

Washington

NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

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The following letter has been transmitted by the Secretary of the Treasury to the Collectors of the different Ports in the United States:
CIRCULAR to the COLLECTORS of the CUSTOMS.

Philadelphia, August 4th, 1793.

S I R,

IT appearing that repeated contraventions of our neutrality have taken place in the ports of the United States, without having been discovered in time for prevention or remedy, I have it in command from the President, to address to the Collectors of the respective districts a particular instruction on the subject.

It is expected, that the officers of the customs in each district will, in the course of their official functions, have a vigilant eye upon whatever may be passing within the ports, harbours, creeks, inlets, and waters, of such district, of a nature to contravene the laws of neutrality, and upon discovery of any thing of the kind will give immediate notice to the Governor of the state, and to the Attorney of the judicial district, comprehending the district of the customs within which any such contravention may happen.

To assist the judgment of the officers on this head, I transmit herewith a schedule of rules, concerning sundry particulars, which have been adopted by the President, as deductions from the laws of neutrality, established and received among nations. Whatever shall be contrary to these rules will, of course, be to be noticed, as above-mentioned.

There are some other points, which, pursuant to our treaties and the determinations of the executive, I ought to notice to you.

If any vessel of either of the powers at war with France should bring or send within your district a prize, made of the subjects, people, or property of France, it is immediately to be notified to the Governor of the state, in order that measures may be taken, pursuant to the 17th article of our treaty with France, to oblige such vessel and her prize, or such prize, when sent in without the capturing vessel, to depart.

No privateer of any of the powers at war with France, coming within a district of the United States, can, by the 22d article of our treaty with France, enjoy any other privilege than that of *purchasing such victuals as shall be necessary for her going to the next port of the Prince or State from which she has her commission*. If she should do any thing beside this, it is immediately to be reported to the Governor, and the Attorney of the district. You will observe by the rules transmitted, that the term privateer is understood not to extend to vessels armed for merchandise and war, commonly called with us *letters of marque*, nor, of course, to vessels of war in the immediate service of the government of either of the powers at war.

No armed vessel which has been or shall be originally fitted out in any port of the United States by either of the parties at war, is henceforth to have asylum in any district of the United States. If any such armed vessel shall appear within your district, she is immediately to be notified to the Governor, and Attorney of the district; which is also to be done, in respect to any prize that such armed vessel shall bring or send in. At foot is a list of such armed vessels of the above description as have hitherto come to the knowledge of the executive.

The purchasing within, and exporting from, the United States, by way of merchandise, articles commonly called contraband (being generally warlike instruments and military stores), is free to all the parties at war, and is not to be interfered with. If our own citizens undertake to carry them

to any of those parties, they will be abandoned to the penalties which the laws of war authorize.

You will be particularly careful to observe, and to notify as directed in other instances, the case of any citizen of the United States, who shall be found in the service of either of the parties at war.

In case any vessel shall be found in the act of *contravening* any of the rules or principles which are the ground of this instruction, she is to be refused a clearance until she shall have complied with what the Governor shall have decided in reference to her. Care, however, is to be taken not to embarrass trade or to vex any of the parties concerned.

In order that Contraventions may be better ascertained it is desired that the officer who shall first go on board any vessel arriving within your district, shall make an accurate survey of her then condition, as to *military equipment*, to be forthwith reported to you, and that prior to her clearance a like survey be made, that any transgression of the rules laid down may be ascertained.

But as the propriety of any such inspection of a *vessel of war*, in the immediate service of the government of a foreign nation, is not without question, in reference to the usage of nations, no attempt is to be made to inspect any such vessel till further order on the point.

The President desires me to signify to you his most particular expectation, that the instruction contained in this letter will be executed with the greatest vigilance, activity, care, and impartiality. Omissions will tend to expose the government to injurious imputations and suspicions, and proportionably to commit the good faith and peace of the country; objects of too much importance not to engage every proper exertion of your zeal.

With consideration, I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant.

RULES adopted by the President of the United States.

