

Wilmington Gazette

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Important News,

By the ship Maria, arrived at New-York, from London.

STATE OF THE NEGOTIATION between FRANCE and AMERICA.

PARIS, August 6.

The conferences opened at Paris with the envoys of the U. States at present suspended; and there is little hope of their being successfully resumed for some time. It appears that the powers vested in the envoys are too limited to enable them to conclude a treaty which shall give the same advantages to the Republic as those granted the English by the treaty made with Mr. Jay. France chooses rather to decline treating with the U. States, than to sanction the privileges which they have accorded to her enemy.

The question in dispute will appear from the following particulars:

The United States and England, by the 25th article of their treaty, mutually stipulate a free passage into their respective ports with complete protection to the privateers and ships of war of the two countries, and the prize taken from their enemies. And they engage never to conclude a treaty extending the same favours to any nation at war with either of the contracting parties. The treaty of 1778, between France and the United States, having been annulled by the latter, and now regarded as if it never existed, they conceive that they cannot give the same privileges to France, without violating their treaty with England. The French Republic does not seem disposed to ratify, to her own prejudice, and in favour of the English, her enemies and rivals, a proceeding so unexpected on the part of the Americans, with whom she recently made a common cause against those very enemies, directed to the very same object for which France herself is now at war—the attainment of liberty and independence.

It is unfortunate that the U. States so precipitately annulled the treaty of 1778. They themselves, now regret that they were induced to take that step, as it deprives them of the power of giving to France, or any other country, the same advantages which they have conferred on the English. Their diplomatic agents must have been very short sighted, or very partial to the interests of England—or their instructions must give a wrong interpretation to their instructions and the treaty alluded to; since it appears that France, renouncing the claims she may have from the priority of the treaty of 1778, now offers to treat without demanding any other advantages than those enjoyed by the English, and which they have exercised during the present war—and the Ambassadors must come with a very bad grace to negotiate a peace, if they are not vested with power to accede to those conditions.

The negotiation was opened on the part of the French Commissioners, on the supposition that the treaty of 1778 was still in force. It was, indeed, unusual to suppose that, after so long a period, there had been a state of war with each other, this treaty could not have been annulled without the consent of both countries; and in this point of view it was that the French Commissioners offered an indemnification to the Americans, by admitting the principle of compensation for illegal captures.

They even proceeded farther; in lieu of demanding from the Americans, the indefinite guarantee, such as appears to be contained in the instructions of the preceding Ambassadors, according to the copy of them published by Congress. But the American envoys were not authorized to renew this treaty, even after ratifying the article respecting the guarantee, of the French demands. France, therefore, conceived he felt exempted from the obligation of compensating for the captures—the Americans themselves having, by annulling the treaty, destroyed the basis on which only their claim could have been founded.

It thus appears that the negotiation turned chiefly on three points.

1. The continuance, in force, or the modified renewal of the treaty of '78. France waived this point, in consequence of the assurance of the American Envoys that they could not renew it.

2. The principle of compensation for illegal captures. This point France offered to admit; but on condition only that the treaty of 1778 should be preserved, with the modifications stated in the instructions given by Washington.

3. The 25th article of the treaty between the United States and Great Britain, relative to the protection granted to the armed vessels of that nation. France will probably insist upon enjoying the same advantage as long as it is possessed to her injury by her enemies.

There is another principle which France is anxious to establish; and on the adoption of which she has strongly insisted; a principle which it is still more the interest and policy of the Americans to carry into execution. But the treaty of 1793 with the English prevents them from acceding to this system; namely, the neutral bottom shall constitute neutral property. France however, hopes to reduce the powers of the North to establish this system, to be excluded from the benefit of which would be highly injurious to the Americans.

It appears, however, that these diplomatic conferences have been conducted in the most amicable manner, and so as to leave only an impression of regret that it was impossible to remove the difficulties which had occurred.

The American Ambassadors, during their residence at Paris, have been treated with every possible mark of respect, and enjoyed all the distinctions conferred on the ministers of our Allies. As it is at present, the principle and system of France to respect and protect the law of nations, and the rights of neutrality, it is to be hoped that the same equitable conduct which she holds with regard to neutral States, will soon remove the difference which has occurred between her and the U. States; and that even should the present negotiation not terminate in a treaty, the American flag shall notwithstanding continue to be respected, and their vessels treat-

ed as those of a friendly nation in our courts of law. Orders are issued to the privateers to respect all neutral flags, among which the American is undoubtedly the most numerous, and American vessels are daily rescued by the courts, with damages against the owners of privateers. There are now about fifty cruises before the Council of Prizes respecting vessels taken in the European seas, and those of the vessels which really belong to Americans will assuredly be restored. The fate of such, however, as were furnished with letters of marque, does not appear to be yet determined. It is thought that they cannot be given up without sanctioning the conduct of the Americans in arming them, unless the restitution should result from a new treaty of amity.

