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FROM THE GENERAL ADVERTISER.

[Our Readers will be pleased with the following Letter of the Mayor of Paris, translated from a Paris Paper: Independent of the light it throws upon the situation of Paris, at the time our latest accounts left that city, it contains such just principles of rational liberty, and such warm effusions of genuine patriotism, as must interest the feelings of every American.]

Letter from the MAYOR of PARIS to M. LE FEUVRE D' ARLES, commandant of the Battalion of Petits-Augustins.

PARIS, JUNE 5, 1791.
THE Commander in Chief informs me, Sir, that, on Saturday, even before the receipt of any orders, the battalion of Petits-Augustins, which you have the honor to command, had resolved to meet yesterday at six in the morning in the street Bourbon, to preserve good order about the church of the Theatins, and secure the execution of the law which establishes religious freedom. I have learnt, Sir, that their resolution was carried into execution; and am informed that your battalion had fulfilled that duty with zeal, and has been fortunate enough to protect from violence a distressed Priest. As a citizen and as magistrate I applaud the conduct of your battalion, and am made happy by the respect they have shewn for the laws. I view in their conduct the patriotism of citizen-soldiers. It is not enough to fight for our country when in danger from attacks; but it is also necessary to watch over its tranquility, and prevent its falling a victim to internal dissensions. The soldier-citizen has this double duty to attend to, and you have performed it.

In paying attention to the crowd which is attracted towards the Theatins, I am sorry to find that the people of Paris are misled,—I am sorry to find that crowd, enemies to the public peace and welfare, dressed in national uniforms, to appearance the most active leaders. It can't be denied, Sir, the public weal is in danger;—our enemies wish to avail themselves of the divisions of the clergy, and disputes of the priests to involve us in difficulties; they wish to bring about a civil war, through the means of religious contentions. Similar attempts have always succeeded, when undertaken by the seditious of every country and in every age; but it concerns our glory and interest, that they should fail among the French, who, in two years, have brought about a most wonderful revolution, and have framed a most admirable constitution. Our enemies tremble to see the edifice of this constitution completely raised, and the last hand put to it to complete it,—their last resource to overturn it is to say to the people, "The cause of RELIGION is in danger, a dreadful schism will take place; the ex-clergy are enemies of the constitution, and the directory, the municipality, their chiefs, the military who protect them and execute their orders, are aristocratically inclined." And I answer the people,—"That religion is in no danger; nothing of its essentials is changed; its tenets are preserved in all their purity; the doctrine is the same with the priests, who have acknowledged the new constitution, and have taken the oath, with those, who, upon conscientious principles, or for other reasons, have thought proper to refuse. This conscientious principle is in themselves, and nothing is to be feared from it by others; it is of no importance to the people, so that it breeds no disputes,—as disputes and dissensions only can disturb the public happiness, and throw an obstacle in the way, which may retard the completion of the constitution. If the views of aristocrats have given rise to these disturbances, let us bury in oblivion their bad intentions, which were to give rise to civil wars and commotions, their last resource. Let us not however, by our conduct, second their efforts; let us persevere in this important work of securing public happiness, by preserving peace, and of bringing about good order, by shewing submission to the laws.

The National Assembly has decreed that no restraint should be laid on liberty of conscience, and that religious worship of every kind should be permitted. If the tenets and worship of the ex-clergy are the same as those professed and that practised by the clergy paid by the nation, they are ours, and we ought to respect them. If it differed from ours we ought to bear with it, just as we permit other forms of worship totally different from that we profess. But, then, the people are told, if these priests are permitted to say mass, they should not be suffered to preach, or confess!—Why not? I would ask—Where then would be their liberty if you lay restraints on their tenets and mode of worship? Where is the freedom of citizens, if on account of these tenets and mode of worship they are not matters of choosing their own spiritual guides? More has been said—it has been asserted that some persons have been seen at the communion table two and three times a day. The report is certainly false; but if it was true, if it were one of their religious principles, that principle is free by the decree of the National Assembly.

Frenchmen understand the nature of liberty; it ought to be complete and common to all; by granting it to one set don't deprive others of it.—The National Guards are yet told, take care to what use your patriotism and courage are put;—examine the orders given you, and only obey those which appear to you just and of a useful tendency: And, who is it, that thus pretends to subject the law, which is the reason of all, expressed, to the reason of a few; the law, that is the general will, to private will? Soldiers, Citizens, and even Magistrates, are not to deliberate when the law has pronounced, when it is expressed by the organs chosen and appointed by yourselves—obedience is then necessary, it is a duty of absolute necessity, and to oppose, or even evade it, is a breach of the constitution, it is destructive of the order of civil society, it is substituting all the evils, which depend on anarchy, in the room of national order, which it is our glory and interest to preserve.

