

WILMINGTON GAZETTE.

Published weekly by *ALMIND HALL*, at THREE DOLLARS A YEAR.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1803.

[Vol. 7, No. 366.]

AN ACCOUNT OF LOUISIANA, Being an abstract of Documents in the Offices of the Departments of State and of the Treasury.

[Concluded from our last.]

Of the Officers of Government.

THE officers who are merely judicial, have been already mentioned, and therefore some of them will be altogether omitted in this place. The executive officers appointed by the governor, for each division of the province, and called Commandants, are generally taken from the army, or the militia. When the settlement is small, some respectable character is appointed to the civil command, and the militia officer has the direction of military matters. Where there is a garrison, the commandant is sub-delegate of the Intendant, and draws upon him for all expenses incurred. In that case he has the charge of all matters relating to the revenue, within this district.

The duty of commandants is to superintend the police, preserve the peace of the district, examine the passports of travellers, and to suffer no strangers to settle within the limits of their command, without regular leave obtained from government. They are to prevent smuggling, to certify that all lands, petitioned for by the inhabitants, are vacant before they are granted, and when required, put the owner in possession. They are besides notaries public, and in their offices it is necessary to register all sales of lands and slaves, and even to make the contracts for those purposes before them. They act as sheriffs, levy executions on property, attend and certify the sale, and collect the proceeds. They also take inventories of the property of intestates. By an ordinance of Baron Carondelet, Syndics are established every three leagues, who are subordinate to the commandant, decide small causes, and have the police of roads, levies, travellers and negroes.

The officers of the general government are the following: Beside his judicial powers, the Governor is chief of the army and militia, and the head of the civil government. He is also President of the Cabildo, or Provincial Council. He appoints and removes at pleasure the commandants of districts. He appoints the officers of the militia, who are nevertheless commissioned by the king, and he recommends military officers for preferment. He is superintendent of Indian affairs. He promulgates ordinances for the good government and improvement of the province; but he has no power to assess taxes upon the inhabitants without their consent. Until the year 1798, he possessed the sole power of granting lands, but it then passed into the hands of the Intendant.

The Cabildo is an hereditary council of twelve, chosen originally from the most wealthy and respectable families. The governor presides over their meetings. Their office is very honorable, but it is acquired by purchase. They have a right to represent, and even to remonstrate to the governor, in respect to the interior government of the Province. The police of the city is under their controul and direction. In it they regulate the admission of physicians and surgeons to practice. Two members of the Cabildo serve by turn monthly, and take upon themselves the immediate superintendance of markets, bakers, streets, bridges, and the general police of the city. This council distributes among its members several important offices, such as Alguazil Mayor, or High Sheriff, Alcalde Provincial, Procureur General, &c. The last mentioned is a very important charge. The person who holds it is not merely the king's attorney, but an officer peculiar to the civil law. He does not always prosecute; but after conviction he indicates the punishment annexed by law to the crime, and which may be, and is mitigated by the court. Like the chancellor in the English system, he is the curator and protector of orphans, &c. and finally, he is the expounder of the law, the defender of the privileges belonging to the town, province or colony, and the accuser of every public officer that infringes them.

The Cabildo is also vested with a species of judicial authority, for which, and for further elucidation of its constitution, and the functions of the officers springing from it, see the Appendix No. 1.

The Intendant is chief of the departments of finance and commerce, and exercises the judicial powers already mentioned. He is entirely independent of the governor, and no public monies can be issued without his express order. The land office is under his direction.

The Contador, Treasurer and Interventor, are officers subordinate to the Intendant. The first has four clerks under him, and keeps all accounts and documents respecting the receipt and expenditure of the revenue, and is therefore a check upon the Intendant. The treasurer is properly no more than a cashier, and is allowed 1 clerk. The Interventor superintends all public purchases, and bargains. The Administrador is also subordinate to the Intendant, and with a number of inferior officers, manages every thing respecting the custom house. Every clerk in these offices receives his commission from the king.

The Auditor is the king's counsel, who is to furnish the governor with legal advice in all cases of judicial proceedings, whether civil or military.

