

LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

ALEXANDRIA, May 8.

The Editor of the Columbian Mirror was, at a late hour last evening, politely favored with three separate files of London papers, viz. the Sun, the Star, and the Times, up to the 19th of March, which are later by three days than any accounts heretofore received.

From a careful perusal of those papers, it appears, that the French Directory entertained serious apprehensions as to the approaching election, and that the people were very generally dissatisfied with their conduct.

The Cabinet Council of Great Britain have been occupied in the examination of persons taken up for treasonable practices; and every day's experience teaches us, that there are wretches in all countries.

"Who, for a grasp of ore or poltry office, Would sell their country to the foe?" and against whom every patriotic bosom should burn with indignation.

LONDON, March 15.

To the intelligence which we yesterday received from Plymouth, of the preparations making in France for a speedy descent on this country, we have to add the substance of information brought by a seaman who had been prisoner in France, and who arrived at Portsmouth on Friday last in a cartel.

The following extract of a private letter gives some further interesting particulars: "We have been in great dismay and consternation during the last 24 hours. Yesterday a party of military searched Leinster house for Lord Edward Fitzgerald, who had been seen walking in the streets at his usual hour.

No letters have for these three or four weeks been received from Captain Cotes, our agent for prisoners in France, from which it is concluded, that his letters are intercepted by an order from the Directory.

Private letters from the Hague mention, that the Batavian government demurs to accede to the propositions of the executive Directory, for prohibiting the entry of any merchandise or goods from Great Britain.

The late unfortunate king of Poland is the same monarch whose life was attempted by assassins, and on a circumstance in whose history the plot of the dramatic entertainment of Zorinsky is founded.

By the late accounts from Sir R. Strachan, who is now blocking up the port of Havre, it appears that there are nine frigates and corvettes in that port ready to put to sea.

From Brest we learn, that there are twenty sail of the line in that port, of which 18 are supplied to be fit for sea, and of those 18 were ready to sail at a moment's warning.

The Berwick, of 74 guns, with 10 frigates was in the Outer Harbour with sails bent on the 4th of this month, and the whole seemed to be preparing for sea, but we have not heard that any of these vessels have yet come out.

Yesterday government issued a proclamation, offering a reward of 2000. to be paid by the Lords of His Majesty's Treasury, for the apprehension of Robert Thomas Crossfield, charged on suspicion of being guilty of high treason.

We have reasons to believe that our preparations for secret expeditions, which are now carrying on, create the most serious apprehensions in the French rulers, notwithstanding their pompous and arrogant threats of invading and subjugating this country.

The following circumstances relative to the news from Ireland are sent to us by a correspondent: "The advices are of a very serious and alarming nature, and contain an account of the discovery of a most horrid plot to sacrifice the kingdom to the views of the French Republic."

In consequence of the evidence which had been produced from papers found in the possession of the persons now in custody in this country, by which were also implicated many persons in Ireland, Government thought it advisable to direct their apprehension.

Warrants were accordingly issued, and the house of Mr. Bond searched, where sixteen persons were apprehended, and their papers seized. Lord Edward Fitzgerald was in the house at the time, but there being no warrant for his apprehension, he could not then be taken into custody, and thereby escaped.

The papers seized are said to be of a most treasonable nature, no less than to give up the country to the French. The day fixed upon was Saturday last, the anniversary of St. Patrick, which being kept as a festival, it was imagined that advantage could be taken of the inebriety of the people; and an attempt was to be made to seize all the principal officers of the government. It was expected that the French would have a force ready to co-operate with the Irish rebels, and thus decide the revolution by a coup de main.

Mr. Pyle and Mr. Major arrived in town yesterday morning from Ireland, with further dispatches. Lord Edward Fitzgerald had not been taken when they left Ireland.

It was last night currently reported, that the kingdom of Ireland was put under martial law.

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A Chaffe Maree, from ditto ditto, laden with wine and brandy, burnt; being on shore. (Signed) JOHN WARREN.

On Saturday morning Mr. Fabiani and Mr. Hyde, two of his majesty's messengers, arrived in town with dispatches from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, which are extremely interesting. The mail arrived at the same time. The following are the advices we have received:

"Yesterday at eleven o'clock, one of his majesty's messengers, attended by a civil and military power, proceeded to the house of Mr. Oliver Bond, in Bridge-street, upon an information which had been received by Government, that the Provincial Committee of the United Irishmen of Leinster were to assemble there for the purpose of treason."

