

Consulate general of the United States of America.

Fulwar Skipwith, Consul general for the United States, near the French republic, to Timothy Pickering, Esquire, secretary of state of the U. States.

Paris, August 22, 1798.

Sir,

With a copy of a letter I have just received from the minister of foreign affairs, I have the honour under cover hereof, to transmit to you copies of two letters, which have been officially communicated to me, from the minister of marine, to all principal, civil and military officers, at the different ports of this republic, concerning the safety and protection of American citizens in general, and those seamen in particular who were detained, or are in confinement at those ports. Agreeably to the intimations contained in the minister's letter to me, I have this day made application to the minister of police in favour of the American seamen who, by one of the public authorities at L'Orient, had been arrested as Englishmen, and are at present confined at Orleans as prisoners of war. In a few days I expect to obtain their liberation, and shall procure their passages home.

I have likewise the pleasure of forwarding to you an official copy of an arrete of the directory for raising the embargo imposed by government on all vessels belonging to the U. States in the ports of this republic.

I deem it my duty to observe, that from informal communications, which I have recently and repeatedly had with some of the best informed individuals of the government, on the subject of American vessels and property, now under trial before the different tribunals of this republic, I have derived such information on the present disposition and intentions of the directory, as to be satisfied myself that they will, ere long, endeavour to provoke in the legislature a revision of their maritime laws, and that such a system will be organized as will secure the most important right of neutrality upon the seas: this pleasing event is generally expected, and will I am persuaded, arrive before this can reach you. I though many of the late arrettes of the directory have certainly encouraged the tribunals in the most pernicious applications of existing laws in regard to neutral property captured and brought in for adjudication, yet it may not be unimportant to remark to you, sir, that the directory, however well disposed, cannot change the conduct of the tribunals in regard to American & other neutral vessels now before them, without legislative interference; and that owing to particular circumstances, it appears evidently that some time is necessary for them to prepare and dispose that body to alter some laws and make others, which shall cause the tribunals and privateers to respect neutrals in general, and the flag of the U. States in particular: but from the present manifest dispositions and endeavours of the directory to produce that end, I am happy to add, that the tribunal of cassation, before whom appeals have been made on most of the American property condemned in France, appear disposed to procrastinate pronouncing upon them until the sentiment of the legislature shall be declared upon the laws which are operating against their success.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, your most humble servant,
FULWAR SKIPWITH.

(TRANSLATION.)

Liberty. Equality.

Paris, 3d Fructidor, 6th year of the French republic, (Aug. 20, 1798.)

The minister of Foreign Relations to Mr. Fulwar Skipwith, Consul General of the United States, to the French republic.

I send you, sir, copies of two letters written by the minister of marine

to all the principal officers civil and military of the ports of the republic. Their contents will prove to you the attention of the government to remedy the abuses committed against its intentions. With respect to the persons detained in the civil prisons of Orleans, because they are not possessed of papers to prove that they are not English, and who claim to be Americans; be pleased to call upon the minister of general police, to whose functions belong all the measures of safety. The minister of marine informs me, that he has transmitted their petition to him, and I am going to write to him myself, in order to request him to admit your declaration in their favour, in the absence of other proofs.

Receive sir, the assurance of my consideration.

(Signed)

CH. MAU. TALLEYRAND.

(TRANSLATION.)

Copy of a circular letter, written by the Minister of Marine and of the Colonies, to all the principal officers of the ports civil and military, on the 29th Thermidor, 6th year (16th August, 1799.)

Our political situation with regard to the United States, citizen, not having as yet undergone any change which can effect the respect due to neutral nations, I do not think I have need to remind you, that no injury should be done the safety and liberty of the officers and crews of any American vessel found to be in order, and that the same conduct ought to be observed towards all passengers and other citizens of the United States, furnished with the necessary passports or protections. You will be pleased to use a vigilant attention, that the intentions of the government in this respect may be pursued by all under you, and when any of them has departed from them, you will do justice upon the complaints which may be addressed to you, after ascertaining their validity.

The Minister of Marine and of the Colonies.

