holding states for the express purpose of securing four additional members in the senate, to restrain the will of the free people of the United States: and we see also, that an attempt is making to introduce slaves into the state of Illinois, which now is prohibited. These things shall be freely noticed hereafter. To those who agitate them we must say, Quem Deus vult perdere prius dementat. The free people of this country will no more be governed by the representatives of slaves than by the representatives of horses. Power must rest where population lies, and wealth will centre were industry prospers. This is the order of nature and nature's God, and whatever opposes it is impudent assumption or unqualified tyranny, and must be committed under what befits the. and the less tolerable, if it takes a republican appellation, for the reason that it adds insult to injury.

But to revert to the subject, which, though it more immediately applies to the slave population in the British West Indies than our own of the same class, has a strong and natural reference to the system at large. A great contest is prevailing in England between the people, on the one side, and the West India
terest on the other, in regard to the introduction of East India sugar—a commodity that has become almost a necessary of life.

The condition of the West India planters is exceedingly distressing. The general assembly of the island of Jamaica, sometimes since, voted an address to the king, in which they said that "a million of people, and an hundred millions of property, are staked on the issue of that address—that, unless their remonstrances are heard, the glory of his crown may be a second time dimmed by the loss of his islands in the West," declaring that they "would not lose by loyalty, though on the verge of destruction." Other colonies are, perhaps, even in a worse state, and meetings have been held in them to petition for redress. The duty, in England, on their sugar, is equal to nearly one half of the amount of the sales—this is paid by the consumer, but restrains the consumption; and it appears that the best managed estates in the West Indies do not yield a profit of two per cent. per annum on the capital vested in lands and slaves; and even this small profit would probably be wholly lost, if East India sugar, raised by the hands of free people, was admitted for home consumption on the payment of no higher duty than that paid on the sugar from the West Indies. It is the duty of every person, who, with the consent of the Crown, has the power to keep up a monopoly in favor of the holders of slaves, the real point in contention just now, and some examination of its merits may be useful.

In 1820, about 370,000 cwt. of West India and 83,000 cwt. of East India sugar were entered at the ports of Great Britain and Ireland, for home consumption. In 1822, however, for 1821, about 100,000 cwt. of the former, and the latter to 100,000 cwt. the one declining and the other increasing, notwithstanding the extra advantage afforded to the product of the commodity raised by slaves, which is equal to about two cents per pound! We have before us a Liverpool price current of the 21st of March, at which time the actual duty on West India Sugar, for home consumption, was 27s. per cwt. and on East India sugar 37s. that is 10s. per cwt. or 2 cts. per lb. bounty, or premium, on the labor of slaves, in their competition with that of freemen; yet the West India planters are on the verge of destruction!—though all foreign sugars are prohibited, being required to pay a duty of one half the value; and the freight of about 2000 cwt. Here is a fine practical comment on the imported sayings of "let us alone," "let trade regulate itself!"—the cuckoo-notes of the enemies of domestic industry of the United States, as well as a miserable exposure of the hollowness of the profession of the British administrations in regard to slavery. The original cost of brown sugar in the West Indies, (such as we have reference to in the preceding rates of duty), does not exceed six dollars per cwt. perhaps less—yet this cultivation is protected by a duty of 25 per cent. in its favor, to keep down the consumption of the same article produced in other British colonies—a difference of duty equal to two cents per lb.—still the East India sugar supplies more than one fifth of the consumption! Here is paulum animi, or food for reflection. A protective amount, equal to one third of the original value of the product of slaves, to be transported only 3000 miles, hardly renders it a rival with another like production, cultivated by freemen, that is transported 9000 miles! But further, the fact seems evident, from the prospect held out in Jamaica, &c. that even this advantage is not sufficient to prevent what every one has regarded for a certainty as to the fate of the West India islands—that they will pass into the possession of the most numerous class, as the most important of them all has passed. Let those persons interested, at home and abroad, calculate the effects of such an event, and see with how great a necessity of looking out for themselves in due season, by affording strength to those on whom they must rely, in the time of need. It is a solemn subject—one that we refer to with unfeigned reason, but not the less useful on that account. When the kings of all Europe bowed to the great Napoleon, who would have said to him, "thou must die and rot!" and now, what remains of Napoleon? The hyena would boast his relics, and filthy swine around them, and not lose by loyalty, though on the verge of destruction. With all the great advantages of soil and location—with the collected knowledge of Europe in the agricultural and chemical arts as appertaining to the cultivation of the cane and the manufacture of sugar and rum, through the labor of slaves, it is demonstrated beyond all doubt, that the West Indies cannot stand against the competition of the East Indies in the supply of sugar for the European market, notwithstanding the mighty revolution in the commerce of it, produced by the total cessation of a supply from Hayti. The French part of this island, before the massacre or expulsion of the whites, produced about 1,300,000 cwt. of sugar, or more than the whole consumption of Great Britain and Ireland, and of course, left a mighty void to be filled by the products of Jamaica and other British West India islands and colonies—still, the supply has advanced so rapidly on the consumption, that the production yields a profit of only two per cent. on the capital, and the small bounty or premium on the sugar raised by slaves, sold and used in Great Britain, has driven her West India planters to the verge of destruction!—There is much matter for serious reflection in this. Cuba and Hayti, if fully cultivated, could supply all Europe and America with the sugar that they consume, and perhaps as much as the people would be able to pay for—what is the amount of square miles of land fitted by soil and climate to raise the cane, what the extent to which it may be cultivated? Like causes are producing like effects on cotton planting. The price of the commodity now leaves but a small profit on the capital. The quantity grown will soon be greater than the demand—had the British administrations, instead of being sought with as much avidity as the British West India planters seek that of their mother country. It is time that the cotton, as well as the sugar planters of the United States, should regard these things.

