

LEXINGTON, (Ken.) February 4.

It is reported, that news arrived at Louisville last week, that the French were in possession of New Orleans, and the Spaniards were moving off their magazines from that place. We only mention it as a report, having no good authority of its authenticity.

February 3.

It is reported, that the Spaniards have refused to deliver up the posts they occupy on the Mississippi within the limits of the United States, to the officer sent for the purpose of receiving them.

On Saturday last the ferry boat, with a waggon and team, the waggon loaded with salt, sunk in crossing the Kentucky river at the mouth of Hickman—the waggoner (who was a negro) and one of the horses were drowned.

WINCHESTER, (Virg.) March 24.

General Daniel Morgan is elected a Representative in Congress, for the district composed of the counties of Frederick and Berkeley, by a majority of nearly 200 votes.

State of the poll in the counties of Shenandoah and Rockinglam, for Representatives to Congress:

For Major David Holmes	745
Col. Steele	21
Gen. Boyer	0
In the county of Rockinglam.	
For Major D. Holmes	565
Col. Steele	9
Col. Boyer	1

There are three other counties in this district, from which we have not received the returns.

NEW-YORK, March 29.

When the proposition for confiscating the debts due from American merchants to individuals in Great-Britain, was brought into Congress, no honest man, who thought justly, was found to advocate it. Its advocates however were numerous and well-meaning; but as is generally the case, their passions got the better of their reason. It was therefore no wonder that men, otherwise reputed sensible, should harbour an idea so replete with moral turpitude. The public feeling was at that time extremely irritable from the base measures pursued by the government of Britain; and if the President, whose temperance and forbearance are proverbial throughout the world, had not adopted the expedient of sending an envoy to London, there is no telling what steps might have been taken by Congress under the impressions of the moment. To that great man are we indebted for preserving our national character from a stain which no subsequent concessions could have obliterated—and which would have been more destructive of our credit in every part of the world than can be easily conceived.

Injustice is injustice, the world over, in all circumstances it continues so—in morals as well as politics it is equally detestable. To confiscate the debts due to British Merchants because the British government acted arbitrarily and unjustly, would have been inequitable for this single reason—British merchants have no control over their government. It is independent of them in its operations and resources—and the proposed measure so far from diverting it from pursuing its course, would only have caused it to act with redoubled energy. If that government, like ours, originally sympathized with the United States, must suppose it wisely adapted its measures to the popular will—but this is not so—and we may therefore presume that instead of acting as the immediate representatives of the people would do, they would follow the dictates of very different passions, and pursue a more selfish course, regardless of what the people's interests required. This is indeed so egotism on the government, nor is it meant as such—it shews the necessity of a reform—but it also shews that the measures proposed by our warm patriots, of confiscating memory, far from having the desired effect, would have failed of that end, and been productive of nothing but injustice to others, and infamy to ourselves. This would have been the consequence of confiscating, or even meddling with private contracts. The reverse would be the case with respect to a debt due from our government to theirs. That might very properly have been sequestered, because it would not have inflicted a wound on private credit—and because it would be taking it from those who were taking it from us—Though the property sequestered would have been ultimately derived from the nation, it would not have caused the ruin of an individual, whose confidence in our integrity induced him to trust us—France is now depreeding on our commerce, and withholds from us infinitely more, than the spoils amount to—She continues her measures, and no one can tell where or when they will end. By an exertion to aid her by paying off the debt we owed, we have unhappily diverted ourselves of the means of reimbursement—And our only resource therefore is in her justice and magnanimity, from which God preserve us.

Gazette of the United States, AND Philadelphia Daily Advertiser.

PHILADELPHIA, MARCH 31.

Extract of a letter from an American gentleman in Europe to his friend in Philadelphia, dated December 24, 1796.

The French Directory have refused to receive Mr. Pinckney as Minister from the United States, and have taken a resolution, that all communication between them and the government shall be suspended until the wrongs of which the French Republic has a right to complain, shall be repaired. The motives alleged for this procedure are said to be, that the treaty between the United States and Great Britain annuls that with France, and that as they have recalled their Minister from the United States, they do not judge it advisable to receive one from thence.

After the recall of Mr. Ader, and the various other circumstances which have occurred in the course of the last summer, this circumstance is not surprising. The real motives upon which it is founded, and the designs which it is meant to answer, are well understood by you. Among many others the advantage of an alternative either to influence the elections for the next Presidency, or to furnish a material embarrassment to the new administration, is perhaps not the least weighty. You will evidently perceive, that a concert, which might be termed an alliance, has taken place between the present French government and the most virulent internal enemies to that of the United States: to defeat the object of this connection, which is no less than a revolution in the constitution of our na-

tion, and an abandonment of our engagements with another power, will require all the wisdom and firmness of which our federal executive is susceptible, as well as the support of the people. Of the former I have no doubt, and uniform experience has given me a confidence in the latter, which I hope will not be disappointed.

