

THE BRITISH-AMERICAN REGISTER.

QUEBEC, SATURDAY, 30th APRIL, 1803.

CONTENTS.—*Speech of Mr. Ross in the Senate of the United States* 257. *Nouvelles Etrangères* 266. *French Clergy* 268. *Table de la Recette et Dépense de la Province depuis 1791, 270.* *Poetry* 272. *Tables ibid.*

AMERICAN POLITICKS.

Speech of the Honorable JAMES ROSS, a Senator of the United States for the State of Pennsylvania, delivered the 14th and 16th February, 1803, on presenting several resolutions relative to the Navigation of the Mississippi.

Mr. Ross rose and said, That altho' he came from a part of the country where the late events upon the Mississippi had excited great alarm and solicitude, he had hitherto foreborne the expression of his sentiments, or to bring forward any measures relative to the unjustifiable, oppressive conduct of the Spanish government at New-Orleans. He had waited thus long in the hope that some person more likely than himself to conciliate and unite the opinions of a majority of the senate, would have offered efficacious measures for their consideration. But seeing the session now drawing to a close without any such proposition, he could not reconcile a longer silence either to his own sense of propriety, or to the duty he owed to his constituents. He could not consent to go home without making one effort, however feeble or unsuccessful, to avert the calamity which threatened the western country. Present appearances, he confessed, but little justified the hope that any thing he might propose would be adopted; yet it would at least afford him some consolation hereafter, that when the storm was approaching he had done his duty, by warning those who had power in their hands of the means they ought to employ in order to resist it.

He was fully aware that the executive of the United States had acted, that he had sent an envoy extraordinary to Europe. This was the peculiar province, and perhaps the duty, of the President. He would not say it was unwise, in this state of our affairs, to prepare for remonstrance or negotiation, much less was he about to propose any measure which would thwart negotiation or embarrass the executive. On the other hand he was convinced that more than negotiation was absolutely necessary: that more power and more means ought to be given to the President, in order to render his negotiation efficacious. Could the President proceed further, even if he thought more vigorous measures proper and expedient? Was it in his power to repel or punish the indignity put upon the nation? Could he use the public force to redress our wrongs? Certainly not. This must be the act of Congress. They are now to judge of ulterior measures. They must give the power and vote the means to vindicate, in a becoming manner, the wounded honour, and the best interests of the country.

Mr. R. said he held in his hand certain resolutions for that purpose, and, before he offered them to the senate, he would very fully explain his reasons for bringing them forward and pressing them with earnestness as the best system the United States could now pursue.

It was certainly unnecessary to waste the time of that body in stating that we had a solemn, explicit treaty with Spain. That this treaty had been wantonly and unprovokedly violated,