If my voice could be heard by all my fellow-citizens, if I could have deserved their confidence so far as to hope that they would listen to the expressions of my councils, I could tell them: Don't suffer yourselves to be misled; your happiness is at hand, it is already in your possession; the constitution is nearly completed, you are about enjoying the blessings you have a right to expect from its influence, unless you overthrow the work of your hands. There are a number of seditious and ill-intentioned persons, actuated by the hope of enriching themselves by pillage, if confusion can be produced. In Paris you are surrounded with a prodigious number of people of this stamp, enemies of the public good, and active in efforts to destroy it; some of these speak, and profane the language of liberty, and the expressions of patriotism by their use of them, others act, and commit excesses in the violation of the rights of person and property. To you foremost it belongs to oppose their attempts. When the duty of our magistrates and of our citizen-soldiers prompts them to pursue these perturbators of public peace, the people, who are not performing military duty ought to unite their efforts with those of the Magistrates and National

Guard. In fact those very Magistrates and that National Guard are the people themselves; it is their cause they defend, it is in defence of liberty they act, desirous to secure it on the firm basis of public tranquility.

You are told that your Magistrates deceive you; you are told their orders are tyrannical; and it is undoubtedly the interest of those who tell you so to repeat it again and again—all they want is the return of anarchy and confusion, and the boldest step to this is disobedience to legitimate authority. You have every calamity to dread, if your magistrates are deprived of our confidence, and if legal authority is divested of its influence. I certainly am not deceived, and it is impossible that I could wish to deceive you. What am I? One raised by your own hands, after 50 years of known probity, and about to return to the obscure retreat from which you have taken me, there to carry nothing besides a conscience, which does not reproach me with having done any evil, if I have not the satisfaction of having done much good. I cannot wish for any thing more than your interest and prosperity. You have evinced your esteem for me; I respect and love you. You raised me, and I watched for your safety. I have not had a thought for these two years, but for you; I beg you will be convinced of the security of my intentions, and the sincerity of my exhortations.

You are free, and you wish to be happy; you can only be happy and free by your submission to the laws; every breach of the law is an encroachment on your liberty. You are reminded of despotism; it is done away. You have a beloved King, his right to rule is granted to him by the constitution;—he foremost obeys the law when he executes it. You have magistrates chosen by yourselves;—they are chosen but for a time, and are responsible. You have administrative bodies who watch over the proceedings of each other, and over those of the legislature, the organ of the law, the focus from which the rays of justice diverge. Oppressors have no longer means to oppress; the oppressed shall always be heard, or rather oppression can no longer exist. Let us then banish distrust; suppress the disturbances which assemblies and mobs of motion-makers* occasion; all these irregularities strike the minds of peaceable citizens with terror, they drive away the opulent, depopulate the capital, encrease the misery: And by restoring peace and good order, let us by wisdom finish a revolution begun with courage.

This, Sir, is what I should wish to say to my fellow-citizens: These are the truths and principles by which you and the battalion you command have been led. You are at liberty to publish this letter in any manner you may think proper.

(Signed) Mayor of Paris, BAILLY.

[* These are men from the party called ENRAGES, or mad Democrats, who would be better pleased with no government at all than any—who have nothing to lose, and may gain much, if the kingdom could be thrown into a state of anarchy. These men, chiefly paid by the Enrages, harangue the people in the streets and public squares, and then make motions of a nature to create disorder and disturbance, which they always carry, by acclamation from the mob, and these seditious opinions, collected in this vague and tumultuous manner, they then spread abroad as the sentiments of the body of the people.]

A Letter from the Provincial Assembly of the North of St. Domingo, to the King of the French.

