

Mr. PENN.

IT is folly to dissemble; the opposition to government in the western parts of Pennsylvania may justly be said to have originated with men of whom we had reason to expect otherwise; however they and their friends among us, may affect to impute it to other causes. It is too true, that a portion of the people there, were always unfriendly to order and good government, and even to the salutary measures of the late, ever since the revolution; and their numbers have been greatly augmented of late, by emigrations from Europe, of people who having broke loose from bondage, and not understanding or possessing the qualifications or virtues that are necessary to constitute true Republicans, are too ready to throw off all restraints, and join in acts of insubordination.

But unfortunately a great number of the most influential characters in that quarter, being always opposed to the general government, and its measures, took advantage of existing prejudices and endeavoured to excite others, to promote their private purposes and those of their party. Whereas if the same men had acted a contrary part and exerted their influence to attach the people to the laws, there can be no doubt that these counties would have continued to submit to the government and remained in peace and quietness. I will go further, and do not hesitate to say, that even yet, if some ten or fifteen persons in those parts, that could be named, would unite and risk their popularity, they could bring the people to listen to reason.

This however is scarcely to be hoped; there seems to be a competition among their leading men for the favors of the multitude; more especially as they perhaps vainly look forward to be an independent state, and all want to be rulers.

Until lately, I had charity enough to suppose that some of the men who countenanced an opposition to the excise, had little more in view than to gain popularity, by flattering the prejudices of the people, in favor of electioneering purposes, and induce a repeal of the law; without a will that matters should be carried so far as they have been. The silence and passive conduct of certain characters however in the late scenes, have led me to doubt I was mistaken, and that these "virtuous representatives" have been long paving the way, and intend to take a part in the farce that is about to be acted by such countenances, in attempts at overturning the authority of the government. But we will be better able to form an opinion, when we know the part they have acted in relation to the Commissioners.

Several insidious pieces have lately been published in one of the Daily Papers, finding fault as usual with the conduct of the Executive in proposing a new force, and evidently intended to induce a compliance on the part of the militia with the late requisition. The President is directed by the Commission which he has sworn to support, to cause the law to be duly executed, and is empowered to call forth the militia in aid of the civil authority, when in judgment it shall become necessary, and the Governor of the state have addressed the insurgents in the solemn manner, ordering and requiring that they will disperse and submit to the laws; while at the same time he has appointed commissioners to confer with and endeavour to persuade them to return to a sense of their duty, peaceable citizens under the best of governments.

It appears to me the President has no alternative; either he must endeavor to have the laws executed in the way in which he is directed, or be liable to imputation for sacrificing probably, the interests of his constituents; however he might declare those people unworthy the protection of the government.

When thought that the ideas of Liberty by the Printer, I would do as he pleased; or that he would not suffer himself to be an instrument to give a currency to those doctrines and passions, as too frequently appear. The President expresses it, "the people who hold respectability in the community, and who have been in the country, have resided in it a great number of years, enjoying a peaceful and happy life, and are the most pernicious resolutions tending to dissolve every political obligation in society, it is not to be wondered at that the people of this class should think themselves justifiable in breaking out in acts of devastation and murder."

very existence of government," without which the security of life and property cannot exist, "and the fundamental principles of social order," are to be put in jeopardy by a set of lawless men, whose numbers are comparatively small, and they are suffered to insult the majority of the people with impunity—on a situation is truly deplorable. The blood and treasure expended in the revolution must all go for nothing, and we are liable to become a prey to the savages or any nation who may chuse to invade us.

Some of the communications from the Insurgents, inform, that if an attempt is made to reduce them by force, they will probably undertake to march to Philadelphia; and many of the letters mention that they would join their northern neighbors, meaning the British and savages, rather than be obliged to submit to the laws of the Union. Although the first discovers their good intentions, in other respects it can only be considered as an empty threat; and as to the latter, notwithstanding I am far from believing that such men would be trilled by either the one or the other, it is an evidence of their patriotism and attachment to republican forms of government, at the same time that the bare mention of such facts is conceived to be the best appeal that can be made to the good sense of such of our fellow-citizens as had any share in the establishment of our independence.

In addition to the excise, these people have heretofore complained that they were not protected against the Indians, did not enjoy the free navigation of the Mississippi, and were injured by the detention of the western posts.

On these points I shall only observe on the present occasion, that the defence of the frontiers has cost the United States an immense sum of money, and it is an undoubted truth that the people of these very counties are greatly enriched by the war.