(Signed) E. BRUIX.

For a true copy,
The minister of Exterior relations.

(Signed)

CH. MAU. TALLEYRAND.

(TRANSLATION.)

Copy of the circular letter written by the Minister of Marine and the Colonies, to the agents of the Marine in the ports of the Republic.

Paris, the 24th Thermidor, 6th year. (11th August, 1798.)

I observe, citizen, by the correspondence of the greater part of the administrators of the ports, that the embargo recently laid upon the American vessels has occasioned the detention of the crews. The intentions of the government were very badly understood, when a measure was adopted, which in the first place, hazards the safety of those vessels, and in the second place, appears to place us in a hostile attitude with respect to the United States, whilst the acts of government evince, on the contrary, that it desires a good understanding between the two Republics. I therefore charge you citizen, immediately on the receipt of this, to order the discharge of all the Americans who may have been confined as prisoners of war, in consequence of the embargo of the vessels. You will be pleased to render me a prompt account of the execution of this order.

The Minister of Marine and of the Colonies.

(Signed) E. BRUIX.

For a true copy,
The Minister of Exterior relations,

(Signed)

CH. MAU. TALLEYRAND.

True and exact copies.

FULWAR SKIPWITH.

IN CONGRESS.

House of Representatives.

February 2.

On motion of Mr. S. Smith, the house went into a committee of the whole on the bill to amend the act, to provide for the valuation of lands and dwelling houses, and the enumeration of slaves within the United States. The first clause of this bill authorises the secretary of the treasury to augment in cases where he may find it necessary, the compensations fixed for principal and assistant assessors by the present law, so that no principal or assistant assessor shall, in any case, receive more than

two dollars per day exclusive of an allowance, also made in the second section of this bill for clerk hire to the principal assessor, of one dollar per day.

On enquiry it appeared, that the principal assessors have, by the law as it now stands, one dollar and a half per day allowed them; and the other assessors one dollar and a half whilst collecting and one dollar while otherwise employed.

This bill advancing the pay of the assessors, originates from complaints from the state of Maryland, that persons cannot be got to perform the office for the sum allowed, and that in consequence, in many parts of that state, no steps have been taken to carry this law into execution. This fact was stated by Messrs. S. Smith, Craik, Sprigg and Matthews, representatives from that state.

Mr. S. Smith moved to strike out two dollars for the purpose of inserting three, but this motion was superseded by one made by Mr. Varum, to strike out the first section of the bill.

He thought the present allowance quite sufficient, and rather more than enough.

This opinion was supported generally by Messrs. Venable, McDowell, Sheppard, J. Williams, Thatcher, T. Claybourne and Findley.

The necessity of the increase was advocated by Messrs. S. Smith, Gordon, Craik, Puckney, Harper and Otis, as absolutely necessary if the tax was to be collected in Maryland; that it would not be necessary to advance the pay of the officers in any other parts of the union, but that owing to the extent of the districts in Maryland, and from other causes, persons could not be induced to perform this duty without the proposed advance.

After a great deal of conversation on the subject, the motion for striking out the section was negatived 45 to 41. The committee then rose, and had leave to sit again.

The house adjourned.

February 4.

Mr. McClennahan presented a petition and remonstrance from 1210 inhabitants of the county of Philadelphia, praying for a repeal of the alien and sedition laws, which they deem unconstitutional. Referred as usual.

The house again resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill to amend the act for valuing the lands and dwelling houses of the United States, & for the enumeration of slaves, which after the first section being struck out, and several amendments being made, was ordered to be engrossed.

February 5.

The house met as usual, when the clerk informed the members present that the speaker was indisposed, and unable to attend the duties of the chair this morning, when a motion was made to adjourn, and the house adjourned accordingly.

DUBLIN, December 13.

A numerous meeting was, we understand, held last Sunday of the most respectable Roman Catholic gentlemen of this city, in order to take the projected Union into consideration. A Noble lord of considerable weight in the Assembly is said to have presided. Nothing conclusive was decided on; but after much debate an adjournment was agreed to, in order that the subject may be discussed finally in a meeting of more general representation of the Roman Catholic body.