Sugar is one of the most agreeable and most wholesome materials that enters in the list of the luxuries or comforts of society; and it ought to be so cheap that every laboring man might enjoy it, if he pleased; and so every one would do, was it not taxed by governments in the manner that it is. In the United States, the duty upon it is equal to about 50 per cent. on its cost—in Great Britain it amounts to more than 100 per cent. on the cost of the West Indian, and to about 150 per cent. on that of the East Indian product.

The British administration is placed in a curious predicament. If they reduce the duty on East India sugar to the rate paid on the West Indian, the duty upon the other will be increased a little, by the increased amount of the price of the East India sugar; and this is an object of no small importance; but the proceeding might render the West Indies useless, and perhaps soon abolish the system of slavery therein, by an abandonment of the islands by the whites. Surely, the people of the colonies of the East are entitled to the same protection as those of
the West, and the inhabitants of Great Britain cannot be rightfully taxed to defend the property of a few persons in slaves, about whom the government affects to be so tenderly interested. But so it is, that while, on the one hand, this government is sending out ships and making treaties to abolish the slave trade,—on the other, it deprives itself of a revenue of a million of pounds sterling, that slavery may be kept up in the West India colonies, at the cost of the free people of the East India colonies! In such a state of things, who can believe that the British government is sincere in its professions of hatred to slavery? It is impossible that it should be so,—else they would not maintain such an odious and oppressive distinction as exists in favor of the holders of slaves. The latter, certainly, could not ask any thing more than to be placed on an equality with the rest of their fellow subjects, many times more numerous than themselves, and, in every respect, entitled to the same degree of the common protection.

In a consideration of these matters, we may discount the statements of the British that their slaves are not long ago attempted to obtain possession of Porto Rico and Cuba. The latter might be difficult; but the other could have been easily taken. But, as it is about the finest island in the world, and capable of throwing into the market a quantity of sugar superior to the amount produced at Jamaica, the design to possess it was more obviously designed for the interest of the West India interest, whose earnest interest prevented its capture during the late war, though an expedition was fitted out for the purpose.

