

INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE, RELATIVE TO THE AFFAIRS OF FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES.

The following correspondence, comprising the most important of the documents contained in the President's message to Congress of 19th January last, if perused with candor and attention, must satisfy every independent American of the sincere, active and unceasing efforts of our government to maintain inviolate the rights of France, refusing from the duties of neutrality, the law of nations and existing treaties, and most completely vindicates our nation from the unjust reproaches and complaints of the French Directory and its agents.

"A government which required only a knowledge of the truth to justify its measures, could not but be anxious to have this fully and frankly displayed."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, JAN. 19, '97.

Mr. HARRISON'S Letter concluded.

Mr. Harrison, District Attorney of New-York, to Mr. Pickens, Secretary of State, New-York, 12th December, 1796.

With respect to the second prosecution, which Mr. Adet says, "is principally in question," the facts are these. During the course of the examinations in the first cause against the privateer, it appeared that a quantity of arms and ammunition had actually been exported in her from the United States at a time when such exportation was prohibited, and though I had been led to suppose from some of the testimony, that these had formed a part of the privateer's equipment, yet as this was contested, I thought it my duty to file another libel or information, stating the exportation as a breach of the prohibitory law. Mr. Adet is pleased to say, that "this information was made upon the simple declaration of Mr. Giles, marshal of the court, who as informer was to have his part of the confiscation." In the first part of this assertion, Mr. Adet is certainly mistaken. The information was founded upon the evidence appearing in the other causes, not upon any declaration made by Mr. Giles; and as Mr. Giles was not the informer, but merely the seizing officer, I do not know that he would have been entitled to any share of the property if confiscated.

After the filing of the second information, it is remarkable that Capt. Berard (who could best have contradicted the allegations contained in it, if they were not true) does not appear to claim upon oath, as in the other causes; but this task is devolved upon the French Consul, who could only speak from information.

In the progress of the cause, however, the exportation of cannon is denied; the muzzles attempted at one time to be made fowling pieces, and at another the property of passengers; and the powder, with some ball which accompanied it, is alleged to have been part of the equipment of a French frigate, and to have been afterwards replaced; but without explaining whence or in what manner the supply to the frigate was obtained.

Under these circumstances, the judge of the district pronounced sentence of condemnation against the privateer, founding his decree upon the exportation of the muzzles, but without giving any direct opinion as to the powder, which in my judgment formed the most important and serious question in the cause; because, if foreign vessels of war might supply the ships or colonies of their nation with ammunition, from their equipments, and again replace the same, probably by purchases within the United States, every prudent and necessary precaution to preserve among us the means of defence, might at the pleasure of foreigners be rendered abortive.

The sentence of the District Court in this cause having been pronounced, an appeal as stated by Mr. Adet, was interposed by the French Consul at New York, and about this period a sale of the privateer took place by consent. If the parties interested suppose that this vessel would sell for no more than a "tenth part of the cost of her armament," it was optional with them to have refused their consent. I know no law of Congress such as Mr. Adet alludes to, requiring vessels to be given up upon security, under the circumstances stated. No such law was produced by the Consul or his attorneys, and it would have been palpably improper, that a privateer condemned by the sentence of a Court of justice, should by any act of an officer of the Executive Government go into the hands of one of the belligerent parties completely equipped to cruise against its enemies. Such an act would probably have been considered as a deviation from strict neutrality and might have been productive of serious consequences.

In the month of April last the appeal in the case of the privateer came on to be heard before Judge Chase, in the Circuit Court of the District of New York. Whatever might have been the expectations of the Consul or his attorneys, they did not choose to rely thereupon; the evidence taken in the District Court; but upon the first day of the hearing produced new witnesses. After these had been heard the argument was commenced for the appellant and answered on the part of the respondents; but as the judge plainly intimated his opinion for confirming the former sentence, unless further evidence could be produced to a particular point, the appellant's counsel applied for and obtained a delay of two days, and in that interval, by some fortunate casualty met with a witness, who had only been a few months at New York, and was able to remove every difficulty.

In consequence of this new evidence, Judge Chase thought proper to reverse the sentence of the District Court condemning the privateer; but he not only certified that there was probable cause for the prosecution, but as the innocence of the party had not been manifested in the early stages of the cause, he directed all the fees of the officers of the court to be paid by the claimant.

As this decree of the Circuit Court had been obtained under extraordinary circumstances, and as the question respecting the powder still appeared to me of the utmost importance, I thought it my duty to enter an appeal to the Supreme Court, and to prepare a state of the case, that the superior officers of government might judge whether it should be prosecuted or abandoned.

