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Debate on the bill from the Senate on the subject of the building of gun-boats for the defence of ports and harbors.

(Continued.)

Mr. SEAN said he did not wish to illustrate this subject after the long discussion of the gentleman who had just spoken. Mr. Millican stands the promise to follow him through his almost superhuman efforts. When the gentleman first began Mr. S. listened with attention and a great degree of sympathy, to what appeared to be a political funeral sermon. He attempted to follow the gentleman's course, but alas! said Mr. S. he ascended as far beyond the reach of my feeble opinion, that I was under the necessity of dropping through into my humble seat. Whether he returned to his proper atmosphere, Mr. S. could not exactly say; for if he did, his voice had not seemed so feeble that it could not be heard. Mr. S. would not enlarge upon the subject, but barely said, that after waiting so long in suspense, from all could discover of the gentleman's meaning, he was convinced that the difference of opinion betwixt him and that gentleman must be a difference between a mole's dirt curtain and the lynx's beam. In order to discover (said Mr. S.) whether his gentleman's meaning was so different from the comprehension of others, as it is represented by the gentleman, I would no better way than to call for the Yeas and Nays on this important question.

Mr. FISK said he did not rise to enter into the discussion at this time, but to convey an observation to his colleague to the purport that the confidence of the people of Vermont was withdrawn from the Executive. Mr. F. said as far as he knew their opinion, they had perfect confidence in the government, and would have long as it should be continued to be administered in the more wise manner as has always been pursued by their present chief magistrate.

Mr. DANA observed, that from some things which he had said, he was perhaps caught to be admiring, and relinquish his right of speaking; but as he had not yet become so liberally as lately to give up a right which he possessed, he would take the liberty to make a few observations.

The question he understood to be a bill from the Senate, appropriating some money for the construction of additional numbers of gun-boats. It had not been printed for that House, but he understood its intention. It was to give to the President a certain limited discretionary power to cause money to be expended. It was not aid by which the President could be obliged to make the expenditure, but an authority to make, which he might or might not exercise as he judged the public interest required. The question was, should a bill, should the President be armed with a discretion to build, if he was of opinion the public interest required it. If then, members were not satisfied that the number of gun-boats already built are adequate to that species of service required of them, they would be in favor of building others.

What was the situation of the legislation at that time? It was in foreign relations, they had not the necessary information to enable them to judge of, well as the bill from the House had not in its possession any dispatches relative to the affairs between the Chesapeake and Mexico, and had not been furnished with any general system of defence, nor had they been told the probable issue of the negotiation with England. In all points they were in the dark. It was, well known provision in the statistics, that the President should give to Congress information of the state of the union, and recommend to them the measures which he considered as being expedient; and it must be known to every member, that he would be in vain without a dispatch, which he did not direct the mode of attack. It could be perfectly in vain to speak numbers of words, which the executive would not think proper to use. What had the President recommended? He was known

to them as commander in chief, and to him he should have directed the public force. What, then, did the commander in chief require? He was to be a man who was willing to pledge his responsibility! No other than gun-boats. At the last session, in a message on the subject, he had explicitly recommended them. They were also understood to have been recommended by the present session, though not in such explicit terms. As President— as commander in chief of the national force, he claims to be furnished with gun-boats, as a means of defending the nation. He requires nothing more. Amid all the anxiety and alarm into which the country had been thrown, gun-boats were asked for as the principal means of defence. It was all, in point of force, which the President required for taking satisfaction for the wrong committed against the country. In this situation, what was the duty of the House? Considering the President so highly responsible in regard to our foreign relations, would the House refuse to him the means by which he was to be supplied? If indeed, all that had been said about the public danger was untrue— if there were no need for any more of defence. But when these things were represented in such a manner, would the House refuse to execute such means of defence as he required for the public safety, or would they press on him other means of defence which he thought perfectly useless? It appeared to him the most likely way to settle the question, especially as it only gave a discretion to build, and was not a positive order to build.

He would readily acknowledge that gun-boats would be of great use in covering certain portions of the territory. At the mouth of the Mississippi they might be peculiarly so. For here no troops could be landed, no batteries erected, nor could vessels of heavy burthen pass up, there being no more than two or three flat boats, which are in the bar at its mouth. They would also be useful in narrow rivers— long shoals, especially where the shoals would have the whole range of the vessel's deck— on coasts abounding in shoals, and in narrow passages. He therefore felt his duty to vote for as great an amount of this kind of armament as was judged necessary for the defence of the ports of the country where they promised to be efficacious. But when they passed north of the Chesapeake, they would be of little use. He would not talk of gun-boats for defence. They must have forgotten for what these things were intended. They were not to be used for the defence of the country; they must be maintained by skilled officers, and skilled seamen; but no skill was ever acquired on board of gun-boats— Men must go elsewhere to acquire skill— Their real use was as an auxiliary force of subordinate character to the main force of the navy, and of other naval armaments, which would be useful.

When your officers and soldiers behaved so gallantly before Tripoli, did those men live in gun-boats, or did they reside on board of vessels of larger force, and only act occasionally on board gun-boats? Did gentlemen think of the possibility of the utility of gun-boats? Tripoli had gun-boats, and why did they not defend the place? They were not there, they were not your officers and seamen. Gun-boats were useful in that affair, merely as they were required to leave men in close combat with their enemy.

