

Do not pretend to follow the argu- ment of the First Consul in the detail; this would be impossible, from the vast quantity of matter he took occasion to introduce. His purpose was evidently to convince me that on Malta must depend peace or war, and at the same time to impress upon my mind a strong idea of the means he possessed of annoying us at home and abroad.

With regard to the mistrust and jealousy which he said constantly prevailed since the conclusion of the treaty of Amiens, I observed that after a war of such long duration, so full of rancour, and carried on in such a manner of which history has no example, it was but natural that a considerable degree of agitation should prevail; but this like the swell after a storm, would gradually subside if not kept up by the policy of either party; that I would not pretend to pronounce which had been the aggressor in the Paper War of which he complained, and which was still kept up, though with this difference, that in England it was independent of government, and in France its very act and deed. To this I added that it must be admitted that we had such motives of mistrust against France as could not be alleged against us, and I was going to instance the accession of territory and influence gained by France since the treaty, when he interrupted me by saying, I suppose you mean Piedmont and Switzerland; "ce sont des bagatelles," and must have been foreseen whilst the negotiation was pending; "vous n'avez pas le droit d'en parler a cette heure." I then alleged as a cause of mistrust and of jealousy, the impossibility of obtaining redress for any of his majesty's subjects. He asked me in what respect; and I told him that since the signing of the treaty, not one British claimant had been satisfied, although every Frenchman of that description had been so within one month after that period; and that since I had been here and I could say as much of my predecessors, not one satisfactory answer had been obtained to the innumerable representations which we have been under the necessity of making in favor of British subjects, and property detained in the several ports of France and elsewhere, without even a shadow of justice; such an order of things, I said, was not to inspire confidence; but on the contrary must create mistrust. This he said must be attributed to the natural difficulties attending such suits, when both parties thought themselves right; but he denied that such delays could proceed from any inclination to do what was just and right. With regard to the pensions which were granted to French or Swiss individuals, observed, that they were given as a reward for past services during the war, and most certainly not for present ones, and still less for such as has been insinuated of a nature repugnant to the feelings of every individual of England, and to the universally acknowledged loyalty and honour of the British government.

That as for any participation of indemnities or other accessions which his majesty might have obtained, I could not take upon myself to assure him that his majesty's ambition led him rather to preserve than acquire. And that with regard to the most propitious moment for renewing hostilities, his majesty, whose sincere desire it was to continue the blessings of peace to his subjects, would always consider such a measure as the greatest calamity; but that if his majesty was so desirous of peace, it must not be imputed to the difficulty of obtaining Allies; and the less so, as those means which it might be necessary to afford such allies, for perhaps inadequate services, would all be concentrated in England, and give a proportionate increase of energy to our own exertions.

At this part of the conversation he rose from his chair, and told me that he should give orders to general Ansdred to enter, on this business with your Lordship; but he wished that I should at the same time be made acquainted with his motives and conduct of his sincerity, rather from himself than from his ministers. He hereafter a conversation of two hours, during the greatest part of which he talked incessantly, conversed for a few moments on indifferent subjects, in apparent good humour retired.

Such was nearly as I can recollect, the purport of this conference. It must however be observed that he did not, as Mr. Talleyrand had done, affect to attribute to the French Republic a commercial motive only, but as one rendered necessary in a military point of view, by the in reason by us of the Treaty of Amiens. I have the honor to be, &c.

W. H. WHITWORTH.

\* These are mere titles. † You have no right to speak of that at this time.

LONDON, May 25.

Last Friday, at 3 o'clock, the following Message was delivered by several of the Orators of Government to the Senate, the legislative body and the tribunate:

MESSAGE.

Saint Cloud, May 20. The Ambassador of England has been recalled: compelled by this circumstance the Ambassador of the Republic has quitted a country where he could no longer hear the language of peace.

At this decisive moment the government submits to your view, and it will submit to the view of France and of Europe, its first relation with his Britannic Ministry, the negotiations which were terminated by the treaty of Amiens, and the new difficulties which seem to finish by absolute rupture.

The present age and posterity will there see all that it is done to put an end to the calamities of war, and with what moderation and patience it has laboured to prevent their return.

