

Foreign Intelligence.

Different Journals have given in a list of the candidates for the consulship. The greater part of them have pointed out citizens Volney, Bertine and Taleyrand Perigord as colleagues to Buonaparte; others, who pretend to an equal degree of information, assure us that Buonaparte will be the first Consul, and will have for his colleagues Garat and Cambaceres. The action of the Insipiens are eagerly desirous of seeing every thing elucidated. We think they must yet wait at least ten days.

Paris at this moment is the rendezvous of all its officers generals.

NEW CONSTITUTION.

Buonaparte assembled at the consular Palace, on the 8th of December the two Legislative Commissions. Roger Ducos took the chair.

Dannou read the plan of the new Constitution, of which we have only hitherto collected imperfect fragments.

The discussion was calm, and every way worthy of so great a cause. They first discussed it in whole, and then article by article.

Some of the articles were strongly combated, but they were carried by a majority; others were rejected, and it was here that Buonaparte manifested his wonderful powers, after having collected all the objections for and against an article, he commented on the argument advanced and concluded by bringing the majority to agree to the propositions which he made.

The assembly did not separate till seven o'clock next morning and the estimable Dannou was appointed to digest the alterations which were made: and the act will be made public in a few days.

Citizens Roder has now lifted up another corner of the curtain that concealed the new Constitution. The following is the sketch which he gives of the public establishment:

LEGISLATIVE POWER.

"There is to be a Council of State to propose laws, which Council of State constitutes part of the Executive Power. For the discussion of these proposed laws, there is a Tribunal, or a select body to decide upon the propositions after they have been discussed or assented to."

"The Legislative Body is to consist of 500 members; the Tribunal of 100; and the Council of State of 30."

EXECUTIVE POWER.

"There is to be a first or principal Consul invested with power to appoint and remove Ministers, Generals, Ambassadors, and Councillors of State. There are to be two other Consuls, to discuss public matters in concert with the first Consul. They are to have but a consultative voice: their persons are inviolable. They are named for ten years; they may be re-elected; they will have a guard. The grand Consul will have 500,000 francs of salary. There are besides two councils of state; the one for the Department of Foreign Affairs, & the other for the Home Department. This latter Council will have initiative. It will have also to judge and decide on litigated questions in the department of the Admiralty. Such is the government."

The Administration is confided 1. To Ministers, or Councils of Administration, such as the Admiralty.

2. To Administrations of Communes of 20 square Myriameters, established by conscription to be named by the Consuls.

3. To Intermediate Bureaux, charged only with the transmission of the order of the Ministers to the Communal Administrations, & of the reports of the execution of the orders by the Administrative, as well as of petitions and appeals of the people to the Ministers from the acts of the Administrative Bodies.

"The Consular acts must be signed by a Minister before they can be executed. The Ministers are responsible, each in his department, for the execution of Consular acts, which shall be contrary to the law, and for the non-execution of consular acts agreeably to the law."

JUDICIAL POWER.

"It shall be afterwards organized by the Constitutional means established for the information of the laws."

CONSERVATIVE POWER.

"There is to be a body of from 30 to 100 members elected for life. They must have a qualification of land and rental of 25,000 francs a year. They name themselves to vacancies in their own body. A person must be 40 years of age to be admissible. This body shall exercise various functions."

"1. They elect the members of the Legislative Body and the Tribunal, and take them from the list of the notables of the nation, as elected out of the said degrees."

"2. They shall pronounce on the unconstitutional acts committed by the inviolable bodies of the Legislative and Executive powers."

"3. They shall exercise the right of censure on the list of the notables of the nation, which they may every year reduce one hundredth part."

"4. They are or they probably may become a Grand Jury to try the crimes of High treason, imputed to the great responsible functionaries."

"The Consuls in going out of office, or on giving their resignation, shall enter of right into the Conservative Body."

"The manner in which the conservative Power shall fill vacancies in their own Body, is—Three candidates shall be presented to them—one by the Grand Council, one by the Legislative Body, and one by the Tribunal."

"The Grand Council will alone be lodged at the Luxembourg; the two others in the palace of 506. The Tribunal and the Senate in the pavilion of the Thuilleries. The Conservative Jury at the Louvre, in the palace of the institute, and the institute in the building of the Sorbonne. The means will be transferred to Versailles, and every thing that belongs to the ministers at war such as the Etats Major, the Administration, &c."

"On the 22d inst. (the 13th December) the legislative body will be assembled, and on the 27th the Constitution will be officially transmitted to the departments."

Several journals have stated that citizen Sieyes is to be President of the Constituent Jury. We think that this jury will have no President. All the members composing it will be equally qualified to exercise the functions of temporary President, according to the mode of election to be adopted. A number of other reports of the same nature, which promote this or the other citizen, and confer places before they exist, deserve no greater credit.

(Redacteur.)

LONDON, December 15.

