

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

By the ship *Fame*, captain Harris, arrived at New-York, in 34 days from London.

BRUSSELS, September 27.

After the passage of the Lahn by the Archduke General Jourdan effected his retreat to Neuwied, Bonn, and the Sieg. His right wing passed the Rhine, to take a position in the Hundsrück; the right retreated with precipitation towards the Sieg, and the centre towards Bonn. To cover this retrograde motion, General Mareau was left at Altenkirchen, with a large body of troops. On the 20th September at day break, the Austrians approached this post, and while another column advanced upon the front of the army, a third turned the left.

Their attack was made with the greatest impetuosity, and they were received with incredible bravery by the French; the action being for a long time supported with inconceivable fury and obstinacy; the field was covered every where with the dead and dying; but at length the Republicans, forced at all points, were obliged to make a precipitate retreat. The accounts of their loss have, no doubt, been exaggerated and represented as enormous. However, it is a fact, that the brave Gen. Mareau was mortally wounded, and has fallen into the hands of the enemy.

After such an important check, nothing but the best retreat was to be thought of. The Republicans seemed determined to maintain their position at the head of the bridge of Neuwied. The head quarters are transferred to Cologne. Gen. Poncet's division has crossed the Rhine at Bonn, where the bridge is chained to the left shore, because the German peasants on the other side attempted to set it on fire, which obliged the French to discharge their muskets against them; in the mean while a strong corps of the army has taken a position at Porta, and Elbach, behind the Sieg, where it is not imagined they can maintain themselves; Bournonville has taken the command: Councils of war are frequent; but what is most general is the affecting want of discipline. When the last intelligence came away, the Austrians shewed themselves in the plains of Neuwied, to make a fresh attack, their cavalry lined the whole shore between Cologne and Bonn, and we have reason to expect more events of the highest importance: reinforcements continue arriving, 8,000 of the north have passed the Rhine to Düsseldorf. On the other hand, a body of Austrians from Mentz, are approaching the Nahe; but it is not true, as reported, that the Austrians are at Treves.

PARIS, September 28.

Letters from Naples assure us, that the French republic has required from his Sicilian majesty a contribution of fifty millions of livres, which requisition has been refused.—*L'Eclair.*

One of our Journals pretends, that Jourdan was wounded near Wurtzburg. The same Journal adds, that the duke of Wirtemberg has not ratified the peace with France, and has even recalled his minister from Paris. Such an imprudence appears very unlikely.

From Florence we learn, there is to be held a congress there, in order to terminate the peace with the Pope and Naples.—*Courier de Paris.*

The military council concluded yesterday its debates relative to the 25 insurgents of Grenelle tried before them. The conclusions of the reporter tended to send General Fion and another accused person to the high court of justice, because they were implicated in the affair of Babœuf. Four were condemned to death, six to banishment, three to imprisonment, and the rest were set at liberty.

These conclusions were adopted.

From Milan we learn, that on the 5th of September, General Buonaparte granted a general amnesty to all who had taken part in the rebellion of the 1st, 2d, and 3d of August. He has besides given back to the poor the effects of which they have been deprived, in order to pay their part of a contribution of one million, to which the inhabitants were subjected. Those only who were condemned for contumacy are to have their effects sequestered and confiscated to the Republic.

September 30.

The Journal des Hommes Libres says, that an Envoy from Prussia is arrived at Paris to enter into a treaty respecting the interests of the ci-devant Stadtholder, and the indemnity to be granted him. It is, in fact, sufficiently probable, that the King of Prussia will profit of his credit with the Directory to endeavour to obtain something for his brother-in-law; but it is only at the general peace that this can be treated of. Some Ecclesiastical Electorate may probably be demanded for him.

(*L'Eclair.*)

The pictures and statues collected at Milan, Bologna, and other places in Italy, are on the road to France. They are supposed to be at present on French ground.

October 1.

The four conspirators, condemned to death by the Military Commission, were shot yesterday in the plain of Grenelle.

October 3.

General Jourdan is here, and has dined with several members of the Directory. We are assured he will depart without seeing Benezec, to take the command of the army of the North.

General Bournonville's address to the army of the Sambre and Meuse.

"Brave Comrades!

"General Jourdan, who has so often conducted you to victory, is compelled to retire, and to submit to a separation from you; his health, impaired by a series of labour and fatigue, does not permit him to continue to exercise his accustomed care of you, and the executive directory charges me to replace him. I do not dissimulate brave comrades, the difficulty of the task assigned me, and I must depend upon your good will to second my endeavours upon accepting a command which is so much the more arduous that the two banks of the Rhine are supplied with but weak resources.—The first virtue

which I shall ask of you is patience; as for valour, you are Frenchmen, and the brave army of the Sambre and Meuse has proved itself to be worthy of the character.