It is well known that the government is doing every thing in its power, short of engaging in war, to remove the other complaints; and it is presumed that no unprejudiced man will pretend to say, after serious reflection, that the objects are of sufficient magnitude to warrant the citizens of the United States to have recourse to so dreadful an alternative, at least while there is a fair prospect of obtaining our rights by negotiation.

Upon the whole, notwithstanding the advice of those who favor the proceedings of "our western brethren," and are disposed to find fault with every measure of the Executive, I am fully of the opinion that the only way to secure the peace of the Union—retrieve the American character—prevent the expense of blood and treasure, and convince the world that as a nation, we have virtue enough, to maintain a republican form of government, is to pursue with firmness the plan that has been adopted.

If a respectable force is sent into that country, there can be little doubt but one half the citizens there will immediately join the standard of the United States.

AN AMERICAN.

From the American Daily Advertiser.

To the PEOPLE of the UNITED STATES

LETTER III.

IF it were to be asked, What is the most sacred duty and the greatest source of security in a Republic? the answer would be, An inviolable respect for the Constitution and Laws—the first growing out of the last. It is by this, in a great degree, that the rich and the powerful are to be restrained from enterprises against the common liberty—operated upon by the influence of a general sentiment, by their interest in the principle, and by the obstacles which the habit it produces erects against innovation and encroachment. It is by this, in a still greater degree, that cabaliers, intriguers, and demagogues are prevented from climbing on the shoulders of faction to the tempting seats of usurpation and tyranny.

Were it not that it might require too lengthy a discussion, it would not be difficult to demonstrate, that a large and well organized Republic can scarcely lose its liberty from any other cause than that of anarchy, to which a contempt of the laws is the high road.

But without entering into so wide a field, it is sufficient to present to your view a more simple and a more obvious truth, which is this—that a sacred respect for the constitutional law is the vital principle, the sustaining energy of a free government.

Government is frequently and aptly classed under two descriptions, a government of force and a government of laws; the first is the definition of despotism—the last, of liberty. But how can a government of laws exist

where the laws are disrespected and disobeyed? Government supposes control—It is that power by which individuals in society are kept from doing injury to each other and are brought to co-operate to a common end. The instruments by which it must act are either the authority of the laws or force. If the first be destroyed, the last must be substituted; and where this becomes the ordinary instrument of government there is an end to liberty.

Those, therefore, who preach doctrines, or set examples, which undermine or subvert the authority of the laws, lead us from freedom to slavery; they incapacitate us for a government of laws, and consequently prepare the way for one of force, for mankind must have government of one sort or another.

There are indeed great and urgent cases where the bounds of the constitution are manifestly transgressed, or its constitutional authorities so exercised as to produce unequivocal oppression on the community, and to render resistance justifiable. But such cases can give no colour to the resistance by a comparatively inconsiderable part of a community, of constitutional laws distinguished by no extraordinary features of rigour or oppression, and acquiesced in by the body of the community.

Such a resistance is treason against society, against liberty, against every thing that ought to be dear to a free, enlightened, and prudent people. To tolerate it were to abandon your most precious interest. Not to subdue it, were to tolerate it. Those who openly or covertly dissuade you from exertions adequate to the occasion are your worst enemies. They treat you either as fools or cowards, too weak to perceive your interest and your duty, or too dastardly to pursue them. They therefore merit, and will no doubt meet your contempt.

To the plausible but hollow harangues of such conspirators, ye cannot fail to reply, How long, ye Catilines, will you abuse our patience.

TULLY.

Foreign Intelligence.

FROM HAMBURG PAPERS.

FRONTIERS OF THE NETHERLANDS.

June 25.

