

WILMINGTON GAZETTE.

Published weekly by *ALLMAN HALL*, at *THREE DOLLARS A YEAR*.]

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1803.

[Vol. 7, No. 345.

PARIS, May 21.

REPORT of Colonel *SEBASTIANA* to the *FIRST CONSUL*.

[Continued from our last.]

"At Acre I met with the Procurator of the Propogandi, and the Procurator of the Holy Land. To the former and the commissary of the Seven Isles I am indebted for the exact information I received, respecting the present state of Syria, and the fortifications of Acre, of which I could only observe a part. The Procurator of the Holy Land is penetrated with gratitude towards the First Consul for the protection he granted to the Monks; he assured me that my recommendation to Djezar would be of great service to them. He does every thing, and the Procurator, to be reconciled to the First Consul. It is certain that Djezar treated with great kindness, the crew of a French vessel which had been at Acre before my arrival.

"Djezar occupies the whole of Palestine; Jaffa excepted, where Aboumarak has for five months been besieged by 9000 men. This siege prevents Djezar from carrying on the war as vigorously as he could wish against the Emirs of the Druzes. The Pacha has refused to pay him any tribute for the year past.

"Onolis at this moment tranquil. It is not the same at Aleppo, whence the Pacha has been driven, Damascus has completed its rebellion against the Porte. The Pacha of the Diar has not only been driven away from that place, but the Ara, who commanded the citadel for the Turks, was driven from it by his own soldiers, and had his head cut off. This Pacha remains in the power of the rebel Pacha Abdullah, who is a creature of Djezar. The latter has given him orders and afforded him means for escorting the Pilgrims from Mecca. In a word almost all Syria is governed by Djezar and the Osmanlis who are as much detested there as in Egypt.

"The Nutrias live tranquilly in their villages; they have, however been obliged to retire from the shore.

"Aboumarak is at the last extremity. He is an inconsiderate man, and his cruelty equals, if it does not surpass that of Djezar. The Christians dread him more, and he subjects them to every possible vexation. The Monks of the Convent of Jaffa have withdrawn to Jerusalem.

"On the 30th Brumaire, I departed from Acre, and as the wind was not fair for Jaffa, I sailed for Zante, where I arrived on the 13th Frimaire. I landed the same day, but we were put under quarantine. I however obtained permission to visit the Governor, and the French commissary, escorted by guards of health.

"I soon learned that the Island and all the Republic were divided into different parties, and that its tranquility was threatened. I assembled several of the Constituted Authorities, and some of the principal inhabitants of the town, at the house of the Governor, M. Colthouat. After speaking to them of the interests which the First Consul takes in their happiness, I expressed them in his name to say as much that spirit of party which divides them, still to wait calmly for that new Constitution, which the powers that have guaranteed their sovereignty and independence are preparing for them.

"These few words were heard with enthusiasm, and all exclaimed—'Vive le France! Vive Buonaparte!'—These cries were repeated on my going away by more than 400 persons, who accompanied me to the Port. The Governor and the Russian Commandants were alarmed at this, and I learned next day from the French Commissary, that two persons of the first influence had been put in prison, but in consequence of his approbation, and the fear of my reproaches, they were set at liberty during the night. I repaired to the guard at the gate, and sent for the Governor. He exhibited contrition, and promised to consider those who had cried—'Vive Buonaparte,' only as good citizens, and to treat them as such.

"As he had sent a Courier to his government during the night, and as I had reason to believe he had made a false report of what had passed, I also wrote to the Charge D'Affaires of the Republic of Corfu, to inform him of what had passed, and sailed immediately after Messina.

"I should not depart from the truth were I to assert, that the Islands of the

Ionian Sea, would declare themselves French, the moment they might be required so to do.

"ENGLISH ARMY IN EGYPT.
"This army commanded by General Stuart, is 4430 strong, as appears by the subjoined statement. It occupies entirely, and exclusively, Alexandria and the surrounding forts. The Turks who garrisoned some of these forts, have been driven from them. The English General lately caused Djezar to be occupied by 100 infantry and 100 cavalry, under the pretext of repressing the Arabs. The English take no pains to maintain the works of the forts. The palisades are entirely destroyed, and the damage done by the rains has greatly injured all the recent fortifications. They occupy none of the works without the inclosure of the Arabs, and all the exterior redoubts which existed on the departure of the French army are destroyed.