The news-papers which I send you with this letter will shew what a representation of the internal state of France, the Directory themselves have presented to the Legislative Assemblies. The wretchedness of the nation may possibly be exaggerated in this paper, because its apparent object is to elicit from the Legislature some new expedient to raise money for the further support of the war. But with every allowance for such exaggerations, it is certain that the situation of that country is deplorable in the highest degree, and the people in every part of it past for peace. The weariness of the war has also reached their armies, which have suffered exorbitantly in the course of the last campaign, and which they find it at present extremely difficult to support.

The French Minister of Finance has called together a commercial deputation, from several of the cities, to devise the means of reviving their commerce, or more probably of raising new funds. He has proposed to them the establishment of a bank to be made altogether independent of the government—and a third paper money bottomed upon the confiscated property, and to be denominated cedules hypothecaires. Neither of these proposals was received with much favor, and the assembly have expressed as their decided opinion, that a speedy and honorable peace must be the necessary preliminary to any practicable attempt whatever for the restoration of the commerce and finances of the nation.

Meanwhile the negotiation of Lord Malmesbury still continues. The tone of the first official papers from the minister Delacroix spread an opinion almost universal, that the Directory were determined to break it off. But at the same time an universal cry arose against them, and founded so loudly in their ears that they have evidently softened and moderated their language. It is said also that they have consented to conduct the negotiation in future with the same secrecy which they have observed in their diplomatic dealings with the other coalited powers. These things are all considered as indications that a serious attempt for peace will be made, and the publicity, which they have purposely given to their statement of the distressing condition of the nation, contributes to strengthen the opinion.

The Empress of Russia died suddenly on the 17th of November, of an apoplectic stroke, as is pretended. Suspicion however is not silent on this occasion. The French consider it as an event very favorable to them. She was to have signed on the 19th a new treaty with Great Britain. Whether it was signed by her successor, is variously reported. He certainly made no change in the administration of the Russian foreign department.

I have mentioned that one of the motives of the French in the American revolution was the influence the American revolution had on the new administration. There is an opinion propagated with great zeal and industry in every part of Europe, that the union and prosperity of the United States are dependent altogether on the personal character, merits and popularity of the present President, and that the moment he shall retire from the government, we shall fall into irreconcilable dissensions, which will soon be followed by a separation of the Northern from the Southern States. In England and France these ideas are not simple opinions; they have ripened into hope. For whatever affections our countrymen may indulge in their hearts for this or that European nation, they may assure themselves that they are all, objects of fear and envy. The prosperity of the American people has become a reproach to the rulers of Europe, whether monarchial or republican, and prosperity generates envy among nations no less than among individuals. A paragraph is appeared in one of the late English news papers purporting to be founded on a letter from New York written in October, and announcing that troubles and confusions were expected to take place upon the approaching election for President. That the salutary advice of the present President's advisers to the people did not appear to have made any impression upon them: that in every state there was some particular favourite, but no universal public spirit, and that the division of the state would be the probable consequence of these symptoms. This account coming just at the same time with the hostile declaration of the French Directory aggravated or alarmed all those who from sentiment interest take any notice of our affairs.

There is a maritime expedition in preparation from France, the direction of which is not known but supposed to be a descent in Ireland. There are said to be at Brest 15 ships of the line and 7 frigates, on board of which are embarked 10000 men, with arms, artillery, &c. for 50,000. They are said to have a concert with the malcontents in Ireland, and expect to be joined by them upon their landing. There is another embarkation at Duakirk, destined, as it is supposed, to join that from Brest. The troops employed appear to be very much dissatisfied with the service. The Admiral Villaret Joyeuse, and almost all the commanding officers have been displaced and others appointed in their stead. The Marine Minister is got to Brest to pacify an insurrection, which has taken place on board the fleet and reconcile the troops to the expedition. Hoche has the command in chief.

Extract of a letter from an American gentleman in Europe to his friend in Philadelphia, dated December 30, 1796.

