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FRANCE.

PARIS, July 17.

Talleyrand's Defence.

Citizen Talleyrand has just published a vindication of his conduct, in answer to the accusations preferred against him in several pamphlets and journals.—He begins with remarking, that all his accusers are themselves ex-priests or ex nobles, and even princes or foreigners who having first introduced themselves in notice with cunning and dexterity, soon assumed, with industry, the privilege of instructing us how we should be free in our own country.

"What then," continues Talleyrand, "do these men urge, who are not Frenchmen whose integrity they have succeeded in corrupting? That I have been one of the Constituent Assembly! Yes, I was fully convinced that they could never forgive those whose names are illustrious among the founders of liberty, I was fully convinced that men who had never experienced the first sallies of the French people, in 1789, who indulged in shameful raillery on the sublime enthusiasm of the nation, and who, unable to prevent the revolution, exerted themselves to render it odious, were in secret enraged against the assembly which first proclaimed the declaration of the rights of man, and were more favourable to the anti-revolutionary part of that assembly than to the part which produced the revolution. But I was ignorant that they could carry their audacity so far as publicly, and without any mask, to reproach a citizen with having been a member of the Constituent assembly. And yet this is one of the numerous accusations preferred against me in their favourite Journal.

"In the present agitation of the public mind three suppositions are alone possible. The republic will consolidate its strength in the midst of so many events; we shall be overwhelmed in the confusion and destruction of every kind of authority; or royalty will be restored to oppress us with increased fury and tyranny. Every other supposition is to me a chimera, and I have unquestionably given sufficient pledges of my zeal against the two last systems. The fate allotted to me, by both the one and the other of them, is sufficiently known, as well as the kind of preference which they would grant to me. It has been a thousand times demonstrated, that I can have no other desire but that of consolidating the power and establishing the glory of the republic. I did not, indeed expect, I confess, to be reduced to the necessity of proving, in the 7th year of the republic, that I am not an emigrant. A proof rendered unnecessary by the unanimous declaration of the National Convention, which ordered my name to be erased from all lists of emigrants, and repealed, at the same time, the decree of accusation which had been brought against me.

"But it is asked by my accusers, What are the motives which caused the National Convention to erase the name of Talleyrand? The answer, however, is simple, and undoubtedly decisive. I was sent to London, for the second time, by the provisional executive council, on the 7th of September, 1792. I have in my possession the original passport delivered to me by the council, and which is signed by six of its members, Lebrun, Danton, Servan, Claviere, Roland, and Monge. It was transmitted to the convention, when it thought proper to take my case into consideration, and I will produce it to any person desirous of seeing it."

Talleyrand denies he wore the white cockade in America and at Hamborgh, and appeals to the testimony of the envoy and consul at that city.

With respect to the reproach of having suffered the new coalition to be formed, he vindicates himself by quoting his opinion, which was on [illegible] given in favour of an honorable peace, and makes the following observations: "when it is considered that those who dare to accuse me of wishing for the continuance of war are the very persons who stirred up the fire of discord, invoked with the most ardent prayers all the fury of war, were eager to excite revolutionary movements in every part of the world, abused every power in the most insulting and impolitic manner, threw obstacles in the way of every negociation, and propagated in the public journals the assertion so fatal to the tranquility of Europe.

"That republics and kings are necessarily in a state of hostility—when it is considered that I have been constantly engaged in repairing the evils produced by so many inconsistencies and follies, and in calming the apprehensions of the envoys of neutral and amicable powers, every one must be struck with astonishment that these men should accuse me of co-operating in producing the coalition, and that they should themselves be ignorant on how many accounts the accusation applies to their own conduct. I have also, in a detail which has been noticed by the legislative body, pointed out the principal and more immediate causes of the coalition, and I may be allowed to observe, that my observations have been received by the national representation, with a degree of interest which it only confers on acknowledged precision and truth.

"It is known that Austria, even from the signing of the treaty of Campo Formio, however favorable that treaty might have been to it, having recovered from the terror inspired by our arms, began to meditate projects of greater ambition; that it was then encouraged by England and Russia; that the events in Rome and Switzerland, became new motives and pretences for its actions; and that it sought every where, from that time, for new allies, which it did not find difficult to obtain in consequence of the principles of the representative system which struck at all aristocratic establishments, or by the natural effect of the oppressions exercised by some of the French agents, unworthy of that name, even in friendly countries, or principally in consequence of the impression made by the engagement of Aboukir, which in giving us an additional enemy revived the audacity and hopes of the others.

"At the commencement of last Brumaire, the end of October, when gen. Joubert set out for Milan, about five months before the Russians entered Italy, I had the good fortune to procure the plan of attack which had been combined between the Russians and Austrians, and I gave it to him myself. He has since declared that it proved highly useful to his operations. Every thing relative to the great charges in Switzerland and Italy, was never either discussed or decided upon by the Directory, in my presence. The alterations in the Cisalpine republic, are totally without my knowledge. I was merely acquainted with them in consequence of their execution; so much so, that when citizen Rivaud was sent ambassador to that republic, I was applied to for blank letters of credence, and I was totally unacquainted with respect to his embassy until he had been employed for a considerable time. Here I know, it is objected to me with severity, that I should not have hesitated to have given in my resignation—And is it imagined that I was not disposed to that measure? Can it be thought that such an idea was not gratifying to my independence? But I confess, I was prevented by that desire, that indefatigable hope of peace, from which nothing could detach me. I forgot myself entirely in that sentiment, and [illegible] that I sacrificed my personal sentiments, my repugnance [illegible] individual.