The preceding particulars, though not official, have been communicated by the most respectable authority.

The Paris papers have copied from a *Revue des journaux*, in account of the present state of the negotiation commenced between the French and American ministers at Paris. It is not true, however, that the negotiations are broken off, as the authors of that article state; nor that they have ever been interrupted. The details of that article are besides very inaccurate, even with respect to the citations and dates of treaties.

[Journal de Paris]

August 16.

A letter from Augsburg of the 14th August says, that in less than a fortnight there will be a Convention.

Preliminaries of peace have been signed between the French Republic and the Boy of Algiers.

Letters from Berlin, state, that the negotiations are carried on with equal vigour at Paris, Vienna and Berlin. The King of Prussia, in Denmark, Sweden, and in perhaps with Russia, labours to effect the peace of Europe, or at least of the continent, and to organize an armed neutrality if the war between France and England is to continue. Couriers arrive every day from Paris, Vienna, and Petersburg. They say that negotiations are to be entered on at Gerslebald, and that Gen. Bourdonville will go there soon.

From the second half year of the year 8, the rents and pensions of the state, are to be paid in specie, through the medium of the Bank of France.

VIENNA, July 30.

Lord Minto, the British ambassador, after receiving some dispatches from his court, dated July 13, had a long conference with Baron Thugot, the minister for foreign affairs. It was said that the British cabinet was not averse to a general peace upon reasonable terms, but refused at the same time to make every sacrifice to induce its allies to prosecute the war if the French should be extravagant in their demands. In that case, Austria has been offered new subsidies to the amount of one hundred millions of florins. The Austrian cabinet continued to improve its pacific dispositions, and expected to receive the terms of peace from Paris; after which Count Lehrbach was to be sent off on a diplomatic mission. The armistice between Germany and Italy is also said to have been prolonged for several months, during which the negotiations were to be carried on. The new Spanish ambassador to the Porte, the Chevalier Castel, had been presented to the court of Vienna previously to his departure for Constantinople.

HAGUE, August 2.

Yesterday evening between five and six o'clock arrived here a courier, from our minister at Paris, Citizen Schimmelpenninck, with the pleasing intelligence, that the preliminary articles of peace between the Emperor as King of Hungary and Bohemia, and the French Republic, are already arranged, and as some say, signed on the 29th of July. It is supposed to have for its basis the treaty of Campo Formido.

August 3.

In the sitting which the Austrian Legislative body held yesterday, a letter from the Executive Directory was read, and as it was presumed that it contained the news of the preliminaries of peace between Austria and France, a great concourse of spectators were present in the two chambers. At the reading of the letter, the members were heard with the greatest applause; it says, "If the glorious triumph of the French arms in the places of Marignano, and upon the borders of the Danube reanimates the hope of peace, and if this had been confirmed by the subsequent armistice in Italy and Germany, the important basis of the preliminary basis of a peace to be negotiated between the house of Austria and the French Republic, signed on the evening of the 29th of July last, will give us a certain prospect of a desirable pacification which at length, but an end to a destructive war, at least upon the continent." This intelligence, so agreeable was "brought us yesterday by an extraordinary courier."

LONDON, August 14.

Last night the Hamburg mail arrived but at too late an hour for the delivery of the letters. We can therefore only lay before our readers extracts from the Public Journals, which they see contain the idle rumours with which the public anxiety for peace was abused yesterday, by some of our own prints. There is not a shadow of probability in the article from the Hague. It is manifest, that who ever proposition Mr. F. Julien brought to Paris, it was not satisfactory to the chief contact; and yet not offensive to him; since he dispatched his confidential friends, charged no doubt, with his ultimatum to Vienna. Mr. Daroc could not arrive there till the 6th or 7th instant, and yet by this paragraph from the Hague, the preliminaries were signed in Paris on the 29th. We shall probably learn from private letters this day what impression the Danish seizure has made on the Northern Courts, and what probability there is of a rupture from our persisting in the right to search all vessels under the neutral flag.

