

of Burgundy, in order to be transmitted to the Houses of Austria and Nassau.

A Captain General of the United Provinces, pensioned by the states, is become your master—your tyrant; and thus it is that you have lost all in giving your confidence to one man. Your ancestors saw in your Stadtholder only the first subject of the state; the guardian of your liberties; but even in those goodly times your Prince was none other than a despot. The hereditary chief of a republic is her natural and most formidable enemy.

The first act, therefore, of the French Republic, will be to destroy the ancient government. It is necessary to destroy totally the roots of the Stadtholderate, if you wish to prevent their shooting forth, with new vigor. There is in your annals a solemn edict of adjuration and of independence, which put an end to the tyranny of Philip. You said, "Men were not made for Princes, but Princes for Men;" they out to be cashiered, when, instead of defending them, they become their enemies. Let the people proclaim the declaration of rights, to abolish the Stadtholdership, to recover immense sums which your venal magistrates have, under a thousand pretexts, prodigalized to the house of Nassau, to destroy the ancient aristocracy, to abolish the sale of mankind, practised in the midst of you, in the name of your East-India company, a traffic more infamous than *prossing* in England, to organize a simple and economical government, to modify or to suppress unjust taxes on the first necessities of life, to maintain their immense credit, to which all Europe is associated, to consolidate public faith;—such are the articles of peace and alliance which the French Republic offers to you, such are the benefactions of liberty and equality; such are the conditions which we stipulate for the human race, proclaiming its omnipotency, and asserting its rights.

In fact, what is your Stadtholder?—a Captain General becomes a monarch, a subject grown into a master, a tribune swelled into a tyrant, a pupil, an ally of those Brunswicks, one of whom devours your commerce in India, whilst the other has enslaved your Republic, and dared to pollute your territory. What is your Stadtholder then?—a servile Parasite of the English, who dictate their laws to him, and to you also; a vassal of Prussia, who obeys her bayonets & her intrigues; is it such an authority as this that you would maintain?

Re-trace the honorable pages of your history, and say, if the highest degree of your glory and prosperity does not date from that epocha when you first had a republican administration; say, if it was not that free form of government which excited the envy of foreigners, whetted the hatred of the House of Orange, and lighted up the war of Kings? That epocha, for you will this day be renewed. Courage and virtue will be a better defence for you than a Stadtholder. Liberty, courage, and virtue, such are the true chiefs of Republicans, which can never be fatal or dangerous to them,

To destroy all the vestiges of that hereditary authority, created first by gratitude, and terminated by tyranny, will not be sufficient; liberty cannot permit the hideous traces of feudality, of nobility, or magisterial aristocracy, to dwell amongst you. The liberty of persons is nothing, without the liberty of lands; they must be enfranchised. The peasants are every where the most zealous defenders of republics. The momentary exercise of the revolutionary power cannot alarm the Batavians. How can those who have not been afraid of eternizing the despotism of a Stadtholder, not for a moment confide in a great and free nation, who will but regulate the first emotions of liberty, crush every party that would oppress it, and render abhorred the birth of anarchy. You will not listen to the calumnies of your enemies; they know that it is the intention of France neither to domineer over,

or enslave any nation, but to restore its sovereignty to it. Revolutions, to be productive of good, ought well to be organized, and we bring to you but the fruits of our experience. To every revolution a provisional power is necessary, which may well temper the excess of zeal and of personal interest, and stop the rapidity of the disorganization of the ancient order of things, replace for a short time eclipsed authority, and check the devastations of anarchy.

Commercial jealousy is one of the scourges of earth, and we will destroy it.—Listen to your brave ancestors, you, the proud fellow countrymen of Ruyter, cease to bow under the yoke of a foreign power, or under the weight of domestic oppression. The detestation of slavery ought to ferment in every Batavian heart. For you to enjoy the advantages of civil liberty, is not sufficient; for it cannot be secure without political liberty also.—Seize this epocha, when a great people is proclaiming the Rights of Man, and of nations—and learn to unite yourselves to your brethren, that you may seize again possession of your rights.

Slavery has ages of duration, liberty offers but moments of opportunity. Break, henceforth, that impious alliance, formed with the families of tyrants.—The shout of liberty has harrowed up their souls. To arms, generous Batavians! those who shall spill their blood and expend their treasures, will be true creatures of your independence.—Unite yourselves to France in the combat of despotism; the Republic will defend your liberty like her own, and will never lay down her arms until it shall be confirmed. There is a holy coalition between all nations worthy of liberty, until every species of royalty shall be abolished by the unanimous consent of the human race.