The doleful account concerning the surrender of Ypres, has been already two days ago sufficiently confirmed by letters from Dornick and Bruges. The Austrian General Salis commander of the garrison together with the prisoners of war made in this place are transported to Lille; the destiny of a body of French emigrants, comprized in number, has been particularly lamented; the capitulation took place on the 15th, and possession of the town was taken on the 17th. The enemy commencing seriously to threaten Newport and Ostend, a decisive but melancholy expedition was thought of viz: a universal inundation of the adjacent country; however on the 21st 5000 British auxiliaries arrived at Ostend, where General Stewart commands; the Hanoverian army moreover under the Generals Walmoden and Hammerlein cover by their different positions Ostend and Bruges. Notwithstanding all these resources, to be the more secure against an hostile invasion, whole Maritime Flanders has been overflowed, just as it happened in the 12th century, at which epocha the soil had been so deteriorated, that it took an interval of 10 years, before it could be restored to its pristine condition. In the mean time Count Clairfayt had abandoned his position to Thieltd, and withdrawn the body of his army at Ghent, where he has now fixed his head quarters. The enemy on the other hand occupied the deserted station at Thieltd, and their movements seemed to intimate their designs of crossing the rivers Lys and Scheldt and penetrate into the interior parts of Flanders. Their forces are stated to amount to 170000 men. On the 21st they made an attempt upon the post Vive St. Eloy, but were repulsed. Prince Cobourg having heard of Gen. Jourdan's advancing towards Brussels, removed his quarters to Ath, leaving the English army under the command of the Duke of York at Dornick, the head quarters of this Prince, while the Dutch army under the command of the Prince of Hols Darmstadt marched towards Ghent in order to form a junction with the army of Clairfayt. On the 23d the arch-duke Charles arrived at Brain le Comte with a division of his troops to reinforce the Sambre army, and directed his march towards Nivelles; on the same day a bloody combat ensued near Herlemont between the cavalry on both sides, wherein the enemy suffered and was driven back. On the 22d the arch-duke Charles and Prince Cobourg with the 2 divisions of the main army, 30000 men strong, reached Nivelles, and united with the Sambre army. The enemy bombarding Charleroi with the greatest vivacity, and in order to rescue the place, it seemed of the most pressing necessity, that the Austrian army should take an active part, hence hourly a conflict is expected. The reason, that the enemy has become so dreadful in this quarter, originates from the junction, which the right wing of the northern army together with left one of the troops stationed along side the river Moselle, has formed with the army

on the Ardennes. The beautiful castle of Marimont together with a contiguous abbey have been reduced to ashes by the enemy. At Brussels some of the out works have been put in repair, that they might be the better sheltered from an invasion.—By virtue of a manifesto all its inhabitants had been summoned to a general enrollment, that in case of emergency they would be obliged to take up arms. In Brabant and Hennegau the enlisting of militia have been attended with the best success, and there is no doubt, but in the former they will soon make up 25000 men.

Extraits of a letter from Ghent, dated June 25.

The enemy has attacked our position in 3 different columns, and has been every where repelled with loss, an uninterrupted cannonading upon the 2 columns of the enemy's right wing and the centre continued from 2 till 5 in the afternoon.

The column of the left wing played their main effort against one of the gates of Bruges, which post the Hollanders and Hanoverians were entrusted with, but the latter soon were compelled to give way; whilst the enemy availed himself of this critical juncture, to force the gate of the city; that was only defended by a division of the archduke Charles's regiment, which fought with the greatest intrepidity, and alone resisted the enemy so long till it was succoured by Maj. Mondet's division, when the French received a violent check and drew back, the cavalry was immediately dispatched at their heels, that chased them three quarters of a league, and one company being overtaken was cut in pieces.—However a circumstantial detail of this interesting news we expect to receive shortly.

LEGHORN, June 16.

The English frigate, which had the engagement with two French frigates, was the Juno, which sailed from hence on the 30th of May, with provisions for the fleet of vice admiral Hotham, then cruising before Toulon. Said frigate Juno had 24 oxen on board. When the French frigates attacked her, she had to throw these in the sea, and on the nearer approach of the French made such a terrible fire with grape shot upon them, that they were thrown quite in confusion, and she by that means escaped. It was this frigate which brought Lord Hood the account of the French fleet's sailing from Toulon.

MANHEIM, June 26.

On the 23d instant the French were defeated by the Prussians near Pirmasens, with the loss of some cannon, and 160 prisoners, whereupon the Prussians retook Pirmasens. All the Prussian troops are in motion, these several days past and have advanced in several parts. The hereditary prince of Hohenlohe has taken his head quarters at Edighofen. It is reported that the Austrian troops and the troops of the Empire have likewise advanced.

It is supposed, that this week yet a general attack will take place from Germersheim to Saar Louis.

Judges contend that Germersheim is at present much stronger than Landau, and that it would be an easier matter to take the last mentioned fortress, than to take Germersheim.

BRUSSELS, June 26.

