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Edwin Chauncey

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MR. BAYARD'S SPEECH,

UPON

HIS MOTION TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY MR. GILES,

**BY STRICKING OUT THAT PART WHICH
IS IN ITALICS.**

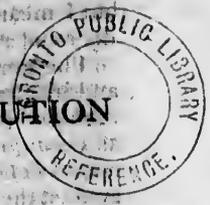
DELIVERED IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1809.

MR. GILES' MOTION.

“Resolved, That the several laws laying an embargo on all ships and vessels in the ports and harbors of the United States, be repealed on the 4th day of March next, except as to Great Britain and France and their dependencies; and that provision be made by law for prohibiting all commercial intercourse with those nations and their dependencies, and the importation of any article into the United States, the growth, produce or manufacture of either of the said nations, or of the dominions of either of them.”

IT will be perceived, Mr. President, by the motion which I have made to amend the resolution, offered by the honorable gentleman from Virginia, that I do not approve of the course which it seems the government have determined at length to pursue. The honorable gentleman has told us, it is not his plan, and I give him credit for the fairness and candor with which he has avowed the measures to which he would have resorted. He would have raised the embargo and declared war against England. Being opposed in this scheme, by a majority of his friends, his next proposition was to issue letters of marque and reprisal; finding however, that the other House had refused to go even so far, he had on the principle of concession and conciliation with his friends, agreed to take the course proposed in the resolution, in hopes that our vessels going upon the ocean and being captured under the orders in council, would drag the nation into a war; when he presumed the war being made upon us, we would agree to fight our enemy. Sir, it is upon this very ground, and considering this as its object, that I am opposed to the resolution. England is not our enemy, nor does a necessity exist to make her so. I am not going to deny that we



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