If any further information as to this cause should be deemed necessary, I must refer to the state of the case above mentioned, and which was transmitted by me to the Secretary of the Treasury. I have only further to observe that I am ignorant how the officers of the District Court were "interested in the condemnation of the privateer or her prize." I believe that the fees of the Clerk and Marshal were the same, whether they were acquitted or condemned; and I am certain that as to myself, the charges against the United States did not at all depend upon that circumstance. I hope indeed, that I shall at all times be incapable of commenting or carrying on a prosecution merely with a view to my own private emolument. I am ready at any time, to meet enquiry upon this subject, and I am satisfied that any person who in this free and enlightened country, could so far be blinded by mercenary motives as to prostitute his office for the gratification of them, would be soon removed from it with ignominy, if he should even escape any other punishment.

I have only to add, that with the highest respect, I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant, RICHARD HARRISON.

[TRANSLATION].

Philadelphia, 29th Floral, 4th Year of the French Republic one and indivisible (18th May 1796, O. S.)

The Minister of the French Republic near the United States. To Mr. Pickens Secretary of State of the United States.

SIR, I HAVE just been informed indirectly, that the House of Representatives has passed a Bill for preventing the sale of the prizes which shall be brought in by the ships of war of the Belligerent powers. If this law did not appear to me to destroy the effects of our commercial treaty; if it did not appear to me opposite to the duties of an impartial neutrality, I should remain silent; but this interest of my nation and the positive orders I have received on the subject from my government, oblige me at present to transmit some observations which seem to me calculated to merit your attention.

By the 17, and 22, Articles of their commercial treaty, the United States and France agree in an explicit manner, that in case one of the two powers should be at war, its enemies should be excluded from the ports of the other, when they shall have made prizes on its citizens. When they mutually guaranteed a free admission of their ships of war, of their privateers and of their respective prizes into these ports, it is clear that they implicitly assured to each other the right of these selling these prizes. In fact, France having no continental possessions in America towards the latitude to which English vessels must go on their return to England, it was to her of extreme importance to have friendly ports into which her vessels might conduct their prizes and sell them, without exposing them anew to the risk of the Sea; which would be the case if they were obliged to send them to France or to her colonies. It was also interesting to the Americans engaged in a war with an European power, to have ports into which they might conduct and freely sell their prizes made upon the coast of Europe, without being forced to cross the Atlantic.

These considerations leave no doubt that by the 17th and 22d Articles of the treaty concluded between the United States and France, each nation had implicitly secured to herself the right of selling in the ports of the other the prizes which her ships of war or privateers should have made. This right which the two nations should enjoy has been acknowledged by our enemies, by the courts, and by the government of the United States. Whenever our enemies have attacked a prize made by a privateer, it has been only under the pretext that the privateer had been armed in the United States, and that she had therefore derogated from both the laws of neutrality and the President's proclamation.

The American courts have never condemned French prizes but upon the fact of having armed in the United States; and when the contrary has been fully proved, the privateer had the right of selling the prizes without any obstacle. Yet in virtue of what act could she sell her prize? Of the 22d article of our commercial treaty. This article has already afforded a vast field for discussion upon the implied right it appears to grant to one of the two nations to arm in the ports of the other. The American government conceived that this construction could not be given to the 22d article; it explained itself formally in this respect; but did not object to the right of selling prizes; it has even expressly acknowledged it, since it has constantly permitted the French ships of war and privateers to enjoy it.

* This Bill had passed the House with little opposition, and by a great majority, being supported by members of all parties, as founded in principles of true national policy.

The patriots in the Senate, unable there to defeat it inserted a trifling amendment, which sent it back necessarily to the Representatives, where, to the astonishment of those, not in the secret, which this letter now explains, Mr. Gallatin, who had been its advocate, moved to postpone it to the next session, for the most frivolous reasons (in which France was cautiously omitted: The friends of the Bill, some of whom were absent, not thinking it possible to sudden a change could have occurred, were off their guard, and a majority, properly notified, postponed, and thus defeated the bill. This letter now unfolds the mystery.

