

FRANCE. NATIONAL CONVENTION. FRIDAY, February 1. REPORT OF BRISSOT ON THE CONDUCT OF ENGLAND towards FRANCE.

THE Court of England wishes for War—the hope cherished by those who regard with horror a war between two free nations, is now no more—the hostile views of the Court of London are at last discovered. A perfidious mask of neutrality still covered them. Your republican firmness has caused that mask to fall off.

GEORGE has debauched the opinion of the English nation; he has disturbed commerce, he has given orders to parliament; he has menaced the ministers, and upon this coalition, he now declares war against you, because he believes the moment arrived when he may with safety and impunity employ his forces against your liberty; he has declared war against you by ordering your ambassador to depart from England within eight days; he has declared it by publicly testifying marks of sorrow for the fate of the conspirator, whom you had justly condemned to punishment; he has declared it by demanding from parliament, upon the intelligence of his death, a considerable addition of forces by land and sea. To dismiss ignominiously the agent of the republic, and to arm on the intelligence of the death of the traitor, is it not to say to Europe, to the universe, France has condemned Louis as a traitor, and I believe him innocent, I see in France only rebels and sacrilegious persons? France no longer wishes for a king or royalty, and I wish to avenge the king and royalty? Rather may England perish than behold the establishment of the French republic?

Such is the barbarous wish of the King of Great-Britain, if he did not immediately and openly declare war against you, it was because his Ministry did not second with sufficient activity, his orders of vengeance, because his forces were not yet prepared to destroy our commerce, to take from us our colonies, to ravage our country. Undoubtedly if the English people had not allowed themselves to yield to the forcible impulse of the Ministry, they would have considered the offences, with which we are reproached, only as the crimes of individuals; they would have regarded the punishment of Louis as a great act of justice; and, convinced of these truths, would have been of opinion, that to declare war against us, because we do not wish for a king, would be an act of injustice, and a violation of the law of nations, and that we might have continued to have been brothers, though under a different form of government.

Such, without doubt, is the sentiment of a great part of the English, and which would have already displayed itself, if it had not been for the terror of bayonets; but the English nation once enlightened by our example, will at last do justice on its ministers, on its conspirators in place, the larvae of the eternal Trial of Hastings will not be renewed, and scaffolds will once more be of use for the Staffords and Lauds of the government, as well as for private ruffians.

Citizens it would not be proper to dissemble from you the dangers of the new war; we have all the tyrants of Europe to combat by land and sea. All the people alone are our allies; but these people are nothing to you, for they are in chains, and those chains must first be broken. All your means then must depend upon yourselves alone. Your soil, your industry, your courage, must supply what nature and circumstances refuse you.

The trader, forgetting his commerce, must become a warrior, those who have capitals must employ their funds to support our assignats, and supply the want of money, the proprietor of land and labourer, renouncing all speculation, must furnish the means of abundance during the operations of the war, every citizen, like a Roman soldier, must march, not only with his arms, but with provisions for a given time, and thus you will defeat the calculations of your enemies with respect to the emptiness of your magazines. The great family of Frenchmen must compose only one army, and all France must form only one camp, where nothing but War is talked of—where nothing is pursued but War. Above all, you must expect distress, and prepare yourselves for suffering every species of want; shortly indeed, it must be a crime for a citizen to have a change of clothing, if there is one of our brothers who is destitute of covering.

To declare that France is at war with England is likewise to declare war against the Stadholder of Holland. The Stadholder, who is rather the subject than the ally of the court of St. James's, who has been, and still is, a passive instrument in their hands, who, in subservience to all their inclinations, has in the course of the revolution favoured the emigrants and the Prussians, harassed the French, and treated with insolence the French government. I here allude to the circumstances of releasing the persons guilty of forging assignats, arrested in Holland. The Stadholder arms in the mean time to support the war of the Court of London, joins his ships to the English fleet, favours our enemies by putting obstacles in the way of our exportation of grain.

After all these considerations, your committee of general defence has charged me to present to you the plan of the following decree.

DECREE.

The National Convention, after having heard the report of their Committee of General Defence, in the council of the English government.

Considering that the king of England has perfided, especially since the revolution of the 10th of Aug. 1792, to give proofs of his being evil disposed towards the French nation, and of his attachment to the coalition of crowned heads.

That at the period aforesaid, he ordered his ambassador at Paris to withdraw, because he

would not acknowledge the provisional executive council, created by the legislative assembly. That the Cabinet of St. James's had ceased, since the same period, to correspond with the French ambassador at London, on pretext of the suspension of the heretofore king of the French.