With respect to the use of gun-boats, he was well acquainted of the result of a contest between the sails and the Turk in the year 1788. In that case, the victory of the Russians over the Turks did not principally arise from the superiority of gun-boats over ships of the line and frigates, but from the superior courage and refinement over ignorance and barbarism. What has been said by the gentleman, was a considerable mistake. It was the victory of the month of the ancient Bores, now called the Nioper. As far as a man's opinion on a subject of science, he would not brook as the narrowest part of the Chesapeake, it was the victory of the month of the ancient Bores, now called the Nioper. Blow the confidence, with the Nioper, of the river, long, and called the Hypocrite, which was a considerable quantity of water, which is variously denominated. It is sometimes called

the Liman, a Russian term, to him he should have directed the public force. What, then, did the commander in chief require? He was to be a man who was willing to pledge his responsibility! No other than gun-boats. At the last session, in a message on the subject, he had explicitly recommended them. They were also understood to have been recommended by the present session, though not in such explicit terms. As President— as commander in chief of the national force, he claims to be furnished with gun-boats, as a means of defending the nation. He requires nothing more. Amid all the anxiety and alarm into which the country had been thrown, gun-boats were asked for as the principal means of defence. It was all, in point of force, which the President required for taking satisfaction for the wrong committed against the country. In this situation, what was the duty of the House? Considering the President so highly responsible in regard to our foreign relations, would the House refuse to him the means by which he was to be supplied? If indeed, all that had been said about the public danger was untrue— if there were no need for any more of defence. But when these things were represented in such a manner, would the House refuse to execute such means of defence as he required for the public safety, or would they press on him other means of defence which he thought perfectly useless? It appeared to him the most likely way to settle the question, especially as it only gave a discretion to build, and was not a positive order to build.

It was not from choice that the Russians used gun-boats rather than large vessels against the Turks. The Russian fleet of large ships could not get round the Balcic through the straits of Gibraltar and into the Mediterranean, as early as was desired for securing the Russian interests of the Crimea and Tartar Cheronesus, and various descriptions of light vessels were prepared on the Nioper. The fortress of Kiburno stood on the left bank of the Nioper, near its entrance into the Black Sea. A Russian Russian flotilla was stationed near the shoals in an advantageous position to annoy the Turkish fleet, and covered by the cannon of the fortress.

The Turks had ships of the line, frigates, and smaller vessels; and were commanded by the captain Pacha or high admiral. He was a man of high talents, and distinguished himself against some revolving leys and manebles in Egypt, where impetuous valor he had displayed. He was the Turkish Commander, and his successful against the Egyptian rebels could not justly be forgotten.

Prince of Nassau, who commanded the Russians.

One great object of the Turkish fleet was the fortress of Kiburno, which was particularly important to the Russians for holding possession of the Crimea or Tartar Cheronesus, so much regarded by the Russian government.

There were three engagements between the Turks and Russians in the Chesapeake. In the first instance, the Turkish commander employed his smaller vessels, amounting to 37, to annoy the Russian fleet, which consisted of 27 sail, with 27 sail. The Turkish assaults were repulsed.

Afterwards Housa Ali, impudent of the fleet, entered the Liman with his principal fleet, regardless the shallowness of the navigation; but in the mean time the Prince of Nassau sent a reinforcement of 23 vessels with one gun each. A Turkish ship of the line was sunk, and a Turkish vessel, and blown up. A similar fate attended the admiral's ship of the captain Pacha. Ignorance of the navigation, inferiority in seamanship, want of skill in the management of artillery, exposed the Turks with their impetuosity and ideas of fatality, to be defeated by the superior skill and management on the part of the Russians.

The next morning, several more of the Turkish ships were found stranded; and a battle which continued for more than four hours. The Turks were defeated, and their commander, immediately after the action, abandoned the enterprise and sailed from the Nioper.

It was not until the 14th of the month, he would not be understood to say, that he thought other means of defence were necessary to their safety. He would not be understood to say, that he thought other means of defence were necessary to their safety. He would not be understood to say, that he thought other means of defence were necessary to their safety. He would not be understood to say, that he thought other means of defence were necessary to their safety.

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honor and emulosity could use to his government, and was sufficient to show that he had but little confidence in the efficacy of gun-boats. He would not be understood to say, that he thought other means of defence were necessary to their safety. He would not be understood to say, that he thought other means of defence were necessary to their safety.

Mr. NICHOLS said this bill was objected to yearly because the system which it was intended to embrace would not afford protection to commerce. It appeared to him the very face of the bill was that it was not intended to accomplish the protection of commerce. It appeared to him the very face of the bill was that it was not intended to accomplish the protection of commerce. It appeared to him the very face of the bill was that it was not intended to accomplish the protection of commerce.

There was one observation on the nature of this measure, which Mr. N. had not heard made. He considered gun-boats as a mode of defence, which was not a very good one. He considered gun-boats as a mode of defence, which was not a very good one. He considered gun-boats as a mode of defence, which was not a very good one.

From what Mr. N. had heard, he thought that gun-boats would be of little use for the port of Boston. He thought that gun-boats would be of little use for the port of Boston. He thought that gun-boats would be of little use for the port of Boston.

Mr. CONY said he was not opposed to gun-boats, if voted for an increase of their number in the last session, he was now in favor of increasing the number, and should vote in favor of this bill, though he had rather a smaller number had been authorized, to allow a greater proportion of other species of defence.

Mr. RANDOLPH hoped, before this question was decided, that they should be able to make a great number of gun-boats, which would be of great use to the country. He hoped that they would be able to make a great number of gun-boats, which would be of great use to the country.