The Assessor's functions are similar to those of the Auditor, and are properly applicable to the Intendant's department.

Both of the officers last mentioned are also the counsellors of some of the tribunals, as before intimated.

A Secretary of the government and another of the Intendency.

A Surveyor-General.

A Harbour-Master.

A Store-keeper, who takes charge of all public moveable property.

An Interpreter of the French and Spanish languages, and a number of other inferior officers.

All appointments in the province with a salary of more than \$0 dollars per month are made by the king, and most of those with a lower salary by the Governor or Intendant as belongs to their respective departments. There are no officers chosen by the people.

The salaries and perquisites of the principal officers are as follows:

	p. salary.	p. perq.
Governor annually,	6,000	2,000
Intendant,	4,000	none.
Auditor,	2,000	2,000
Contador,	2,000	none.
Assessor,	1,200	1,000
Treasurer,	1,200	none.
Administrador,	1,200	none.
Sec'y of Government,	600	2,000

The commandants of the districts receive each 100 dollars from the king annually, unless they are possessed of a military employment or pension.

Taxes and Duties.

Instead of paying local taxes, each inhabitant is bound to make and repair roads, bridges, and embankments thro' his own land.

A duty of six per cent. is payable at the custom house, on the transfer of shipping. It is ascertained upon the sum, the buyer and seller declare to be the real consideration. As no oath is required from either, they seldom report more than half the price.

The following taxes are also payable in the Province.

Two per cent. on legacies and inheritances, coming from collaterals and exceeding 2,000 dollars.

Four per cent. on legacies, given to persons who are not relatives of the testator.

A tax on civil employments, the salaries of which exceed 300 dollars annually, called *media annata*, amounting to half of the first year's salary. By certain officers, it is to be paid in two annual instalments, and by others in four. The first person appointed to a newly created office pays nothing, but the tax is levied on all who succeed him.

Seven dollars is deducted from the sum of 20 paid as pilotage by every vessel entering or leaving the Mississippi; but the treasury provides the boats, and pays the salary of the pilots and sailors employed at the Balize. The remainder of the 20 dollars, is thus distributed:—To the head pilot 4—to the pilot who is in the vessel 4, and 5 to the crew of the row-boat, that goes out to put the pilot on board, or take him ashore.

A tax of 40 dollars per annum for licences to sell liquors.

A tax on certain places when sold, such as those of Regidor, Notary, Attorney, &c.

But the principal tax is that of 6 per cent. levied on all imports and exports, according to a low Tariff. The proceeds of which netted about 120,000 dollars, whilst all the other taxes are said not to yield more than 5 or 6 thousand dollars annually.

Expenses and Debt.

The expenses of the present government, comprehending the pay and support of the regiment of Louisiana, part of a battalion of the regiment of Mexico, a company of dragoons, and one of artillery, which form the garrison of the country, including Mobile; the repairs of public buildings and fortifications; the maintenance of a few galleys to convey troops and stores throughout the province. Indian presents, and salaries of officers, clergy, and persons employed for public purposes, amount to about 650,000 dollars. A sum in specie, which does not generally exceed 400,000 dollars, is annually sent from Vera Cruz, but this, together with the amount of duties and taxes collected in the province, leaves usually a deficiency of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, for which certificates are issued to the persons who may have furnished supplies, or to officers and workmen for their salaries. Hence a debt has accumulated, which, it is said, amounts at present to about 650,000 dollars. It bears no interest, and it is now depreciated 30 per cent. The latter circumstance has taken place not from want of confidence in the eventual payment of the certificates; but from the uncertainty of the time when, and the want and general value of specie. The whole of this debt is said to be due to the inhabitants and to American residents. It would have been long since paid off, but for a diversion of the funds, destined for that purpose, to different and external objects.

Imports and Exports.

The productions of Louisiana are, sugar, cotton, indigo, rice, furs and peltry, lumber, tar, pitch, lead, flour, horses and cattle. Population alone is wanting to multiply them to an astonishing degree. The soil is fertile, the climate salubrious, and the means of communication between most parts of the province certain, and by water. The following has been received as a sketch of the present exports of Louisiana, viz.