Nothing has been able to interrupt the course of the projects formed to rekindle discord between the two nations. The treaty of Amiens had been negotiated amidst the clamours of a party hostile to peace. Scarcely was it concluded, when it was the object of bitter censure. It was represented as fatal to England, because it was not disgraceful to France. Soon after, alarms were disseminated: dangers were pretended, on which was established the necessity of a state of peace, such as to be a permanent signal of new hostilities. There were kept in reserve and hired, those vile miscreants, who had torn the bowels of their country, and who were intended to tear it anew. Vain calculations of hatred! We are no longer that France which was divided by factions, and buffeted by storms; but France resorted to internal tranquillity, regenerated in her administration and her laws, and ready to fall, with her whole weight upon whatever foreign state may dare to attack her, and to unite with her banditti whom an atrocious policy would once more cast upon her shores to organize pillage and assassinations.

At length an unexpected message, all at once, terrifies England with imaginary armaments in France and Batavia, and supposes the existence of important discussions which divided the two governments, while no such discussion were known to the French government.

Immediately formidable armaments took place on the coasts, and in the ports of Great Britain; the sea is covered with her ships of war and it is in the midst of these preparations that the cabinet of London demands of France the abrogation of a fundamental article of the treaty of Amiens.

They wanted, they said, new guarantees: and they despised the facility of treaties the execution of which is the first of guarantees which nations can give to each other.

In vain did France invoke that faith which has been sworn; in vain did she appeal to the forms received among nations: in vain did she consent to shut her eye to the actual non execution of the articles of the treaty of Amiens, from which England pretended to release herself; in vain was she willing to delay taking a definitive resolution until Spain and Batavia, both of them contracting parties, could have manifested their disposition: in vain, in short did she propose to request the mediation of the powers who had invited to guarantee and who in effect, did guarantee the stipulation required to be abrogated.

Every proposition was rejected, and the demands of England became more imperious and more absolute.

It was not in the principles of the government to yield to menace: it was not in their power to bend the majesty of the French people to laws prescribed to them with form so flagrant and so new. Had they done so, they would have consecrated in favour of England the right of annulling, at her sole pleasure, all the stipulations which bind her towards France. It would have authorized her to demand from France new guarantees on the slightest alarm, which she might have thought proper to pretend; and hence two new principles would have been placed in the public code

of Great-Britain, by the side of that by which she has disinherited the other nations of the common sovereignty of the seas, and submit to her laws and to her regulations the independence of their flag.

The government stoop at the limit traced out by its principles and its duties. The negotiation is interrupted, and we are ready to fight, if we are attacked.

We shall at least fight for maintaining the faith of treaties, and for the honor of the French name.

Had we yielded to a vain terror, we should soon had to fight and to repel new pretensions; but we should have fought dishonoured by a previous weakness fallen in our own eyes, and degraded in the eyes of an enemy, which should have once made us bend to her unjust pretensions.

The nation will repose itself in the consciousness of its strength, whatever injuries the enemy do us in places where we shall not have been able to prevent them or to reach them. The result of this contest will be such as we have a right to expect from the justice of our cause and the courage of our warriors.

The First Consul, (Signed) BONAPARTE. By the First Consul The Secretary of State, (Signed) MARET.

NASSAU, N. P. July 5. We are sorry to state that there is no flour, rice, nor corn at this market; the nominal price of the former article is 15 dollars a barrel. We begin to suspect that the opening the ports to American vessels is not so good a thing as we thought it to be at the time. A pest or famine will, for obvious reasons be the consequence of it, and unluckily it has begun, and indeed with the latter.

NEW-YORK, July 27.

During the last week 140 seamen arrived in Boston from New-York; they were enlisted for the frigate Constitution, now in this harbour, and will nearly complete her complement of men.—The ship being otherwise nearly ready for service, we understand it is the intention of commodore Preble, to proceed to sea by Sunday next.

August 1.

Let's from Gibraltar.

Our correspondent at Gibraltar, under date of the 10th June, writes as follows:—

"Markets here are very dull for all kinds of provisions. Flour has not even nominal price; between 18 and 20,000 barrels are now afloat in the bay, and fresh cargoes arrive almost daily. There are likewise in the port of Lisbon, 60,000 barrels, in Barcelona 30,000, and 30,000 in Leghorn; making together, in only four ports in this neighborhood, 140,000 barrels of American flour.