A committee of the fourteen delegates were found sitting, and immediately taken into custody; and many material papers, containing proofs of a serious nature were found upon them. Mr. Bond was not in the room of the meeting; but papers affecting him are said to have been found in his pocket. We have not yet received a list of the delegates nor any particulars of their examination.

"At the same time we understand, Dr. McNevin was apprehended at his lodgings near the Four Courts; and Counselor Emmet in Stephen's green, John Sweetman in Francis street, and Henry Jackson and Son in Church street. Warrants were also said to have been issued for apprehending Richard M'Connell, Counselor Samson, and Lord Edward Fitzgerald. Lord Edward was misled by the person who had the warrant against him, tho' he appeared in many parts of the town. The others are not discovered."

"The murder of Mr. Buckley, a gentleman residing in the neighbourhood of Naas, adds one more to the horrid assassinations which disgrace this country."

The above information is confirmed by private letters, except in the instance of Counselor Emmet, who has fled; and so has Counselor Sampson and Lord Edward Fitzgerald.

"The following extract of a private letter gives some further interesting particulars: "We have been in great dismay and consternation during the last 24 hours. Yesterday a party of military searched Leinster house for Lord Edward Fitzgerald, who had been seen walking in the streets at his usual hour."

While the military were searching Leinster house, Oliver Bond, and 16 others, were taken up as they were sitting in council, and were conducted under a strong guard, to the Castle. As the Lord Chancellor was returning from thence to his carriage, which was in the street, the mob outside who were numerous closed round him so as to prevent his passing; on which, one of the attendants requested him to step into a shop till the crowd was dispersed. This he refused to do, and putting his hands into his pockets, he drew out a pistol from each, and holding them in his hands, declared he would shoot the first man that obstructed his passage.

"I am happy to say that Sir Henry Manix, who was reported to be dead, is recovering, and likely to do well."

"It is said that Lord Edward Fitzgerald escaped by jumping out of a window, and that he was seen to take the road to Manawar; but it is not thought that he can escape the kingdom."

On the receipt of the above advices, a Council was summoned at Lord Greville's Office, which sat four hours in the evening; and yesterday, when the service of the Chapel Royal was over, a Council of the Cabinet Ministers was held on the affairs of Ireland, at which the Duke of Portland, Earl of Chatham, Spencer, and Westmoreland, the Lord Chancellor, and Mr. Windham attended.

The deliberations (which had been previously discussed the preceding night at Lord Greville's Office,) continued about 20 minutes; after which the Duke of Portland and the Lord Chancellor had a conference with the King till 4 o'clock; and in the evening, Mr. Hyde, the Messenger, was sent back to Dublin Castle, with orders to use all possible expedition.

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3th Fruilidor (4th September) the Directory had got rid of the majority of the two Councils, which was in favor of Peace, it refused to ratify the treaty, on pretence that the Court of Portugal had indolently protracted the confirmation of the treaty. On the Chevalier d'Arango's desiring the business to be definitively settled, a new ransom was demanded by the French Government. Surprised at this demand, the Portuguese Minister strongly reprobated this scandalous imposition, but instead of an answer, he was sent to the Temple prison, and the invasion of Portugal was again determined on.

This trait, in addition to many others, proves both the good faith of the Great Nation, and the brilliant condition of its finances. As to the moral feelings of the virtuous Directors, the above circumstance places in a new light the fides publica of the band of revolutionary banditti which governs France.

A gentleman who arrived on Saturday from Spain, states, that he had read the King of Spain's Proclamation for allowing 75,000 French soldiers to march through his territories to attack Portugal.

The Triton Ball, Indian which we long since mentioned to have been captured and condemned at the Mauritius, was purchased at the sale of France, by Mr. Macarty, the American Consul at that island. This gentleman in April last arrived at Calcutta, in his purchase, which he had named the Commerce; when an investigation was instituted as to the validity of the condemnation, and concerning the propriety of its new flag; but after diligent enquiry, the Government was satisfied with the document produced by Mr. Macarty, and pronounced her bona fide American property.

The Austrian Government has published the plan of the new organization of the continental dominions of Venice, by which the ancient laws and regulations are restored, and the Nobility and other corporations reinstated in the privileges they enjoyed previous to the invasion of the French. All the institutions formed by Democracy are annulled. The ecclesiastical authorities, as well as the ancient tribunals, are re-established on their ancient footing. The Councils in the provinces, called the Noble Councils are to nominate to public places, and a special commission is to be appointed for the purpose of auditing the accounts of the administration of the ci-devant Democratic Government.