20,000 bales of cotton, of 3 cwt. each, at 20 cents per lb.	17,000
(increasing)	Dolls. 1,344,000
45,000 casks of sugar, 30 cwt. each, at 8 cents per lb.	363,400
(increasing)	363,400
200 do. molasses, 100 gallons each (incr.)	32,000
Indigo, (diminishing rapidly)	100,000
Peltry,	300,000
Lumber,	80,000
Lead, corn, horses and cattle, uncertain. All other articles, suppose	100,000
	2,158,000

According to official returns in the Treasury of the United States, there were imported into our territory from Louisiana and the Florida, merchandise to the following amounts, in the several years prefixed:

In 1799, to the value of 307,132 dolls.	
1800,	204,322
1801,	266,833
1802,	1,006,214

According to the same authority, which makes the total of the exports to amount to 2,158,000 dollars, the imports, in merchandise, plantation utensils, slaves &c. amount to two and a half millions, the difference being made up by the money introduced by the government, to pay the expenses of governing and protecting the colony.

According to the returns in the Treasury of the United States, exports have been made to Louisiana and the Florida, to the following amount in the years prefixed:

In 1799, to the value of
3,096,9 in foreign articles.
477,934 in domestic do.

Dolls. 3,504,098
In 1800, 1,765,137 in for. articles.
240,962 in domestic do.

Dolls. 2,035,789
In 1801, 1,770,704 in for. articles.
137,204 in domestic do.

Dolls. 1,907,998
In 1802, 1,034,503 in for. articles.
170,110 in domestic do.

Dolls. 1,224,710

It is to be observed that if the total of the imports and exports into and from these provinces (of which the two Floridas are but a very unimportant part, with respect to both) be as above supposed, viz.

Imports,	2,500,000 dollars.
Exports,	2,158,000

Making together, 4,658,000

The duty of six per cent ought alone to produce the gross sum of two hundred and seventy-nine thousand four hundred and eighty dollars, and that the difference between that sum and its actual net produce, arises partly from the imperfect tariff by which the value of merchandize is ascertained, but principally from the smuggling, which is openly countenanced by most of the Revenue officers.

Manufactures.

There are but few domestic manufactures. The Acadians manufacture a little cotton into quilts and cotton-atics, and in the remote parts of the province, the poorer planters spin and weave some negro cloths of cotton and wool mixed. There is one machine for spinning cotton in the parish of Iberville, and another in the Opelousas; but they do little or nothing. In the city, besides the trades which are absolutely necessary, there is a considerable manufacture of cordage, and some small ones of shot and hair-powder. There are likewise in, and within a few leagues of the town, 12 distilleries for making taffia, which are said to distil annually a very considerable quantity; and one legal refinery said to make about 200,000 lbs. of loaf sugar.

Navigation employed in the trade of the Province.

In the year 1802, there entered the Mississippi two hundred and fifty-eight vessels of all descriptions, 13 of which were public armed vessels, and the remainder merchantmen, as follows, viz.

American,	Spanish,	French,
Ships,	48	14
Brigs,	63	17
Polacies,		4
Sch's,	50	61
Sloops,	9	1

Of the number of American vessels 23 ships, 25 brigs, 19 schooners, and 5 sloops came in ballast; the remainder were wholly or in part laden.

Five Spanish ships and 7 schooners came in ballast. The united Tonnage of all the shipping that entered the river, exclusive of the public armed vessels, was 32,725 registered tons.

In the same year there sailed from the Mississippi, 265 sail.

In the first six months of the present year, there entered the Mississippi 173 sail, of all nations, four of which were public armed vessels, viz. two French and two Spanish, whose tonnage is not enumerated.

In the same six months there sailed from the Mississippi 156 vessels.

Coasting Trade.

