

(We are happy to lay before the public, the following authentic Intelligence.)

BOSTON JULY 15.

MR. RUSSELL,

SIR, YOU will receive, inclosed, some papers, which the Right Hon. Viscount DE PONTEVES-GIEN wishes you to insert in your useful and well-written CENTINEL: And you will see by them how diffident you ought to be of all the reports too easily propagated by indiscretion, or by the rivals of your commerce, and ours.

The ports of our Colonies continue to be open to the Americans, as before, and upon the terms in the Ordinances of their respective Governors. You know my solicitude to make public those kind of publications so useful to the dearest interests of this port, as well as of all the other ports of my district; and I shall continue to send you their authentic information.

None of the letters which I have received from Martinique make any mention, "that the American vessels were boarded, and all the military weapons on board taken away." I am, Sir, with due regard, Yours, &c. DE LE TOMBE.

EXTRACT from the dispatches of the Right Hon. Viscount DE PONTEVES-GIEN, to M. DE LETOMBE.

"On board the ILLUSTRE, St. Pierre, June 15.

"SINCE the beginning of the troubles there has been a pointed enmity between the town of St. Pierre, and the colony, which increased continually, from the anarchy which reigned in that city. The 3d of June, after the usual procession, a quarrel took place between the free-coloured people, and a mob, which terminated by the sudden slaughter of 15 mulattoes, and three of their white officers. One hundred and twenty-seven mulattoes were afterwards confined in Jail, and their punishment was insisted upon by that unruly mob, which the Municipal body was not able to restrain. Every citizen lamented the progressive oppression of a gang of villains which established themselves in St. Pierre: And that city, so important to commerce, was approaching to be the haunt of vagabonds of all nations: Which event, had it arrived, would have proved fatal to all the windward Islands. In this exigency, the colony held a special meeting—the colonists united, all the free coloured people armed themselves, and demanded that justice should be done; even the slaves began to stir, and every thing would have been in a deplorable situation there, if a speedy relief had not been granted. The Colonial Assembly having therefore requested the Viscount DE DAMAS to employ all the forces under his command, and to march to St. Pierre in order to deliver that town from oppression, and to restore the activity and liberty of its commerce: And myself having also been equally requested, we thereupon agreed to move on the business, the 9th inst. by land and by water. The town of St. Pierre was soon surrounded on every part, and taken possession of by our troops without firing a single gun; and every thing passed with the greatest good order. The Municipal body, and the citizens, being satisfied, have presented us addresses of thanks, which I have the honor to send you.

"In order to justify the slaughter perpetrated the 3d inst. it was alleged that a plot had been laid by the free-coloured people against the whites. Those who were put to jail remain there—and their case will be legally scrutinized. The above is all that has taken place. We believe we have rendered an important service to the Colony, to the Metropolis, and to their respective commerce: Especially as we have been so fortunate as to succeed in this very delicate operation without bloodshed, and to the satisfaction of all the citizens. I have the honor &c. &c. (Signed) PONTEVES-GIEN.

"On board the Illustre, June 17.

"We have terminated our business here and to-morrow we shall go back to Fort-Royal, leaving at St. Pierre's a battalion, in garrison, at the request of the citizens. The greater part of the disturbers have fled; a part will be sent to France, and some will be punished according to the justice of the laws: Some have been punished by a few days imprisonment only. This important military enterprise has not cost a drop of blood. If we had denied the request, the Colonists and the coloured people would have executed that delicate piece of business without us; and whatever might have been the issue, it would have been fatal to the colony.

"I am now going to prepare for my departure for France—and should be very sorry not to have it in my power to see your town again, where reside an HANCOCK, an ADAMS, a BOWDOIN, and a multitude of citizens, extremely affectionate and amiable; to whom I am attached by the warmest gratitude.

"Farewell, dear Sir, I reiterate to you always, with new pleasure, my assurances of the sincere and inviolable attachment which I have avowed to you. (Signed) PONTEVES-GIEN."



CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18.

MR. SMITH of (S. C.) Mr. Sedgwick and Mr. Lawrence having spoke against the motion made by Mr. Parker for adjourning Congress to Philadelphia, and blamed Mr. Vining for bringing it forward again after the decision of the Senate against the measure.

Mr. Parker rose and said, I take to myself Mr. speaker the blame, if the thing is blameable, for reiterating the question which my worthy friend from Delaware has supported with so much energy. I think if he is impressed with zeal on this occasion it is a laudable zeal, and worthy of that independence of spirit which the honest representative of a free people ought ever to possess; for my part I am convinced of the rectitude of his intentions, and I do not entertain an apprehension that the gentlemen in opposition, will dare to impeach the motives by which either of us are actuated.

Under an impression that it is adverse to the common interest of this great republic to have the seat of government placed in an eccentric position—I shall continue by all justifiable means to attempt the application of a remedy to an evil which, I so justly deem a grievance.

