

unchanged, and consequently the engagements contracted by them would be held sacred, being in reality not theirs, but the engagements of the sovereign power under which they acted.

With respect to France, however, the case may be very different; for whilst Lord Malmesbury is treating at Lille with the plenipotentiaries of the Directory, events may take place at Paris, that would frustrate all his and their measures, by actually pulling down the Directory, and replacing it either by a monarchy or some new modification of democracy.

Nothing can be more precarious than the existence of the present form of government in France. For some time past the Executive and a branch of the Legislative Power have been in a state of conflict, and the other branch of the Legislative Body (the Council of Elders) by its interference, has rather increased than removed the embarrassments of government.

In England the crown, in case of a disagreement between itself and either House of Parliament, or between the two Houses, has the constitutional remedy of a dissolution, or of a creation of new peers to cure the evil. It is not so with France. The two Legislative Councils are wholly independent of the directors, who cannot dissolve or increase the number of either; so that whenever a disagreement arises, and neither side will consent to give way, there is no remedy but in a Revolution or Civil War.

At present the opposition to the Directors has a majority in the Councils of Five Hundred; but the same party is in a minority in the Council of Elders. The two Councils, acting each under a different influence, are at complete variance, the one refusing to assent to, and consequently rendering ineffectual the resolutions of the other on the most important concerns of the state. No remedy is provided by the French Constitution for such a public evil as this; and if good sense is thrown out of the question, and each Council resolutely adheres to its own measures, force alone can give one of them an ascendancy. This is the true cause of the formation of new clubs in Paris, a measure that may lead to new revolutions, and throw impediments, if not insuperable obstacles, in the way of Peace.

The two parties, to one of which the Directory may be said to belong, are now at issue, and are moving heaven and earth on the one hand, to embarrass each other; on the other respectively to gain proselytes.

In the spirit of this system, Villers acts, who on the 24th of June, stood forward the advocate of the army, and desired to know what was the reason that not one step had been taken to secure to the brave defenders of their country the reward that had been so often promised them of a grant of lands of the value, in the whole of one thousand millions of livres.

"It is not enough (said this member of the Council of Five Hundred) to boast of their exploits, and bestow upon these gallant men barren praise; you ought also to provide for them a treat worthy of the sacrifices they have made in defence of their country."

That this object may be rendered still more and more embarrassing, it is insisted upon that the lands to be given to the army should be those which belonged formerly to the emigrants, and which by their emigration, have been forfeited to the state.

It is well known that the Directors have endeavoured to strengthen themselves by a coalition with several of the emigrants; and that for this purpose they have lent their aid to get the names of these ci-devant royalists struck out of the list of emigrants, and consequently to procure them a restoration of their estates.

This measure has, however, the effect of lessening, and may perhaps in the end totally destroy the fund destined for the reward of the army. This sets the enemies of the Directory in motion, and makes them endeavor to instil into the soldiers a suspicion that the directors intend to defraud them of their promised reward, and by disbanding them without having made any provision for them, reduce them to a state of poverty and distress.

Religion also is pressed into the service of political parties, and petitions are daily presented to the Legislative Councils, some praying that the Catholic Worship should be restored to all its splendor; others, that all the churches that have hitherto been made of parsonage houses in the different parishes in the kingdom, or Republic, should be set aside, and declared null and void; as those houses would be necessary again for the accommodation of the parochial clergy."

This is intended as a blow to the Directors, who, by their official message to the Councils, have expressed their alarms for the consequences of the enlargement of the clergymen confined for the crime of not hav-

** We cannot help remarking the analogy between this demand and the demands of the American army at New Windsor, just before it was disbanded, and the extreme difficulty of preventing them from backing their demands by mutiny and force.*

ing taken the oath for maintaining the civil constitution of the clergy. The Directory preposterously would still punish men for not taking an oath no longer of any consequence to the state, as neither the civil nor spiritual constitution of the clergy can be of any avail in a country that does not now recognize any such body of men as the clergy.

On the other hand, the Directors, with a view to secure to themselves a considerable body of armed friends, sent a message to the Council of Five Hundred, on the 26th of June, to remind that assembly of a proposition they had some time before submitted to for increasing the pay of the troops quartered in Paris.

Such is the state of the Executive and Legislative powers of France; a state little removed from a civil war! A negotiation for peace at such a time, and under such circumstances, cannot hold out any great prospect of the accomplishment of that which is the wish of millions in both countries.

NEW-YORK, Oct. 3.

It seems that the practice of covering enemy's property under neutral papers, is a principal source of the vexation of American commerce. The subjects of powers at war want the protection of a neutral flag; and the avarice of neutrals never lets slip its opportunity to make enormous freights on their necessities. But the misfortune is, that the practice ultimately brings mischief upon a neutral commerce. False papers become common, and when detected, excite the suspicion of belligerent powers, and produce new, and more strict regulations relative to stopping neutral vessels.

