

House, without discovering either that they had been made by the authority or with the knowledge of the President; or had been required for, or applied to the purchase of the public debt; or had been ever communicated to the trustees of the sinking fund, who had the direction of such purchases; or that they were the effect of any necessity that could justify them.

And if there was no evident necessity for the proceeding, it was the more to be lamented, that whilst we were every where sympathizing with our allies, in their arduous struggles for liberty, and echoing from every part of the union, our congratulations, and good wishes, the pecuniary succours, so critically necessary to their cause, and the most substantial proof of the sincerity of our professions, should be silently withdrawn across the Atlantic, from the object for which they were intended; succours too, which were not merely a tribute of gratitude, of generosity, or of benevolent zeal for the triumph of liberty; but a debt moreover of strict and positive obligation, for value acknowledged and received. In contemplating the subject in this point of view, he felt a pain which he could not easily express; and to which he persuaded himself, the breast of no other member could be a stranger.

Laying aside however all these unfavorable considerations, the important question still remained, why the legislature had been informed of the monies so unexpectedly drawn into the bank, and to so very great an amount. If the drafts had received every requisite sanction—if they had been produced by the most justifiable causes, the existence of 1,220,476 dollars in a situation so different from what had been contemplated, was a fact, which the representatives of the people had a right to know; which it was important to them, and their constituents, that they should know; and which it was the indispensable duty of the officer charged with it, to have made known.

This omission was the more remarkable, when considered in relation to the measure above mentioned, of paying off at once the whole sum of 2,000,000 dollars, payable to the bank by instalments in ten years. A bill for this purpose had been introduced, and was on its passage. The object of it had been patronized by a report of the Secretary not long since made. In one of his last reports, he expressly states among the inducements to such extensive drafts of money from Europe, that they were made "with an eye to placing within the reach of the legislature"—the means requisite for this object. Was it not extraordinary; was it not unaccountable, that so important a measure should be recommended, and be actually introduced, and that money otherwise appropriated in Europe, should be transferred to this country and deposited in the bank, in order that it might be within the reach of being applied by the legislature, to that measure; and yet that no disclosure should be made to the legislature of the fact, that the money was so drawn and lay at the bank within their reach to be applied.

If any thing could heighten astonishment on this occasion, it must be the reason assigned by the Secretary for any obscurity that might have hung over our finances,—"that till the last resolutions, no call had been made on the department, which rendered it proper to exhibit a general view of the public monies and funds, or to shew the amount and situation of such as were unapplied." Mr. Madison would not decide that the Legislature was free from blame, in not using more full and efficacious means of obtaining such information, as would have removed all obscurity. But whatever degree of blame might fall on them, it never could be admitted, that their calls on the department had furnished no proper occasion for exhibiting a full view of the public finances. He referred generally to the various resolutions, which, without the least force of construction, would have extended to every proper article of information. He reminded the committee of the latitude of reports under certain other orders of the house; and asked whether less freedom of construction was to be allowed when information was to be given, than when power or discretion was to be exercised? But independently of this view of the matter, Mr. M. held it to be clear and palpable, that the very situation of the money, afforded an occasion which rendered it proper, that the House should be informed of it. If a liberty could be taken, of removing money from Europe where it stood appropriated by law, to this country, where there was no legal object that required it, and with an eye, as was stated, to an object to which no money was applicable, without the authority of the Legislature, how could it possibly be supposed improper to take the further liberty of communicating what was done, to the Legislature?

He concluded with recurring to the particular form, in which the subject presented itself to the committee, and repeating, that whatever quality might be attached to the facts charged, or however improper it might be thought by some, to proceed in haste to any affirmative decision on them, it appeared irreconcilable with the evidence which had been produced, to decide, by a negative vote, against the truth of the facts.

(Debate to be continued.)

For the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES.

MR. FENNO.

