

to declare the disposition of the United States to observe a neutrality between the belligerent powers; to exhort and warn all the citizens against any acts contravening such disposition; to inform them that if by any violation of the neutrality any citizen should render himself liable to any punishment or forfeiture under the law of nations, the United States would afford him no protection against such punishment or forfeiture; and that instructions had been given to the proper officers to cause prosecutions to be instituted against all persons who should violate the cognizance of the courts of the United States, violate the Law of Nations with respect to the powers at war or any of them. This Proclamation has received the most general and warm approbation, which has been expressed in the fullest manner not only by individuals, but by the high public authorities in our country. It has never before been the subject of admiration by some persons, who appear to have had very little regard to the principles upon which it was founded, and the justice which at that time, I conceive, rendered it indispensable. It is the duty of the President as the supreme executive of the United States to do every thing in his power to support the execution of the laws, and to maintain peace until Congress think proper to declare war. No one needs to be informed that a Proclamation cannot change the law: the days of such folly are past, but every one knows that in all countries there are critical occasions when it is essential for individuals to be reminded of their duty, and that special directions should be given or carrying on prosecutions in the public prosperity is more than partially interested. No occasion for such a measure ever existed more critical than the present. The situation in which we are placed was new, and required particular reflection even in the best informed before it was thoroughly understood. There was every appearance of its engaging the passions, not only of the great number of individuals whose violations of neutrality had been committed: more alarming than in contemplation. Had the President under these circumstances been silent, the whole country would have been in a flame, and foreign powers would have suspected that government was either ignorant about preserving a neutrality, or that the pretence of it meant to countenance partial hostilities, which would be the most justifiable, tho' on the part of the aggressor one of the most dishonourable causes of war. Happily for the safety, neither negligence nor a want of the purest integrity was ever imputable to the high character invested with this important trust; and he has accordingly conducted himself in one of the most correct situations in which any man was ever placed, in a manner calculated, not only to secure an addition if possible to his former fame, but to support with new lustre the dignity and independence of his country.

Notwithstanding the defensive measures which Congress have in contemplation to pursue, in consequence of aggressions we had little reason to expect, after the uniform integrity which our government hath so strongly and unequivocally shewn, yet until the contrary be clearly warranted by some high authority it is the duty of each individual to conform his conduct to the same principles of neutrality as before, since the fatal die of war or peace is not yet irrevocably cast, and God forbid that the rashness of any individual should in any manner aggravate the subsisting difficulties of his country: let us therefore consider, as well for the sake of the future as the past, what those duties consist, which can only be ascertained by consulting the law of nations, a law of so much moment to the peace and happiness of mankind if sacredly regarded, but which too frequently is made the sport of the worst passions of human nature: the nature of this law (it appearing in general not to be well understood) I beg leave to state to you, before I point out the duties of neutrality which it inculcates.

In all cases which affect the rights of independent sovereignties, who have no common superior, the only way to ascertain the duties which one nation owes to another, is to enquire what reason dictates, that attribute which the Almighty has bestowed upon all mankind for the ultimate guide and director of their conduct. As among individuals in a rude state of society, before any form of government is established, there are certain rational principles by which each man is bound to regulate his conduct to his fellow-creature man. So among different nations, which have no superior human authority to decide their differences, they can only be determined by the principles of reason in which all mankind, when their minds are not debated by ignorance, or corrupted by vices, generally agree. In this, however, as in all other cases, mankind acquire information without an effort. Providence has given us faculties of mind to acquire knowledge, as well as faculties of body to undergo the necessary labour for the purposes of human life, but intending man for an active being and to attain all human advantages by means of his own industry, some degree of application is necessary to discover the dictates of reason, even in the commonest instances which lie within her province, until habit has rendered them familiar. It is the more necessary, because as man has a variety of duties to perform, it is requisite in order to discover them in all their relations, to examine and compare one duty with another, and see in case of a competition, which is the superior, and which the subordinate duty, that we may make the latter give way to the former. Thus there is a duty to a man's self, which in case of a competition ought to give way to the duty which he owes to his family; and his duty to his family, in all instances where they are incom-