We understand that Ministers have received positive information that the French have a force of 150 flat bottomed boats actually equipped. They are chiefly at the port of Havre.

The American convoy, consisting of about forty sail of merchantmen, have sailed from Spithead under convoy of his majesty's ships St. Alban's and Endymion.

Every day brings us fresh accounts of the horrors of the state of Ireland. A assassination is spreading with the most dreadful fury. The blood runs cold with the atrocities that are committed. There are letters in town which give an account of the massacre of two Magistrates who had been active in the suppression of the United Irishmen, and with circumstances that have freed terror over all the neighbourhood of Dublin. No man who has distinguished himself by his activity in the coercive system is now safe, even in his bed.

LEXINGTON, (Kentucky) April 11. A caution to store keepers and others, against keeping Gun Powder in a careless manner. On Monday the 19th of March, about 11 o'clock A. M. two little boys, the one of seven and the other five years old, went into the store of Evan Francis, at Hutchcraft's mill, on Stoner in Bourbon county, wherein was deposited about five hundred pounds worth of Mercurian-dize, and about 75 lb. of gun powder; Mr. Francis, with Miss Polly Steward, and Mr. Joseph Willis, late from Maryland, were in the store dealing, when the boys came in, they brought with them fire in order to flash powder, (not knowing the dreadful consequence) when they came into the store, Mrs. Francis saw the fire, bid the poor unfortunate boy to go away with the fire, his little brother standing by him; but instead of retiring he put the fire on the head of the powder cask, whereon lay some scattered grains of powder which immediately caught; a hole had been bored on the head of the powder cask, it was open, from which the powder on the inside took fire, blew up the store, and two dwelling houses adjoining, one belonging to Evan Francis, the other to Stephen Radcliff; there were sixteen souls in the house, the two boys were killed dead, stripped naked, and burnt as black as negroes. Mrs. Francis it is thought blew through the broad side of the house. The two boys were found some distance off, among some saw stumps, Polly Steward lay within a few feet of the cask, badly burnt, Joseph Willis was caught by a plank across his legs, with several house logs on it, which held him fast for half an hour, although every exertion of the spectators was used to rescue him; the goods were on fire round him, with his cloaths, till buckets of water were brought a considerable distance to extinguish the flames. The dreadful shock with the wonderful explosion of the Powder, has, with the fire since deprived three others of the unfortunate sufferers of their lives, viz. Mrs. Francis, (formerly Todd) Joseph Willis and Mr. Francis's daughter, about four years old. Mrs. Polly Steward is recovered, and Stephen Radcliff's daughter nearly. It is very remarkable that sixteen souls could be in the house, where partitions, logs, chests, tables, beds, and every thing were driven to pieces, and yet only eight were wounded. To hear the cries of mothers for their children, brothers and sisters for their comrades added to those wounded was distressing beyond description, and ought to be remembered by every person dealing in that dangerous article gun powder.

The above is a true detail of facts given by Thomas Hutchcraft and Stephen Radcliff, who were both eye witnesses to the wonderful catastrophe.

Stoner creek, Hutchcraft mills, } March 28, 1798.

FOR SALE, About 660 boxes of fine Spanish GUN POWDER, Containing 100 lbs. each.

Apply at No. 13, corner of Arch and Front streets. May 12. \$1w

For Sale, Two cases of Scotch Threads, Well assorted, and entitled to Drawback. Apply at No. 5, South Water Street. May 11. \*3

For Sale, The cargo of the brig American from Lagaira, CONSISTING OF Caraccas Cocoa. Henry Philips, No. 112, South Fourth Street. April 23. \$

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY—MAY 1.

Mr. D. Foller reported a bill for the relief of Thomas Lewis, which was committed for to-morrow.

Mr. Inlay presented to the house certain resolutions passed at a public meeting of the inhabitants of Trenton and its vicinity, approbatory of the conduct of the executive in our late negotiation with France, expressing a firm reliance upon the wisdom of the constituted authorities and the virtue of our citizens, for national security, and their determination to defend our national rights, freedom and independence.

The Speaker also laid before the house the memorial and address of the citizens of Newark, to the same effect.

He also presented certain resolutions adopted at a public meeting at Alexandria, of a similar tendency.

Mr. Matthews presented an address from Harford county, Maryland, expressive of like sentiments.