"The Pacha of Cairo furnishes the English army with corn, rice, wood, and butcher's meat, free of expence. The consumption is triple what it ought to be, and great depredations are committed.

"The greatest misunderstanding prevails between General Stuart and the Pacha.

"SITUATION OF THE ARMY.

The Regiment of Dillon (emigrants)	450
British Chasseurs, (idem)	550
Role's Regiment, (Swiss)	600
Watvil's Regiment, (idem)	680
The 10th Reg. of infantry (Eng.)	600
61st do. do. (idem)	650
88th do. do. (idem)	400
38th do. of Dragoons, (idem)	350
Artillery, (idem)	150
Total	4430

"TURKISH ARMY.

"Mahomed, Pacha of Cairo, who has taken, no one knows why, the title of Viceroy of Egypt, does not command the troops in person. Muhammed-aly Sun Cherseme, who had the command before my arrival, was killed before Giza. They are now under the orders of Juseth Kiabla, Tair is Pacha of the Armoates, who compose the great majority of this army, amounting to 16,000 men, distributed as hereafter explained. It receives successive reinforcements which are landed at Aboukir, but it suffers much from desertion.

"Rhouchid-Ahmed, a Pacha with two sails, is at Alexander, with 600 men, who occupy no works. This Pacha may be regarded as the prisoner of the English.

"Aboukir—This fort is in a very bad state. It has not been repaired since its capture. The breaches are neither cleared nor built up. The large tower is partly destroyed, and all around it is completely open. The fort and the tower are armed with two 24 pounders, five pieces of small calibre, and two 12 inch mortars. The whole is in a very bad state. It is occupied by 100 Albanais, commanded by Mustapha Aga, and taken from the troops of the Pachelic of Alexandria.

Fort Julien—This fort is also in a ruinous state and is only occupied by 15 men.

"Burlon—The tower is armed with two guns, and occupied by the inhabitants of the village, who form its guard, and are paid by the Pacha.

"Rahmania—This fort is almost destroyed by the inundation. It is occupied by 25 men.

"Menouf—The towers of the town are ruined and abandoned. The province of Menouf is occupied by 500 men.

"Bouiak—The two towers armed and occupied by 30 men. The Okil Aly Bey has been restored to its ancient uses. The fort of the Wells, of the Aqueduct, the Citadel of Cairo, the gate of Babe-El Nassar, and the inclosure as far as the gate Babe-El Adid, Fort Soukoushy, Fort Quantin, and the farm of Ibrahim Bey are occupied and armed. The part towards Upper Egypt, is a security against all attempts on that side and is well defended. The works of the forts are the same as they were left by the French, but they have not been taken care of, and are therefore, in a state of decay. The house of Elif-Bey, now occupied by the Pacha, is the only point by which the Turks have fortified. I made Capt. Berge draw a plan of it, which I subjoin. The farm of Ibrahim Bey has nothing of a fortification but the name. Fort Deputy is in ruins and abandoned. The stair and the interior works have been carried away. The surrounding towers have guns, but are not occupied.

The works of the fort of the institute are not maintained; that fort is indeed almost destroyed. The bridges of Gise, and the farm of Ibrahim Bey, no longer exists.

"The powder magazine of Roudag is destroyed; the Nilometre, though armed is not occupied.

"Gise is also in a very bad state; the part of the works which front Upper Egypt is alone maintained.

"Birket-El-Hadji is abandoned.

"Bebeis and Salahie are also abandoned and partly destroyed.

"Masoura—The towers of the town are destroyed. The province Mansoura is occupied by 500 men.

"Lesach is also like the rest in a bad state. The Turks, far from completing the works which were begun, do not even preserve those which are necessary to the support of the place.

"The whole is badly armed; the gun carriages could not stand two rounds of firing. The two towers of the Boga are armed, and in pretty good condition. The fort and the towers are occupied by a garrison of 200 men from the Pachelic of Damietta.

"The towers of Dibe and Ouma Forage are destroyed.

"The province of Damietta is occupied by 600 men.

"Cahie—This fort exists no longer. The Arabs have returned and rebuilt a village here.

"El-Atich—The Pacha has repaired the fort, and entrusted it to the inhabitants of the village. I saw the Sheik of this place at Damietta, where he came for ten pieces of cannon to mount on the works.

Suez is occupied by Osmanlis: there are no English there.

