

# Wilmington Gazette

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## Late Foreign News.

Received by the ship Liberty, capt. Woodham 39 days from Liverpool, arrived at New York.

LONDON, February 2.

This afternoon the King went in the usual state to the House of Peers, where being seated on the Throne, and the Commons being sent for and come, his Majesty was pleased to open the business of the first session of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, with a most gracious Speech, of which the following is a literal copy:

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"At a crisis so important to the interests of my people, I derive great satisfaction from being enabled for the first time, to avail myself of the advice and assistance of the Parliament of my United Kingdom of Great-Britain and Ireland.

"The memorable era, distinguished by the accomplishment of a measure calculated to augment and consolidate the strength and resources of the empire, and to cement more closely the interests and affections of my subjects, will, I trust, be equally marked with that vigor, energy and firmness, which the circumstances of our present situation peculiarly require.

"The unfortunate course of events on the continent, and the consequences which must be expected to result from it, cannot fail to be matter of anxiety and concern to all who have a just feeling for the security and independence of Europe.

"Your astonishment as well as your regret must be excited by the conduct of those powers whose attention, at such a period, appears to be more engaged in endeavors to weaken the naval force of the British empire, which has hitherto opposed so powerful an obstacle to theordinate ambition of France, than in concerting the means of mutual defence against their common and increasing danger.

"The representations which I directed to be made to the Court of Petersburg, in consequence of the outrages committed against my ships, property, and persons of my subjects, have been treated with the utmost disrespect; and the proceedings of which I complained have been aggravated by subsequent acts of injustice and violence.

"Under these circumstances a Convention has been concluded by that Court with those of Copenhagen and Stockholm, the object of which, as avowed by one of the contracting parties, is to renew their former engagements, for establishing by force a new code of maritime law, inconsistent with the rights, and hostile to the interests of this country.

"In this situation I could not hesitate as to the conduct which it became me to pursue. I have taken the earliest measures to repel the aggressions of this hostile confederacy, and to support those principles which are essential to the maintenance of our naval strength, and which are grounded on the system of public law so long established and recognized in Europe.

"I have, at the same time, given such assurances, as manifest my disposition to renew my ancient relations with those powers, whenever it can be done consistent with the honor of my crown, and with a just regard to the safety of my subjects.—You will, I am persuaded, omit nothing on your part, that can afford me the most vigorous and effectual support in my determination to maintain to the utmost, against every attack, the naval rights and the interests of my empire.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

"I have directed the estimates for the several branches of the public service to be laid before you: deeply as I lament the continued necessity of adding to the

burdens of my people, I am persuaded you will feel with me the importance of providing effectual means for those exertions which are indispensably requisite for the honor and security of the country.

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"I am confident that your deliberations will be uniformly directed to the great object of improving the benefit of that happy union, which by the blessing of Providence, has now been effected, and of promoting to the utmost, the prosperity of every part of my dominions.

"You will, I doubt not, resume the enquiries which were so diligently prosecuted in the last session of Parliament, as to the best means of relieving my subjects from the pressure of the present high price of provisions; and of preventing, as far as it can be done by human foresight, the recurrence of similar difficulties. In these endeavours, and in every measure that can contribute to the happiness of my people, the great end of all my wishes, you may be assured of my cordial concurrence.

"You may rely on my availing myself of the earliest opportunity which shall afford a prospect of terminating the present contest, on grounds consistent with our security and honor, and with the maintenance of those essential rights on which our naval strength must always principally depend.

"It will afford me the truest and most heartfelt satisfaction, whenever the disposition of our enemies shall enable me thus to restore to the subjects of my united kingdom the blessings of peace and thereby confirm and augment those advantages which result from our internal situation, and which even under all the difficulties of war, have carried to so great an extent the agriculture, manufactures, commerce and revenues of the country."

January 26.

Yesterday we received Paris Journals of the 11th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th and 21st; and this morning those of the 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th and 20th. By the packet which brought the last, upwards of thirty passengers came over, among whom was the widow of the French Admiral De Bruys, killed at the battle of Aboukir.

It appears that the French are meditating an attack also upon Naples. The army of observation, under General Murat, has arrived in Lombardy, and is immediately to proceed to the South. Murat with the whole army, was to be at Ancona on the 20th.

It is stated in the Ciel du Cabinet of the 18th, that three expeditions are ready to sail from Brest, one of nine ships under the command of admiral Ganteaume; one of five under admiral Latouch, & one of fifteen French & Spanish ships, under admiral Bruix. It is said that troops are marching to Brest, and it is insinuated that Ireland is their destination.

The French Tiers Consolides are now within a trifle as high as the English three per cents. On the 19th they were 54 1-2. There is no intelligence of importance from Luneville.

The emperor of Russia, we understand, in answer to the remonstrance of this court, has refused to make any satisfaction for the detention of our ships and men, or to give any explanation whatever respecting the cause which induced him to take the step. This conduct so contrary to all the diplomatic rules hitherto acknowledged by civilized states, may perhaps be accounted for by the following curious article copied from the Petersburg Court Gazette.

*Petersburgh, Dec. 30.*

The Court Gazette contains the following curious article:—"It is said that his majesty the emperor, seeing that the powers of Europe cannot agree together, and wishing to terminate a war which has now raged for eleven years,

means to propose a place where he intends to invite all other potentates to fight with him in closed lists, for which purpose they are to bring with them their most enlightened ministers and skillful generals, viz. Thugut, Pitt, Bernstorff, in the capacity of Esquires, judges of combat, and heralds. He himself intends Count Vondor Pahlen and Kurouff to be his siders. It is not known whether this report may be credited; but it seems not to be entirely void of foundation, since it bears the stamp of that which he has often been accused of."