Was I the immediate representative of the city of New-York, or one of the more eastern States, I might forget in a moment like this, that I was a representative of America, but as a representative of Virginia, and far removed from the present seat of Congress, I can with more concern reflect on this improper situation. Hence I must be excused for doing my duty in advocating a removal to a place more central and more agreeable to my immediate constituents as well as to the great body of the people of United America; I am the more countenanced, Mr. speaker in this exertion by the late declared voice of this House. If I am not mistaken, when the question was last before this House, there appeared to be more than two thirds of the representatives of the people in favor of a removal to Philadelphia; and shall we sub-

mit what appears so clearly to be the desire of the majority of the people of America, to the small majority of a single member in the Senate.—We who are the representatives of the people for whom this government was instituted as the constitution expressly declares, to concede to a bare majority of the representatives of the States.—Shall we remain inactive and sink into silent apathy, because the Senate has been pleased not to concur with us in the first essay made to promote the equal distribution of the benefits of the government to all its parts—do gentlemen wish to be degraded into a state of vassalage to the Senate, and only be the mock-guardians of our country's welfare—are we to sit here to do nothing but register the edicts of a body, whose councils are concealed within the impenetrable walls of a dark divan? The removal of Congress is a measure of necessity and those who feel its importance cannot, nor ought they to avoid pressing it—gentlemen tell us it is an irritating subject, but are we who sustain the oppression not excusable for being irritated? I make this appeal with confidence to the northern gentlemen, and ask if they would sit quiet if they were dragged to Halifax in North-Carolina, a place not an inch more distant from the extremity of New-Hampshire, than New-York is from the most distant part of Georgia? For myself I declare, that were we there I should join them in a removal to a place more central to the union though more inconvenient to the part of Virginia I represent; I shall consider an accommodation in this business as a strengthening band of union. Those who are real friends to United America, will dissipate their local attachments and meet on central ground. I would not like the gentlemen from the Eastern States and New-York throw embarrassments in the way of a measure so calculated to do justice to all, and which ought to give general satisfaction, and by such means cease the murmurs of those who have just cause of complaint—let those gentlemen consider that this government is a government of the people, and not of a few gentlemen, the whole and not a part only are to receive the benefits which it is constituted to dispense; let them consider what the voice of the people is; we are the representatives of the people in an equal and just proportion—two thirds of these representatives have declared the sentiments of their constituents; Pennsylvania is evidently the present center of representation, consequently of population, and as the center of wealth for the present may be about Philadelphia, for the present I will submit to a removal there, in full confidence that when the permanent seat is fixed it will be further South, as population and migration will shortly give strength to our Southern and Western country. Who are they then Mr. Speaker, that arrest the removal to Philadelphia—The Senate? And who are the Senate? The representatives of political communities, of States unequal in their extent and population—and although I admire the propriety of their establishment and their utility in many cases; yet as this is a question in which the representatives of the people are more interested than the representatives of the States are—I think their opinion ought to prevail—and not to be blown away by the still voice of men shut up in a conclave, wrapt in secrecy their high mightiness (for so they may be termed from their introduction of titles, &c. &c.) are they to dictate to the representatives of a free people—I trust not.

Here Mr. Parker was interrupted by several gentlemen calling to order; Mr. Smith of (S. C.) hoped the gentleman might be permitted to go on—but he would assure him he should be answered.

Mr. Parker proceeded. I do not wish Mr. speaker, to take up the time of the House, but I am strongly persuaded that in a government like ours, in a question like this, the Senate should be satisfied to let the representatives of the people select the place most convenient to the community at large; for myself I declare I have no personal objection to New-York, so far from it that was I to select a place to spend my own time, I should prefer it to Philadelphia; but as a representative of America, I have no right to consult my private happiness nor overawe the public weal with it, my advocating a removal then cannot be ascribed to private views or self-interested motives; what stimulates me is the wish of the people I represent and a conviction of the propriety of the measure. When deliberating on a national subject of great importance private wishes should be banished and the common cause consulted.

Gentlemen tell us there is no necessity for pressing this question at this time; but sir, I think since we are embarked in it we ought to prosecute the voyage until we arrive at that place, which will restore union, harmony, and good humour; even if we now relinquish the business we have no security, but it will haunt us and meet us at every turn. Hence I think, sir, there is an absolute necessity of removing immediately, if we wish the government to last, and to some place from whence the legislature may extend its influence in an equal and regular manner to all the extremities; the people know and feel its partial operation, and sit very uneasy under it.

Gentlemen say we ought to determine the permanent residence; to me, sir, it is a matter of indifference which is first determined, permanent or temporary residence—but as a majority have refused to consider of the permanent residence at this time, I am willing to give up to their decision, and contend for the present only for the temporary seat. I wish this to be nearer the center of the United States than it now is; I repeat again, that whilst I have a majority of the people and their representatives, I will not relinquish my endeavor to obtain what they desire with so much anxiety and what they are entitled to on every principle of justice and equity.

