

Copy of a Memorial presented by the French Ambassador at Madrid, Citizen Perignon, to his Excellency the Prince of Peace.

My Lord, The Executive Directory has heard, with astonishment, the unexpected result of the naval engagement, between the fleet of his Catholic Majesty and the British. I have received an extraordinary packet, which has just come to my hands, ordering that I do, at this moment, make known to his majesty the true causes contributed to the malicious loss, which has evidently soiled the honour of the Spanish flag. I am well persuaded, my lord, that a detestable policy will strive to cover so shameful an action with darkness; and, in order to obtain its ends with impunity, will hide the truth, but should his majesty listen to the false excuses which in such cases the guilty will give, I will comply with the confidence which his nation has placed in me, and will make him, in presence of his majesty, of all who pretend to contradict the veracity of what I advance. The directory has ordered me to give you this information, that you may lay it before his majesty.

The Spaniards have formerly given proofs of superior valour, talents, and military skill. But in late instances some have degenerated, and by reason of a different system in the order of things in all Europe, have lost that which they had in possession for so many ages. It is indispensable, in order to preserve the body politic, to destroy and cut off by the root this pernicious evil.

The navy, my lord, has just given us a full proof of this indubitable truth, being in force sufficient to bring down the haughtiness of the British, which was just beginning to diminish and fall short of the high opinion conceived of their navy. But the event has so elevated their arrogance, that there is no example to equal it.

For this powerful reason, the commerce, which supports the Spanish monarchy, is about to be ruined by irreparable losses. The whole nation decries the tardy operations of the navy, and laments with fear the misfortune which is about to befall them. The fact is, the fleet would not, or did not, act with vigour, and the fleet has sold the honor of the nation.

It has been so represented to the directory, by documents which cannot be disputed: and as they always are led by sentiments which promote the honor of their allies, they cannot look with indifference at so vile an action, which will produce pernicious and terrible consequences.

I therefore request, in their name, that you will prevail on his majesty to be inflexible in punishing with rigour those who have been guilty of crime. I wait your lordship's answer for the information of the Directory.

PERIGNON.

STATE PAPER.

Answer of the Spanish minister to a memorial or remonstrance, presented by citizen Perignon, French ambassador in Madrid, upon the defeat of the Spanish fleet, off Cape St. Vincent, by the British fleet.

"Citizen Ambassador, I have with great reluctance, laid before the king, the heads and purport of the memorial presented by your excellency, in the name of the Directory of the French Republic: I say the heads of the memorial, because the language it contains is couched in terms so offensive, so debasing, and so insolent, to the ears of a free people, that I deemed it quite inconsistent with the dignity of my station, to present it in the form in which it stood, to an independent sovereign.

"The king, sir, laments with great sincerity, the unexpected and severe loss which has befallen his majesty's arms in the late engagement with the British fleet; and is naturally led in support of his own honour, as well as the honor of the Spanish nation, to make a becoming enquiry into the cause of that misfortune: but he will not suffer for a moment, the Directory of the French Republic, nor any foreign power whatever, to assume a privilege of interfering in the smallest degree with the concerns of his kingdom.

"It is true, as stated in the memorial of your masters, that the naval arms of Spain have hitherto been eminently distinguished among nations, and on that account any humiliation at sea is felt with the greater force and mortification by his majesty. But it cannot but seem very extraordinary indeed to the king, and to his majesty's subjects in general, that the loss of one action should be viewed as a matter of surprise by the French nation; surely, sir, the Directory of the

French Republic are not acquainted with the reproach of a naval defeat: they are pleased to observe, that the Spanish flag has suffered a remarkable disgrace to its honor, and that they as the allies of his Catholic Majesty, cannot with indifference behold such turpitude. Are these gentlemen the members of the same assembly who embarked on board your fleet on the three memorable days of the 20th and 21st of May, and the 1st of June? Are these gentlemen the commissioners who assumed the rank and station of naval field marshals on that occasion? Who before the commencement of the action with the British fleet, sent a frigate with an insidious message to each ship of the line, viz. That the commissioners gave positive orders to the separate captains that they were to sink to the bottom every English man of war, only excepting the Royal Charlotte, which carried the British commander's flag, out of their mercy, that ship they were to spare, but they were to bring her safe into the harbour of Brest, in order to grace the triumph of the glorious new republic, but who in the end, were glad to make their escape from the cowardly English, with the loss of nine capital ships: and are these gentlemen who are prescribing to the king of Spain, what punishment he is to inflict upon the commanders of the Spanish fleet, for the loss of one battle, while the English have in their possession at this moment one half of their navy? We did not hear, sir, of any punishment proposed by the Directory for the defeat of your impregnable fleet on the 1st of June. On the contrary it was asserted in the solemn assembly, that for the arms of France ever to meet the English in an action at sea, it was of itself sufficient, and equal to a victory. I am stating here to your excellency, the history of three days only of the naval exploits of your republic, but almost every day since its commencement might have accustomed the ears and the eyes of your Directory to the turpitude of naval defeats: therefore, previously to your excellency's approaching the presence of his majesty, where you threaten to speak your opinion of the guilt of the officers who commanded his fleet, I would advise you, as a friend and ally, to balance the disgrace of two nations: to take in one hand the single defeat of the arms of Spain, off the Cape of St. Vincent's, while in the other you carry the various defeats and disgraces that have befallen the navy of the French Republic ever since the commencement of its career, and see which weighs the heaviest. Your Directory will then be convinced, that for either of our two nations to attempt to bring reproach upon the other, for their inferiority to the other in naval skill and courage, is nothing else than to arraign the Almighty Power, who has thought it good and proper to grant the decided superiority upon the wide and extended ocean, to that brave people.