The enemies of France could not accuse you of violating the rules of neutrality by leaving to her the free exercise of this right, as it resulted from the *Casus Fidei*, and the obligations prescribed by a treaty do not lead a neutral nation from the line of neutrality whenever she acquits herself of them. Therefore, Sir, the English cannot for that reason bring in their prizes here. The Secretary of State assured me in his letter of 6th July 1795, that this stipulation of our treaty should be faithfully observed in this respect by the American government. Since notwithstanding the similar right assured to the king of Great Britain by his treaty with the United States, it is stipulated that it should not derogate from former treaties entered into by the United States. It is clear therefore from this, that during the whole course of the present war, we should, in virtue of our treaties, enjoy alone the privilege of bringing in and selling our prizes here. But if at present a law existed, prohibiting, in general terms, the sale of prizes, it would bear upon France alone; and at the same time, that it deprived her of an advantage granted by her treaty, it would tend to affect the balance of neutrality.

In fact, Sir, French ships of war and privateers having alone the right of bringing in and selling their prizes here, it would be the interest of England, in case she could not procure the same advantage, to deprive France of it: for to take an advantage from our enemy is a real benefit to us, even though we could not enjoy it. Besides, would not England by that means have new chances in her favor? If our prizes could no longer be sold in your ports they must be conducted to the colonies or to France; and would not the English then have greater opportunities for intercepting them? It is evident therefore that the law proposed for preventing the sale of prizes is entirely in favor of the English, and to our disadvantage. But if it be the duty of a neutral nation neither to grant nor refuse more to one of the belligerent powers than to another, when there do not exist particular stipulations provided for by treaties previous to the war, it follows that the law in question being in favor of Great Britain cannot be conformable to the rules of neutrality.

I venture to hope that you will feel as I do the justness of my observations; and that the government of the United States, will take the necessary measures for preventing the effects of a law contrary to the treaties and to the duties of a neutral nation.

Accept, Sir, the assurance of my respect. P. A. ADET.

† See the foregoing note.

A meeting of the Merchants is requested at the Coffee House, at 12 o'clock, on Wednesday, the 24th inst. on business particularly interesting to owners of ships. May 21.

Just Arrived, In the schooner Dove, Captain Paul, from St Thomas, and for sale by the subscriber. Mustovado Sugar in hhds tierces and barrels. St. Croix Rum in hhds. And Laguna hides. May 21.

ALSO ON HAND, Imperial, Hyfon, and Sherry and Malaga Hyfon Skin Teas. Wines. Holland Gin in pipes. Canton Cloth. Do. Cheese. Duffrings. Do. Glass ware. Silk Hankerchiefs. China Ware. Sewing Silk. Window Blinds. Cotton in bales. Rhuubarb. Peruvian Bark. Quicksilver, &c. JOSEPH SIMS. May 21. dtat.

A few bdds. N. E. Rum, of a SUPERIOR QUALITY, HYSON YOUNG HYSON } TEAS, in quarter chests, And IMPERIAL } FOR SALE BY A. Marple & Israel W. Morris, No. 60 Dock-street. May 22 mw&fyt

Jonathan Harvey, No. 106 SOUTH FRONT-STREET, HAS FOR SALE, A general assortment of Dry Goods Amongst which are— A few boxes IRISH LINENS. May 22 swftm

LAILSON'S CIRCUS, South Fifth-Street.

TO-MORROW EVENING, the 23d instant, A Variety of EQUESTRIAN EXERCISES. After which will be presented a favorite interlude never performed here, called THE FUSILLIER; Or, The Clown Outwitted. Written by Dibdin. To conclude with a new Pantomime, called HARLEQUIN'S WHIM; Or, The Doctor Outwitted. Box, one dollar. Pit, half a dollar.

The doors will be opened at half past five o'clock, and the performances begin precisely at seven. N. B. No person can be admitted in the centre of the Circus, which is exclusively appropriated to the Equestrian Exercises. No person can be admitted without a ticket, which will serve for the day only. Days of performance, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Diverimenti; Or, Familiar Lessons for the PIANO FORTE. To which is prefixed, A Ground for the Improvement of young Practitioners: COMPOSED by R. Taylor, music professor, Philadelphia, published this day, price two dollars, printed for the author, No. 96, North Sixth-street, and sold at Carr's musical repositories Philadelphia and New-York, and Ormrod, No. 41, Chestnut-street; where may be had by the same author, a variety of serious, comic and pastoral songs, rondo for forte piano, lesson for two performers on one instrument, &c. &c. &c. May 22. m3t

L O N D O N.

FORTUNE-TELLER

On Friday last the woman who has long advertised her skill by the name of Mrs. Williams, was brought before Mr. Nares, at the Shadwell Police-Office, for the purpose of having in her turn, her fortune told.