CONSIDERING M. Dupont's speech in the National Convention of France, as a sample of that philosophy which prevails too generally among the men of science, who are the principal conductors of the present revolution in that country, it shews us that philosophy is susceptible of fanaticism, as well as religion. These philosophical fanatics are zealously engaged in preaching a system of equality which, without an entire regeneration of human nature, (to adopt a phrase they are so fond of stealing from the pulpit) could never be maintained—that is, unless all men were perfectly wise and perfectly good—and unless they could be persuaded to labour for the public, without either the natural rewards of industry, or the motives of piety.—They are engaged with equal zeal in destroying all systems of public religion, and seem not to be aware how deeply a tendency to religion is implanted in the human heart. The great body of the people, if they are not well instructed in rational principles of virtue and piety, recommended by the solemnity of religious forms, and sanctioned as they believe by the authority of Heaven, will be perpetually liable, from that tendency, to superstition or enthusiasm.—In the absence of religious forms, they are most prone to enthusiasm.—And when once the phrenzy becomes general, no man can pretend to limit its excesses, or to say what direction accident may give it.—Tranquillity is destroyed, order is overturned, and that wretched philosophy, that laid the foundation of the evil, will itself be among the first objects of its fury. The bad and the good are equally swept away before this dreadful conflagration. That it has been sufficient to provoke its vengeance.—It is the spirit of fanaticism to make all things new, and to annihilate, if possible, every vestige of former manners, institutions, and opinions. Such is the tendency likewise of that philosophical fanaticism that now infects many of the leaders of the French nation.—And, by attempting to destroy religion, they are, without intending it, preparing the way for a religious phrenzy in some future time to spring up, that will be equally terrible and ruinous in its effects. The human mind will rush with violence from the one extreme to the other.

These reflexions deserve the consideration of those few men of science and influence in this country, who are aping the language of France on the subject of equality, and who, though they are not atheists like Dupont, seem to be inspired with a similar antipathy, to religious institutions.

March 22, 1793.

Foreign Affairs.

LEGHORN, Dec. 19.

WE have further accounts of the departure of the French fleet from the bay of Speccia; ten of them are gone to Toulon, where there are said to be sixty transports, with 15,000 troops on board, waiting for them to convoy. Eleven other French ships of war, with some bomb ketches, are gone to Corsica, to take in 4,000 men. After this the fleet will unite again, and, it is said, will sail to Sardinia.

Admiral Truguet has declared that, as Tuscany has observed a very strict neutrality, it shall not be molested.

HAGUE, January 10.

The States General have published a placat forbidding any men, either as soldiers or sailors from being enlisted here for any foreign service whatever.

The States General have appointed Wednesday, the 13th of February to be appointed as a day of general fasting and prayer, according to annual custom.

LONDON, Jan. 16.

Dumourier, like his predecessors, Fayette and Luckner, has returned to Paris with complaints from the army.—Like Fayette and Luckner, that step may lead to his ruin; for, like them, he will in all probability discover that there is less danger and difficulty in battle, than in proposing to an Assembly of madmen, decency of public conduct, and the adoption of prudential measures.

The industrious tradesmen and laborious poor of this kingdom have great reason to detest those admirers of the French Revolution, for inviting them to assist in a revolution here, and thereby defeating the grand plan for increasing our national strength, by applying the annual surplus of revenue to the reduction of taxes and national debt, and oblige us to employ that and millions more in a fruitless war.

The French Ambassador is supposed to have had his last interview with Ministry on Sunday.

JANUARY 21.

The approaching war with France will unquestionably be the most popular in which this country has ever been involved.—We have justice and expediency on our side, and the call of Europe to step forward and check the career of blood hounds.

A more specious, shuffling, unsatisfactory composition, than the answer of the Provisional Executive

Council of France to the official notice of Lord Grenville, delivered to Mons. Chauvelin, can hardly be imagined. The attempt to explain away the decree of the National Convention, by which they hold out invitations to the seditions of all countries, is futile in the extreme, and the subsequent affirmation, that the opening the Scheldt is a matter "absolutely indifferent to England, and as little interesting to Holland," is an impudent and insulting presumption to judge for both countries. Nor is this all: for while the French Republic thus means to "establish itself as an universal arbiter of the treaties which bind nations," it proceeds to declare that it will support the opening of the Scheldt till the Belgic shall be a free and unshackled State—that is, in other words, as long as the French republic shall please. Such language would not have been borne by our hardy ancestors, and we trust Britons will exhibit an hereditary zeal for national honor.

A letter, said to come from an officer in commodore Murray's squadron, mentions that the commodore being joined by two Dutch frigates, and having taken on board pilots at Flushing, he entered the Scheldt on Thursday last. The commodore boarded one of the French frigates lying in the Scheldt, which the crew had abandoned on his approach. A small vessel under French colours, on Tuesday, attempting to sail up the Scheldt, was fired at by the Dutch, and sunk.

A most elegant dinner was on Friday given by the Lord Mayor to a large party of friends, in honor of her Majesty's birth day.