The enclosed extract of a letter from Paris, which has been communicated to me, contains certain paragraphs from the Redacteur, a newspaper used by the French Directory for their official and non-official publications. It explicitly declares, as you will observe, that the Directory have determined to suspend their intercourse with the government of the United States. It is among those paragraphs, which come from an official source without being encumbered with official responsibility. It serves to unfold more clearly the motives and expectations of the French government, as well as to corroborate

rate the concert between them and the enemies to the government of the United States, which I have long seen forming, of which I have often given you my opinion, and the completion of which, as discovering itself in this transaction, was intimated to you in my last letter. How this concert was effected, and how far its future projects extend, I can easily conjecture, but it is not at present necessary to enquire. The present and immediate object of this measure is evident; to influence the choice of President in the United States, and if it cannot turn the election, to embarrass the new administration, and rally all its opponents under the standard of France. You see there is a pointed address to the minority of the house of representatives, and an invitation to them, whenever they can rise to a majority, to usurp upon the executive functions and be sure of the support of France. The objections against the "fatal treaty which passed only by a majority of two votes," are all taken, you see, from the mouths of the American opposers to the government. The pretence that the treaty gives the British commercial advantages, and facilities for their military provisions, denied to France, though stated in general terms, for the sake, if possible, of eluding refutation, is in such direct opposition to truth, that it only serves to shew, that no scruple of morality can interpose an impediment in the political conduct of those who advance it. Yet they have not even the address or the countenance to dwell upon this article; it is the British satelage, the British yoke, upon which they lay their principal stress; they appeal to the reason of our people, and to their own triumphs, to dissipate the terrors of a pusillanimous policy; it is for our own sakes that they take all this generous concern in our welfare, and they contemplate their own work in our prosperity.

And thus the American government is to abandon the solemn engagements of the United States, and involve them in an inevitable war, which must ruin their commerce, and check, if not destroy, their prosperity, because it suits the good will and pleasure of the French Directory, and because France, by sacrificing not only her commerce and prosperity, but millions of her own lives, and all that can render life valuable to the remainder, has obtained some triumphs, which are still very far from being secured.

The violation of the British treaty, and a war with Britain therefore is what the French government wish to provoke. The house of representatives is the instrument which they intend to use, and the Comte d'Artois's policy, fear, the fear of their displeasure is the motive which they purpose to inspire. We shall see how they will succeed.

It needs no observation on my part to convince you of the delicate situation in which the government will be placed to preserve the firmness, the spirit and dignity which must not be abandoned, and to avoid at the same time a rupture with France. There is but too much reason to suppose, that the opposition party in America will provoke and negotiate a more disadvantageous treaty, than they have done with the French government; and much caution, much prudence, much candour, and moderation will be necessary to counteract prepossessions which have been artfully instilled, and demonstrate interests which have been misrepresented. The friendship of France may, I have no doubt, be still recovered, but not by submission to her caprices, or by acquiescence in her exclusive preferences. A full, clear, and explicit denial of any commercial advantages or facilities of military provision to the British is indispensable; for as this is the only colour of a rational complaint that they have exhibited, it is easy to take it completely from them.

At the same time with the letter from Paris, came the account that the directory ordered Lord Malmesbury to withdraw within forty-eight hours. They have not however ventured to break up the negotiation entirely; every circumstance contributes to prove, that they wish to continue the war with Britain, but at the same time fear the wishes of their own people for peace. I send you the papers containing the last papers published in the course of the negotiation. You will plainly see that they are determined to avoid a peace, if possible.

The extract of the Letter from Paris, above referred to—dated December 23, 1796.

“By my former I noted to you my interview with Mr. Pinckney, and that all intercourse between the French Government and that of the United States of America was interrupted. In giving you this last news, I was led into an error by the greater part of the public papers: at length the Redacteur said, the next day, that the news was false; and proceeds in this manner. “The personal complaints that one government may have to object against another, cannot be a motive for a rupture between nations essentially allies and friends, and who having, in given times, a necessary influence upon the acts of their Representatives, cannot delay reuniting at the voice of their common interest.”

“Assuredly the French are not insensible to the testimonies of affection and of interest which have unceasingly been given to their cause by the great majority of the Citizens of a State in whose prosperity they cherish their own work. They will never forget that notwithstanding the unhappy suggestions, there passed by a majority of two voices only, that fatal treaty which has placed the Americans under the guardianship of the English; and which contrary to the faith of the treaty of alliance, which was to be the price and guaranty of their liberty, has granted to the English commerce, and to their military supplies, advantages and facilities refused to France; they appeal to time which will destroy all calumnies; to the reason of a people already tired of the new yoke of the English: they appeal, in fine, to their triumphs, which ought to dissipate the terrors of a pusillanimous policy, and silence the calculations of an interest ill understood.”

By this day's Mails.

NEW-YORK, March 30.

We have no direct accounts of Mr. Pinckney. We understand that he had gone to Holland: his return to Paris is doubtful.

The report circulated yesterday morning, of the Collector of this port having been ordered to prevent the clearance of vessels which were armed, is without foundation.

The city of London have addressed his majesty on the late manifesto, declaring their readiness to support him in the continuance of the war.