The above addresses and resolutions were referred, as usual, to the committee of the whole on the State of the Union.

The President of the United States, by message, informed the house, that he had approved and signed an act for the erection of a lighthouse and placing buoys and flares at the places therein mentioned; an act to provide an additional regiment of artillery and engineers; and an act for the relief of the legal representatives of William Carmichael, deceased.

On motion of Mr. D. Foller, the house went into a committee of the whole on the report of the committee of claims on the petition of William Parsons, who served on board the Ranger sloop of war, in our war with Great Britain, and who states that he was out of this country from the time of signing the preliminaries of peace till after the act of limitation foreclosed this claim. The report was favorable. It was negatively, there being only 18 votes for it. The committee rose and the house concurred in the decision.

On motion of the same gentleman, the house went into a committee of the whole on the report of the same committee on the petition of James Perry, for himself and partners, who pray for compensation for certain supplies taken from their iron works at Spotswood, in New Jersey, in the course of the war, on the ground of himself and partners having been out of the country since the conclusion of peace. The report of the committee was unfavorable, and was concurred in, by the committee of the whole, and by the house.

Mr. Sprigg called up the report of the committee appointed on the subject of Post offices and Post-roads. It was read, and states that it will be inexpedient to make any alterations in the law relative to Post-offices and Post-roads at present.

Messrs. Dawson, Sprigg and W. Claiborne, each expressed their disapprobation of this report and concurred in blaming the committee for having so long delayed making a report, and for having now reported in this way, though very many petitions had been presented for the alteration and addition of roads, and as there was a surplus revenue arising from the Post-office of 50,000 dollars.

Mr. Thatcher did not think the committee were chargeable with delay, for as they conceived, from time to time, that there was not sufficient ground, for making any change in the present law, they waited to see whether any thing should arise to change that opinion, and when the committee had been applied to by the gentlemen who had expressed their disapprobation of this report, they were repeatedly desired, if they thought the committee ought to report, to call upon them by way of resolution. Mr. T. said, upwards of 3000 miles of new road had been applied for, and from the best information he could get, not any road of 50 miles in length would pay one half the expense of carrying the mail. Upon an average, he believed, the roads applied for would not pay 15 per cent of the expense. A few shorter roads might pay more than half the expense. He was as desirous as any gentleman of extending the post-roads as far as possible; but he thought once in two years, which had been the custom heretofore, was often enough to take up this subject. 7000 miles of new road had been ordered to be made at the last winter session, which, he believed, would not pay 20 per cent of the expense; and as he believed there were 10,000 miles in the United States which had as good a claim for post-roads as the 3000 applied for, and though there was at present a surplus revenue (not so great however as had been stated) as he was apprehensive from the conversation he had held with the post-master general on this subject, that the circumstances in which this country might expect to be involved would lessen the revenue arising from the post-office, he did not think it expedient to go into the subject at present.

Mr. T. said he was totally unconcerned as to himself whether the report was agreed to, or not; but if it was disagreed to, and referred to the same committee, he should not think it right to make any other report on the subject at present.

Messrs. Harper, Gallatin and Blount, each expressed their disapprobation of the report; and Mr. Macon and Mr. T. Claiborne (the other two members of the select committee) their opinion in favor of it.

The question on agreeing to the report was put and negatived 38 to 3.

Mr. Dawson moved that the subject be re-committed—agreed, and a committee of seven members appointed.

Mr. Livingston, from the committee appointed to enquire into the expenditure of money in the Naval Department, informed the house that that committee had received a number of statements from the head of the Department, which he was desirous to move to have printed.

Mr. Otis thought the printing of so large a volume of papers, which he did not think one member in fifty would ever read, would be an useless expense. Mr. Gallatin advocated the printing, assuring the gentleman from Massachusetts he should read every one of them, as he was desirous of knowing how the money which had been appropriated for this object had been expended.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Champin presented a petition from the inhabitants of Newport, praying that attention may be paid to their fortifications, so as to secure that town against the attacks of a foreign enemy. Referred to the Secretary of War.

On motion of Mr. Harrison, the house went into a committee of the whole on the State of the Union, for the purpose of taking up the bill from the Senate, for authorizing the President of the United States to build or purchase a number of small vessels, to be equipped as Gallies or otherwise; which being agreed to, the bill was gone through without debate or amendment.—The committee rose, and the bill was ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. D. Foller, the house took up the report of the committee of claims on the petition of Robert Parker, praying for compensation for dry goods sold to the state of Georgia, for the use of the United States. The report was unfavorable, and was concurred in.