SIRE,
YOUR children, your faithful colonists of St. Domingo, offer at the foot of the throne, their just complaints, and deposit in your paternal breast, their fears and their alarms. The province of the North of St. Domingo has, until this moment, discovered the most respectful submission to the decrees concerning the colonies, made by the legislative body, and sanctioned by your Majesty; and this submission has entitled them to the most flattering applause from the nation in general. We have relied on the reiterated promises comprehended in the decrees of the 8th and 28th of March, and 12th of October, 1790, to pass no decree upon the subject of qualification of persons, but what should be precisely and formally represented by the colonies; but a new decree of the 15th of May, which can be but the result of surprise, of cabal and intrigue, causes all our hopes to vanish, and plunges us in the greatest consternation. This decree, which is absolutely contradictory to those which have preceded it says, "The National Assembly decrees, that it will never deliberate upon the qualities of the colored people who are not born of free parents, without the previous, free and spontaneous wish and desire of the colonies: that the Colonial Assemblies now existing shall be continued; but that the colored people born of free parents shall be admitted into the Parishes and Colonial Assemblies; provided always, that they possess the other requisite qualifications."*

We shall not attempt to paint to your Majesty the shocking sensations the news this impolitic decree has caused in this town; and the misfortunes that will follow its promulgation are unaccountable; they will be such as will draw after them the total annihilation of this flourishing colony.

The prosperity of your kingdom, Sire, is essentially connected with that of the colonies which form a part of it, and these cannot flourish except they maintain the strictest subordination among those employed in the different kinds of

* As to property, equal to the payment of three livres (or 3/4) taxes.

culture: this subordination will cease to exist, the instant the line marked out which separates the whites from the colored people shall be broken through, and both placed upon the same line of equality.

The order established in the colonies, functioning certain prejudices, is by no means originated by pride, as those pretended philosophers who call themselves the Apostles of Humanity suppose; it is dictated by the extreme necessity which will never admit the colored people, the offspring of former slaves, to be entitled to the same privileges with the whites, and be comprehended without distinction with them. If this indispensable order of the colonies is annihilated, the ruin of them must inevitably ensue.

This, Sire, is what the legislative bodies had in their wisdom particularly attended to, when forming their decrees of the 8th and 28th of March, and 12th of October, 1790; the colonists according to those decrees were left to make their formal representations concerning the qualifications of persons, because it was judged impossible to do ample justice without such representation; the infraction and violation of these principles of justice and equity, the result of the new decree of the 15th May, become the source of the greatest ills.

It is in calumniating us that these Philanthropists have propagated their doctrine; they represent us to those who are unacquainted with the colonies as the murderers of our slaves and the tyrants of the colored free people. Humanity and our interest induce us to preserve the former, and the latter are upon the footing of white citizens under the immediate protection of the law which renders their persons and properties secure.

Cast, Sire, a kind look over your colonies, and you will see them peopled with Frenchmen who tenderly love you, and who are entitled by every claim to your affection. Condescend to receive in a favorable manner their just complaints. If it is not too late, prevent the calamities with which we are threatened, and refuse your assent to an act so big with mischief; and if it is already sanctioned, interpose your authority and stop its promulgation.

We are, Sire, with respect for your Majesty, the most humble and faithful French colonists of St. Domingo.

(Signed) GRENIER, President.
PETIT DESCHAMPEAUX, Vice-President.
BOUYSSON,
POULET,
FRANCOIS DE CHAUMONT, } Secretaries.

L I S B O N, May 14.

WE have received an affecting account from our Squadron which sailed from this port the latter end of last month. Don Joseph Mello Brayner was giving his orders to the captain of the Minerva frigate in the bay of Lagos, on the 29th of April, when a sudden squall broke the cordage of a yard, which fell on the breast of the admiral, who died a few hours afterwards. By his death our navy loses an experienced officer, and a man who is universally regretted.

V I E N N A, June 4.

The Turks have thrown a bridge of boats over the Danube near Silistria, and mean to pass the river, notwithstanding the representations that have been made to them. They have already passed horses once into the opposite meadows to the number of five or six thousand, and have even erected tents there.

This proceeding of the Turks gives cause for reflection, and as it is by no means conformable to the terms of the Armistice, which will expire in a few days; we shall soon see what steps they will take when the use of the meadows is refused them.

Our Bishop Filaret has just received certain advices, that the Russians are in motion near Silistria, with an intention, as is supposed, of destroying the bridge of boats which the Turks have constructed there.

Extract of a letter from Constantinople.

"We have been for these six weeks past in the most cruel alarms—fires exist night and day, both in the city and suburbs; neither the strength nor activity of the government has been able to put a stop to this calamity, which will destroy all the habitations. From what we observe with our