We shall see whether Great Britain will practically shew herself the advocate of freedom or a supporter of slavery. The progress of improvement in the arts and sciences, by which labor is so much assisted, has made the fact evident, that slave labor cannot come into competition with that of free persons, unless bolstered by tyrannical monopolies—and the grand question at issue is, shall the free people, who have to fight the battles of their country with its burdens, be enabled by the owners of slaves to derive a profit from them? This is a simple, statement of the case, and such a one as deserves profound attention.

OLD U. S. BANK. The trustees of this institution have given notice by advertisement, that, (agreed by to be published,) the United States for the district of Pennsylvania, made in conformity with the mandate of the supreme court of the United States, in the case of Marx vs. Lenox and others, trustees of the late bank of the United States, in equity, they have declared a dividend of eight dollars and sixteen cents per share, on each share of the capital stock of the late bank of the United States, payable at the banking house of Stephen Girard, Esq. in the city of Philadelphia, on the 16th day of June next, which sum is the proportion due to each share of stock of the entire amount of funds heretofore reserved to meet unclaimed bank notes of the late bank of all descriptions.

And the trustees also give notice, that they have declared a further dividend of the trust funds of eighty-four cents upon each share of stock, payable at the same time and place, and making, with the preceding dividend, the sum of nine dollars per share.

Thus we see that the former bank of the United States has closed, or is about to close, its concerns, without producing even an earthquake, much less an arrest of the planets in their courses, as some seemed to fear might be the case! It was a jubilee to many of us old fashioned politicians, when its charter expired and the most urgent requests to renew it were rejected by the country. Some of us, perhaps, may yet live to rejoice in the extinction of its mammoth successor—begotten in speculation most foul, and to become an engine of evil most potant, if ever this nation is drawn into an alliance with Great Britain, or compelled to resist her by arms. "It is wise—so it will be. "Like causes produce like effects." "History is philosophy teaching by example."

THE TANKER. Good many years ago, a Bostonian equipped a vessel for a trading voyage to the North West coast—having procured workmen and tools of different descriptions, with the intention of making a temporary settlement—he added to his cargo a hoghead of New England rum. On the passage, he touched at Botany Bay to get a supply of water—the inhabitants of that place, on discovering that he had on board a bottle of rum, made a rush to become possessed of it, that they bartered for it the blankets which had been furnished them by government. Our adventurer then pursued his voyage, and, having converted the blankets into Indian dresses, he traded them off on the N. W. coast for furs—with these he sailed to Canton, and there re-bartered them for Chinese tea. Returning with this cargo to Boston, he turned the tea into cash, and realized to the amount of 60,000 dollars; all said to be from the proceeds of the hoghead of New England rum by fair trade. He then, the account says, was so prudent as to retire from the seas.

Sat. E. Post.

So much for the "balance of trade," composed of the amount of exports and imports, and in proof of what we have said on the subject—that it is labor, whether applied to the product, transport or transfer of commodities, which mainly has relation to such balance.

LAW CASE. The English East India company ship, Charles Forbes, lately arrived at London. Her crew was chiefly made up of lascars, who were engaged, without a written contract, (that not being customary,) to act as seamen of said ship from Bombay to London and back—the master of which had given bond at the former place to bring them home safe. The lascars, dissatisfied with his employment, or on some other account, got on shore and refused to return to the ship. He was arrested and taken before a magistrate, by whom he was released, on the principle that to touch the soil of England gives freedom to the slave—as had been before determined in the case of a negro named Somerset.

Buenos Ayres. The revenue for the year 1822 amounted to 2,408,242 dollars—of which 1,987,199 were received for duties on the customs. The expenses were 52,519,094, of which 643,791 dollars were for debts paid. The city of Buenos Ayres contains about 70,000 people. The preceding is the revenue, &c. of the United Provinces.

THE REFRIGERATOR. Daniel Richardson, an ingenious and respectable mechanic, has brought to great perfection the refrigerator, or portable ice house. Gourds housewives only can calculate the many useful and economical purposes to which this contrivance may be applied. The improvements