owes to his country. But though the discovery of these duties in all their perfection may be a work which requires great thought and sagacity, the ordinary duties of human life are sufficiently obvious; and even those the occasions for which are more rare may easily be comprehended when the reasons of them are clearly stated and defined. To discover the elementary principles of Arithmetic required a great genius, but to understand them when proposed and explained, the dullest mind, if capable of comprehension at all, is perfectly equal. We have the happiness to live in an age when human knowledge in all its branches has been carried to a great perfection. The Law of Nations, by which alone all controversies between nation and nation can be determined, has been cultivated with extraordinary success. In its main principles, as stated by many able writers all civilized nations concur. Those that are really questionable are neither many nor important. Within these few years this law has not only been stated with peculiar accuracy and conciseness, but all its principles have been traced to their source with a power of reasoning which has commanded universal assent, and with a spirit of freedom and an enlarged liberality of mind entirely suited to the high improvements the present age has made in all kinds of political reasoning.

(To be Continued.)

For the Gazette of the United States

Mr. FENNO,  
Your Lancaster correspondent appears much displeas'd that you should not have defined the terms Democracy and Aristocracy—and therefore, undertakes to forward to you, not only the precise ideas meant by the word, but also the Greek words from whence they spring—but we cannot but blush at his using a Greek word never before seen, to be translated government, to wit, ἀριστοκρατία; & also perverting the meaning of the Greek word ἄριστος ἄριστος in order to correspond with his wit. Should the Citizen present you with any more witticisms, we have only to beg that he may not attempt definitions above his reach—and by this means do more injury than benefit.

\* For Κρατος—κρατος. † Nobles.

CONGRESS.  
IN SENATE,

Friday, May 23.  
(Concluded.)

A message in writing, was received from the President of the United States, by Mr. Dandridge his Secretary:

United States, 23d May, 1794.  
Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives,

I lay before you the copy of a letter from the minister plenipotentiary of his Britannic majesty, in answer to a letter from the Secretary of State communicated to Congress yesterday; and also the copy of a letter from the Secretary, which is referred to, in the above mentioned letter of the minister.  
G. WASHINGTON.

The message and papers were read.  
Ordered, that the message and papers therein referred to together with the communications referred to in the message of the President of the United States of the 21st instant be printed for the use of the Senate.

The Vice President laid before the Senate a letter signed Arthur St. Clair, respecting the loss of certain horses in the public service.

Ordered, that this letter be referred to the committee to whom was yesterday referred the bill, entitled, "An act to compensate Arthur St. Clair."

On request,  
Ordered, that the Vice-President be excused from attendance in Senate after Friday next.

The bill, sent from the House of Representatives for concurrence, entitled, "An act laying additional duties on goods, wares and merchandise imported into the United States, and on the tonnage of ships or vessels," was read the third time.

On motion to restore the 4th Section amended as follows:

"And be it further enacted, That upon all ships or vessels of the United States, there shall be levied and paid after the last day of June next, a duty of six cents per ton, in addition to the duty now chargeable by law, and upon all ships or vessels belonging wholly, or in part, to the subjects or citizens of any foreign power, which, after the said last day of June next, shall be entered in the United States, from any foreign port or place, there shall be levied, and paid a duty of twenty-five cents per ton, in addition to the duty now chargeable by law.

And on motion,  
It was agreed that the further consideration of this bill, at this time, be postponed."

The Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock

Foreign Intelligence.

F R A N C E.

NATIONAL CONVENTION.

12 Germinal, (Tuesday April 1.

The form of the decree for abolishing the Slave Trade, having been referred to the Committee of Public Safety, was presented and passed in the following terms:

"The Slavery of Negroes is abolished. In consequence, the Convention decrees, That all the inhabitants of the colonies, whatever be their colour, are French Citizens. They shall enjoy all the rights belonging to this title."

Several communes in the neighbourhood of Paris, congratulated the Convention on new discoveries respecting the conspiracy against Liberty.

The President—"Be assured, Citizens, that there never will be in France, King, Dictator, Triumvir, nor Protector. We each wear a poignard to be plunged into the heart of the first dominator who shall lay a parriocidal hand on the statue of Liberty. Virtue and Probity are not idle words.—There are Hypocrites in Virtue as well as Patriotism; but they shall be unmasked. It is not to Men that we must attach ourselves, but to Principles which are invariable. Let every man in public trust know that he has only to choose between a civic crown and the scaffold."