That since the opening of the National Convention, it has refused to resume the usual correspondence between the two states, and to acknowledge the powers of this convention.

That it has refused to acknowledge the ambassador of the French republic, altho' provided with letters of credit in its name.

That it has endeavoured to impede the different purchasers of corn, arms and other commodities ordered in England, either by French citizens or the agents of the republic.

That it has caused to be stopped several boats and ships loaded with grain for France, contrary to the treaty of 1786, while exportation to other foreign countries was free.

That in order still more effectually to obstruct the commercial operation of the republic in England, it obtained an act of parliament prohibiting the circulation of assignats.

That in violation of the 4th article of the treaty of 1789, it obtained another act, in the month of January last, which subjects all French citizens residing in or coming into England, to forms the most inquisitorial, vexatious and dangerous.

That at the same time, and contrary to the 1st article of the peace of 1783, it granted protection and pecuniary aid not only to the emigrants, but even to the chiefs of the rebels, who have already fought against France; that it has maintained with them a daily correspondence, directed against the French Revolution; that it has also received the chiefs of the rebels of the French West-India Colonies.

That in the same spirit, without any provocation, and when all the maritime powers are at peace with England, the Cabinet of St. James has ordered a considerable naval armament, and an augmentation of the land forces.

That this argument was ordered at a moment when the British Minister was bitterly persecuting those who supported the principles of the French Revolution in England, and has employing all possible means, both in Parliament and out of it, to cover the French Republic with ignomy, and to draw upon it the execration of the English nation, and of all Europe.

That the object of this armament, intended against France, was not even disguised in the English Parliament.

That although the Provisional Executive Council of France has employed every measure for preserving peace and fraternity with the English nation, and has replied to calumnies and violation of treaties, only by remonstrances founded on the principles of justice, and expressed with the dignity of free men, the English Minister has persevered in his system of malevolence and hostility, continued the armaments, and sent a squadron to the Scheldt, to disturb the operations of the French in Belgium.

That, on the news of the execution of Louis, he carried his outrages to the French Republic to such a length, as to order the Ambassador of France to quit the British territory within eight days.

That the King of England has manifested his attachment to the cause of that traitor, and his design of supporting it by different resolutions adopted at the moment of his death, both by nominating generals of his land army, and by applying to parliament for a considerable addition of land and sea forces, and putting ships of war in commission.

That his secret coalition with the enemies of France, and particularly with the Emperor and Prussia, is confirmed by a treaty concluded with the first in the month of January; that he has drawn into the same coalition the Stadholder of Holland; that that Prince, whose servile obsequiousness to the orders of the courts of St. James and Berlin, is but too well known, has in the course of the French revolution, and notwithstanding the neutrality which he professed, treated with disdain the agents of France, received the emigrants, harassed the French patriots, counteracted their operations, released, in opposition to established usage, and notwithstanding the demand of the French Minister, persons who had been guilty of forging assignats; that in the mean time, with a view to concur in the hostile designs of the court of London, he gave orders for a naval armament, named an Admiral, appointed Dutch ships to join the English fleet, opened a loan to defray the expences of the war, put a stop to exportations to France, while he favoured sending supplies of provision to the Prussian and Austrian magazines.

Considering, in fine, that all these circumstances no longer leave to the French Republic any hope of obtaining, by means of amicable negotiation, the redress of their grievances, and that all the acts of the British court, and of the Stadholder of the United Provinces, are acts of hostility, equivalent to a declaration of war. The National Convention decree as follows:

Article I. The National Convention declares in the name of the French nation, that, considering the multiplied acts of hostility and aggression of the above mentioned nations, THE FRENCH NATION IS AT WAR WITH THE KING OF ENGLAND AND THE STADHOLDER OF THE UNITED PROVINCES.

II. The National Convention charges the Provisional Executive Council to call forth such forces as may appear to them necessary for repelling their aggression, and for maintaining the independence, the dignity and the interests of the French Republic.

III. The National Convention authorises the Provisional Executive Council to dispose of the naval forces of the Republic in such a manner as the interests of the state may appear to them to require; and it revokes all particular dispositions ordered in this respect by preceding decrees.

FAVRE-EGLANTINE moved that an address to the English people might be drawn up to inform them of the real motives which have brought on the war between the two countries; and that the Convention would decree that all English and Dutch merchants, and other individuals who may be travelling in France on business, shall have every protection, provided they conform to the laws of the Republic. Both those propositions were decreed.