A young lady, who had visited her, having had sufficient penetration, notwithstanding her previous weakness, to discover that she was imposed upon, was advised by her friends to apply to the above Magistrate, who, by virtue of an act made for punishing rogues, vagabonds, soothsayers, sturdy-beggars, &c. granted his warrant, and the impostor was soon after brought before him: she was elegantly dressed, and was accompanied by a person who said his name was Redhead, and that the lady was his wife.

The magistrate, indulged her with a chair in which she sat down, and instantly fell into violent hysterical fits, from which she soon, by virtue of her art, recovered herself, and Mr. N. proceeded to his duty. He heard the evidence against the prisoner, and was about to commit her for further examination, but she fell again into fits at the thoughts of being sent to goal, and, on her recovery, prayed the might be indulged by sleeping on her own bed, and that the matter might be again heard next day. To this the magistrate consented, on condition that one of the Police Officers sleep in the same room. This was agreed upon, and they returned to Store-street.

The next morning the parties came again before the magistrate. Mrs. Williams was attended by her Counsel and Attorney! The cause was again clearly made out, but Mrs. Williams was discharged on her promise never again to assume the business of a Fortune teller, and on her engaging to advertise in all the papers, that she had declined business!

Calculations of the quantum of human misery occasioned by the war.

Died by sickness and the sword 2,000,000!! Each of these unhappy persons had, upon a moderate calculation, four persons relative to him, and either dependent on him for support, or deriving comfort or consolation from him.

The number of human beings rendered miserable by the death of these two millions will amount to 8,000,000!!

Of the two millions we may fairly suppose that one in four had a wife and child; there will therefore have been left orphans and widows 500,000!! 500,000!!

Nor is this all: upon those who have neither lost relative nor friend by the war, the load of misery imposed will not be found to small. We will confine our remarks to England alone, requesting our readers to recollect, that all other countries engaged in the war have suffered, at least an equal proportion. We have added by the war 100 millions to our debt, and five millions a year to our taxes. The necessities of life are at least increased one third; for example, a poor man, with his wife and five children, who earns fifteen shillings a week, can now purchase about as much as he could for 10s. before the war. Thus he is forced to maintain seven persons at one shilling and five pence per week! We purposely leave out of our calculation the manner in which our liberties have suffered and been curtailed during the war, though we are not unmindful that every particular that is taken from our liberties is so much taken from the dignity as well as the happiness of men. [Cam. paper.] VIENNA, March 11.

Our Court will now, it is said, no longer receive any English subsidies. The report has given occasion to many conjectures; but at present it requires further confirmation.

Field Marshal Wurmsler is arrived here. It appears to be confirmed, that the Venetians will make a common cause with the Austrians; on which account the Venetian Envoy Grimani, has frequent conferences with our minister Baron Thugut.

The Arch Duke will still retain the chief command of the army on the Rhine; and all dispatches from it, will in consequence be sent directly to him.

Besides the army of the Arch Duke, which in the whole, will be reinforced to 120,000 men, a corps of reserve, of 25,000 men, will be formed in Carinthia and Carniola, which, should necessity require, will march at the first orders from the Arch Duke.

ARMY OF ITALY.

Head Quarters, Mantua, 16 Ventose, (March 6.)

The Gen. in Chief of the Etat Major.

Bulletin of the army.

The Gen. of division, Guieu, retook on the 14th Ventose (4th March) the position of Treviso. Gen. Walther, commanding the advanced guard, came up with the enemy in front of Lovidina, defeated them, and pursued them to the intrenchments on the Piava, 18 men were killed, and 30 made prisoners, adjutant general Duffaux, and the chief of brigade, Barthelemy, were slightly wounded. On the 5th Ventose, Gen. Murat got possession of the enemy's entrenchments of Foy, took 25 prisoners, and killed 20. He afterwards took upon a corps of Tyrolean chasseur, and killed about 50 men.

Gen. Beillard, commanding the right of the division of Gen. Joubert, has been attacked at Badola; but he defeated the enemy completely, killed 30, and wounded a much greater number.

Adjutant gen. Kelleman, crossed the Piava at Saint Mamma. He engaged an enemy's post of hussars, and put them to flight, having killed two men, and wounded one.

On the 2d, in conformity to the orders & instructions of the commander in chief, gen. Joubert, marched to attack the enemy the moment they attempted to establish themselves on the left bank of the Lavis, gen. Beillard attacked the enemy's corps of Monte-de-Sevaro—

He took from the enemy one standard and forty oxen.

