

ject of primary importance to have the nearest and most expeditious mode of communication established, between the City of Washington and the City of New-Orleans the capital of that province; not only for the convenience of government, but to accommodate the citizens of the several commercial towns in the Union.

That at present the mail is conveyed on a circuitous route from this place to Knoxville and Nashville in Tennessee, and from thence through the wilderness by Natchez to New-Orleans, a distance of more than fifteen hundred miles.

That by establishing a post route as high on a direct line between those two cities, as the Blue Ridge and Allegany mountains will admit of, will not only lessen the distance about 500 miles; but as this route will pass almost the whole way through a country inhabited either by citizens of the United States or friendly Indians, the mail will be more secure, and the persons employed in transmitting it, better furnished with the means of subsistence.

The committee flatter themselves that the views of the general government effecting this important object, will be seconded by the government and citizens of those states through which this road will pass, by laying out, straightening and improving the same, as soon as the most proper course shall be sufficiently ascertained; but as this has not been heretofore used for conveying the mail between those places, they presume that the best route will be better known after it has been used for this purpose, than it can be at present; and with this view of the subject, they deem it improper at this time to designate intermediate points; they are therefore of opinion—

That a post road ought to be established from the City of Washington, on the most direct and convenient route to the Tombigby settlement in the Mississippi territory, and from thence to New-Orleans.

And further that a post road ought also to be established from the said Tombigby settlement to the Natchez. This road will not only afford the inhabitants of that place a direct mode of communication with the seat of the territorial government, who at present are destitute of any, but will shorten the distance between this city and Natchez, nearly three hundred miles. And for the consideration of the House, the committee submit the following resolution.

Resolved, That a post road ought to be established from the city of Washington, on the most direct and convenient route, to pass through or near the Tuckabachee settlement to the Tombigby settlement in the Mississippi territory, and from thence to New-Orleans; and also from the said Tombigby settlement to Natchez.

Mr. Stanford moved the insertion of the following words, "and Carter's ferry on James River, Cole's ferry on Stanton, Danville on Dan River, in Virginia, Salisbury, Beatty's Ford on Catauba, in North-Carolina, Spartanburg, Greenville, C. H. Peudleton, C. H. in South-Carolina, and Jackson C. H. in Georgia."

His object being to designate the intermediate points of the route between the seat of government and New-Orleans and Natchez.

This motion was supported by Messrs. Stanford, J. Randolph, Early, Earle and Mason, on the principle that it was proper that Congress should designate the route, and on the ground that the route, contemplated by the amendment, would be the fittest.

On the other hand the motion was opposed by Messrs. Thomas, Smith, Holland, Claiborne, S. L. Mitchell and G. W. Campbell, on the ground that a discretionary power should be reposed in the post-master general to designate the route, and on the ground, that if Congress should undertake to designate the route, the one fixed by the amendment, was not an eligible one.

Mr. Dennis declared himself in favour of the House exercising the power of designating the route, but was not sufficiently informed to vote on any particular line.

Mr. R. Griswold moved that a committee of the whole should rise and ask leave to sit again, with the view that leave should be refused, and the report recommitted to the Post-Office committee, in order to obtain from them a detailed report that would furnish the House with satisfactory information.

This motion was supported by Mr. Gregg, and opposed by Mr. Thomas, and carried—Ayes 70.

The House then refused leave to the committee of the whole to sit again—Ayes 19—and recommitted the report to the Post-Office committee.

#### FOREIGN SKETCH.

LONDON, Nov. 7.

Bonaparte keeps himself surrounded by a body guard of 6000 horse and foot, each of whom is not less than six feet high.

November 7.

Dispatches have been sent to Plymouth, to be forwarded with all possible expedition to Lord Nelson, in the Mediterranean. Government has received undoubted intelligence of the design of Bonaparte to attempt the landing a considerable force in Egypt.

Four ships of the line, and some frigates, are ordered to reinforce the fleet in the Mediterranean.

November 8.

Our squadron has been to work again upon the French coast: Yesterday afternoon a heavy firing was heard at Deal and Dover, in the quarter of Boulogne, from which it was concluded that a bombardment was taking place, or the attack had been renewed upon

the gun-boats. No particulars had reached our coast at the departure of the post last night.

LIVERPOOL, November 8.

Extract of a letter from London, dated November 8.