Decree respecting the expulsion of the ci-devant nobles and foreigners out of Paris, and all fortified places and sea ports.

From the Journal De La Montagne.  
NATIONAL CONVENTION,  
27th Germinal, (April 16.)

Couthon presented the draught of a law ordered yesterday. The two committees have examined with the most serious attention, the different remonstrances which have been presented to them. If they would have given way, said he to the impulses of individual interest; if they had ceased one instant to look upon their country, they would have presented an infinite number of exceptions, which would have destroyed the effects of the law. There are some, nevertheless, which appeared to us to be just, and which are inserted in the draft, which I am directed to read to you.

General Police of the Republic.

Article 1. All those suspected of conspiracy shall be brought from all parts of the Republic, before the Revolutionary Tribunal of Paris.

2. The committees of public welfare and public safety, shall make the promptest searches after the accomplices of the conspirators, and cause the same to be brought before the revolutionary tribunal.

3. The popular commissions shall be established for the 15 Floreal.

4. All the administrations and civil tribunals are directed to determine within three months from the date of the promulgation of these presents, all causes now depending before them, under penalty of dismissal; and for the future, all private causes shall be determined in the same space of time and under the same penalty.

5. The committee of public welfare is expressly charged to cause to be inspected the authorities of the public agents, charged to co-operate with the administration.

6. No ex-noble, nor any foreigner from those countries with which the Republic is at war, shall be allowed to reside in Paris, or any fortified place or seaport town, during the war. Every ex-noble or stranger as aforesaid, found therein within 10 days, is out-lawed.

7. The workmen employed in manufacturing arms at Paris, foreign women who have married French patriots, noble ladies, who have married citizens not noble, are not comprehended in the preceding article.

8. Foreign workmen, who lived by the labour of their hands previous to the passing of this law, retail merchants established likewise before the passing thereof, children under 15 years of age, and old people above 70 years, are likewise excepted.

9. Exceptions with respect to foreign noblemen in the military line are referred to the committee of public welfare, as a measure that concerns government.

10. The committee of public welfare is likewise authorized to detain by special requisition such ci-devant nobles and foreigners, as they may think useful to the Republic.

11. The revolutionary committees will give passports; those individuals

give up the name of the place, whether they intend to retire, which is to be mentioned in the passport.

12. The revolutionary committees shall keep a register of all the passports they may issue, and shall transmit an extract of this register, every day, to the committees of public welfare and of public safety.

13. The ci-devant nobles and foreigners, who come under the meaning of the present law, shall be obliged to present their passports, the moment they arrive, to the municipality whose district they have retired to. They shall likewise be obliged to present themselves every day before the municipality of their respective residence under the same penalties.

14. The municipalities shall be obliged to transmit, without delay, to the committees of public welfare and public safety, the list of all the ci-devant nobles and strangers residing within their jurisdiction, and of those who shall retire thither.

15. The ci-devant nobles and strangers are not admitted to any of the popular societies and committees of inspection, nor into the assemblies of the communalities or sections.

16. Generals not in actual service, are prohibited to reside in Paris, fortified places or maritime towns.

17. The respect towards the magistrates shall be religiously observed; but every citizen has a right to complain of their injustice, and the committee of public welfare shall cause them to be punished according to the rigor of the laws.

18. The National Convention orders all authorities to confine themselves strictly within the limits of their appointment, and not to extend nor contract the same.

19. The National Convention directs the committee of public welfare to demand a severe account of all their agents; to prosecute those who shall have been subservient to plots, and who shall have employed against liberty the power entrusted to them.

20. All citizens shall be obliged to give information to the authorities of his place, and to the committee of public welfare, of the thefts, incivie discourses, and acts of oppression they have been the victims or witnesses of.

21. The Representatives of the people shall make use of the constituted authorities, and cannot delegate their powers.

22. None shall make requisitions, but the commission of subsistence and representatives of the people with the armies, under the express authorization of the committee of public welfare.

23. If any one, convinced of having complained of the revolution, lived without doing any thing, and was more than 60 years of age, nor sick, he shall be transported to Guyenne. These kinds of affairs are to be judged by the popular commissions.