MARCH 24.

The commissaries in Belgia have sent to the Convention 3 decrees, the first of which orders General Miranda to present himself immediately to the Convention, to give an account of his conduct—and they have directed Dumourier to take the proper steps on the occasion—by the second decree, they have considered the army of Louvain as under a disorganization, through the means of some disaffected persons. The army in general requires, that penal laws shall be passed, and the commissaries sent citizen Danton to Paris to solicit the Convention on this subject—by the third decree they have sent to Paris, and have suspended the colonel of the 73d regiment of infantry, who for several days was ordering the volunteers and sundry battalions of the army, to disperse from the main body, contrary to the directions of Gen. Dumourier.

The Convention has confirmed the said three decrees, and ordered Miranda and the said colonel to be brought to their bar.

The minister of war has sent to suppress the insurgents who infest the department of Mayenne and Loire, 22 battalions of infantry, 2 regiments of cavalry, 15 general officers, and 53 pieces of ordnance. These are instructed not to answer to the conspirators in any other way than by the fire of their guns, and not quit their posts until they have exterminated them.

Three administrative bodies of Nantz, inform, that for ten days past the country was oppressed with insurgents. The city of Nantz alone has been preserved. These insurgents were in number near 4000, and covered a space of three leagues near the environs of Nantz.

A letter from the commandant of the national guards at Nantz, was since received and read in the Convention, which mentions, that the insurgents had been pursued, and their chief was killed with many others, so that the whole body was dispersed.

A M E R I C A.

STAUNTON (Virginia) April 20. Extract of a letter from a gentleman of this State, to his friend in Knoxville, dated March 14.

"It with no small degree of concern, that I hear of dissensions taking place among you, and a spirit of opposition to the government. It may be said that self preservation is the first law of nature; that you cannot with folded arms stand still and see your friends and neighbours taken off by degrees, by the faithless savages, without endeavoring to retaliate. Let me ask, if you can in a mopish way effectually chastise your enemies, or by that means bring about a peace. Every man, on cool reflection, must answer in the negative. Then why such unadvised attempts; and why not wait the issue of the measures of the general government. Congress is not inattentive; the executive of the United States, and of some of the individual States, are anxiously solicitous about the western frontier. Great plans cannot be matured in an hour, nor in a few days. Have patience, my countrymen, and we shall soon see, if we

act like good citizens of a great republic, that things will be better ordered than if our narrow schemes had taken place. In the mean time be well prepared, and act upon the defensive with vigor; never be off your guard—always be ready to repel force with double blows. If, like Lions robbed of their young, you had turned out and cut off Watts and his party, on their retreat, you would have achieved something worthy of brave and experienced men. Had Captain Handley's men stood by him and fought, victory would have been certain. All your other misfortunes have proceeded in a great degree, from a fatal self-security. Look back my countrymen on your own conduct; be ready to blame where amiss—stand ready at the call of legal authority, to turn out, and do your part in defence of your fellow-citizens—scorn the base plan of hiring substitutes—do your own proportion of service; it will make you a band of patriots and heroes, and secure the lasting prosperity and happiness of your country.

"One word more—This I can assure you, and all our friends over French-Broad, that acts of violence, contrary to public authority, will be prejudicial to them in having the land office opened on an unfavorable footing to their views and interests."

PETERSBURGH, (Vir.) May 3.

By Capt. Morris of the ship Blandford, arrived at Bermuda Hundred from Glasgow, which place he left the 25th of March, we learn—That orders have been sent to the Governors of the several counties of the kingdom of Ireland, to seize the ordnance belonging to any military association within their districts, Government having deemed it expedient, as the standing army in Ireland is adequate to its defence, that armed bodies, not of the appointment, or under the controul of his Majesty, shall no where be suffered to appear in force.—That on the 12th of March, in the British House of Commons, on motion of the Attorney-General, leave was given to bring in a bill on the subject of a traitorous correspondence with France, in which it was proposed to make it high treason to sell, deliver, or cause to be delivered, to the persons at present exercising the sovereign authority of France, their armies, navies, or subjects, any naval or military stores, coin, bullion, corn, clothing, or other necessaries; as also for any British subject to purchase lands in France, or stock in the French funds, or to lend money upon lands in France, by way of mortgage.

S A L E M, May 7.