"Citizen Alexandre, the commissary of government, who will replace citizen Joubert, is employed in providing the means of subsistence and other necessities that you may require; he is active in every thing, he is busy day and night, his anxiety is as great as my own, and you must be convinced that we shall spare no pains to procure for you at least what is necessary, as much as circumstances will permit.

"You must be sensible, my dear companions, that plunder leads to want, that want of food leads to want of subordination, and want of subordination to defeat. Will the brave army of the Sambre and Meuse suffer the armies of the Rhine and Moselle, and of Italy, to be covered with glory, while want of discipline renders it incapable of conquering an enemy who has nothing to oppose to it but unavailing effrontery.

"Brave comrades, respect the inhabitants of the country beyond the Rhine, and their properties, obey your officers and your generals; we have a desert to pass through till we reach the Meuse; let us cut through it and fly to victory, and in a little time we shall be in want of nothing. But leave to your generals the care of providing for your subsistence; and far be from you the horrors committed by those who have forsaken your standard and abandoned you.

"Your brethren of the army of the North are arrived; they burn with zeal to fight with you on all sides, and to share your warlike toils; let the most intimate union reign between you; let there be no other rivalry than that of glory, no other emulation than that of honour; let your redoubled blows beat down your enemies; they are enemies whom you have often beat, continue still to vanquish them, and a glorious peace will soon fix your successes, and assure you of its reward.

"I have seen the brave army of the Sambre and Meuse—I have seen it with that bold and martial countenance which characterises the love of one's country, and the ambition of conquest. I am convinced, that there is not left one plunderer under arms, and that the army is purified. Let us prepare for new successes; and depend upon it, you will find in me the same care, the same solicitude, and the same tenderness, that you experienced in general Jourdan, with whom I would have wished only to share the fatigue and the command. But my entreaties have been vain—I have not been able to preserve him with you—His health obliges him to retire. Believe me, his good qualities are deeply imprinted on my heart, and that I shall do every thing in my power, to lessen the regret you must feel for his absence.

"The general in chief gives notice, that he will not accept of any resignation; and that he will consider as deserters, all those who retire without his permission; and that he will denounce them as such to the country. (Signed)

"BOURNONVILLE, general in chief."

LONDON, October 11.

EARL FITZWILLIAM'S AMENDMENT.

The following is a correct copy of the amendment on the address of thanks for the king's speech, moved in the house of lords on Thursday last, by earl Fitzwilliam.

"That this house, strongly impressed with the justice and necessity of the present war, carried on for the maintenance of civil and moral order in the world, and for securing the balance of power in Europe, and the independence of all states, will continue to give his majesty a vigorous support in asserting the general cause of his majesty and his allies, and for preserving the good faith, dignity and honour of the crown, in full assurance that no steps will be taken inconsistent with those principles, or with the future safety and prosperity of these kingdoms; and should the apparently hostile dispositions of the court of Madrid, instigated by the intrigues and menaces of the common enemy, put his majesty under the necessity of repelling force by force, his majesty may rely on the determination of this house, to give his majesty the most ample support in defending, against every aggression, the dignity, rights, and interests of the British empire."

The documents collected at Vendome, for the trial of the accomplices of Drouet, amount to 6000. There are 42 persons to be tried. Each document is to be copied two and forty times, because the penal code expressly says, that each of the accused shall, after the usual interrogatories, receive a copy of each proceeding. Thus there must be 252,000 copies in all, which, allowing one half hour for each, will take up 126,000 hours.—A clerk employed ten hours a day will finish 20 copies, and the 20 clerks attached to the High Court of Justice can furnish only 400 in the course of a day. Thus all the copies will take up more than a year to be completed. We may consequently form an idea of the long delay to which the proceedings of the Court must necessarily be subjected.

HARWICH, October 2.

Captain Kerkady spoke a neutral vessel on his way over, who informed him, that 3000 of the Dutch people at Amsterdam paraded the streets with the orange cockades in their hats. Immediately on the express arriving, which announced the archduke's success over Jourdan, 60 of the crew, belonging to the Dutch admiral's ship mutinied; and it is said that the dissensions are so general among the crews, that they are fearful of sending the fleet to sea, lest they should compel their commanders to strike to the British force.

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November 5.

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FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

PHOCION—No. XXV.