Recapitulation and distribution of the Turkish troops in Egypt.

At Alexandria,	600
At Aboukir,	100
Fort Julien,	15
Rosetta,	200
Rahmania,	25
Province of Menouf,	500
Cairo, Boulec, and Gise,	5,000
Suez,	100
Province of Mansoura,	500
Do. of Damietta and Leche,	7,640
DISPOSABLE FORCE.	
Infantry,	6,000
Cavalry,	2,000
Artillery,	500
Total	16,140

"It is needless to add, that this is not an army. The men are badly armed, without discipline, without confidence in their Chiefs, and enervated by the excess of debauch. The officers every way resemble the soldiers. They are ignorant of the first principle of the military art, and are stimulated merely by the desire of gain. They think of nothing but enriching themselves. 6000 French would at this moment be sufficient to conquer Egypt.

"ARMY OF THE MAMELUKES.

"The army of the Beys consists of 3000. Mamelukes, 35,000. Arabs, of the tribe of Abahde, of Chark, and 3,500 of the tribe of Baucaly. Muhammed Bey Elfy, has married the daughter of the Chief of the first tribe, and Maarzouk Bey, son of Ibrahim Bey, the daughter of the Chief of the tribe Bincaly. The power in this army is divided between Ibrahim Bey, the Chief, Elfy Bey and Osman Bey. They have with them 80 French deserters. Hitherto they have beat the Turks on every occasion. All Upper Egypt is in their power.

SYRIA.

"Acre. The walls of this place are repaired. The Gates covered by a small horn work, and the tower of the angle of the wall by a half moon. A small fleche has also been constructed on the walls of the Pacha's palace. All the works are well preserved. The weakest part is that towards the sea, and particularly the point which defends the entrance to the port.

"The forces of Djezar amount at this moment to between 13 and 14, 000 men, 9000 of whom are employed in the siege of Jaffa. Jerusalem and Nazareth are occupied by the troops of the Pacha of Acre. The Naplousians serve against Aboumarak.

"Jaffa. The vizier, after the reconquest of Egypt caused the walls to be repaired, which are however at this moment in a very bad condition. Aboumarak Pacha, of Palestine, who defends this place, has 4000 men in the garrison.

"Gaza is occupied by 400 of Aboumarak's troops. The Empire of the Druzes has refused to pay his annual tribute to Djezar, and has raised a

powerful force. The Pacha waits for the surrender of Jaffa to attack him. The English have offered to interpose as mediators between the Emir and Djezar, but the latter has refused their mediation.

"The Porte has at this moment very little connection with Syria.

HORACE SEBASTIANA."

INTERESTING STATE PAPER.

The following is document, No. 38, of those lately presented to the British Parliament on the subject of the late negotiation between France and England. This and the declaration contains the principal information on the causes of the renewal of war. As Buonaparte has here acted the part of sovereign and minister, and strongly exhibited his extraordinary character and views, this paper will undoubtedly be read with great interest.

PARIS, Feb. 23, 1803.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

My Lord,
MY last dispatch, in which I gave your lordship an account of my conference with M. de Talleyrand, was scarcely gone, when I received a note from him, informing me that the First Consul wished to converse with me, and desired I would come to him at the Thuilleries at nine o'clock. He received me in his Cabinet with tolerable cordiality, and after talking on different subjects for a few minutes, he desired me to sit down, as he himself did on the other side of the table, and began. He told me that he felt it necessary, after what had passed between me and M. de Talleyrand, that he should in a most clear and authentic manner, make known his sentiments to me in order to their being communicated to his Majesty; and he conceived this would be more effectually done by himself than through any medium whatever. He said, that it was a matter of infinite disappointment to him, that the treaty of Amiens instead of being followed by conciliation and friendship, the natural effects of Peace, had been productive only of continual and increasing jealousy and mistrust; and that this mistrust was now avowed in such a manner as must bring the point to an issue.

He now enumerated the several provocations which he pretended to have received from England. He placed in the first line our not evacuating Malta and Alexandria as we were bound to do by treaty. In this he said that no consideration on earth should make him acquiesce; and that of the two he had rather see us in the possession of the Faubourg St. Antoine, than Malta. He then adverted to the abuse thrown out against him in the English public prints; but this he said he did not so much regard, as that which appeared in the French papers published in London. This he considered as much more mischievous since it was meant to excite this country against him and his government. He complained of the protection given to Georges and others of his disposition, who instead of being sent to Canada, as had been repeatedly promised, were permitted to remain in England, handsomely pensioned, and constantly committing all sorts of crimes on the coasts of France, as well as the interior. In confirmation of this, he told me that two men had within these few days been apprehended in Normandy, and were now on their way to Paris, who were hired assassins, and employed by the Bishop of Aries, by the Baron de Rolie, by Georges, and by Duthell, as would be fully proved in a court of justice, and made known to all the world.