I. The original arming and equipping of vessels in the ports of the United States, by any of the belligerent parties, for military service, offensive or defensive, is deemed unlawful.

II. Equipments of merchants' vessels by either of the belligerent parties, in the ports of the United States, purely for the accommodation of them, as such, is deemed lawful.

III. Equipments in the ports of the United States of vessels of war, in the immediate service of the government of any of the belligerent parties, which if done to other vessels would be of a doubtful nature, as being applicable those which shall have made prize of the subjects, people, or property of France, coming with their prizes into the ports of the United States, pursuant to the seventeenth article of our treaty of amity and commerce with France.

IV. Equipments in the ports of the United States, by any of the parties at war with France, of vessels fitted for merchandise and war, whether without commissions, which are doubtful in the nature, as being applicable either to commerce or war, are deemed lawful; except those which shall have made prize of the subjects, people, or property of France, coming with their prizes into the ports of the United States, pursuant to the seventeenth article of our treaty of amity and commerce with France.

V. Equipments of any of the vessels of France, in the ports of the United States, which are doubtful in their nature, as being applicable to commerce or war, are deemed lawful.

VI. Equipments of every kind in the United States, of privateers of the powers at war with France, are deemed unlawful.

VII. Equipments of vessels in the ports of the United States, which are of a nature solely adapted war, are deemed unlawful; except those stranded or wrecked, as mentioned in the eighteenth article of our treaty with France, the sixteenth of our treaty with the United Netherlands, the ninth of our treaty with Prussia; and except those mentioned in the nineteenth article of our treaty with France, the seventeenth of our treaty with the United Netherlands, the eighteenth of our treaty with Prussia.

VIII. Vessels of either of the parties, not armed previous to their coming into the ports of the United States, which shall not have infringed any of the foregoing rules, may lawfully engage or enlist therein their own subjects or citizens, not being inhabitants of the United States; except privateers of the powers at war with France, and except those vessels which shall have made prize of the subjects, people, or property of France, coming with their prizes into the ports of the United States, pursuant to the seventeenth article of our treaty of amity and commerce with France.

FRANCE.

NATIONAL CONVENTION, May 30.

Barrere read the following despatches, which give an account of the progress of the Royalists:

Letter from the Commandant of the west division of the army of reserve, to the Administrators of the department of Marne and Loire.

St. George's, May 24.

"Upon receiving yesterday evening the alarming news, that the rebels were attempting to pass the Loire near Chalons, I instantly ordered the general to be beat, and collecting as many troops as I could, left St. George's at ten o'clock at night, and advanced towards Pont Girault, at the head of the national guards, and a detachment of cavalry. Before I set out, I despatched expresses to the Commandants of Lalen, La Pleffoniere, Saveniers, and La-pointe, with orders to beat the general immediately, and send out numerous and frequent patrols on the right and left of the banks, in order to guard the whole extent of the posts with all possible attention. I despatched the gendarmes to go the rounds, and see again to the execution of those orders. Myself, and the national guards under my command remained watching under arms from ten o'clock last night to five in the morning, when we returned to St. George's. I kept all the while patrols incessantly going on all sides where they could be of use. The rebels have indeed effectuated nothing as yet, but they are in force from Rochefort to St. Florent, and seem to meditate fresh attempts upon that line.

Four o'clock

"I have just beat the general again, and shall proceed with my national guards to secure the weakest and most threatened posts. In the interim, I conjure you, citizen-administrators, take every necessary measure to hasten the reinforcements of which we stand in such great need; I have just heard from the Commandant of Saveniers, that the rebels have appeared on the side of Rochefort with 200 horse, and have fired several volleys over the barges.

(Signed) "GAUVILLIER."
Letter from Citizen Gourden, Commandant of the Isle of Chalons, to Citizen Gauvillier.

From the Island of Chalons, May 24.

"CITIZEN,

"We have passed the night in tranquillity, but to-day I sent seven men, vineyard-labourers, to obtain intelligence; the banditti told them, that they gave them the whole day to consider which side they would take; on their return they informed us that their grand army arrived yesterday