Thus the multitude of American vessels, with American papers, which two years ago conveyed actual French property to France, being known to British cruisers, rendered all American vessels liable to seizure, and produced infinite vexations to the fair trader. The French are now retaliating. Many English vessels with forged American papers have been discovered, and the consequence is, the French government demands a role d'Equipage, and other troublesome proofs of American property.

If the French government would adhere to any certain system, and give due notice of what papers they require, in neutral vessels, our property might be saved. But this is not the case. Vessels are condemned that failed before the decree of the 2d of March, requiring the list of seamen, and which of course could not comply with the requisition. Some of their orders are so indefinite and ambiguous, that it is evident they were intended to give unbounded licence to the predatory spirit of their citizens. Thus where there is no regular system of regulations nor established authority to enforce the laws of justice, it is impossible that neutrals can escape vexation.

The recal of Santhonnax may be favourable to the American trade to St. Domingo, as Toussaint, the black commander, has ever been more friendly to our trade than the French government. But the power and predominancy of the blacks in that Island, seem to hasten the period, long foretold, when France will lose the government of the Island, and be compelled either to exterminate the present race of blacks, and repeople the country, or totally abandon it to its present possessors.

Lord St. Vincent, is said in London papers to have remitted to England, the sum of 500,000l. sterling, the fruits of his acquisitions.

To be a successful commander either by land or sea, in this war of plunder and desolation, is a pretty speculation. Buonaparte has not been idle; as appears by his giving 100,000 dollars, as a marriage portion to his sister.

It appears from a foreign article, that in consequence of Buonaparte's proclamation of the Venetian islands, revolutionary commotions had broken out in some of the Turkish islands also, and in some Turkish provinces on the continent. Thus the revolution is making the tour of Europe at least it not of Asia.

October, 5. IMPORTANT.

A report was current in town yesterday, but by what authority, we are not authorized to say, that a vessel arrived at Boston on Sunday, from Guernsey, in a short passage, who spoke a vessel at sea, the captain of which informed him, that he was the eye-witness to an engagement between the Spanish and English fleets; having laid to several hours to observe their manœuvres, and when he parted with them, the action was undecided. This day's eastern

mail will decide as to the validity of this account.

October, 6.

BRITISH RECRUITS.

We hold the documents, which warrant the assertion, that there are several public British rendezvous in this city, for recruiting of men to put on board the *Thetis* and *Prevoyante*, now off Governor's Island, that several officers with tempting guns generally attended, and that upwards of 50 had been put on board!

These circumstances are noted, that government may not remain ignorant of the facts, without intruding a remark at present upon the lawfulness of such proceedings on neutral ground. [ARGUS].

October, 7.

Copied from the log book of the schooner *Nancy*, of Savannah, John M'Alister, master; from St. Croix.

Sept. 14, at 10 P. M. saw a brig close under our lee, standing to the southward—after passing us she hove about and fired a shot, we hove to and waited for her coming up. She ordered out our boat and the captain on board with the papers, which order being shortly complied with, though not without a threat of again firing into us unless we bore a hand. The boat returned with the captain of the brig and four of his men, detaining ours on board the brig.—The greatest enquiry was for papers, but their particular object was for plunder, beginning at their business very regularly, by rummaging every part of the ship, making prize of every thing they laid their hands on, in particular our stock and provisions, which they decently robbed us of without any ceremony—fowls, pigs, ducks, goats, bread, yams, &c. taking the whole, although knowing us to be out but two days, and bound to the coast of America. Surely we might stamp him for a Thief and no Sailor, more especially when he took from us all the pump leather we had on board, notwithstanding we told him we were very leaky. He took away every nail he could find, tools, lead-line, &c. Plundered wearing apparel and laundry dozen wine, porter and brandy. While the honest republican were searching our trunks below, his men on deck were threatening to cut a negro's throat, to make him confess where his master had hid his money (who was a gentleman passenger with us.) The honest thieves belonged to the brig *Catar* of 12 guns and 120 men, fitted out at Point Petre, Gaudaloupe, and commanded by Guoy, a Frenchman: the brig belonged to Mr. More.—On our parting, they permitted an American prisoner to take passage with us—the following information we have from him, who was on board 16 days:—On the 3d of September he took and plundered the brig *Twenden*, of St. Thomas's, bound to Hamburg, and gave them bills on Martinique.—On the 5th the brig *Electa* of New-York, capt. Raymond, after plundering, took his boat, putting his people in irons, and threatening to hang them, or say they were bound to an English port.—On the 6th the *Three Friends* of Charleston, bound to St. Domingo, after plundering, shamefully abused the captain.—The 7th, the ship *Superb* of Philadelphia, captain John Boyde, bound to the Havannah, plundered her and suffered her to proceed.—On the 9th, the ship *Dispatch*, captain Happon, of St. Thomas's, bound to the Havannah, plundered her and took one of his people. All the above vessels were boarded and plundered under English colours: they went on board with long knives hanging to their sides, having on board an American as master in speaking vessels in English, one Samuel Barnes of Portsmouth, New-Hampshire.

