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Copy of a letter from Mr. WILLIAM MOULTRIE, Governor of South-Carolina, to Citizen GENET, Minister Plenipotentiary from the French Republic to the United States of America.

Charleston, September 5, 1793.

DEAR SIR,
THROUGH the medium of the northern newspapers, we, in this state, have been informed, that a dispute had taken place between the President of the United States and yourself, on some point relating to a prize; and upon your differing thereon, you said, with a degree of warmth, *that you would appeal to the people.* Viewing it as here represented, many real friends to the republic of France have taken great offence, as it conveys insult to a character highly respected by his country, independent of the station which he fills—from hence much conversation and warm altercation arise.

My regard for you, personally, as well as being the representative of a nation I really esteem, induces me to request from you an exact relation of what did happen in your dispute, if any you have had, and that you would, in favouring me in my request, mention the time, the place, and the manner; because opinions lead people more often astray for want of the knowledge of particulars. For my part, be assured, my regard for you leads me to suppose, that your good sense could not permit you to behave with the least impropriety to the President.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir, with great regard, your most obedient, humble servant,

WILLIAM MOULTRIE.
CITIZEN GENET'S ANSWER.

I should long since have exposed the authors of the falsehoods, which a dark and deep intrigue has laid to my charge, if I could have condescended to put myself on a level with those men, whom I too much despise to produce proofs against the absurdity of their accusations: But it is not thus that the representative of a great people should conduct himself; it is not sufficient that he exposes those who traduce him; he ought to demand their punishment, and to obtain it, if the representative of the sovereignty, where he resides does justice.

It is to Congress that I shall address myself, through the medium of the executive of the United States, to ask the severest examination of all my official measures and of every particular, which may be supposed to have been an attempt upon the established authority of the American Republic. I shall conceal nothing, Sir, from that august body—I shall place under the inspection of every of its member my instructions, my correspondence, and my conferences with the French government; the instructions to the consuls of the republic, and my correspondence with them; and I hope that the result of the examination of these documents and the analysis of appealing to the people, will be a thorough conviction, that if I had spoken to your government with the energy of a freeman, with the enthusiasm which at this day inspires and animates every Frenchman really attached to his country; if I have complained officially, and in no other way, of the conduct of certain officers of the federal government, whose intentions appear to me both destructive of liberty and favourable to our enemies, if I have declared that their tameness, that their small measures in the common danger, which menaces free nations, did not appear to me to be consistent with the sentiments of their fellow-citizens, with the true interest of their country; if I have expressed, without disguise, my grief at seeing General Washington, that celebrated hero of liberty, accessible to men whose schemes would only darken his glory; if by this boldness I have made myself the mark for all the resentment their utmost perfidy can occasion, I have neither forgotten what I owe to the supreme head of the executive of

a great people, who were the first to open the way to freedom—the first to proclaim the rights of men, and whose existence is as dear to us as ours is necessary to them. I am as jealous of the esteem of the Americans as of that of my fellow-citizens; and whatever efforts may be made to deprive me of it, I flatter myself with confidence, that I shall wholly preserve it: I believe that I shall be always deemed worthy in their eyes, of the fraternal reception they gave me, from Charleston to New-York, and I make no doubt, finally, the brave General Moultrie will never regret to have been the first to acknowledge, in me, the envoy of the French Republic, and to have heaped on me those kindnesses and obliging attentions, the recollection of which will never be effaced from my memory.

GENET.
GEORGE WASHINGTON,
PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA.

To all whom it may concern.

THE Sieur Antoine Charbonet Duplaine heretofore having produced to me his commission as vice-consul for the republic of France, within the states of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, and having thereon received from me an exequatur, bearing date the 5th day of June, 1793, recognizing him as such, and declaring him free to exercise and enjoy such functions, powers, and privileges, as are allowed to vice-consuls of the French republic by the laws, treaties, and conventions in that case made and provided; and the said Sieur Duplaine having under colour of his said office, committed sundry encroachments and infractions on the laws of the land, and particularly having caused a vessel to be refueled with an armed force out of the custody of an officer of justice, who had arrested the same by process from his court, and it being therefore no longer fit nor consistent with the respect and obedience due to the laws, that the Sieur Duplaine should be permitted to continue in the exercise and enjoyment of the said functions, privileges, and powers: these are therefore to declare, that I do no longer recognize the said Antoine Charbonet Duplaine as vice-consul of the republic of France in any part of these United States, nor permit him to exercise or enjoy any of the functions, powers, or privileges, allowed to the vice-consuls of that nation. And that I do hereby wholly revoke and annul the said exequatur heretofore given, and do declare the same to be absolutely null and void, from this day forward.

