

forefathers, be tumbled from his throne, nor until the groves and images their fathers had set up, be cut down and destroyed. And they burned them to ashes, and strewed them on the waters; and their gold and silver shrines they converted into talents of gold and talents of silver and they paid them to their soldiers to fight their battles.

L O N D O N, July 23.

[TRANSLATION.]

General Paoli to his Countrymen.

Furiani, May 1, 1794.

Most dearly beloved Countrymen,

THE undoubted confidence with which you have honoured me, and the solicitude I have ever had to promote your interests, and to ensure your liberty, prescribe to me the obligation of stating to you the present situation of public affairs.

You remember how many cruel treacherous arrangements were made by the three commissioners of the French Convention who were sent over to our island; and in what manner they attempted to concentrate the powers of government in a small number of their satellites, destined to be their instruments of those violences and cruelties, which were to be exercised against all well meaning persons, and against the nation at large.

The unjust decree which orders my arrest, and my transfer to the Bar of the Assembly, was the first attempt directed by them against your liberty. You unanimously declared yourselves, and humbly remonstrated against an act designed to facilitate the execution of your enemy's plots—Finally, you, in a general assembly, declared your indignation at that act of injustice; and you adopted, at that moment, such resolutions as were consistent with your dignity and public welfare.

I accepted, as a distinguishing proof of your confidence, the commission you were pleased to confer upon me, for providing, in those critical circumstances, for the maintenance of your safety and liberty; anxious that you should not be exposed to any danger, unless indignation and necessity commanded you to resist. I tried every means which prudence and moderation suggested to me at that time; but neither your just reclamations, nor my innocence, were sufficient to recall to sentiments of rectitude and humanity a violent and sanguinary faction, irritated by the noble resistance you had made, and resolved to accomplish your destruction; for which purpose the subversion of the government was ordered, and the members of it proscribed conjointly with many other zealous patriots: the nation was declared in a state of rebellion; orders were given to reduce it by force of arms, and to treat it with a bloody rigour of revolutionary laws.

Roused by these causes: by the endless session of destruction and ruin, which characterizes the conduct of those persons who exercise the powers of government in France, and by the destruction of all religion and every form of worship, enforced and proclaimed among the people with unexampled impiety, every Corsican felt the necessity of separating from the French, and of guarding against the poisonous influence of their errors.

The acts of hostility committed by the French, and those Corsican traitors who had taken refuge in the garrisons of Calvi, St. Florenzo and Bastia, compelled us to repel them by force of arms. I have seen, with infinite satisfaction, during the course of a year, that your ancient bravery and attachment to your country were not in the least diminished. In various encounters the enemy have been defeated, although numerous and supported by artillery: You have treated the prisoners, taken in the heat of the battle, with generosity; whilst the enemy have, in cool blood, massacred our prisoners, who were so unfortunate as to fall into their hands; In all these agitations we have kept ourselves united, and exempt from the horrors of licentiousness and anarchy; a happy presage of your future fate, and an irrefragable proof that you are deserving of true liberty, and that you will know how to preserve it unsullied by licen-

tiousness and dissensions.

In such a state of things, a becoming diffidence made me, nevertheless apprehend that the enemy would increase in force, and attempt to carry into execution the destructive plans they had formed against you: under these circumstances I felt the necessity of foreign assistance; and, in conformity to your general wishes, and to the public opinion and universal expectation, I had recourse to the King, and to the generous and powerful nation, which had, on other occasions protected the remains of our liberty; a measure dictated by the public safety and which I took only when every conciliatory offer had been obstinately rejected and every hope of obtaining moderation or justice from the French Convention was extinct.

His Britanic Majesty's arms have made their appearance in your support, his ships and troops are employed with you to drive from our country the common enemy, and the blood of Britons and Corsicans is conjointly shed for the liberty of the island. Our enterprise has already been crowned with happy events, and draws near to a fortunate completion.

This pleasing aspect of affairs has determined me to turn my thoughts to the most efficacious means of establishing a permanent freedom, and of securing our island from the various events which, till the moment, have kept us in agitation.

The protection of the king of Great-Britain and a political union with the British nation of which the prosperity and power uninterrupted for ages, are to the universe proofs of the excellency of the government, have appeared to me to accord with the happiness and safety of Corsica. The universal opinion on this head, evinced by the unreserved inclination you have shown, and strengthened by your gratitude for benefits received, appears fortunately to concur with mine. I have, therefore, made the proper overtures to his majesty the king of Great-Britain, with a view to establish this desired union.