By Capt. Byrne, from Martinique, we learn, that that island is still unhappy from its internal dissensions. The Planters continue their attachment to the ancient government, and oppose by force the Patriots. On the 15th of April, a company of Whites, and another of Blacks, were sent by the Aristocrats to a place near Fort Royal, where they intercepted a boat, and took prisoners three Patriots of note; they also seized and carried off a considerable quantity of ammunition. In consequence of this provocation, two columns marched from Fort Royal on the 16th, under Gen. Rochambeau and M. de St. Cyran, with a grasshopper in each column. At 9 o'clock the General's column attacked, and a skirmish of two hours ensued: they dislodged the Aristocrats from their out posts, and took their second in command prisoner. On the return of the patriots, M. de St. Cyran was shot dead by one of his own detachment, who alleged that he was an Aristocrat. Twelve of Gen. Rochambeau's men were wounded in the skirmish with the Aristocrats, 3 of whom died before Capt. Byrne failed, which was on the 17th.

There is no regular force at Martinique:—The Patriots do 15 days duty in turns, and with much cheerfulness and alacrity; being determined to defend the island against any attack; though should the English make one, a diversion would be made in their favor by the Aristocrats, who wish, and probably have solicited, their protection.

The Committee of Safety at St. Pierre is constituted upon true equality principles, consisting of White, Mulatto and Black members.

N E W-Y O R K, May 11.

The brig Commerce, capt. Shurtliff, arrived here this forenoon, in 35 days from Amsterdam; but has brought no

newspapers, nor any news of moments later than we have already had.

We learn by the captain and passengers, that in several severe battles the French and Austrians have lost great numbers of men: that it was reported the French were on the retreat, and that they had given up, or was expected they would give up the several conquests they had made in Brabant; and that it would be difficult to make their retreat good, on account of the vast numbers of enemies Dumourier had to contend with. Our informant says, that Valence was not killed, as was reported, but was supposed to be gone to Paris.

They report also, that in Amsterdam, they are puzzled much by the various contradictory reports they hear from day to day; that it was impossible to learn, with any degree of precision, which of the armies had suffered most in the several engagements; but it was generally tho't, by what they heard, that the French had suffered much, as it was believed they were on the retreat.

B O S T O N, March 8.

Yesterday arrived the ship Charlotte, Capt. Mackay, from London. By this ship our attentive London correspondent has continued his communication of papers, &c. to the 3d of April, inclusive. Extracts therefrom follow.

H A G U E, March 22.

Official intelligence of the battle of the 18th is published. Both sides suffered much. The loss of the combined forces 1000 killed, 3000 wounded. The French in killed, wounded and missing, lost 7000 men, 32 pieces light artillery. The capture of the artillery is of little consequence, except as evidence of victory.

In the action of the 18th 120,000 men were at times engaged.

Gen. Valence was not killed, but badly wounded in the head, in the battle of the 18th. He was carried to Brussels.

C O U N T E R R E V O L U T I O N I N F R A N C E.

The entire stoppage of communication with France, which has just taken place, necessarily deprives us of intelligence from that quarter. To what circumstance this sudden resolution of the French rulers is to be attributed, we cannot say. It is, however, probable, that the interruption of a communication so evidently advantageous to themselves, has been occasioned by some circumstances of a domestic nature, the knowledge of which they were desirous of withholding from us as long as possible. We know that in Brittany a very formidable insurrection has taken place, which was well conducted, and appeared very likely to spread into other provinces of that unhappy kingdom. This may have occasioned a considerable ferment at Paris, and have produced in addition to the deplorable intelligence received from the Netherlands and the banks of the Rhine, a fresh effervescence and new scenes of desolation and massacre.

L E Y D E N, March 26.

We are informed by advices from Heusden, that on the 22d inst. between 11 and 12 at night, a detachment of the Swiss regt. of Gumoens took by assault the strong battery which the French had established at Raansdenk near Getruydenberg. The French abandoned all their artillery and warlike ammunition, and had not even time to spike up their cannon. This success will doubtless facilitate the attack against Getruydenberg, which is said to have been invested on the 23d by the Prussians and Dutch troops united.

O S T E N D, March 30.

The French troops left this town for Dunkirk about three o'clock this afternoon, and at four, one of his Britannic majesty's cutters entered the port. Most of the prizes had failed before the cutter arrived; the others, which were to have failed this day, are stopped. Three English brigs are still here, under the care of the British consul.

H A G U E, March 28.

A letter was this day received from Captain Bentinck dated yesterday, at Bois le Duc, containing intelligence from Antwerp and Maestricht that the advanced guard of the Austrian army entered Brussels on the 20th at noon: That the French was poised at Halle: That the