"I am accused that an attack was not made on Portugal. But if such an attack had taken place, and been [illegible] opposed by Spain, would they not have thought themselves justified in blaming a conduct which would have irritated this latter power, whose alliance it was so necessary to cultivate! I am reproached with not having sufficiently encouraged privateering against England, but if it had been encouraged without any bounds, with what vehemence would they not have inveighed against the want of precaution, or the stupidity of ministers, who assured, that 545 armed vessels for cruizing had been captured by the enemy from the beginning of the war to the end of the 6th year, that the number of our prisoners now in England, amount to more than 20,000 for whose subsistence the Republic is at the yearly expence of 15 millions, and that it is principally to privateering such a result is to be attributed, might have dared to expose the nation to the repeated hazards of a game, the losses of which are so sensibly felt!

"I am reproached with the expedition to Egypt, which was planned previously to my administration, and [illegible] been determined by me. But if that expedition in which the genius of Buonaparte, in which his glory, and that of his invincible army rendered certain and still renders certain, so many successes had not been effected, and it could be proved, that I had opposed the project, with how much acrimony would not these same persons have said, that I was influenced by secret and improper views, and that I wished to deprive the Republic of the most magnificent establishment in the world, which was to strike a most terrible blow at the British powers in India.

"They complain of the cold indifference of the Swedish government, but how much more would they have to complain, if in order to prevent it, the Republic had given way to demands incompatible with her dignity! They also object (could it be imagined) that men of the best characters as Republicans has been entrusted with diplomatic missions, with an intention, they say, of getting rid of their observation at home.

But if others who were not republicans had been entrusted with business of that nature, would they not have had more reason to complain, and would they have been silent upon so favorable an opportunity!

"The Journal des Hommes Libres maintains, it was Talleyrand who procured the return of Malmesbury, after the latter had been dismissed by Charles Lacroix. But it was not to Paris that was no longer necessary, but to Lisle, even in the center of our military bulwarks. Is this point clearly made out! There never was an important fact that carried conviction with it more strongly. On the 18th of Messidor, when the conferences began, I was not Minister; it was only the 28th Messidor I was appointed by the Directory." In short every thing which has been done, either within or without the republic, is imputed to me; and I am interrogated why the Grand duke of Tuscany was not kept as a hostage, as if it were my province to give instructions to the Generals. They have the effrontery to assert that it was I who alienated from the Republic the United States of America, at a moment when they know that American negociators have arrived in France, and they cannot be ignorant of the share which I have had in this event, on account of the language, full of deference, of moderation, and I will be bold to say of dignity, which I addressed them in the name of the French Government, whilst those who now attack me were desirous only to convey to them expressions severe and irritating."

Talleyrand concludes his vindication by accusing his assailants of ignorance, malice and the basest designs.

OBSERVATIONS

Of Charles Delacroix upon the reflections published by Talleyrand Perigord.

As I have been named or referred to twice in the reflections which citizen Talleyrand has published, I owe it to truth, and to my own character, to establish those facts with respect to which I have been alluded to in his work. It is true as citizen Talleyrand says, that it was me of whom lord Grenville demanded a passport for lord Malmsbury; that it was I who forwarded it; that it was during my Ministry the negociations were carried on; and finally that it was I who pointed out Lisle in consequence of the express orders of the Directory. I do not see how these facts can excite suspicion; but if it was necessary to justify them. I would say that the facility of Telegraphic communication, and the recollection of the intrigues of lord Malmsbury, at Paris during his first mission, were the principal motives which determined the Directory in preferring the commune of Lisle. "It is well known" says Talleyrand, "that the expedition to Egypt had been prepared before the period of my Ministry. It is a certain fact, that citizen Magaller consul general in Egypt, after a great number of memorials he had sent relative to an expedition against Egypt, received previous to my entering into administration, leave to return to France. It was in fact, and it could not be otherwise, my duty to give information upon the subject of his memorials It would seem from this passage, that it was I who prepared the expedition to Egypt. I owe it to truth to declare the fact without attempting here to judge the merit of the enterprise. It is very well known that different projects, particularly under the ancient government, were proposed relative to Egypt; but what is not known, yet is not the less true is, that these memorials remained neglected during my ministry. That neither myself on the part of the Directory, nor the chief of Division, paid any attention to them; that I had not any idea of the contents of the memorials of citizen Magaller.—That his memorials in no respect influenced the permission given to him to return—but on the contrary, it was granted on the ground of his ill state of health, and the danger he was in of dying, if he remained longer in Egypt. Let citizen Talleyrand refer to the accounts which I have given the Directory of the operations of my administration, on the 12th Thermidor under the article Ottoman Porte. He will find there is not a word relative to this expedition, and that throughout, it breathes the desire and the hope, of promoting and assuring the most perfect harmony between the two powers.—Citizen Talleyrand may recal to his mind, that in the first conference I had with him after my return from the Batavian Republic having for a long time discoursed upon the subject of the horrible counter revolution; which had destroyed in one day the fruit of 6 months labor there;—and the outrages committed against the French republic on my person; I spoke of the report which was then just circulated, that Egypt was the immediate object of the expedition of Buonaparte:—"I would not attempt [said I] to steal the secret from you; but I do not believe the report. It is not Egypt; but to the Black Sea. He is gone to destroy the settlements of the Russians; who are determined to declare war against us; to restore Poland to its rank as a nation, to keep the House of Austria in check, and command a definitive peace. If you have any ulterior designs against Egypt, the Porte, in gratitude for important services you will have rendered it will willingly lend its alliance to realize them." Citizen Talleyrand left me to enjoy the sweet illusion which events have but too soon destroyed. My regard for truth has imposed on me these short observations. It will plead my excuse to citizen Talleyrand.