"The king, my master, has, in the mean time, commanded me to signify to the members of the French republic, that whether it be true or not, that it is the infirmity of governments as they state, to be seized with certain cancers, which contaminate and corrupt the state, it is not his majesty's intention to follow the example of regenerated France, by applying caustics and the knife to remedy that dreadful evil: for which reason he has no occasion to suspend, even for a moment, the dictates of his paternal affection towards the subjects of his own states, which he is more than ever determined to cherish and cultivate: being firmly persuaded, by his own observation, and which is confirmed by the historical experience of all nations, that no evil can be so great as to submit to the tyranny and oppression of a foreign government, nurtured and supported by the very dregs of the lower order of society."

BOURDEAUX, July 11.

Paris News—Hostilities are renewed. The Emperor wishing to get possession of the Tyrol and Istria, caused our troops to be attacked; but the enemy were repulsed. As soon as Buonaparte knew this, he expedited a courier to the Emperor, inviting him to sign the peace, projected with the Marquis de Callo, in 24 hours, or he would enter the Austrian territory.

We are assured that Buonaparte has wrote to the Directory, that he has always been suspicious of the Emperor's armaments; that he had always kept his army upon a respectable footing, and that at the moment he signed the peace, he was certain of victory, because his rear and his military chest were safe. But at that moment he did not know of the two passages of the Rhine, and that Loudon and the Venetians incoordinated his rear.

Hoche and Moreau have received orders to penetrate into Germany.

LONDON, July 4-5.

By the Dublin Mail which arrived this morning, we have received a most eloquent and energetic address of Mr. Grattan to his fellow-citizens of Dublin. It begins thus: Fellow-Citizens of Dublin,

I thank you for past favors. I have found in you a kind and gracious master—you have found in me an unprofitable servant. Under that impression, I beg to assure you, that so long as the present state of representation in the common house continues, so long must I respectfully decline the honor of soliciting at your hands a seat in that assembly.

On this principle it was I withdrew from Parliament, together with those with whom I act—and I now exercise my privilege, and discharge my duty, in communicating with my constituents, at the eye of a general election, some say an immediate dissolution, when I am to render back a trust, which until parliament shall be reformed, I do not aspire to re-assume. The account of the most material parts of my conduct, together with the reason of my resolution, will be the subject of this letter.

Mr. Grattan concludes this appeal to his fellow-countrymen in the following words: May the Kingly power that forms one estate in our constitution, continue forever! But let it be as it professes to be, and as by the principles and laws of these countries, it should be, one estate only—and not a power constituting one estate, creating another, and influencing a third.

May the parliamentary constitution prosper! But let it be operative, independent, and an integral part of the constitution, advising, consulting, and some time directing the kingly power.

May the House of Commons flourish! but let the people be the sole author of its existence, as they should be the great object of its care.

May the connection with Great Britain continue! But let the result of that connection be the perfect freedom, in the fairest and fullest sense, of all descriptions of men, without distinction in religion.

To this purpose he spoke—and speaking this to no purpose, withdrew—It remains to add this supplication: However, it may please the Almighty to dispose of Prussia and of Parliaments—May the Liberties of the People be immortal.

July 17.

The extraordinary preparations for war on the part of the King of Prussia, of which we have received intelligence by the Brussels papers, now appears to have been undertaken with a view to hostilities with the court of Vienna—The important state paper, may be considered as the prelude to the commencement of a war between Prussia and Austria.

The King of Prussia's having opposed the decree of the Aulic Council against his usurpation in Franconia, is confirmed by the mail, which contains his proclamation on the subject. Every thing seems to threaten a rupture between the two courts of Berlin and Vienna.