Notwithstanding the suspension of arms concluded between Gen. Hedouville, and four of the royalist chiefs, it appears that not only the district of Vannes, in which George commands, and part of Normandy, which is under the direction of General Frotte, continue their hostilities against the republic, but that the royalists are also under arms in several other parts of the West, and particularly in the department of which Tours is the chief place. A letter from that city, dated on the 1st inst. leads us to believe that the momentary pacification concluded by Gen. Hedouville, relates rather to the royalist chiefs than to their soldiers, and that a great part of the latter have gone to increase the other corps which are yet under arms.

Several changes, both in the administration and in the army, have been made by the consuls. Alquier has been appointed to succeed Guillemardet at Madrid; and it is thought the minister d'Urquijo will also ere long be succeeded by some other person. There is no one who must not congratulate himself on the first of these changes, and who must not be desirous of the latter. All the persons condemned to deportation last month, and provisionally thrown into prison, have been released. The Ex-Prince of

Hesse has been the last who has been set at liberty. In general almost all the acts of the present government show that it is attempting to conciliate the public mind; but the style of the journals shows that it has been most actively successful in making itself feared.

According to a letter from Brussels of last month, relative to La tour Maubourg, it has been conceived that the Constitutionalists of 1791, and, among others, Lafayette, were about to be recalled. This is possible, and to a certain degree probable; but nothing authentic has been published which leads to demonstrate that such a measure is in agitation. The recalling of the dukes of Arme and of some other Brabanters, furnishes no argument on such a subject.

Since writing the above, we learn that Paris papers to the 9th have been received in town. The most important circumstances which we can collect from them is an inference which we are able to draw from the Republican statements, that the Austrians have obtained new advantages in Italy.

December 16.

The Cyne, George, Wennel, and three other vessels, on his Majesty's late proclamation permitting a Commercial intercourse with Holland, cleared out at the Custom-house in London, in ballast; for Amsterdam, where on their arrival, they were seized, and their crews lodged in goal; the Batavian government alleging, that they had not opened their ports to England.

The French papers contain a wonderful account of what they call a Patriotic Society existing in London, which has, it is said, voted a considerable sum for the erection of a monument to the honour of Buonaparte.

A letter from the Gentleman deputed to travel for the African Association, to whom Buonaparte, while in Egypt, had given a passport to pursue his route unmolested, mentions that the French were completely hemmed in at Cairo by the Arabs, not daring to show themselves without the lines, for fear of being cut to pieces. Our English traveller was several times in danger of being murdered on suspicion of his being a French spy. The French are generally detected throughout the country.

BOSTON, Feb. 15.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in London, to his friend in this town, dated Dec. 1st, 1799.

"A new French agent for the care of prisoners, has arrived here. He is to select the 12,000 French seamen prisoners in England, 5000 by the Convention of the Duke of York's glorious victory, and without exchange, and 7000 on a balance of exchange in their favor on the late success of his majesty's arms. Thus have the French by this masterly stroke obtained 12,000 men to man 20 sail of the line, and stopped an expense of 2,000,000 dollars annually to feed these prisoners in England; the French is more powerful than ever, the Emperor will be hard pushed this winter in Italy, unless he makes a sudden peace which is expected, and our difficulties will be increased I fear beyond any former period of distress."

NEW-YORK, Feb. 26.

The Gallant Truxton.

Philadelphia, Jan. 25.

[OFFICIAL.]

Yesterday morning, Lieut. Staw, of the armed schooner Experiment, arrived at Barclay's Hook from a cruise, being dispatched by commodore Truxton, with letters for the Secretary of the Navy; from which the following are extracts—

United States Ship Constellation, at sea, Feb. 3, 1800.

Sir,

On the 30th ult. I left St. Christophers with the Constellation, in excellent trim, and stood to windward, in order to gain the station for myself before the road of Guadaloupe, and at half past seven A. M. of the following, I discovered a sail to the S. E. to which I gave chase, and to the further particulars of that chase

of the action after I, I must beg to refer to the extracts from my journal herewith, as being the best mode of exhibiting a just and candid account of our transactions in the late battle which has ended in the almost entire dismantlement of the Constellation—though I trust, to the high reputation of the American flag.

I have the honor to be, &c.

THOS. TRUXTON.

Ben. Stoddart, Esq. Sec. of the Navy.

Occurrence on board the U. States Ship Constellation of 38 guns, under my command, Feb. 1st, 1800.

Throughout these 24 hours very variable weather, kept on our tacks bearing up under Guadaloupe; and at half past 7 A. M. the Road of St. Pierre bearing East, 5 leagues distance saw a sail to the S. E. standing to the S. W. which from her situation, I at first took for a large ship from Martinico, and hoisted English colours on giving chase by way of inducement, for her to come down and speak me, which would have saved us a long chase to leeward, off my intended cruising ground; but finding she did not attempt to alter her course, I examined her more minutely, as we approached her, and discovered that she was a heavy French frigate mounting 54 guns. I immediately gave orders for the yards, &c. to be dinged with chains, stoppail sheets &c. dopped, and the ship cleared; and every thing prepared for action, and hauled down English colours. At noon the wind became light & I observed the chase, that we had been gaining sail on, held way with us, but I was determined to continue the pursuit, though the running to the leeward I was convinced would be attended with many serious disadvantages, especially if the object of my wishes were not gratified.