AN examination of Mr. Jefferson's report on WEIGHTS AND MEASURES will close our strictures. This report, like the rest of his works, has been highly extolled by his votaries, few of whom, it is presumed, have read it, and fewer still have been able to understand it. The unprejudiced who have read it, and who are able to understand it, cannot hesitate to pronounce that it abounds with plagiarisms, absurdities and erroneous principles.

This we shall demonstrate. There is a circumstance however to be previously noticed, which will place in a very ridiculous point of view Mr. Jefferson's affectation of a wonderful depth of science in mathematics. In his letter to the speaker of the house of representatives, accompanying the report, he tells us, "that the resolution calling for the report was dated the 15th January, 1790, that by absence from New-York, he did not receive the resolution till the 15th of April, that an illness added some weeks to the delay, and that the report was finished about the 20th of May." Now, supposing his illness to have been only of two weeks, he could not, according to his own account, have begun the report till about the first of May; yet on or about the 20th, he says, the report was finished; here he wished to impress a belief that, notwithstanding all his other avocations, which must have been considerably multiplied by his recent arrival at the seat of government, he was able to accomplish, in about three weeks, a work, the very calculations alone of which would employ the best mathematician, several weeks; these circumstances prove beyond a doubt, either that Mr. Jefferson was prepared to report by previous study, and attempted to impose on the house an opinion of extraordinary intuition, or that he received very considerable aid in the execution of the report. This is certain, that no one man could, in the space of three weeks, compose such a work, imperfect as it is, with all the calculations it contains, even were his whole attention devoted to it; much less could it have been accomplished, within that period, by the secretary of state, whose other numerous avocations must have divided his time, and who afterwards required twelve weeks for his memorial against Great-Britain, and near three years for his commercial report. But he further tells us, that after this report was finished, on the 20th May, he kept it back to lessen its imperfections; it seems then it was finished imperfectly: Why make a boast of its being finished in two or three weeks, when it was necessary to keep it back to lessen its imperfections? He goes on to say, that on the 15th June, he received the Bishop of Autun's proposition on the same subject in the National Assembly, that he, Mr. Jefferson, had assumed 38° by which to fix our standard, but, "finding that the National Assembly had chosen 45°, he did not hesitate a moment to prefer 45° to 38°" that it then became necessary to reform all his calculations, an operation, which was retarded by his other occupations; all was however completed by the 4th of July. Now the whole secret of this was most probably, that Mr. Jefferson, aided by books and the New-York professor, had prepared a sketch of a report, which he would not complete till he could receive the French system, which was known to be in agitation, in order to conform our's to that, and that not being bold enough to tell the house the true cause of his delay, he resorted to the above inconsistent and extravagant story.

Having disposed of the introductory letter, we now come to the report. Mr. Jefferson was required, "to report to the house a proper plan, for establishing uniformity in the currency, weights and measures of the United States."

The object of a plain, sensible man, more anxious to render solid services to the country than to acquire reputation by a pedantic display of science, would naturally have been, to ascertain the existing currency, weights and measures in the United States, and to establish such a standard as would be most conformable to the general use, and attended with the least innovation and distress. In respect to uniformity in measures, nothing more would have been requisite than to have proposed that some determined standard should be made, and lodged in some public depository, to which access might be had, when necessary. Instead of this, Mr. Jefferson proposes a system, which professes extreme minuteness, precision and accuracy; and yet, when examined, is found to leave every thing to the skill and accuracy of a watch-maker; a system, depending on criteria, which he considered as important, and yet which are not defined in such manner, as to admit of an application of them.

He begins the report with observing "that there exists not in nature a single subject, or species of subject, accessible to man, which presents one constant and uniform dimension." The causes of this variation of dimension are stated to be expansion and contraction, occasioned by change of temperature. Iron is stated to be the least expandible of metals, and the degree of expansion of a pendulum of 58, 7 inches is said to be from 200 to 300 parts of an inch.

Mr. Jefferson, however, says that the globe of the earth might be considered as invariable in all its dimensions, and that its circumference would furnish an invariable measure. But if a small portion of the least expandible metal, iron, is so affected by temperature, how can it be true, that the globe would furnish an invariable measure? Is not the whole

* In the *Minerva* of New-York, of July last, the editor of which is a gentleman of great literary talents, is the following remark: Mr. Jefferson has the reputation of many things not his own. His famous report on weights and measures was founded on ideas taken from a volume of the *Society of Arts and Agriculture*, published in England many years ago, and now in possession of the writer. The idea of making the vibrations of the pendulum the basis of weights and measures, was borrowed from that book, and the fluxional calculations in that report are the work of a professor in our college, and procured at the special request of Mr. Secretary Jefferson.

