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[Whole No. 196.]

Discourses on Davila.—No. 26.

THESE reasons of the Queen, urged and repeated with energy, would have staggered the King of Navarre, and perhaps the Constable, if the Duke of Guise would have listened to them. But he wished for war—by the favor of which he flattered himself, he should recover and even increase his ancient power. Moreover, in quality of Chief, and Protector of the Catholic party, he wished to annul, by any means whatever, all that had been done against his inclination, to the prejudice of the Church—and to arrogate to himself all the glory of such a revolution. He combated therefore, with vivacity, all the reasons of the Queen, and remonstrated to his confederates, that they would infallibly lose all their credit and reputation, by suffering themselves to be so easily amused by a woman, who had no other design than to throw herself into the arms of the opposite party as soon as they, from a blind confidence in her words, should depart from Court. “Nothing” added the Duke, “will be more prejudicial to our cause, nor more infamous for us, than to avow that it is neither the public good, nor the maintenance of the Royal Authority, but private passions and personal interests, which have put us in motion. It will be believed, that the remorse of our consciences, has obstructed us, in the pursuit of our enterprise. The artificial discourses of the Queen, ought not to prevail with us, to abandon a resolution, maturely weighed, and taken by concert, nor to interrupt the execution of a project, dictated by reason, prescribed by honor, and commanded by that attachment, which we have professed to religion, whose preservation and interest, have chiefly determined us to this measure. It is no longer the season to delay, and to waste time in disputes. Already the Prince of Condé is advancing in arms—the forces of the Hugonots are assembled—they are ready to seize on the person of the King, if we do not hasten to place him in a situation of safety—and since we cannot terminate this affair by persuasion, let us not be intimidated from employing force: Let us take away the King, and leave the Queen to take the part which she shall judge most convenient. The resolutions of this Princess are of little moment to us, as soon as we shall be supported by the presence of our lawful Sovereign, aided by the authority of the first Prince of the blood, to whom, by right of birth belongs the government of the kingdom.”

The Prince of Condé, united with the Coligny and other Lords of his party, approached the Court. The Constable, and the King of Navarre, persuaded by the Duke of Guise, gave the Queen to understand, that it was necessary to take her resolution, without loss of time; that for themselves, they had resolved to conduct to Paris, the King, and his brothers, for fear they should fall into the hands of the Hugonots, who, according to intelligence, were not far distant. That they would not abandon their matter to the mercy of heretics, who intended to take him away, in order to make an ill use of his name, and undermine the foundations of the monarchy. That there was no time to be lost, or trifled away.—*That they should conduct the King to Paris, as their own honor, and the good of the state required:* That as to herself, they pretended not to constrain her in any thing; but should leave her, with all the respect that was due to her, at liberty to dispose of her person, as she should think fit. The Queen was not astonished at this declaration, bold and sudden as it was. She had foreseen it, and determined, beforehand, on her plan, in such a situation. Forced to declare herself, altho she foresaw that the two parties would soon come to blows, she would not abandon the Catholic party: She pretended that her honor, and her reason, attached her to it: She imagined she saw her safety, and that of her children in it. Taking therefore in an instant her resolution, she answered, with her usual presence of mind, that no person was more attached than herself to the Catholic religion, nor more zealous for the good of the State—That she would, upon this occasion, give way to their sentiments—and since they were all for quitting Fontainebleau, she would concur with them.

With the utmost promptitude she gave orders for their departure; but at the same time she wrote to the Prince of Condé a letter, in which she lamented, that she could not commit herself,

and the person of the King, into the hands of his partizans, according to the promise she had made him: That the Catholics had prevented them, by conducting them by force to Paris: That, provided he did not lose his courage, she exhorted him not to suffer his enemies to take possession of the whole authority of government. She then commenced her journey, with the King and her other children, surrounded by the Triumvirate, and the other Catholic Lords, who to console her, treated her with great respect and honor. She arrived that evening at Melun, the next day at Vincennes, and in the morning of the third day at Paris. Many persons observed the young King in tears, thinking the Catholic Lords had deprived him of his liberty. The Queen, irritated by the ill-success of her artifices, and foreseeing the calamities of an inevitable war, discovered, during the whole journey, a mournful and mortified air and countenance. The Duke of Guise was so little affected with this, that he said freely and openly, that the *public good was a public good, whether it was obtained by consent or by force.*