The equipage of the Archduke Charles is arrived at Schwazingen.

Prague is putting in a complete state of defence.

The troubles at Turin go on increasing, and 10,000 French troops have marched for that capital.

A strong fleet has sailed from Venice with a large body of French and Venetian sailors on board, for the Venetian islands in the Levant.

July 23.

The Paris Journal to the 18th and 19th inst. state, that the Executive Directory have made the following changes in the ministry, viz. Cochon, minister of police; Truguet, of the marines; Benezec, of the interior; Petiet, of war; and Charles Lacroix, of foreign affairs, were dismissed and replaced, the first by Laroch, the second by Pleville, the third by Francois de Neuchateau, the fourth by General Roche, and the fifth by Talleyrand Perigord. Merlin, minister of justice, and Ramel of the finances, remain in office. Barthelemy and Carnot are laid to have opposed this arrangement.

Charles Lacroix is to be sent to Lille to replace Pleville Peset. Lenour and Talleyrand Perigord were sworn in their new offices on the morning of the 18th.

The Executive Directory have written a letter to Buonaparte, dated 25th Messidor, to the following purport:

"The Executive Directory thinks, citizen general, that it is due to the important services which you have rendered, to manifest to you their satisfaction. It consequently approves of the conduct both po-

litical and military, which you have adopted, especially with regard to Venice and Genoa.

(Signed) CARNOT, President, LAGARDE, Sec. Gen."

A Hamburg mail arrived on Friday. The advices from Vienna state that the king of Prussia appears determined to enforce his claims upon certain possessions in Franconia by dint of arms, and consequently to set at defiance the authority of the Aulic Council. On the 6th inst. a strong body of his troops took possession of the fort, and immediately dispersed the soldiers whom they found in the barracks.

The new government of Genoa is now perfectly established, and citizen president Goge wears a blue and white coat.

July 24.

A report prevailed yesterday at Portsmouth, of Earl St. Vincent having had an engagement with the Spanish fleet, and having captured five sail of the line. We do not know how this report originated, and it seems indeed vague, so that we attach but little credit to it.

The latest dispatches received by ministers from the Mediterranean, afford strong grounds to suppose that a naval action has, before this time, taken place in that quarter. According to reports which are abroad in well informed circles, the Spaniards are determined, with the help of their allies the French, to risk a battle. It is said that the combined forces are in great strength; and the following statement, on the authenticity of which we do not, however, pledge ourselves, has been handed to us. If it be at all near the truth, and the Spaniards resolved to try their strength, our tars will have a full scope for their gallantry. By this statement, it appears, that there were at Cadix, when the dispatches came away, 33 ships of the line, 31 of which were lying in the outer road, and the 2 others sitting with all possible dispatch in the harbour. Off the Orange-grove in the Algeiras bay, there were 8 Spanish line of battle ships, and 2 French ships of 80 guns. Four French ships of the line were cruising off Corfica. Our readers will see by our Gibraltar letter, that the French fleet, on the 1st inst. sailed with every expedition by the French, to join the fleets in the Mediterranean. Under these circumstances we may look hourly for important advices from Earl St. Vincent.

July 25.

The Prussian cabinet has ordered its ministers at foreign courts to make six declarations respecting the unhappy Poland, and one of which contains the following information:

"If from motives of hatred, on account of this treaty of partition and its results, one of the three high contracting parties should be attacked by any foreign power, the two others promise to join and defend him with all their might and power against such attack."

The form of organization for the Venetian Terra Firma, which Buonaparte has published, is of the following tenor:

- 1st. The Bressian is to extend as far as the Minchio.
 - 2d. The Veronese is to begin at the Minchio, and to include the country of Bologna.
 - 3d. The Vincentin and Bassano, with its territory, is to form a department by itself.
 - 4th. The Padnan, the pole line of Rovigo and Adria, as far as the Po, not including what belongs to the Ferraroso, is to form one single department.
 - 5th. The countries of Feltro, Cadore and Bellano are also to form a single department.
 - 6th. The country of Treviso, excepting the district of Mostre, is to form a single department with that of Colla.
 - 7th. The Frioul, including Montfalcone, is to form the last department.
 - 8th. Each department is to be governed by a central administration, composed of 23 members. Each commune is to have a municipality, more or less numerous, according to its number of inhabitants.
 - 9th. The central government is to be composed of persons chosen by the general of division, who commands in the department.
 - 10th. Each central administration is to regulate the manner in which justice is to be administered.
- Bonquet, the French commissioner, who sequestered the property of the public