TESTAMENT OF LOUIS XVI.

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

Read in the sitting of the Commons, Jan. 21st. Literally translated from a copy received as genuine by the Commons, and certified by a municipal officer to have been collated with the original.

IN the name of the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, this day the 21st of December, 1792, I, Louis the XVI. by name King of France, having been for more than four months imprisoned with my family in the Tower of the Temple at Paris, by those who were my subjects, and deprived of all communication whatsoever, ever since the 11th inst. with my own family; moreover being implicated in a trial of which it is impossible to foresee the issue, on account of the passions of men, and for which no pretext or means can be found in any existing law; having only God for the witness of my thoughts, and to whom I can address myself, I here declare, in his presence, my last will and sentiments:

I leave my soul to God, my creator, I pray him to receive it in mercy, and not to judge it according to its deserts, but according to those of our Lord Jesus Christ, who offered himself a sacrifice to God his Father, for us men, however unworthy, and for me the most unworthy. I die in the union of our mother the Catholic, Apostolic, and Roman Church, who holds her powers by an uninterrupted succession from St. Peter, to whom Jesus Christ entrusted them. I firmly acknowledge and believe every thing contained in the commandments of God and the Church, the sacraments and mysteries, such as the Church teaches, and hath always taught them; I have never pretended to make myself judge of the different modes of explaining the dogmas which divide the Church of Jesus Christ, but I have conformed, and will always conform, if God grants me life, to the decisions which the high Ecclesiastics of the Holy Catholic Church give and shall give, conformably to the discipline of the Church followed since Jesus Christ. I lament with all my heart, our brethren who may be in error, but I pretend not to judge them, and I love them no less in Jesus Christ according to what Christian Charity teaches us; I pray God to pardon me all my sins; I have endeavored to know them scrupulously, to detest them, and to humble myself in his presence. Not being able to avail myself of the ministry of a Catholic Priest, I pray God to receive the confession which I have made, and above all my profound repentance for having put my name (though it was against my will) to acts which may be contrary to the discipline and belief of the Catholic Church, to which I have always remained sincerely united in heart; I pray God to accept of my firm resolution, if he grant me life, to make use as soon as I can of the ministry of a Catholic Priest, to confess myself of all my sins, and to receive the sacrament of repentance; I request all those whom I may have offended through inadvertence, for I do not recollect having knowingly offended any one, or those to whom I may have given bad example or scandal, to forgive me the evil which they think I have done them.

I entreat all charitable persons to join their prayers with mine, to obtain of God the pardon of my sins.

I forgive, with all my heart, those who have made themselves my enemies without my having given them any cause; and I pray God to forgive them, as well as those who, through a false or mistaken zeal, have done me much evil.

I recommend to God, my wife, my children, my sister, my aunts, my brothers, and all those who are attached to me by the ties of blood, or in any other manner whatsoever. I pray God particularly to look with the eyes of mercy on my wife, my children, and my sister, who have long been the partners of my sufferings; to sustain them by his grace, if they should lose me; and as long as they shall remain in this perishable world, I recommend to him, above all, to make them good Christians, and honest members of society; to make them consider the grandeur of this world, if they are condemned to prove them, but as things dangerous and perishable, and to turn their views towards the only and solid glory of eternity. I request my sister to continue her tenderness to my children, and to be a mother to them, if they should have the misfortune to lose their own.

I entreat my wife to forgive me all the evils which she suffers on my account, and the uneasiness which I may have caused her in the course of our union; as she may be assured, that I remember nothing against her, if she thinks she has any thing to reproach herself with.

I earnestly recommend to my children, next to their duty to God, which they ought to prefer to every thing, to maintain mutual union, submission and obedience to their mother, and gratitude for all the cares which she incurs for them, and in memory of me.

I entreat them to consider my sister as a second mother. I recommend to my son, if he should have the misfortune to become King, to think that he owes himself entirely to the good of his fellow-citizens; that he ought to forget all hatred and all resentment, and especially whatever relates to the misfortunes and uneasiness which I experience; that he cannot promote the good of the public but by resigning according to the laws; but, at the same time, that a King cannot make the laws respected, and do the good he wishes, but in proportion as he has the necessary authority; and that, without this, being fettered in his operations, and inspiring no respect, he is more injurious than useful. I recommend to my son to take care of all the persons who were attached to me, as far as his circumstances shall give him the means; to think that this is a sacred debt which I have contracted to the children or relations