The Prince of Condé was informed, upon his march, of the departure of the King, and perceiving himself either prevented by the Catholics, or deceived by the Queen, made a halt, and remained sometime undecided, what course he should take. The terrible picture of those dangers which threatened him, presented itself in lively colours before his eyes; but the Admiral, who had remained a little in the rear, arriving, they conferred together a few minutes, and the Prince, with a profound sigh cried out, “The Die is cast, we are too far advanced to retreat.” He took immediately another road, and marched with rapidity towards Orleans, of which, he had for sometime resolved to take possession. This city, one of the principal of the Kingdom, about thirty leagues from Paris, is vast, well built, and very populous; it is situated in the province of Beauce, almost in the middle of France upon the banks of the Loire, a large navigable river, which after having watered several provinces, falls into the ocean in Britany. Orleans, by its navigation, the fertility of its territory, its reputation, and its facility of communication with several other provinces, appeared to the Prince very proper for a place of arms and the center of his party, and to be opposed in some sort, to Paris.

For several months, that he had meditated to make himself master of this city, he had entertained a secret intelligence with some of the inhabitants, inclined to the doctrines of Calvin, whom he employed to engage a great part of the young men, who were restless, seditious and greedy of novelties. As it is not intended to relate in detail, the whole of this history, it is sufficient to say that he got possession of Orleans, that the two parties published manifestos, and that chicanery, negotiations, battles, sieges, conflagrations and assassinations, succeeded in all their usual train of horrors in civil wars.

NEW REVENUE LAW.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

AT THE THIRD SESSION,

Begun and held at the City of Philadelphia, on Monday the sixth of December, one thousand seven hundred and ninety.

AN ACT repealing, after the last day of June next, the duties heretofore laid upon Distilled Spirits imported from abroad, and laying others in their stead; and also upon Spirits Distilled within the United States, and for appropriating the same.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That after the last day of June next, the duties laid upon distilled spirits by the act, intitled, “An act making further provision for the payment of the debts of the United States,” shall cease; and that upon all distilled spirits which shall be imported into the United States after that day, from any foreign port or place, there shall be paid for their use the duties following; that is to say—For every gallon of those spirits more than ten per cent below proof, according to Dica’s hydrometer, twenty cents. For every gallon of those spirits under five, and not more than ten per cent below proof, according to the same hydrometer, twenty-one cents. For every gallon of those spirits of proof, and not more than five per cent below proof, according to the same hydrometer, twenty-two cents. For every gallon of those spirits above proof, but not exceeding twenty per cent, according to the same hydrometer, twenty-five cents. For every gallon of those spirits more than twenty, and not more than forty per cent above proof, according to the same hydrometer, thirty cents. For every gallon of those spirits more than forty per cent above proof, according to the same hydrometer, forty cents.

And be it further enacted, That the said duties shall be collected in the same manner, by the same persons, under the same regula-

tions, and subject to the same forfeitures and other penalties, as those heretofore laid; the act concerning which shall be deemed to be in full force for the collection of the duties herein before imposed, except as to the alterations contained in this act.

And be it further enacted, That the said duties, when the amount thereof shall not exceed fifty dollars, shall be immediately paid; but when the said amount shall exceed fifty, and shall not amount to more than five hundred dollars, may, at the option of the proprietor, importer or consignee, be either immediately paid, or secured by bond, with condition for the payment thereof in four months; and if the amount of the said duties shall exceed five hundred dollars, the same may be immediately paid or secured by bond, with condition for the payment thereof in six months; which bond in either case, at the like option of the proprietor, importer or consignee, shall either include one or more sureties to the satisfaction of the collector, or person acting as such, or shall be accompanied with a deposit in the custody of the said collector, or person acting as such, of so much of the said spirits as shall in his judgment be a sufficient security for the amount of the duties for which the said bond shall have been given, and the charges of the safe keeping and sale of the spirits so deposited; which deposit shall and may be accepted in lieu of the said surety or sureties, and shall be kept by the said collector, or person acting as such, with due and reasonable care, at the expense and risk of the party or parties on whose account the same shall have been made; and if at the expiration of the time mentioned in the bond for the payment of the duties thereby intended to be secured, the same shall not be paid, then the said deposited spirits shall be sold at public sale, and the proceeds thereof, after deducting the charges of keeping and sale, shall be applied to the payment of the whole sum of the duties for which such deposit shall have been made, rendering the overplus of the said proceeds, and the residue of the said spirits, if any there be, to the person or persons by whom such deposit shall have been made, or to his, her or their representatives.