CHARLES DELACROIX.

Charenton, 27 Messidor, July 15, 7th year of the French Republic, one and indivisible.

GENOA, *July 9.*

Several vessels laden with grain, from France, have entered into our port, owing to the exertions of the French Commissary Belleville. This citizen has taken this opportunity to assure our government that the French Directory was resolved to link the fate of the allied republics to its own destinies, and make common cause with them. In consequence he has made a formal declaration, that the Ligurian Republic should be defended with the same zeal and ardour by the French troops, as if it were part of the French territory.—The Directory have published a list of the citizens taxed to complete the loan of three millions, decreed to defray the expence of the war, and secured on the sale of national domains. A courier arrived yesterday morning announces the arrival at Nice, of 4000 men to form the advanced guard of a reinforcement of 15,000 men, whom the French government are sending to Moreau. They write to us from Final, the 3d of this month, that the French have resumed their former positions at St. Giacomo, Madona della Nove, Relogno, and Settepani, which are expected to prove anew the theatre of war. The insurgents are making daily progress in the Neapolitan territory. Those of Arezzo stop all the couriers, and intercept all communication between Rome and Naples. They lately made a violent attack on two columns of French troops, which repulsed them in the vicinity of Ceva. They left behind them several prisoners, and one piece of cannon.

July 15.

All the dispositions made at present by Gen. Moreau, announce his intention to attack the enemy in 3 different points, by Bobbia, in the valley of the Trebbia, and by the road of the Bocchetta, and the valley of Ceva. It is hoped he may come to the relief of Alessandria. The brave Gen. Gardanne will defend it to the last extremity, and will even sustain an assault.

Gen. Macdonald arrived at Spezzia, and embarking there in a felucca, had so favorable a wind, that he arrived here in a few hours. He has no longer any command, the whole of the operations being solely directed by General Moreau.

It is said here, that an army commanded by Gen. Championette, will soon descend the Alps, to engage the Austro-Russians towards Turin, and to enable Moreau not only to succour Alessandria, but to menace Piacenza, and arrest the progress of the enemy in Tuscany.

BUONAPARTE'S EXPEDITION.

Official dispatches from the army of Egypt.

At the Head-Quarters before Acre, the 26th Germinal, April 18.

The Janizaries of Damas, joined with the cavalry of Dgezzar, the military of Noblous, and the Arabs, and the Mamelukes of Ibrahim Bey, passed the Jordan with an Intention to raise the siege of Acre. They have been completely beaten in the combats of Nazareth Saffel and Cana, and in the battles of Mount Taber. A great number remained upon the Field of Battle, a great part of the baggage has been taken, among which is that of Ibrahim Bey, and the Mamelukes, which was carried on 400 camels. A part of this crowd of fugitives, pursued with the sword at their backs, was swallowed up in the river Jordan; the other part is pursued on the road to Damas.

At the head-quarters before Acre, 30 Germinal, April 19, the General in Chief exhorts the Generals and Commandants of corps to use the greatest vigilance in recruiting among the inhabitants of the country, and particularly among those of the mountain Saffels, and of Margaretti. The Arabs of Yambo embarked at Cossira, and marched to succour Murad Bey, who took advantage of that circumstance to leave the desart, and to attack the different cantonments of the division of general Desaix. They were completely beaten in the combats of Samahout, Kene, Abermana, Esne, and in a combat of cavalry at Rudesse, where Osmaun Bey has been dangerously wounded.—In these different actions the enemy has been almost totally destroyed. The remainder has been driven back to the Cataracts and to the Desart. The possession of Cossira, and of the Forts constructed on different parts of the Nile, secure Upper Egypt from their incursions.

The General in Chief to the Chief of the etat Major-General.

"The commander of the English Squadron before Acre having had the barbarity to embark on board a vessel which was infected with the plague the French prisoners made in the two Tartans laden