of those who have died for me, and next, to those who are unfortunate on my account. I know that there are many persons of those who were attached to me, who have not conducted themselves towards me as they ought, and who have even shewn me ingratitude; but I forgive them (often, in the moments of trouble and effervescence, a man is not master of himself); and I entreat my son, if he should have the opportunity, to remember only their misfortunes. I could wish to be able to testify my gratitude to those who have displayed a true and disinterested attachment to me. On the one hand, if I was sensibly affected by the ingratitude and disloyalty of persons to whom I had never shewn any thing but favour to them, their relations, or friends; on the other, I have had the consolation of seeing the voluntary attachment and interest which many persons have shewn to me. I entreat them to accept of my thanks; in the situation in which things still are, I should be afraid of bringing them into danger, if I were to speak more explicitly; but I recommend particularly to my son to seek all occasions of discovering them.

I should, nevertheless, think that I calumniated the sentiments of the nation, did I not openly recommend to my son M. M. de Chamilly and Huet, whose true attachment to me induced them to shut themselves up with me in this mournful residence, and who were near being the unhappy victims of what they did. I also recommend to him Clerf, with whose attention I have had every reason to be satisfied since he has been with me. As it is he who has remained with me to the last, I request M. M. of the Commune, to deliver to him my clothes, my books, my watch, my purse, and the other little effects which have been deposited at the Council of the Commons.

I also most willingly forgive those who guarded me, the ill treatment and severity which they thought it their duty to make me suffer. I have found some feeling and compassionate souls; may they enjoy the tranquillity of heart, which ought to spring from their manner of thinking!

I entreat M. M. de Malesherbes, Tronchet and Defezze, to receive here my thanks, and the expression of my sensibility, for all the care and all the pain which they took for me.

I conclude by declaring, before God, and ready to appear before him, that I reproach myself with none of the crimes which are alleged to me.

Done, in duplicate, at the Tower of the Temple, December 25, 1792. (Signed Louis) "LOUIS."

(A true Copy) BAUDRAIS, Municipal Officer.

Yesterday arrived here the ships George Barclay, Capt. Collet and Harmony, Capt. Osman from London—also the Adrianna, Capt. Robertson from Liverpool; the Adrianna left Liverpool the 25th February.—It was reported there, that Gen. Dumourier had had a battle with the Austrians and Prussians, and had totally defeated them—in consequence of which the French army had entered Holland; another report is that a body of the Dutch forces had been defeated.—Accounts by the above arrivals state that the British and French cruisers swam on the coasts of France and England—that various captures had been made by the French and English—and that the American flag was unmoored. Capt. Collet met with two British frigates on his passage—by the Captains of which he was treated with the greatest politeness. We do not find that the account of the execution of the Queen of France is confirmed by these arrivals—and conclude it is premature.—The George Barclay has brought a large number of passengers.

Various reports were circulated yesterday, among others—that the American Minister at the Court of London had given that Court assurances of a strict neutrality in the present war between Great-Britain and France, on the part of the United States. Another report is, that a French cruiser had chased a British vessel into Norfolk, Virginia. Time will fix the authenticity or falsehood of the various rumours of the day.

The schooner Fredericksburg Packet, Anderson, arrived here on Monday last from Malaga.

Capt. Anderson put into Gibraltar on the 23d Feb. where he received the following advices:—That the French Republic had declared war against Great-Britain and Holland—that the late Queen of France had been tried and executed at Paris about the 10th of Feb. and that the Algerines had declared war against Holland, Denmark, and Sweden.

Several British ships of war were cruising in the Streights, to protect the English and Dutch ships from the French and Algerine cruisers, and to convoy them into Gibraltar, where 3 Dutch ships had already arrived.

Major Nathan Goodall, of Bellepre, on the Ohio, was lately captured by two Indians.

In the Virginia Centinel of the 11th inst. is published a list of murders and depredations lately committed by the savages in Mero district, from the 18th to the 26th January last, eleven killed and seven wounded—and a considerable number of horses stolen.

SHIP NEWS.

ARRIVED AT THE PORT OF PHILADELPHIA. Brig Active, M'Keever, St. Croix. Schr. Fredericksburg Packet, Anderson, Malaga (and Gibraltar). Sloop Sally, Smith, St. Eustatius. Signet, Starr, Middleton. Nancy, Stiles, Aux. Cays. Oliva and Mary, Petrie, Georgia.

PRICE OF STOCKS.

6 per Cents, 17/6. 3 per Cents, 10/. Deferred, 10/6. Full shares Bank U. S. 9 per cent. prem.