With a satisfaction never to be erased from my mind, I now behold our wishes anticipated and hopes realized; the memorial which has been transmitted to me by their excellencies, the admiral commanding the fleet, and the minister plenipotentiary of his majesty, affords us the opportunity of establishing this union in the manner best adapted to the benefit of both nations, and to the honor of his majesty. I cannot make better known to you their excellencies sentiments, than by a faithful translation of their memorial.

The nature of the present address does not permit me to enlarge upon the benefits of his union, which tends to conciliate the most extensive political and civil liberty, with personal security. You are convinced of these truths and will regulate your conduct accordingly; I nevertheless avail myself of the opportunity to declare to you that, in taking the English constitution for your model, you will proceed upon the most solid principles that philosophy, policy and experience, have ever been known to combine for the happiness of a great people, reserving to yourselves the power of adapting them to your own peculiar situation customs, and religion, without being exposed hereafter, to the venality of a traitor, or to the ambition of a powerful usurper.

A matter of such importance ought nevertheless to be discussed, and agreed to by you, in the General Assembly, at which I entreat you to assist by your deputies, on Sunday the 8th of the ensuing month of June, in the city of Corte. The provisional government will then suggest to you the form and mode of the elections.

I beseech you to impress yourselves with the great importance of the affair on which you have to determine, and on that account, let it be our care to select persons of zeal and acknowledged probity, and, as much as may be in your power, reputable heads of families, interested in good government and the prosperity of the country. Let moderation and propriety of conduct prevail in your assemblies, that no person among you may have the mortification to re-

mark any disorder in the most happy moment which has occurred in the course of our revolutions, and in passing the most important act of civil society. In the meantime, let every man suggest whatever he may conceive the most useful for the country, in order to communicate his opinion to the nation, legally represented and assembled.

Corsica is now justly regarded by foreign powers as a free nation; her resolutions, will, I hope, be suitable to her situation, and dictated by wisdom and by a love for the public good.

With respect to myself, my dearly beloved countrymen, after having devoted every moment of my life to your happiness, I shall esteem myself the happiest of mankind, if through the means I have derived from your confidence, I can obtain, for our country, the opportunity of forming a free and lasting Government, and of preserving to Corsica its name, its unity, and its independence, whilst the names of the heroes who have spilt their blood in its support and defence, will be for future generations, objects of noble emulation and greatest remembrance.

(Signed) PASQUALE DE PAOLI.

We have often insisted on the want of harmony between the allied powers, Prussia has openly expressed her discontent—Austria begins to manifest her disgust—and Spain is at length convinced that the prosecution of the war must be attended with the destruction of her own government: She has therefore made overtures of peace to the French Republic. The Republic, in reply to these overtures, insists on the following preliminaries, to which, it is asserted the Spanish government will accede:

I. That the Spanish court shall acknowledge the French Republic.

II. That they shall consent to receive as Minister Plenipotentiary from France, their late agent at Madrid.

III. That they shall restore all places taken from the French during the war: and

IV. That they shall renounce all connection with the French branches of the house of Bourbon.

The future plans which the Emperor may mean to pursue remain yet to be developed. It is probably his intention to concentrate his forces so as to ensure the preservation of his Hereditary Dominions, which, situated in the heart of Europe, are more exposed than almost any other to the shock which threatens to demolish in all countries the very existence of Civil Society itself.

Extract of a letter from the Hague, dated July 18.

“Mechlin has surrendered to the French, and from the preparations making at Antwerp, there is but little doubt but it is intended to evacuate that city.

“The hospital of the English army is transported from thence to Flushing, to be sent to England. The commissioners of the British army will establish themselves at Dordt, or at Rotterdam.

“The 1,300 men from England are arrived at Antwerp.

“The Dutch fought bravely in the defence of Malines.

“I am sorry to have to inform you that Gen. Clairfayt, with his handful of brave fellows, who have always fought most courageously against a constant superiority of numbers has been severely beaten at Montague de Fet; and according to some accounts has lost half his troops; the whole of which amounted to 15,000 men.

“We hear no more of the French before Sluys; the Governor's spirited answer to the summons of the enemy is much admired here.

“The well directed fire of the garrison of the Nieupoort, and the sudden increased inundation destroyed a great number of the French.

“The Prince of Orange has in a very sensible and spirited letter, recommended the most vigorous measures of defence. A levy of one man in ten throughout the seven provinces is talked of, which will be a good measure.”

There are letters in town which mention, that the French have extended their late