The spirit of loyalty gave a zest to the luxuriance of the entertainment, which was highly expressive of that liberality which distinguishes his Lordship, and the following toasts and sentiments were drank unanimously:

The King; may he reign long and happy.

The Queen, and a long happy life to her.

The Prince of Wales and Royal Family.

Mr. Pitt, &c. &c.

The Constitution of Great Britain, as established by law, and may it flourish and endure while time shall last.

The City of London, and may the spirit of her Citizens preserve her freedom and protect her commerce.

Of the songs, there were several sung in a superior style, and "God save the King!" was given with much effect, by three voices, and the whole company united in the chorus.

FRANCE.

NATIONAL CONVENTION.

TUESDAY, January 8.

It was decreed that for the future the process verbal shall contain a recital of all the tumultuous scenes in the Convention.

New complaints were made by the Commissioners stationed at Brussels, of the scarcity of forage and provisions in the army of the republic. A new organization of the War-Office, which removes all responsibility from the War Minister, was the consequence of this complaint.

The Minister Pache stated, that the Gendarmes quitted their colours in numbers, which ought to excite an alarm. "If we do not," said he, "put a stop to this calamity, how are we to combat our numerous enemies in the spring? I demand that they may be considered as deserters."

Referred to the war Committee.

The Decree of the 15th of December, which respects the Belgic Provinces, was next discussed.

"The Priests of Belgia" said Cambon, "the priests alone oppose this decree, because it puts us in possession of eight hundred Abbeys belonging to the Maureds of Belgia, and of lands which are to us the Land of Promise. Why should we delay the confiscation of this Church property? I demand that Commissioners may be immediately sent to seize on it." (This proposition

came too home to the feelings of the convention, not to be adopted.)

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 16.

It having been decreed by the Provisional Executive Council, that the theatres shall be open during the time employed in passing sentence on Louis Capet, suppressing, however, such pieces as have lately occasioned tumult, a violent debate ensued in the Convention. The conduct of the executive council was censured.

A member complained that the municipal officers had been insulted at the theatre the day before. Order of the day.

Lacroix returned from the army of the Rhine, stated the deplorable situation of the soldiery—without arms, without cloaths, whole companies reduced to three men each, and whole battalions to sixty.

Roland stated, that multitudes fled from the metropolis. It was not surprising, he said, as new proscriptions were on foot. The Federates had demanded that the gates should be shut.

Garnier de Saintes, for calling Cambon a villain, was ordered to the Abbaye for three days. A most violent tumult prevailed in the convention. The sentence of the member was changed to 24 hours confinement at home.

It was announced, that the barriers of Paris were shut. Several conspiracies and plots were also announced.

At six in the evening announced the question,

What punishment shall be applied to the crimes of which Louis XVI. late King of the French, is declared convicted?

The Secretary ascended the Tribunal.

At three in the morning, about a fourth of the voices were collected—the majority were for death.

A member conceived, that the public safety required this punishment, should it be pronounced, to be commuted.

Genfonnie moved, that the authors of the crimes of the 2d of September, should be pursued by the ministers of justice.

BRUSSELS, Jan. 14.

Two revolutions have not yet been able to enlighten the Brabanters. The ministers of Austria, the intriguers of Prussia, and the emissaries of Holland, have sported both with the sincerity and energy of this people. They have been deceived by the States and betrayed by those very men who first raised the standard of insurrection. Different parties and factions have in turns excited their passions or strengthened their prejudices, and after sowing division among the citizens, have either through avarice or ambition sold them to the House of Austria. The bishops, monks, nobility, and administrators of the House of Austria are those who now direct the motions of that people who spoke so much of liberty, and who have struggled so much in the noble cause. It is not possible to believe that the Brabanters, if left to themselves, would bawl out so loudly for their constitution, their whole constitution and nothing but their constitution. No. These people are deceived and misled.—What can we think of the nomination of an electoral body, who curse the presence of the French, insult their principles, and reject with loud clamour the oath of equality? One cannot read, without indignation, the result of the primary assemblies, in which the following declaration was proposed to be made in the free city of Brussels at the time of the elections.

DECLARATION.

Glory to God, and peace and good will to all men.

I. That the inhabitants of the free city of Brussels will courageously maintain the Catholic, Apostolic, and Romish religion.

II. That they will acknowledge and have no other supreme judge than the council of Brabant.

III. That they acknowledge and will have no other representatives of the people of Brabant than the Three Estates.