He acknowledged, that the irritation he felt against England, increased daily, because every wind [I make use as much as I can of his own ideas and expressions] which blew from England, brought nothing but enmity and hatred against him. He now went back to Egypt, and told me, that if he had felt the smallest inclination, to take possession of it by force, he might have done it a month ago, by sending 25,000 men to Aboukir, who would have possessed themselves of the whole country in defiance of the 4000 British in Alexandria. That instead of that garrison being a means of protecting Egypt, it was only furnishing him with a pretence of invading it. This he should not do, whatever might be his desire to have it as a colony, because he did not think it worth the risk of a War, in which he might, perhaps be considered as the

aggressor, and by which he should lose more than he should gain, since sooner or later Egypt would belong to France, either by the falling to pieces of the Turkish Empire, or by some arrangement with the Porte.

"As a proof of his desire to maintain peace, he wished to know what he had to gain by going to war with England. A descent was the only means of offence he had, and that he was determined to attempt, by putting himself at the head of the expedition. But how could it be supposed, that having gained the height on which he stood, he would risk his life and reputation in such a hazardous attempt, unless forced to it by necessity, when the chances were that he and the greatest part of the expedition would go to the bottom of the sea. He talked much on this subject, but never affected to diminish the danger. He acknowledged that there were one hundred chances to one against him; but still he was determined to attempt it, if war should be the consequence of the present discussion; and that such was the disposition of the troops that army after army would be found for the enterprise.

He then expatiated much on the natural force of the two countries, France with an army of 480,000 men, for to this amount, it is, he said, to be immediately completed, all ready for the most desperate enterprises; and England with a fleet which made her mistress of the seas, and which he did not think he should be able to equal in less than ten years. Two such countries, by a proper understanding, might govern the world, but by their strifes might overturn it. He said that if he had not felt the enmity of the British government on every occasion since the treaty of Amiens, there would have been nothing that he would not have done to prove his desire to conciliate; participation in indemnities, as well as influence on the continent; treaties of commerce, in short, any thing that could have given satisfaction, and have testified his friendship. Nothing however, had been able to conquer the hatred of the British government, and therefore it was now come to the point, whether we should have Peace or War. To preserve Peace, the treaty of Amiens must be fulfilled, the abuse of the public prints if not totally suppressed, at least kept within bounds, and confined to the English papers; and the protection so openly given to his bitterest enemies [alluding to Georges, and persons of that description], must be withdrawn. If war, it was necessary to say so, and to refuse to fulfil the treaty. He now made the tour of Europe, to prove to me, that in its present state, there was no power with which we could coalesce for the purpose of making war against France; consequently it was our interest to gain time, and if we had any point to gain, renew the war when circumstances were more favourable. He said, it was doing him justice to suppose, that he conceived himself above the opinion of his country or of Europe. He would not risk uniting Europe against him by any violent act of aggression; neither was he so powerful in France, as to persuade the nation to war, unless on good grounds. He said that he had not chastised the Algerines from his unwillingness to excite the jealousy of other powers, but he hoped that England, Russia, and France, would one day feel that it was their interest to destroy such a nest of thieves, and force them to live rather by cultivating their land than by plunder.

In the little I said to him, for he gave in the course of two hours, but very few opportunities of saying a word, I confined myself strictly to the tenor of your Lordship's instructions. I urged them in the same manner as I had done to M. de Talleyrand, and dwelt as strongly as I could on the sensation which the publication of Sebastiana's report had created in England, where the views of France towards Egypt, must always command the utmost vigilance and jealousy. He maintained that what ought to convince us of his desire for peace was on the one hand the little he had to gain by renewing the war, and on the other the facility with which he might have taken possession of Egypt with the very ships and troops which were now going from the Mediterranean to St. Domingo, and that with the approbation of all Europe, and more particularly of the Turks, who had repeatedly invited him to join with them for the purpose of forcing us to evacuate their territory.