The London accounts of Feb. 9, state that the Spanish troops had retired from the frontiers of Portugal.

The French continue their successes in Italy. After repeated defeats, Wurmsler remained closely blockaded, and greatly distressed in Mantua. It was not, however, taken at the last advice.

The Franklin, Peck; and Kerenshappuck, Lillibridge; of Philadelphia; Nancy, of New-York; Freeman, of Baltimore; Rainbow, Howland; Catherine, Hay; and Jenny Adams, Young; from Bengal to London, are taken and carried into Namur.

The Belvidere failed ten days before the Factor.

The Hare, Haley, failed in company; also the Potomac Chief, M-Gruder; the brig D was to sail 4 days after the Factor; the Montezuma of Baltimore failed at the same time with the Belvidere.

Ship Diana of Baltimore was to sail 4 days after (after being two days out from Guadaloupe, and carried into St. Kitts. [* Some error in this paragraph.]

ARRIVED.

Ships Factor, Kemp, London 38 days; Sarah, Jarvis, Hall 73; Black River, Dobbin, Martinique 14.

By the ship Factor, captain Kemp, arrived last night, in 38 days from London, we have received our regular files of papers to February 11— from which we hasten to extract the following interesting information.

LONDON, February 4.

An express from Dover brought us last night the most important papers which have arrived for many weeks from Paris. They bring an account of a brilliant series of victories. We must refer to the short account of Buonaparte himself, and the more extended details of general Bessieres, for the particulars of these important actions. The substance of them is, that Buonaparte has destroyed the fifth Austrian army in Italy! Five times the Emperor renewed this devoted army; in the last instance, every effort of determined magnanimity, and almost of exhausted despair, was exerted, to make a vigorous movement for the deliverance of Mantua. He swept all his frontiers, he called forth and animated the chivalrous spirit of Hungary; the youth of Vienna were roused by blandishments of the court, as well as their natural loyalty, to enter into volunteer battalions; and to hasten the expeditions, the recruits were mounted in Veitures, and dispatched by post. In short, the salvation of Mantua, was considered as the last stake of the Emperor and King, and for this every thing was to be hazarded; for this the propositions of general Clarke were rejected; every offer of an armistice was refused, and we have seen from the late German Journals that they looked with perfect confidence to the success of their arms. What a lesson to our countrymen and to nations! the result of all this energy! What a dreadful responsibility must the cabinet incur, which, trusting to its own speculations, flouts its ears against the voice of peace!—Our readers will not be content with the mere outline of these victories; we therefore publish the official details; but the short total of the transactions are—

That general Alvinzy, with from 40 to 50,000 fresh troops, the flower of Austria, attacked in different points the French army in Italy; and battles were fought on the 23d, 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th Nivose (the 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th of January) in all of which the Austrians were routed, and

The French took 23,000 prisoners, among whom were 3 general officers, 5 colonels, 10 majors, and a great number of inferior officers.

They killed and wounded 6000 men. They took sixty pieces of cannon, and about 24 stand of colours, among which are the standards of the volunteers of Vienna, embroidered by the hands of the empress.

And the whole of the escort of oxen, grain, and other provisions destined for the relief of Mantua, taken within cannon shot of its walls.

Such is the account which the generals have given of this most memorable victory, and which, in our minds, is rendered still more interesting by the manner in which it has been received in Paris, and by the use which the Directory have made of it. In the council of ancients, upon reading the message from the Directory, the following speech was delivered by citizen Dumas:

Citizens Representatives. Before we are informed of the details of this last victory; before we are acquainted with the manner in which the foresight of the valiant Buonaparte contrived to involve the imperial generals in the double snare which they had prepared for him; before fame has presented us with the record of the memorable deeds of arms which distinguished this illustrious day, and decided the fate of Italy, let us hasten to publish our gratitude to this brave, this invincible army.

Mantua must, sooner or later, fall into our hands after this decisive battle. The court of Vienna, which appears very recently to have rejected new overtures for negotiation, in the hopes, by raising the blockade of Mantua, of changing the respective situations of the contracting powers, and diminishing the value of our conquests, may flatter itself with preferring for a few days longer the bulwark of the Austrian possessions. It is of little consequence to us now.

The message of the Directory leaves doubt that the new army destined to save Mantua at all hazards, is entirely destroyed; and we are able to assure the nation, and to congratulate ourselves that at last this pledge of peace (the possession of the Emperor in Italy) is now in our hands. And we have it in our power to prize its value by opposing the most useful, the most glorious competition.

Unable, to the extent of our wishes, to distribute rewards, let us at least present to our soldiers that of which they are most zealous—the expression of the national gratitude. Let us here thank general Buonaparte and the army of Italy, not only because they have vanquished and defeated the Austrians