Extra of a letter from a gentleman at Nantes, to a respectable house in this city, dated June 15, 1797.

"The certainty which the executive directory of France has had, that many English vessels sailed under American colors, and that many American vessels sailed with the greater part of their crews English, has provoked the decree of the executive directory of the 12th Ventose, 5th year. (2d March, '97.) which prescribes that all American vessels shall be captured and condemned as good prizes, which have not a role d'equipage; or even having one, if the captain, or any officer or luggage, or one third of the crew should be English. In consequence, every American vessel to be in rule, ought to have a role d'equipage, containing the names of baptism and family, the place of birth and place of residence of every individual on board, comprehending both the crew and passengers; and if any of them should not be born in the

United States, he must have a protection from the United States, which certifies that he was a naturalized citizen of the United States before the present war. This role d'equipage ought to be signed by two witnesses, who attest the truth of the facts, and subscribed by the officer or judge of the marine, who has given to the individuals the permission of embarking."

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 27.

The Swedish barque *Jupiter*, capt. Scholes was lately taken by a French privateer and carried into a Spanish port. The *Jupiter* brought to this city the American citizens redeemed at Algiers; was soon after laden at the public stores near Arch Street, with timber and naval stores, sent by the government of the United States to the Dey of Algiers, and was on her passage thither when she fell into the hands of the French.

October 12.

A letter from a respectable American, at Bordeaux, dated August 8, states the following information.

"That the minister of the Interior had sent to the Municipality of Bordeaux, intelligence of the expected arrival of two new Envoys from America. That, in the event of their arriving at that port, every possible honor was to be shown them, and their journey to Paris, rendered every way convenient and agreeable."

ALEXANDRIA, October 5.

We announce with much pleasure, and from authority unquestionable, that the Marquis De La Fayette and Family have been liberated from confinement in the prison of Olmutz. His son, who is now at Mount Vernon, will take passage to that part of Europe, which will soonest present him to the embrace of a persecuted Parent, and a Mother and Sisters infinitely affectionate.

October 10.

Deaths in the city and suburbs of Philadelphia, for the twenty-four hours ending Thursday noon—Fourteen.

Deaths in Baltimore, for the twenty hours ending the 7th instant, sun rise—Four.

October 11.

Deaths in the city and suburbs of Philadelphia, for the twenty-four hours ending Friday noon—Seventeen.

WILMINGTON, October 26.

On Tuesday last arrived here the brig *Telegraph*, Captain McKinnie, two days from Charleston. The Captain informs that there was a severe hurricane at Charleston on Thursday last, which did considerable damage amongst the shipping in the harbor; several large ships and other vessels were driven on shore; and the *Betty*, Charleston Packet, belonging to this port, received great injury from a ship running foul of her.

A ship from Glasgow, and a Brig from Bristol, belonging to Charleston, with valuable cargoes, were taken in sight of the bar, by a French pilot-boat built privateer, supposed to be the *Grouper*: their crews sent ashore and captains detained.

Captain McKinnie has favored the Printer with a Charleston Gazette of the 18th October, from which the following is taken:

CHARLESTON, October 18.

Arrived Brig Hannah, Bythewood, 40 days from Teneriffe.

Captain Bythewood was at Cadiz on the 23d of August, at which time Admiral Nelson had returned with his squadron from an unsuccessful expedition against Teneriffe, and had joined Admiral Jervis's fleet. Admiral Jervis continued the blockade of Cadiz, and had declared that he would do to while his anchors would hold him: The Spanish fleet dared not to come out, but relied upon the British fleet being driven away by the Equinoctial gale. There has been no cannonading since the 8th of July.

At Teneriffe capt. B. learnt that admiral Nelson had lost an eye, as well as his arm, and that capt. Bowen had been killed. The loss of the British was said to have been between 5 and 600 killed and taken, the prisoners were immediately released.—The attack was said to be a mad imprudent act; the troops were landed on a fine moon light night, in the face of 20 pieces of cannon, and without a ship near them.

The Americans are taken by French and Spanish privateers indiscriminately, and are invariably condemned.

List of American vessels, at the port of Algeiras, 23d August 1797.

Ship *Eliza*, of Boston, Turner, taken by the Spaniards—libelled.

Roanoke, Edenton, Paine, do. do. Snow, South Carolina, Charleston, Andrews, taken by the French and condemned.