

ter or any other article from ports with which American vessels' are not allowed to trade, because the custom-house officers, in granting a clearance for the United States from any other than one of the "free ports," would violate the act of Parliament of 1833. It is possible that, with respect to the trade in plaster, the article may be obtained from the banks of rivers and inlets into which British vessels penetrate, and take in a cargo where no port, or even town, exists. If they then carry their loading to one of the "free ports," and, without discharging the cargo, obtain a clearance for the United States, it may account for the statement that American vessels cannot procure plaster, &c., at those ports from which it is shipped in British vessels. But, if this is so, the disability does not arise from the legislation of the British Government.

In order to obtain accurate information as to the actual state of the case, the committee offer to the House the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to report to the House of Representatives, as early as practicable at the next session of Congress, whatever information there may be accessible to his Department, to show the effect and operation of the existing arrangements between the United States and Great Britain, regulating the trade between this country and the British American colonies, and especially in regard to the following points, viz:

1. Into what parts and places of the British colonies in the West Indies, and elsewhere in America, the vessels of the United States are admitted on the same terms that British vessels are admitted into all the ports of the United States; and for the importation or exportation of what descriptions of merchandise.

2. Whether the ports of the British colonies have been opened to the vessels of the United States, and continue open, in the true sense of the act of Congress of May 29, 1830, and of the proclamation of the President of the United States of October 5, 1830, founded on said act.

3. The relative amount of tonnage, British and American, entered and cleared, for each of the several years from 1828 to 1838, inclusive, in all the ports of the United States.