Orders have been given, that the greatest part of the troops which are at Valenciennes, Quefnoy, Conde, and Landrecies, shall join the army of the Sambre with the greatest speed.

From the second extraordinary Supplement to our Court Gazette

According to letters from Ghent of the 25th P. M. the French attempted that morning to cross the Scheldt near Gavre; but were forced to retreat, the regiment of Starray received them so well with some 12 pounders, loaded with grape shot, they made a precipitate retreat.

"Our out posts and patrols have been as far as Pataghom without meeting any of the enemy."

"We expect new reinforcements and the army is in high spirits."

"The river Lys drifts full of Frenchmen, which were cut to pieces yesterday in their retreat, and the road from Ghent to Courtray is covered with their dead bodies."

VIENNA, June 11.

An Imperial and Royal Proclamation will make its appearance in a short time, according to which a fresh levy of recruits is to take place to consist of 130,000 men. The following three remarkable articles thereof are known already. 1. That the nobility shall not enjoy during the war their prerogative, by which their vassals are exempted from levies. 2. The levy of these recruits is to fall chiefly on the citizens,

consequently all manufacturers, to lose the privilege with respect to their workmen being free from military conscription. 3. The Farmers to be spared as much as possible in this levy, in order that agriculture may not be impeded.

With respect to the Conspiracy discovered in Turin, we have received the following accounts from Italy. As soon as the insurrection should have broken out and succeeded, the constitution was to have been altered immediately and made republican. Among the Conspirators were two members of the private Council, five Senators and a great proportion of the kings guards. There was a merchant among them, who was the treasurer of the Conspiracy, a millon of Zechines (Dutch) and several millions of assignats were found in his possession. Since this discovery the enemy is observed to be more on the defensive than on the offensive, and is closely observed by the two Generals Devins and Colley, the King has taken instead of his guards, imperial Uhlans and Staff Dragoons.

BERLIN, June 21.

Yesterday morning a royal courier arrived here, with the agreeable news of the capture of the city and fortress of Cracow.

June 27.

We know for certain that the Porte has given the fullest assurance to the Courts concerned, that she would not meddle in any wise in the affairs of Poland.

UNITED STATES.

CHARLESTON, August 9.

Wednesday, in the court of admiralty for this district, the judge pronounced his decree in the long contested cause of the Dutch brigantine the Vrow Christina Magdalena, captured and brought into this port by the captains Ballard and Talbot.

The libel was on behalf of the captain and owners of the said brigantine, claiming restitution under the 15th and 19th articles of the treaty with the United Netherlands. A plea was entered to the jurisdiction of the court, under the 17th article of the treaty with France, and the 6th section of the act of Congress of the 5th of June last, entitled, "An additional act to the act for the punishment of crimes and offences against the United States."

And a claim was interposed on behalf of Capt. William Talbot, as a French citizen, acting under a commission from the governor of Guadeloupe, and as having taken this vessel out of the possession of Capt. Ballard, the original captor, his prize-master producing no commission.

The judge, on considering the arguments in support of the plea to the jurisdiction, over-ruled the same as irrelevant—

1st. Because the 17th article of the treaty with France contemplates only French vessels of war, or privateers legally appointed.

2d. Because the 5th section of the act of Congress of the 5th June last does not lessen the jurisdiction of the district courts, in any case of which they had previous cognizance; and the decree of the supreme court of the United States in the case of Glas and others against the sloop Betsey, &c. having declared that every district court of the United States possesses all the power of an admiralty court, whether considered as an instance or a prize court. This cause was therefore cognizable therein by the law of nations and the constitution of the court.

The Judge being of opinion, that Captain Ballard had acted without any commission authorizing him to cruise or arm for war, and had not even the pretence of being a French citizen; that Capt. Talbot having armed his vessel (then an American bottom) in an American port, proceeded thence to Guadeloupe for the express purpose, as appeared in evidence, of changing the property, applying for a French commission, obtaining the same within two days after the sale of the vessel, and under colour of such commission, having captured the said brigantine Vrow Christina Magdalena: which acts were deemed contrary to the 19th article of the treaty with the United Netherlands, and in no way derogatory to the 17th article of the treaty with France as not being within the purview or intention thereof—Restitution of the vessel and cargo was therefore decreed.

August 15.

Messrs. West and Bignall, at a very early period, proposed to the commissioners of the Orphan-house to perform one night, annually, for the benefit of the institution, free of all expenses whatever. They carried this promise