Mr. Harper, from the committee of ways and means, made a report in pursuance of a resolution referred to that committee on the 6th ult. directing them to enquire and report whether any and what additional revenue will be necessary. The report was read as follows:

"That in their opinion it will be necessary to raise the sum of two millions of dollars, by a tax on lands, houses and slaves, to be apportioned among the several states, according to the constitutional rule, and on the basis of the late census; the mode of assessment & collection to be uniform throughout the United States."

"This opinion they have founded on a view of the probable amount of the ordinary expenditure of the present year, and of revenue from the existing taxes, presented by certain statements from the Secretary of the Treasury, which, together with the letter of the committee to him on that subject, and his answer, are subjoined to this report."

"From these statements, it appears, that the ordinary expenditure of the present year, making an allowance of one hundred thousand dollars for occasional grants, and one hundred and thirty thousand for reimbursing the unfunded registered debt, and the payment of old accounts, will amount to six millions, nine hundred and twenty six thousand, four hundred and sixty dollars."

"And that the revenue from existing taxes, stating the impost and tonnage duties at seven millions of dollars and the internal duties at seven hundred thousand dollars, will amount to eight millions, eleven thousand, eight hundred and ninety-seven dollars."

"The impost and tonnage are stated at something more than five hundred thousand dollars below the actual receipts of last year, which were seven million, five hundred and forty-nine thousand, six hundred and forty nine dollars: an abatement which the Secretary has thought it prudent to make on account of the effects likely to be produced on that great branch of the revenue by the deprecations on our commerce. The internal revenues are stated higher, by a sum of one hundred and twenty five thousand dollars, than the actual receipts of the last year, which were five hundred and seventy five thousand, four hundred and ninety one dollars.—This increase, the Secretary supposes, may be expected from an improved mode of collection."

"The stamp duties are stated at two hundred thousand dollars annually; an estimate which the committee conceive to be sufficiently moderate."

"Taking the total amount of revenue from all the present branches of it, to be eight millions, eleven thousand, eight hundred and ninety seven dollars, as above stated, and deducting that of ordinary expenditure, taken at six millions nine hundred and twenty six thousand four hundred and sixty dollars, there will be a clear surplus, in the present year, of one million eighty five thousand, four hundred and thirty seven dollars, which, if left unappropriated would go to the discharge of the public debt, but may be applied towards defraying the extraordinary expenses noted during the present session."

"These expenses consist of the following items: Fortifications, three hundred and forty thousand dollars, Fabrication, or purchase of arms, cannon and military stores, nine hundred thousand dollars. Naval armament, nine hundred and fifty thousand dollars. New regiment of artillery, one hundred and seventy two thousand, one hundred and forty three dollars: making an aggregate of two millions, three hundred and sixty two thousand, one hundred and forty two dollars."

"The committee have not taken into view the expenses which may be incurred for the military defence of the country, either by a provisional army, or detachments of militia. It is certain, however, that whichever of those modes may be preferred, a considerable expense, in case of actual service, must be incurred; it will be for the house to decide, how far a provision for this expense ought now to be contemplated."

"Neither have the committee taken into their estimate a provision for the deferred debt; the interest and extinguishing annuity on which, amounting to one million, one hundred and forty six thousand, three hundred and seventy dollars, will become payable in the year 1801; nor for the heavy instalments on the foreign debt, which will become due in the years 1802, 1803, and 1804. But they conceive it is of use to state, that those instalments, joined to the interest, which, in this year, are only six hundred thousand and forty one dollars, will amount, in the year 1802, to one million, nine hundred and one thousand, nine hundred and thirty one dollars;—in the year 1803, to two millions, five hundred and forty one thousand, four hundred and fifty three dollars;—and in the year 1804, to two millions, fifty two thousand, six hundred and twenty three dollars.—After which, they decline to one million, thirteen thousand, two hundred and thirty two dollars, in the year 1807; and to two hundred and fifty four thousand, five hundred and twenty dollars, in 1809, when the debt will be extinguished. Hence it appears, that in the year 1801, the ordinary expense will be increased one million, one hundred and forty six thousand, three hundred and seventy dollars; in the year 1803, to the amount of three millions, seven hundred and eighty seven thousand, eight hundred and twenty three dollars, being the sums payable, in