In testimony whereof I have caused these letters to be made patent, and the seal of the United States of America hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, this 10th day of October, in the year of our Lord 1793, and of the independence of the United States of America the 18th.

G. WASHINGTON.

By the President,

T. JEFFERSON.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

President of the United States of America.

To all whom it may concern.

THE citizen Denny having produced to me his commission as consul for the republic of France at Boston. I do hereby recognize him as such, declare him free to exercise and enjoy such functions, powers, and privileges, as are allowed to consuls of the French republic by the laws, treaties, and conventions, in that case made and provided.

In testimony whereof I have caused these letters to be made patent, and the seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, the 10th day of October, in the year of our Lord 1793, and the independence of the United States of America the 18th.

G. WASHINGTON.

By the President,
(Seal) T. JEFFERSON.
CITIZEN GENET, Minister Plenipotentiary of the French republic, to Mr. JEFFERSON, Secretary of State.
New-York, October 27, 1793.
2d year of the French Republic.

I have just received, together with your letter of the 3d inst. the dismissal of citizen Duplaine, vice-consul at Boston, and I hasten to declare to you, that I do not acknowledge its validity, because the constitution of the United States has not given the President the right which he now appears desirous to exercise—it has empowered him, as first Minister of the American people, to admit and receive the ministers of foreign nations, sent to the great American confederation, and their consular agents, distributed to the particular states; but, in confiding to him this official function, it has not given him the power of discharging them, to send them away, or to suspend them when once they have been admitted. Such an authority cannot be exerted, Sir, but by the sovereign of the agent, or by the one to which he is sent. On the part of their own sovereign, their recall can only be the object of his particular will, or a consequence of negotiations begun with him for that object: On the part of the sovereign to whom he is sent, a dismissal can be the result only of an act of regular justice, or of an arbitrary act.—If it is a national act of justice, the sovereign should be furnished with every possible light upon so important an object, that he may be enabled to prove to the foreign sovereign, that the minister was unworthy of his confidence, and, that the dismissal or suspension was indispensable.—If it is an act merely arbitrary, it is among the class of acts of aggression, and becomes a cause of war, and you know, Sir, that in this respect the constitution of the United States has reserved, to the representatives of the people the right of declaring it. I do not recollect what the worm-eaten writings of Grotius, Puffendorf, and Vattel say on this subject—I thank God I have forgot what these hired jurisprudents have written upon the rights of nations, at a period when they were all enchained. But the fundamental points of your liberty, and our own, are engraved my memory in characters not to be effaced, and the rights of man are enfolded in my breast with the source of life. I have incessantly before my eyes your constitution, and our own, and it is because I fully feel the just and wise intentions of those who founded them, that I demand of you, Sir, to ask the President of the United States to procure an examination, by the legislature, representing the sovereign people of Massachusetts, of the conduct of citizen Duplaine, in the same manner as I have demanded an examination of my own in the ensuing Congress.

In governments like ours, political affairs can only be judged by the political bodies, and if the vice-consul Duplaine has infringed the particular laws of Massachusetts, or the general laws of the union, which that government is bound to support, to the state a cognizance of a crime against the majesty of the nation belongs, in the first instance, and it is for her officers to announce it to the federal government, in order that the foreign agent, found to have violated the laws of the country, may receive punishment from his sovereign if he merits it. I insist, with the more confidence upon this step, Sir, as the attorney for the district of Boston made three efforts to procure a bill to be found at the circuit court, against citizen Duplaine, and three times a popular and virtuous jury threw out his complaint, and this vice-consul was finally acquitted in the most honourable manner.—How could, in fact, any room for accusation against him be found, since he only acted in conformity to the treaties, to his instructions, to the decisions of the federal government, communicated to the states, which even trust to the care of the French consul