The letters from Denmark, by the mail which arrived on Tuesday, state that the King of Prussia

on the 10th of August, in addition to the regular duties of his office, has been ordered to increase the duty which is to be levied on the importation of wheat from his

It is not easy to account for this unexpected circumstance, which the harvest in Poland has promised to be the Prussian harvest has been increased by the demands from this and other quarters, or whether the intelligence had not been received of the favourable change in the appearance of the British crops, and that he had resolved to profit from our necessities, we know not; but the news made a material impression on the stock exchange yesterday, where it rose to 150 and advanced to 155 per cent. since Monday last, and the price of wheat rose in the same proportion.

The prices of wheat which began falling a few days ago on Monday, were yesterday to 150 per cent. The prices of Hamburg and the other cities of Germany, and our ministers offer to continue the same, in order to induce Italy, and the other European powers, to join in the alliance with us, and to conclude a peace, for which we are to be prepared.

The Prussian minister at Paris, M. de Saurin, has declined accepting that important mission. The report that Buonaparte refuses to admit Great Britain as a party in the negotiation for peace, and that he will be without foundation. He never could think of a measure so flattering to our "high consideration" of the belligerents of war.

It is generally supposed that the French will consent to the restoration of the Bourbon race about the 15th of the month; that the Dutch accept the ancient government of the House of Orange.

A ministerial paper of yesterday confidently asserts, that the preliminaries of peace between France and the Emperor, were either signed, or definitively arranged, at Paris on the 29th inst. We have repeatedly stated the probability that some general basis was then laid down, which Duroc accompanied Count St. Julien to Vienna finally to adjust. The paper in question has no authority besides the probability of its being even for its statement; for what additional confirmation is there in a pretended private letter from Hamburg?

Capture of the Danish Convoy.

The precise manner in which the Danish convoy was stopped ought to be ascertained. In order to reason upon a fact which is likely to have consequences so important, we ought to know the circumstances accurately, as they are reported by the Danes themselves, as well as by our own people. We understand that they state the case to be exactly as follows:

"The Danish frigate Freya, commanded by Capt. Krabbe, having a convoy of six merchantmen, was met on the 25th of July by six English ships of war, commanded by Capt. Baxer, an English officer, who on board the Danish command ore learn the destination of the convoy; and was ordered to stop it according to the usual rule of war; soon after her arrival, she was permitted to visit the convoy, which was refused. Upon this the English frigates a pursuit, and one of them fired a shot at one of the Danish vessels. The Danish captain returned the compliment by firing a shot at the head of the English ship. The English commodore renewed the demand of visiting the convoy; which was again refused by the Danish command ore, who at the time assured him, that the vessel had nothing contraband on board; but added a declaration, that he would not suffer, according to his instructions, any boat on board of the vessel under his protection. Notwithstanding this declaration, a boat was seen making its way towards the Danish vessels, upon which he fired a shot ahead of the boat without touching it. Upon which the English commodore fired a broadside which wounded two men on board the Danish frigate; he then returned a broadside and an engagement began, in which the Dane fought not only with the English commodore, but with three other vessels; and being thus overpowered, he struck his flag. Capt. Krabbe was carried on board the British commodore's ship, and the convoy, as our readers know, was carried to the Downs."

This we learn to be their account of the transaction. It does not materially differ from the first statement, except that the Danish command ore in the first place made a declaration that he had nothing contraband under his protection, and that he was signed in a still. The matter stands here on a sole; on the British claim of visitation, and searching vessels under convoy, which for so long a time our flag has maintained, and we understand Lord Whitworth has expressed indignation to justify the representation he will make is evidently to be followed by the fleet of Admiral Dickson, which has followed him in the North Sea; and thus though the present is not perhaps the moment when we should have chosen to discuss the question, our own ministers seem determined to set the right.

We have reason to believe that previous to this affair, no conciliatory to still our claim was definitively conceded. The Danish Court avoided all importunities of Sweden on the point; but as far as her own declaration could go, she always denied the right of Britain to search vessels under her royal flag.

August 19.

Neither French papers nor the Hamburg mail due have arrived. The public expect, with impatience, some information concerning the progress of the negotiations upon the Continent. Little farther is known

of the result of the negotiations, and the only thing that is known is that the French Republic has declined to accept of the British proposal, and that the British have declined to accept of the French proposal.

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