At a Post Assembly yesterday held, the corporation of this city agreed to resolutions adverse to the principles of an union.

This day the merchants and bankers held their meeting on this subject.

Sunday Major Dorr, with his usual zeal apprehended a number of suspected persons assembled in a house in New-row, Thomas street, the sign of the Peacock. They were taken to the Castle, and put in confinement till they undergo an examination.

We are obliged, with infinite concern, to record that the disposition towards rebellion is by no means extinct in this country. We have been frequently, of late, assured, that the audacity of treason has aroused itself anew; that the hellish system of the United Irishmen is again reviving, and that even some of those men who have tasted of the mercy of government, are again employed in proving how unworthy that mercy has been bestowed. Excepting where the immediate pressure of military vigilance is felt, no part of the disturbed counties is now habitable by a loyalist; and even in the city of Dublin, so lately as last Sunday, a confederacy of rebels was seized

in close debate, by an active officer, to whom the state owes so much for his unceasing pursuit of its disturbers.

Extracts from the latest London Papers.

LONDON, December 24.

Surrender of the Island of Minorca.

Capt. Gifford, aid de camp to general Stuart, arrived in town yesterday with the account of the surrender of the island of Minorca to the British troops, without the loss of a man on our part.

The troops destined for the expedition disembarked at Adaya bay, on the 12th of last month; they were opposed, upon their landing by a considerable body of the force upon the island, but which retreated after a short cannonade from the British troops. The force was then divided, one part under the command of general Stuart, marching towards Fort Mahon, and the other under the command of Sir Clair Erskine, towards Ciudadella, at the other extremity of the island. Both these forts capitulated on the 14th, and the Spanish and Swiss troops were made prisoners of war. The inhabitants congratulated gen. Stuart on his success, and seemed to be very glad to be again under their old masters.

The troops commanded by gen. Stuart amounted to about 3000 men; the Spanish troops who were made prisoners to 4000. This event gives us the harbour of Mahon, one of the best in the Mediterranean.

The Peterell sloop which was first dispatched with the intelligence, and which was taken by the Spaniards, was retaken by one of the frigates under commodore Duckworth before she reached the Spanish coast.

The park and tower guns were fired in the afternoon of yesterday, on the receipt of the above intelligence, and a gazette extraordinary will be published this day.

CAPTURE of LEGHORN.

Extract from a notification drawn up by the commander of the garrison of Leghorn, in consequence of a summons sent on shore by the commander of the English and Portuguese fleet.

"The illustrious Jacob Lavillette major general of the troops of Ferdinand III, grand duke of Tuscany, notifies and makes known, that there appeared in the road of Leghorn a squadron composed of English and Portuguese ships of war, having on board a considerable number of troops for landing, belonging to his Sicilian majesty, the commander of which required of the governor of Leghorn to permit their landing, menacing at the same time, in case of a refusal, to effect it by force. The general major commandant of the place, the civil authorities, and a deputation of the houses of commerce assembled to deliberate on the summons of the commander of the said squadron, and being sensible of the superiority of their forces, the smallness of the garrison, and the impossibility of defending the port, resolved immediately to allow the said troops to disembark, under the express condition of respecting the neutrality of the port of Tuscany."

Admiral Nelson has declared all the ports of the Ligurian republic to be in a state of blockade; and that all Ligurian vessels taken by the ships of the allied powers shall be deemed good and lawful prizes.

The Genoese are suffering very severely by the pillage of the French by land. On the 1st instant, citizen Faypoult, the French minister at Genoa, laid the city under a contribution of 800,000 livres, for the use of the French army.

A council of all the cabinet ministers was on Saturday held at Lord Grenville's office; the meeting, which it is said related to the important intelligence of the Neapolitan troops having entered Rome, lasted from half past 12 till 3 o'clock.

According to the last report from France, the Neapolitans are already in possession of Rome. Though better evidence of this event is wanting, it does not by any means surpals belief. The distance from the frontier to the old capital of the world is not much