It is said that no petitions are come forward praying this removal. I admit there are none—our constituents have confidence in us, and could not suppose it necessary to trouble us with petitions, in order to induce us to adopt a measure, the propriety of which must be obvious to every eye; but if we now decline to satisfy their just desires, we may expect not only petitions, but remonstrances against our culpable neglect. When people feel what it is to travel, exhausted with fatigue some hundred miles more than an equal apportionment requires, they will not only complain of us, but will have reason to curse and execrate the authors of their calamities.

The gentlemen from the Eastward may feel easy under every thing of this kind, whilst they remain in New-York; but the southern gentlemen will be guilty of great inattention to the interest of those they represent, if they remain any longer idle spectators of a game, by which their particular constituents only can be losers. (From Lloyd's Minutes.)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21.

The engrossed bill respecting consuls, was read the third time and passed.

A petition of John Tucker, Clerk of the Supreme Court of the United States, was read, praying to be repaid certain sums he had advanced to procure seals for the Supreme and Circuit Courts.

Mr. Sedgwick, from the committee of conference on the subject of the bill for settling the accounts between the United States and the individual States, reported certain amendments that it would be proper to make in the said bill; the house took the report into consideration, and agreed to the same, with a small alteration.

A message was received from the Senate, that they had passed the funding bill, with sundry amendments, the amendments were made the order of the day to-morrow.

Adjourned.

From the same, views result, with regard to the Executive power.

That it may be necessary, in certain cases, that the functions attributed to the King, throughout all the parts of the French empire, should be promiscuously exercised in the colonies, by a governor who represents him.

That therefore the choice and installation of officers, which are in his nomination, the approbation necessary for the execution of the decrees of the administrative assemblies—and the other acts which require celerity, may be provisionally assigned to this governor, under the positive reserve of the King's approbation.

But that, in the colonies, as in France, the King is the only and Supreme Chief of the Executive power—that all the officers of justice, the administration, the military forces, ought to acknowledge him as their chief—and that all the powers attributed to royalty, in the French constitution, can only be exercised provisionally by those he has charged with them, and definitively by himself.

These principles being acknowledged, all the views which may concur in favor of the prosperity of the colonies, may be taken into consideration by the colonial assemblies.

The French nation does not wish to exercise over them any other influence than that of the ties established and cemented for the common utility—it is in no wise jealous to establish or preserve the means of oppression.

What sources of prosperity are offered to the patriotism of the colonial assemblies by the different parts of the labor entrusted to them. The establishment of a simple judiciary order, securing to the citizens an impartial and prompt justice, an administration committed to the hands of those who are interested in it, a plan of imposts suited to their convenience, the forms of which cannot be changed, and the quantity can only be regulated by the vote of the colonial assemblies themselves.

France, to which its commercial laws with the colonies ought to secure, with some benefit the reimbursement of the expenses, which it is obliged to support for their protection, does not consider their possession as a fiscal resource. Their particular imposts shall be confined to the expenses of their own government, they themselves shall propose the establishment and proportion of them.

France does not consider its colonies as the means of justifying avidity, of flattering the tyranny of some persons appointed to superintend their administration—the interests of the citizens ought to be managed by themselves, and the administration can only be entrusted to such as they have freely elected.

The expenses of a complicated justice, the delays and artifices of chicanery, the removals occasioned by the too refined spring of certain tribunals, cannot suit men continually engaged in an advantageous cultivation, and the commerce of its productions—the colonies therefore require more rigorously than the metropolis, a prompt administration of justice divested of every means of despotism and oppression.

There is then none of these views but which the National Assembly will adopt with satisfaction whenever they shall be proposed to it by the colonial assemblies—but, after having considered what suits the interior happiness of the colonies, it remains to pay attention to their exterior interests.

The National Assembly exercises towards each of the parts of the French empire the duties which belong to the social body over all the members that compose it—every one finds in it the guardian of its interests and liberty—every one is subjected by it to the exercise of the will of the whole.

The depositary of the most legitimate and most imposing authorities, the nation which has charged it with the preservation of its rights, has placed at its disposal all the force necessary to guaranty them. It is then a rigid duty, a sacred obligation to maintain them without alteration—but the more incontestable these rights are, so much the greater means has the nation which has entrusted them, to support them, and so much the less does it suit the assembly which represents it, to call to their assistance the arms of weakness and of tyranny.

A timid circumspection, a vain dissimulation, would debase its character to a level with usurped or tottering powers—it can then, it ought then, in treating with the children of the country, to forget for a moment, and lay aside all the rights and all the powers which it is charged to exercise over them, to examine and discuss their interests with freedom, to attach them to their duty by the sentiment of their own welfare, and to lend to the majority of the nation it represents, the only language which can suit it, that of reason and of truth.

EXTRACT.

A FREE people are naturally high spirited; especially those who are born and nurtured in the principles of liberty; they are always governed with difficulty—and the restraints which are necessary to prevent those excesses which always precede the loss of their freedom they so justly prize, are seldom submitted to without reluctance; a truly independent legislator must therefore necessarily be sometimes unpopular.