[A subsequent article says, that the emperor, in a state of intoxication, ordered the insertion of the above article by way of a Christmas frolic.]

February 4.

Mr. Pitt has given notice of the opening of the budget very early this year. It is to be brought forward this day fortnight. The amount of the loan wanted is said to be twenty-one millions. This intelligence produced some effect upon the funds yesterday. The three per cents which opened at 56 1-2, fell to 55 1-2, but recovered a little towards the close of the market, and left off at 55 1-2. This morning they opened at 55 2-3, and at 56. Rumour states how truly we do not pretend to say, that the following are among the new taxes to be proposed: an additional tax on the horses kept for pleasure; on servants, beyond a certain number; on carriages; and additional duties on wine and tea. A reduction of the drawback allowed on the exportation of sugar is also spoken of.

February 5.

Paris papers to the 21st ult. inclusive arrived yesterday. They contain an account of the signing of the Articles of Peace between Austria and France. The Treaty, however, is not to be published, till the end of the present month, when the engagements between Britain and Austria terminate. The delay of its publication is a piece of civility on the part of the emperor to this country.

Upon the Northern Confederacy no fresh information is afforded, and no new light thrown. The attention of the French government seems to be particularly directed to the projects in agitation against Portugal.

The French papers also notice some particular orders given for the formation of an army of observation in the neighbourhood of Bourdeaux, which is certainly destined at the invasion of Portugal, if that government does not submit to all the hard conditions which the French government may think fit to impose upon it.

The French funds continue to rise; they are 56; nearly the same price as that at which the English 3 per cents were opened yesterday.

February 7.

Orders have been sent from the Admiralty, and received at Plymouth, for all the ships of war at that port to be immediately got ready to put to sea.

*Private letter from an officer on board La Concorde, commanded by capt. Robert Barton, dated Plymouth, Feb. 4.*

"On the 27th of Jan. Cape Finisterre bearing E. 1-2 N. distant 25 leagues, we discovered at 9 at night, by moon light, 7 large ships about two miles to windward; being on opposite tacks, two bore up to us. One however in a short time resumed her course, and joined her fleet; the other continuing in chase of us, we stood on, until we supposed the fleet distant about 6 miles, somewhat on our lee-quarter, when having brought to, we made the private signal, which not being answered, convinced us she was an enemy. When he was within hail, and during some preliminary conversation between the captians, I had an opportunity of observing her, from her comparative size, to be a frigate of very large dimensions, with a poop; any further observations

were prevented by a volley of musquetry, and an order to strike to a French frigate. She then ranged upon our lee-side, receiving and returning our fire as she passed, till she shot so far ahead as to bring us on her quarter; in which position we kept her warily and closely engaged for about half an hour, when the enemy's fire entirely ceased, he receiving our broadsides, which brought his boat and other wreck from his stern and quarters into the water, without returning a shot. From this we concluded that his people had deserted their quarters, and that he had surrendered; but we soon found his intention was engaged in making his escape; we perceived him making off before the wind.

Our braces being shot away, some minutes elapsed before we could pursue him; and though every exertion was made by capt. Barton, we could not again bring him to action. At 3 in the morning we lost sight of him, and perceived him again at day-light; but his fleet, soon appearing to windward, obliged us to relinquish the pursuit and steer for England. Tho' the presence of a very superior force has deprived the officers and crew of La Concorde of adding a fine frigate to the British navy, yet the consciousness of having been a ship of much greater force, under the existing circumstances, must ever be a pleasing reflection to every person belonging to her."

February 9.

The rumours which have been for some days in circulation, and which have so much agitated the public mind, appear to be well founded. We have before stated that disagreements had taken place in the Cabinet upon the subject of emancipation. These disagreements have produced a change of administration, and Mr. Pitt, Mr. Dundas, Lord Grenville, Earl Spencer, and Mr. Windham have actually resigned. It was these dissensions that occasioned the delay of the King's Speech. Some of the Cabinet ministers thought that the subject of Catholic Emancipation should be alluded to; others were of a different opinion. It was finally settled that no reference should be made to the subject. But Mr. Pitt and his friends, together with Lord Castlereagh, were strenuously of opinion that all restraints with respect to religious opinions should be done away, and it was known that many of the persons who supported the union, supported it under the idea that such a measure would be among the first boon granted by the Imperial Parliament.

The Portland party, and Lord Clare, differed totally in opinion with Mr. Pitt & his friends. They thought that the measure proposed would endanger the established church, and it was insinuated that it would be a violation of his majesty's coronation oath, which is as follows:

"I promise to the utmost of my power to maintain the laws of God, the true protestant reformed religion, established by law; and I will preserve unto the bishops and clergy of this realm, and to the churches committed to their charge, all such rights and privileges as by law do or shall appertain unto them, or any of them."

How the measure of Catholic emancipation can be supposed to be a violation of the coronation oath, we are at a loss to guess. Be this as it may, the opposers of this measure succeeded, and Mr. Pitt and his friends resolved to retire. When they sent in their resignations, they accompanied them with an assurance that they would continue to discharge the duties of their respective stations until his majesty could call to his councils men in whom he had confidence, and who had not the same feelings on this particular question of Catholic emancipation. The motion that stood for Thursday last was postponed at Mr. Pitt's desire, under pretext of a