† Report, p. 8.—"In order to avoid the uncertainties which respect the center of oscillation, it has been proposed by Mr. Leslie, an ingenious artist of Philadelphia, to substitute for the pendulum, an uniform cylindrical rod, without a bob."

earth, composed as it is of various elements, all more expandible than iron, liable to be affected by changes of temperature? Are not different sides of the earth presented to the sun, at different seasons of the year? Is not the whole globe nearer to the sun in some parts of its orbit, than at others? Is it not of course more susceptible of heat, and more affected by attraction, both of which operate to affect the dimensions of our globe? Is it likely that earth, water and other elements are so equally distributed throughout our globe, as that the degrees of expansion, and contraction, occasioned by changes of seasons, exactly counterbalance each other? Was it not known to Mr. Jefferson, that no two of the great circles of our globe are of equal circumference, and that this rendered his position, at least, doubtful?

Mr. Jefferson says, "that no one circle of the globe is accessible to admeasurement in all its parts, and that the trials to measure portions have been of such various result, as to shew that there is no dependence on that operation for certainty." If this be true, what were the data, upon which it was asserted, that the whole circumference would furnish an invariable measure? The French philosophers now say the contrary, and they have lately actually taken a section of the earth for their standard. Who is to decide between these doctors, or are they all aiming to puzzle plain people, by an affectation of accuracy, which is unattainable?

Mr. Jefferson's standard, is "an uniform cylindrical rod of iron, of such length, as in latitude 45°, in the level of the ocean, and in a cellar or other place, the temperature of which does not vary throughout the year, shall perform its vibrations, in small and equal arcs, in one second of mean time."

The degree of 45° is assumed, because it was proposed by France, and because it was the northern boundary of the United States.—He says, "Let the completion of the 45° then give the standard for our union, with the hope, he facetiously adds, that it may become a line of union with the rest of the world;" a pleasant conceit! It was kind in this profound philosopher to emerge from the depth of his experimental cellar, to enlighten this scientific and abstruse subject with a pun. Our philosophers "hope of a line of union with the rest of the world" is already defeated; the French have, since his report, taken a section of a meridional line for their standard. Their pendulum for 45° is to vibrate 100,000 seconds, while Mr. Jefferson's is vibrating 86,400.

The French have outdone even Mr. Jefferson in innovation: thus illusory has the expectation proved that the *babby-horfe* of one philosopher will be respected by another.

But why this attempt at absolute accuracy? He admits that the pendulum of 45° differs from the pendulum of 31 only 1-679 part of its whole length, and that this difference is so minute that it might be neglected, as insensible for the common purposes of life. There was some reason for the attempt, beyond a display of learning, or there was not: if "perfect exactness" was desirable, why were the following causes of uncertainty and error unnoticed?

1st. The experiment, he says, must be made in the level of the ocean, to prevent that increment to the radius of the earth, and consequent diminution of the length of the pendulum, which a higher situation would produce.—What is the level of the ocean? The tide rises in 45 about fifteen feet, and there are levels of the ocean, at high-water, low water, and at all points between these extremes. "Perfect exactness" required that the expression, level of the ocean, should have been defined; this omission has since been rectified in the bill, which passed the house of representatives last session.

2dly. The experiment, says the report, must be made in a cellar or other place, the temperature of which does not vary throughout the year.—This is important, or it is not: if important, why not define the temperature, that it might be ascertained by a thermometer? There are few or no natural caves or cellars, in which the temperature does not vary: various causes may affect the temperature; Mr. Jefferson himself admits this, in his Notes, p. 21, where he allows that "chymical agents may produce in subterraneous cavities, a salutiferous heat;" and these may, more or less, affect the temperature in moist caves or cellars.

[The remainder of this Number To-Morrow.]

† Notwithstanding this friendly hope, the French have treated our philosopher very cavalierly; for in their late system, they have altogether overlooked his learned labors. Even citizen Fauchet, in his letter to the secretary of state, communicating the French standard of weights and measures, appears not to have even heard of Mr. Jefferson's report; for he says, *I think I have heard that the present government were engaging in the same changes, and even waited the result of the operation made in France on this subject, for the purpose of commencing their reform.*" This was several years after Mr. Jefferson's report!

‡ That bill directs, that "the experiment shall be made in the latitude of Philadelphia, at any place between the rivers Delaware and Schuylkill, at a known height above the level of common high water in the Delaware, and in a known temperature of the atmosphere, according to Fahrenheit's thermometer."

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All kinds of work in the gold and silver line; miniatures set, and hair work executed as usual.

November 9.

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