Gen. Murat attacked the advanced post of the enemy, and made 100 prisoners, the brave carabiniers of the 11th demi-brigade particularly distinguished themselves. (Signed) ALEX. BERTHIER.

LONDON, April 3.

The Bishop of Rochester justly remarks, that Parliament ought not to have been termed the People's Parliament. While the substance of the Constitution has been gradually impaired, and the spirit has been withdrawn from the lifeless forms, the technical language which titles the Parliament his Majesty's Parliament, speaks a melancholy truth, that the different branches of the Constitution are in reality swallowed up in one, and that Parliament is nothing more than a ministerial engine to perform the ungracious task of laying burdens upon the people.

It used to be said in Holland of a man who failed in business, that "he had not kept true accounts." If bankruptcy be naturally connected with false or partial accounts, we can scarcely be surprised at the present state of public credit, since it has been the uniform system of ministers to squander without attention to our resources, and the practice of Parliament to vote supplies without controlling the public expenditure.

The philosopher's stone, so much sought by crazed Chymists for several centuries, was thought to possess the power of converting every thing into gold. It has never been found that this notable discovery has been made, but Mr. Pitt may boast that he has made very great progress in the art of transmutation, as he has very dextrously converted almost all the gold of this country into paper.

The prospect of an expedition to the coast of Spanish America, gives much satisfaction to a number of army and navy Contractors, who in calculating their profits, set no value on the shedding of human blood.—They think only of yellow coin, not of the yellow fever.

Louis XVIII, it appears, exercises his prerogative in dismissing his servants. When a German Prince ordered Voltaire to depart his dominions within three days, "How kind he is," said the wit, "to give me three days to do that, which may be done in three hours!"

Louis the XIVth inscribed upon his great guns the motto, "Ratio ultima regum."—This species of argumentation has generally been a favourite with crowned heads, but, to the shame of the Old School, they seem of late to have been baffled at their own weapons by the disputants of the New Philosophy.

Should the Emperor Paul join the new partition confederacy against Germany, he will afford a melancholy illustration of a fact which ought to be particularly impressive on the people of this country, that it is not a change of men, but of measures which benefits a nation.

Marshal Wurmsler has been appointed Commandant General of the kingdom of Hungary.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, March 30.

Mr. Pollen said, he wished most sincerely not to embarrass ministers, but to gain the co-operation of his majesty's subjects, to call on them to renew a negotiation for peace, or to proceed with spirit and energy in the war, if war should be unavoidable. He therefore gave notice, that on Friday next he should have the honor to make a motion to address his majesty to renew a negotiation for peace, or for declaring explicitly the reason for continuing the war.

LONDON, March 27.

At the late meeting of the Livery of London at Guildhall, alderman Combe having received their thanks for his services, made the following speech:

Mr. Alderman Combe then advanced, and heartily thanked his constituents for the honorable notice they had taken of him. The conduct which they so kindly applauded, was no more than he had promised at the time that he solicited their favor. It was always his opinion, that public situations were only desirable, in order to give greater support to private principles, as they publicly unfolded the private man. On this opinion, and on these principles he had hitherto acted, and could sincerely assure them he would always act.

He congratulated them on the circumstances of being now assembled, notwithstanding the opposition made to it by their Chief Magistrate, whose conduct on the occasion it was not easy to explain, nor to divert of the charge of partiality and influence. His lordship's own explanation was by no means satisfactory. It was plain, that it was not principle which induced him to consult the Court of Common Council on the present occasion; as he did not think it necessary to do so on a former occasion exactly similar. He advised his fellow citizens to be firm in the maintenance of the same principles and spirit they had manifested on this. An attempt, however, to prevent the people of this country from assembling to consult on the redress of their grievances, and a parallel attempt to enforce the same prohibition upon them had fortunately failed. They must be warned by the experience they have had. In proportion as they lost their vigour, they felt more strong the hand of calamity; in proportion as they lost their independence, the more severely did they feel the iron hand of oppression. He concluded with thanks and assurances, that whenever they were pleased to instruct him, he should be always ready to obey their commands.

Buonaparte, the Prussian envoy, the marquis de Luechefini, and prince Augustus d'Arenberg, are said to have had a conference near Bologna.

A Treaty of Commerce between Russia and Prussia is ready to be signed, and an alliance will, it is said, be concluded between the new emperor and Saxony.

So general and so strong is the public indignation, at the refusal of his majesty to receive the petition of the livery to dismiss the