

To shew that this is a correct delineation of the character, principles, and provisions of the bill, I ask, sir, your attention to an elucidation of its most important sections.

Not having had time critically to examine the two first, which have lately been introduced by way of amendment, I pass them without remark, leaving it for gentlemen who may follow, to point out their extravagant and oppressive principles.

This bill, as I before observed to you, sir, subjects the coasting trade to further and vexatious restraints, and places it under the controul of the President.

It is enacted (Section 3.) "It shall not be lawful to put on board any ship, vessel, or boat of any description whatever, any specie or goods, wares or merchandise, either of domestic or foreign growth, produce, or manufacture, and the same is hereby prohibited, unless a permit particularly stating the articles thus to be laden shall have been previously obtained from the collector of the district in which such ship, vessel, or boat may then be, or from a revenue officer especially authorised by the collector to grant such permits; nor unless the lading shall be made under the inspection of the proper revenue officers, nor unless the owner or owners, consignee or factor of such ship, vessel, or boat shall, with the master, having given bond with one or more sureties to the United States in a sum six times the value of the vessel and cargo, that the vessel shall not leave the port without a clearance, nor shall, when leaving the port, proceed to any foreign port or place, nor shall put any article on board of any other vessel; and that the whole cargo shall be re-landed either in the port where the vessel may then be, or in such other of the United States as shall be designated in the clearance. And it shall be lawful for the collectors of the customs to refuse permission to put any cargo on board any such ship, vessel, or boat, whenever in their opinion there is an intention to violate the embargo, or whenever they shall have received in-

structions to that effect by direction of the President of the United States; Provided, that nothing contained in this section shall be construed to extend to any ship, vessel, or boat, uniformly employed in the navigation only of bays, sounds, rivers, and lakes within the jurisdiction of the United States, which shall have obtained a general permission, agreeably to the provisions in the section of this act."

This third Section regulates all that branch of the coasting trade not confined to rivers, bays, sounds and, lakes.

The sum required in the bond is six times the value of vessel and cargo, and, as is said by those well informed, in most cases will amount to fifteen or twenty thousand dollars. It is apprehended, that many coasters will not be able to obtain sureties for that sum. Many of the owners of coasting vessels, are men of moderate property, belonging to the middle class of society in point of wealth, the most numerous and not least meritorious of citizens, whom sudden & adverse changes, and consequent loss of business, first affect and depress.

Should the excessive amount of the bonds drive this description of coasters out of their regular employment and throw it into the hands of competitors of larger capitals, we shall have an additional evil to those growing out of the embargo to deprecate. The coasting trade is nearly ruined already by the destruction of the foreign trade. Both these valuable interests, like the other great interests of a free and commercial people, are interwoven with each other; and, while we are shut out from a commercial intercourse with the rest of the world, the government ought to afford by every facility in its power an encouragement to a commercial intercourse between the states.

The Collectors may refuse permission to put a cargo on board of any ship, vessel or boat specified in this section whenever in their opinion there is an intention to violate the embargo, or whenever they shall have received instructions to that effect by direction of the President of the United States.