Lord Nelson arrived here on the 4th instant in the Amphion frigate.—He had given the command of his ship (the Victory, a three decker) to admiral Cornwallis, whom he left at sea in chase of some of "the enemy's" vessels and came in the Amphion, bringing with him the official declaration of war and three French prizes.

It is reported here that the frigate Juno and a brig of war are captured off Toulon by a French squadron.—There is a French 74 in Ceuta. Two sloops of war went from this port to watch her; and on the 7th instant a tremendous cannonading was distinctly heard, so that we believe an engagement has taken place between them.

Same day a French barque was brought in, a prize. The crew rose on the prize-master, as the English sailors were taking the vessel round Europa Point; tied him to the main rigging, and secured the men as they came up the ship's sides. They would have carried her off, but had left her colors flying under the English jack, and were seen by the frigate. When the boats from the frigate hove in sight, the crew of the prize made no resistance, but surrendered immediately.

A day or two ago most of the crew of the frigate Resistance arrived here. She ran on a rock off Cape St. Mary's in a fog, and was lost. The commander justifies himself by saying the master had altered the vessel's course during the night without his knowledge. They are bound to Malta for trial.

August 2. In the brig Morning Star, arrived at this port yesterday from Curacao, came passenger, capt. Spalding, of the pilot-boat schooner Revenge of Norfolk, whose mate and part of the crew had ran off with his vessel, whilst he and two of his men went ashore in the boat, from Lostack, a port on the Main.

An embargo, which had been laid

on all vessels at Curacao, was taken off the day on which the Morning Star sailed.

Captain Henry was chased by two French privateers near the Pomona passage, and threw all his letters (about 300) overboard.

July 3.

From CAPE-FRANCOIS.—Late. Extract of a letter from Mr. J. Beesly, proprietor of the American Coffee-House at Cape-Francois, to the editor of the Mercantile Advertiser, dated July 14th, 1803.

"Every thing here is in a state of suspense respecting war or peace.—Three English 74's and six frigates blockade this port. They capture all French vessels, and order them for Jamaica. Not less than 20 sail have been taken and sent thither within the last 15 days. Some few Americans have escaped; but those which have arrived were chased close in with the harbor. We understand the English commander on this station has orders to capture all French vessels bound in or out of this port. The government appears to be much alarmed. In consequence, the duty is taken off all the American produce.

A census of the inhabitants was taken yesterday, that the provisions may be equally distributed. A number of French vessels have been cut out of Jeremie by the English. We have two 74's and 4 frigates in this port, which are preparing for France with all possible dispatch. A hot press of French seamen has taken place both in the harbor and on shore. You may expect to hear of an engagement before long.

All kinds of American produce have taken an uncommon rise. Flour is 22 dollars per barrel for the cargo, pork 25, beef 16, rice 10 cents, lard 18, butter 25, lumber 38 dollars per 1000.

The sch'r. Fair Trader, Gardner, arrived this day from Philadelphia; and the brig Three Brothers, O'Neil, from Baltimore."

By the sloop Olive Branch, captain Haley, in 12 days from the Cape, we learn that four British 74's and two frigates continued off that port, but they did not molest the Americans in going in or coming out. The day before the Olive Branch sailed, a large body of brigands were in motion in fight of the town marching, as was said, against Fort Dauphin. It was reported at the Cape, that a division had taken place among the blacks on the plains, there being one party in favour of the French and another in opposition, and that a severe battle had been fought between them in consequence. Markets for American produce had experienced a considerable depression, owing to the arrival of a great number of cargoes.

Capt. Haley, of the sch'r. Sally, in 16 days from Montserrat, informs, that the day previous to his sailing a packet arrived there from Barbadoes, with accounts that an expedition against Demara had failed from that island.

PHILADELPHIA, July 23.

Some additional papers relative to the late negotiation, have been laid before Parliament. Among these the following is the only document which we find interesting to the American reader.