In order to a due collection of the duties imposed by this act, Be it further enacted, That the United States shall be divided into fourteen districts, each consisting of one State, but subject to alterations by the President of the United States, from time to time, by adding to the smaller such portions of the greater as shall in his judgment best tend to secure and facilitate the collection of the revenue; which districts it shall be lawful for the President of the United States to subdivide into surveys of inspection, and the same to alter at his discretion. That the President be authorized to appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, a supervisor to each district, and as many inspectors to each survey therein as he shall judge necessary, placing the latter under the direction of the former. Provided always, That it shall and may be lawful for the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, in his discretion to appoint, such and so many of the officers of the customs to be inspectors in any survey of inspection as he shall deem advisable to employ in the execution of this act: Provided also, That where, in the judgment of the President, a supervisor can discharge the duties of that office, and also that of inspector, he may direct the same: And provided further, That if the appointment of the inspectors of surveys, or any part of them, shall not be made during the present session of Congress, the President may, and he is hereby empowered to make such appointments during the recess of the Senate, by granting commissions which shall expire at the end of their next session.

And be it further enabled, That the supervisors, inspectors and officers to be appointed by virtue of this act, and who shall be charged to take bonds for securing the payment of the duties upon spirits distilled within the United States, and with the receipt of monies in discharge of such duties, shall keep fair and true accounts and records of their transactions in their respective offices, in such manner and form as may be directed by the proper department or officer having the superintendance of the collection of the revenue, and shall at all times submit their books, papers and accounts to the inspection of such persons as are or may be appointed for that purpose, and shall at all times pay to the order of the officer, who is or shall be authorized to direct the payment thereof, the whole of the monies which they may respectively receive by virtue of this act, and shall also once in every three months, or oftener if they shall be required, transmit their accounts for settlement to the officer or officers whose duty it is, or shall be to make such settlement.

And be it further enacted, That all officers and persons to be appointed pursuant to this act, before they enter on the duties of their respective offices, shall take an oath or affirmation diligently and faithfully to execute the duties of their said offices respectively, and to use their best endeavors to prevent and detect frauds, in relation to the duties on spirits imposed by this act, which oath or affirmation may be taken before any magistrate authorized to administer oaths within the district or survey to which he belongs, and being certified under the hand and seal of the magistrate by whom the same shall have been administered, shall within three months thereafter be transmitted to the comptroller of the treasury, in default of taking which oath or affirmation, the party failing shall forfeit and pay two hundred dollars, for the use of the United States, to be recovered with costs of suit.

And be it further enacted, That the supervisor of the revenue for each district, shall establish one or more offices within the same, as may be necessary; and in order that the said offices may be publicly known, there shall be painted or written, in large legible characters, upon some conspicuous part outside and in front of each house, building or place in which any such office shall be kept, these words, “OFFICE OF INSPECTION;” and if any person shall paint or write, or cause to be painted or written, the said words, upon any other than such house or building, he or she shall forfeit and pay for so doing, one hundred dollars.

And be it further enacted, That within forty-eight hours after any ship or vessel, having on board any distilled spirits brought in such ship or vessel from any foreign port or place, shall arrive within any port of the United States, whether the same be the first port of arrival of such ship or vessel, or not, the master or person having the command or charge thereof, shall report to one of the inspectors of the port at which she shall so arrive, the place from which she last sailed, with her name and burthen, and the quantity and kinds of the said spirits on board of her, and the casks, vessels or cases containing them, with their marks and numbers, on pain of forfeiting the sum of five hundred dollars.

And be it further enacted, That the collector or other officer, or person acting as collector, with whom entry shall have been made of any of the said spirits, pursuant to the act, entitled, “An act to provide more effectually for the collection of the duties imposed by law on goods, wares and merchandizes imported into the United States, and on the tonnage of ships or vessels,” shall forthwith after such entry certify and transmit the same, as particularly as it shall have been made with him, to the proper