There is a considerable coasting trade from Pensacola, Mobile, and the creeks and rivers falling into, and in the neighbourhood of Lake Pontchartrain, from whence New-Orleans is principally supplied with ship-timber, charcoal, lime, pitch and tar, and partly with cattle, and the places before named are supplied with articles of foreign growth and produce in the same way from Orleans. The vessels employed are sloops and schooners, some of which are but half decked, from eight to fifty tons, 509 of which including their repeated voyages, and 13 galleys and gun-boats entered the Bayou St. Jean last year. There is likewise a small coasting trade between the Atacapas and Opelousas, and New-Orleans, by way of the Balize, which would much increase, if there was any encouragement given by government, to clear away a few obstructions, chiefly caused by fallen timber, in the small rivers and creeks leading to them.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 29.

From Leghorn, Aug. 23.

Enclosed you have a copy of a note I have received two days ago from the Consul of the U. States, by which you will observe that General Oliver the French commandant has clearly expressed to Commodore Morris that this port was considered in the same light as if belonging to the French Republic, and consequently subject to the decree of the First Consul, of Messidor, 11th year, by which all British merchandize and colonial produce was prohibited in the French ports, and subject to confiscation, and that if it may be imported, I understand that

Commodore Morris is gone to Florence on the business, with a memorial to her majesty to endeavour if possible to have the arbitrary decree recalled, or rather to prevent its extension to this port. I sincerely wish he may succeed, though I very much doubt it. In the mean time great attention should be observed in accompanying every article with a certificate from the French agent, stating that the property is not the produce of Britain or her colonies.

Leghorn, Aug. 20.

"SIR,
I am just favoured with a letter from Commodore Morris, stating the conversation he had with General Oliver on the subject of the Arrete of the First Consul of the French Republic, the 11th Messidor, 11th year, and of which the following is an extract—

"The late arrete considered neutrals laden wholly or in part with British manufactures, bound to any port of the French Republic, subjected to confiscation, and this port was considered as a port of the French Republic.

WASHINGTON, December 2.

There are circumstances connected with the late important news from the Mediterranean which ought not to be passed over in silence. Our little squadron in that quarter, with a promptness and vigor, at least hitherto passed, has effected the object of the government and fulfilled the most sanguine wishes of the public. Without the effusion of a drop of blood, and without the payment of a tributary cent, a restoration of peace has been accomplished, almost as soon as it was infracted, with one of the most powerful of the Barbary powers.

We have had it rung through the union that the present administration was pusillanimous and altogether unqualified to meet with spirit those great national perils that await all nations; that the period of danger would be to them the day of dismay and humiliation. But what is the language of truth and fact? In the west our rights have been invaded, our peace menaced. In a few months this administration, by means not of lawless violence, but of stern justice, have placed those rights and the peace of the country upon a stronger foundation than they ever before rested. They have, with a clearness of perception and vigor of conduct, that reflects great honor upon them, commanded from the most powerful nations terms which have extorted the admiration of the world. In the East, too the rights of our citizens, have been struck at; not, it is true, by a power from which we had any great national calamity to apprehend; but by one which, in co-operation with the other pirates of the Mediterranean, have been for a long lapse of time, in the habit of trampling upon the commercial rights of the most respectable European nations, and of extorting from them a prodigious and disgraceful tribute. Such was the established usage of these powers, such the prevalence of force over right, that our illustrious Washington, imitating the example of Europe, consented to make the United States tributary to their cupidity. A frigate whose cost was, we believe, half a million, and very largesums in specie, or their value in naval stores, were paid to Algiers as the price of peace. We state not this fact for the purpose of condemnation; but to contrast it with the present state of things.

It will be found that the expenses of the navy of the United States for the years 1797, 1798, 1799, 1800, and 1801, were ten millions two hundred and fifteen thousand dollars, averaging each year, two millions and seventy-five thousand dollars. Notwithstanding this immense disbursement, we consented to pay heavy tribute, with the spirit of a Washington at the head of our affairs.

At present, with an annual expenditure of but six hundred and fifty thousand dollars, for such is the present estimated expense of the navy department, we have obtained a peace more honourable than any heretofore made by us with the Barbary powers, without the humiliation of paying the smallest tribute.

Let those who in the honest pride of Americans, or in the bitter terms