COPY OF A LETTER

From Mr. R. KING, to Lord HAWKEBURY. London, May 5th, 1803.

My Lord, In the present critical posture of affairs, I lose no time in communicating to your Lordship, for his Majesty's information, that a treaty was signed at Paris on the 30th day of April past, by the Plenipotentiaries of America and France; by which the complete sovereignty of the town and territory of New-Orleans, as well as all Louisiana, as the same was heretofore possessed by Spain, has been acquired by the United States of America. In drawing up this Treaty, care has been taken so to frame the same as not to infringe any right of Great-Britain in the navigation of the river Mississippi.

I flatter myself that this communication will be received with satisfaction, and regarded as a new proof of the disposition of the United States, to observe towards his Majesty a spirit of amity and confidence important at all times, and more especially in present circumstances, to the harmony and mutual prosperity of the two countries.

I avail myself of this occasion, to renew to your Lordship the assurance of the distinguished considera-

tion, with which I have the honor to be, &c.

RUFUS KING.

Right Hon. Lord Hawkebury [Here follows a Note from Lord Hawkebury, acknowledging the receipt of the above.]

August 1.

Extract of a letter from France, COMMERCIAL AGENCY OF THE UNITED STATES. PARIS, May 30, 1803.

SIR, I have now the satisfaction of informing you, that in virtue of a convention lately entered into by our ministers with this government, all American claims which are embraced by the 2d and 3d articles of the convention concluded in September 1800, are to be reversed by a board of three American citizens, and as far as may be approved by them are to be paid, principal and interest, in bills drawn by our ministers on the treasury of the United States. This board is to be formed immediately, and is to sit no longer than twelve months; it will be well therefore for you immediately on receipt of this letter to send me by two different opportunities, a notarial power of attorney for the sum that may be liquidated in favour of your vessel the

detained by the embargo on American vessels at Bordeaux in the years 1793 and 1794, the whole of which is in my charge.—You will instruct me by letter at the same time, in what manner and to whose order you wish me to remit the bills that I may obtain for your account.

I am with esteem, Sir, yours. (Signed) FULWAR SKIPWITH.

LISBON, 1st June, 1803. To a merchant in this city—Philadelphia.

SIR, As we consider it would be useful to you to know the occurrences of our market respecting your produce, we take the liberty to inform you, that arrivals having for some little time ceased, our buyers began to appear, which led us to hope for an advance in the prices, but within these two days no less than nineteen cargoes have come in, composed chiefly of flour, which have occasioned a fresh alarm, and they will not now come forward with any proposals for this article.

The Spanish ports both to the northward and southward, afford no greater encouragement, and in some there is no sale at all, and in others by a tedious retail only is it practicable to dispose of a cargo; so that having now no resource, it is impossible to say where our prices will settle. At present flour may be nominally quoted at 6 dollars per barrel; wheat at 1 66 100th, and Indian corn 8 1/2 cents per bushel on board.

This last grain looks better; but as the crop will be housed in about three months, and now bears an abundant appearance it will be precarious meddling with it to this market. As to wheat, we know of several cargoes expected, which will naturally prevent any advance in the prices.

We remain, very respectfully, SIR, Your obedient servant, JOHN BURKELEY & SON. Dollars 318 to 820 rears each.

BALTIMORE, August 3. Yesterday morning the United States new schooner Vixen, built by Mr. Price, mounting 10 guns, was hoisted off from his wharf, into the stream. We understand she is ready for sea, and will sail the first fair wind, for the Mediterranean.

The Decree of which the following is a translation, was handed to us yesterday by a respectable commercial friend, who had just received it from his correspondent at Cape Francois:

ARTICLE.

In the name of the French Republic.

The general in chief, captain general of the colony of St. Domingo, decrees as follows:

Art. 1. The duties established by the tariff of the tenth Nivose last (December 31) upon flour, ship bread, rice, and all kinds of dried provisions, are suppressed.

Art. 2. The above specified articles shall be allowed to be imported free of all duties.—The importer shall be subject only to the usual port charges and to the other usual duties established by the customs laws.

Art. 3. This exemption shall be in force during the continuance of the war from the day of the publication hereof, in all the ports of the colony, which are from this time open to foreign commerce.