Past two schooners standing to the northward, one of them showed American colours, and was a merchant vessel, and the other I supposed to be of the same description.

Feb. 24, at 1 P. M. the wind being somewhat fresher, than at noon, the sailing, and an appearance of its continuance, our prospect of bringing the enemy to action, began again to brighten, as I perceived we were coming up with the chase, and every inch of canvas being set that could be of service.

except the bog reefs, which I kept in the topmasts in case of the chase finding an escape from our thunder impracticable should haul on a wind and give us fair battle; but this did not prove to be her intention. I however, got within hail of him at 8 P. M. hoisted our ensign and had the candles in the battle lanterns, all lighted, and the large trumpet in the lee gangway ready to speak him, and to demand the surrender of the ship to the United States of America; but he at that instant commenced a fire from his stern and quarter guns, directed at our rigging and spars.

No parley being then necessary I sent my principal aid de camp, Mr. Vanduyke, to the different officers commanding divisions on the main battery, to repeat strictly my orders before given, not to throw away a single charge of powder, but take good aim and fire directly into the hull of the enemy, and load principally with two round shot, and now and then with a round shot, and a band of grape &c. to encourage the men at their quarters; to cause or suffer no noise or confusion whatever; but to load and fire as fast as possible when it could be done with certain effect. These orders given, in a few moments I gained a position on his weather quarter, that enabled us unusually to return his salutes; and thus a close and as sharp an action as ever was fought between two frigates commenced and continued until within a few minutes of 1 A. M. when the enemy's fire was completely silenced and he was again blowing off.

It was at the moment that I considered him as my prize, and was forming in my mind, in a manner I could not much shattered sails,

when I found the mainmast was totally unsupported by rigging, every shroud being shot away, and some of them in several places; that even floppers were useless, and could not be applied with effect. I then gave orders for the officers to send the men up from the gun deck to endeavour to secure it, in order that we might get along side of the enemy as soon as possible; but every effort was in vain, for the mainmast went over the side in a few minutes after, and carried with it the top men, among whom was an amiable young man who commanded the main top, Mr. James Jarvis, son of James Jarvis Esq. of New-York. It seems this young gentleman was apprised of the mast going in a few minutes by an old seaman; but he had already so much of the principle of an officer grafted in his mind, not to leave his quarters on any account, that he told the men if the mast went they must go with it, which was the case, and only one of them was saved.

I regret much his loss, as a promising officer and amiable young man, as well as on account of a long intimacy that has subsisted between his father and myself; but I have great satisfaction in finding I have lost no other, and only two or three slightly wounded, out of 39 killed and wounded, 14 of the former and 25 of the latter.

As soon as the mainmast went, every effort was made to clear the wreck from the ship as soon as possible, which was effected in about an hour. It being impossible to pursue the enemy, and as our security was then the great object, I immediately bore away for Jamaica for repairs &c. finding it impossible to reach a friendly port in any of the islands to windward.

I should be wanting in common justice was I to omit here to journalize the steady attention to order, and the great exertion and bravery of all my officers, seamen, and marines; in this action, many of whom I had sufficiently tried before on a similar occasion, and all their names are recorded in the transfer roll I sent to the Secretary of the Navy, dated the 19 December signed by myself.

All hands are employed in repairing the damage sustained in the action, so far as to get the ship into Jamaica as soon as possible.

THOMAS TRUXTON.

An officer on board the Constellation, has forwarded the following Address which was delivered by the brave Truxton, to his officers and crew, on the 2d Feb. 1800.

Public thanks, though but a small tribute, is never the less justly due to seamen and soldiers, who have manifested their zeal, activity and bravery so conspicuously in support of the honor and dignity of their country's flag, as the Constellation of 38 guns did last evening in an engagement of near 5 hours, with a French frigate of 54 guns or upwards carrying much heavier metal in which the enemy were completely beaten, and would have become her prize, had the damages sustained in making the first efforts to get along side of her, together with the loss of the mainmast, main-topmast, main-top-gallant mast, and several other spars, which also went over the side at the moment of her sheering off, together with the dismantled state of the ship otherwise made further pursuit impracticable. As the commander therefore I feel infinite satisfaction, in returning my thanks to the officers of every description, seamen, marines, and others, for the gallantry they displayed on this occasion, which under a beneficent Providence has enabled me to add another laurel to the American character, on the records of the Navy; and you may be assured Gentlemen, Seamen and Soldiers, that you shall be properly noticed to the President of the United States, and such of you as have been unfortunately wounded and survive, will no doubt be paid on the pension list, and while their misfortunes I regret, I shall share with pleasure their just claims to the government, in order that they may have that protection, &c. &c. which is due to them.