24. The committee of public welfare shall encourage, by indemnifications and premiums, all kind of manufactures and the exportation of Mines; they shall protect industry and confidence between people in trade; they shall make advances to such patriotic merchants as shall offer their provisions at the maximum; they shall give guarantee warrants to those who bring merchandise to Paris, in order that the transports may not be disturbed; they shall protect the free passage of waggons in the interior, and shall not suffer the public faith to be encroached upon.

25. The National Convention will appoint from among themselves, two commissions, each of three members, the one charged with digesting into a succinct and complete code all the laws passed until this day, and suppressing those which have become obsolete; the other commission is charged with digesting a code of civil institutions, in order to preserve the morals and spirit of Liberty.

26. The insertion of this present decree in the minutes shall serve instead of a publication thereof.

On motion of Robespierre, it is to be published with the usual solemnities throughout Paris.

A M E R I C A.

QUEBEC, May 12.

Yesterday the British Militia of this City ballotted for the detachment ordered by his Excellency the Governor General, to be furnished for immediate service. Notwithstanding the weather was very unfavorable, all the men attended with great punctuality on the New Parade at the hour appointed.—Every one was anxious to serve, and the whole Corps would most cheerfully have turned out Volunteers. A ballot therefore became indispensably necessary. The battalion was accordingly formed into a circle three deep,

and the ballot was conducted into the centre with the most perfect regularity.—At every ticket drawn for service, the drawer was saluted with three cheers from the whole corps.

UNITED STATES.

PORTLAND, (M.) May 24.  
A MURDER.

Last Sunday evening, as a young girl of about 14 years of age, of a creditable family in Vassalborough, by the name of Tilton, was returning home from her sister's house, where she had been on a visit, was overtaken in the woods by a negro man, who, after committing a rape, murdered her, and hid her body under a log, and covered it with rotten wood. She was found on Tuesday after a long search made by the neighbors, who from certain circumstances, suspecting the perpetrator of the crimes, took the negro with them.—We hear the villain has confessed the facts, and is in custody.

NEW-YORK, June 7.

It is observable, that Dr. Priestley in his answer to the address of the Democratic Society, has not said one word about the Society that addressed him; he has not hinted at the great utility of the institution—he has not said, he expected that Society to assist in protecting his liberty and his property—on the other hand he seems to express a desire to be protected by the laws of the country—he has not said he wishes well to the Society—and what is more, he has not even thanked them for the address. In this answer, however, the Doctor has discovered his patriotism as well as his prudence; and there is no doubt his good sense will lead him to avoid entangling himself with parties in this country. He will soon learn the characters of men and societies; and no doubt will be found among those found republicans who support the President and maintain the government and laws of the country. He will soon learn that Europeans who have acquired a habit of railing at the corrupt governments of Europe, have no occasion for the exercise of such habits in this country; that it is his duty and his interest to support the constitution of the people's choice, which gives us all protection—and that the true American character is to maintain a total independence on any foreign power—and that parties, organized and directed by foreign emissaries, who would tie us to any European nation, like a pincushion dangling at any woman's apron string, are hostile to all our dearest interests.

PHILADELPHIA,  
JUNE 12.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

The progress of Literature in the United States must give pleasure to every true republican—Since the publication of Mr. Dobson's edition of the Encyclopedia, that knowledge, which was derived principally from our Libraries, and confined in a great degree to the cities on the Atlantic shores, is now diffused thro' the interior of our country. In the Gazette of yesterday, we see from Lancaster County an excellent definition of Aristocracy and Democracy, which we hope may have its use—and for which we could not so well account, but from the general subscription, by which Mr. Dobson has been encouraged to prosecute so great a work.—A work very much read by our fellow citizens residing at a distance from those public Libraries, which have heretofore been the source of such exalted sentiments.

Extract from a speech of the R. H. C. J. Fox, in the British house of Commons, on the 21st January last.

I next come to touch on the conduct of Ministers, with respect to America. In this instance they seem likewise to have adopted the maxim of Genet, (in setting aside the authority of Vattel, and testifying the most perfect contempt for the principles laid down by established writers on the law of nations, where they happened to differ from their own notions of political convenience. Their system of aggression on the rights of independent states, they followed up with respect to America, by issuing an order to seize on American vessels bound to the French West-India islands. This order, however, they were afterwards prevailed upon to withdraw, in consequence of being informed by the merchants, that Congress could never brook so wanton an aggression, so unprovoked an insult; and that the measure, if persisted in, must infallibly