"The note of preparation on this side of the water, has increased in a singular manner since my last:—The hottest press for seamen ever known, took place all down the river late on Monday evening and of course a greater number of men were taken; probably between the river and the Nore nearly 1000. It is further understood, that to carry the regulations lately agreed upon for resisting an invasion into the most active and immediate effect, the lords lieutenants of counties have been ordered by his majesty's sign manual to take the most prompt measures for driving cattle, removing horses, corn, breaking up of roads, &c. &c. The northern coast of this kingdom is to be strengthened without delay; a party of the artillery escorting 6 field-pieces, 6 carriage guns, twelve ammunition waggons, bread waggons, &c. set out on Monday from Wolwick for Tynemouth and Hull, and another detachment is ready to follow them.—In fact a speedy and terrible conflict is now looked for with confidence, and from the peculiar state of this country rather courted than otherwise.

"By Dutch papers it appears that the head-quarters of the French and Batavian army are fixed at Utrecht."

#### IMPORTANT.

PETERSBURG, January 3.

Washington, Dec. 28, 1803.

Mr. Prentiss—Sir,

Inclosed I send you the paper of this morning, which contains information of the surrender of New-Orleans to the French Prefect, and its consequent surrender to the American agents, who were expected to arrive at that place in a few days thereafter, with the American army, for the purpose; a complete account of which important and happy event is expected here in a few days; and as I have no greater pleasure than in discharging my duty to a generous and free people, first by doing every thing in my power to protect and defend all their rights, interests and liberties, and secondly by promptly communicating to them every information that may in the remotest degree promote their interest, or gratify their curiosity—this then being a subject in which both their interest and curiosity is so deeply involved, inasmuch as it so eminently exhibits the bright and propitious prospects of future peace, wealth, and republican happiness, by the accession of that immense and fertile region, at which every truly American heart must rejoice, I have to request you to give it immediate publicity, with this feeble testimony of my respect to public happiness; and believe me, with respect and esteem, your friend and most obedient servant,

THOMAS CLAIBORNE.

Washington City, Dec. 28.

By the last mail the executive received dispatches from New-Orleans, dated on the 3d inst. whence it appears that on the 30th ult. possession was publicly and solemnly delivered to France by the commissioners of Spain. The Spanish troops were of course preparing to embark in order to leave the province. Those of the battalion of Mexico, it was expected would depart in a few days for Havana in a sloop of war then at New-Orleans.

The American troops, it appears by letters received by the same mail, were to leave Fort Adams on the 9th inst. with the commissioners of the United States for New-Orleans, where they were anxiously looked for both by the French commissioner and the inhabitants.

#### PROCLAMATION

In the name of the French Republic.  
PIERRE CLEMINT LAUSSAT,  
Colonel Prefect and Commissioner of the French Government.

TO THE PEOPLE OF LOUISIANA.

People of Louisiana—  
THE mission which has made me traverse the Ocean for two thousand five hundred leagues and placed me in the midst of you, this mission, on which I have so long a time borne many high hopes and to many wishes for your happiness, is now changed:—the mission of which I am at this moment the minister, and executor is less pleasing though equally flattering to me; inasmuch as it supplants me with a consolation derived from the belief that it will be generally more advantageous to you.

In virtue of his powers and authority the Commissioner of his Catholic Majesty has surrendered to me this country and you every where for the United Kingdom of the French Republic, and has the repeated roar of her cannon, announcing to you that on this day she renounces her dominion over those regions. People of Louisiana—this event will immediately take place; for I am on the eve of transmitting this country to the Commissioners of the United States, who are charged to take possession of it in the name of their government, their arrival I momentarily expect.

The approach of war which commenced under such bloody and terrible auspices and which menaced the four quarters of the Globe, induced the French government to turn its attention and its care to their regions. Motives of prudence and humanity, united with a more enlarged and solid policy, motives in a word, worthy of the genius of that power which has labored the great destinies of nations, have given a new direction to the beneficent intentions of France, and have determined her to cede Louisiana to the United States of America.

You, thus become, people of Louisiana, the interesting pledge of a friendship between two Republics, which cannot fail of increasing, and becoming every day more secure and more strong, a pledge which will possibly contribute to their common repose & their common prosperity.

The third article of the treaty will not escape your notice. It is thus said: "The inhabitants of the ceded territory shall be incorporated in the Union of the United States, and admitted as soon as possible, according to the principles of the federal constitution, in the enjoyment of all the rights, advantages and immunities of citizens of the United States; and in the mean time they shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property, and the religion which they profess."

Thus you behold yourselves people of Louisiana, suddenly invested with a right to the privileges of a free constitution and government, raised by power, cemented by treaties, and sealed by a long experience.

You are about to make a part of an already numerous and powerful people, renowned for their enterprise, their industry, their patriotism, their knowledge; and who in their rapid career, promise soon to arrive at the highest and most brilliant rank ever reached by any nation upon the face of the Globe. Its position is at the same time so fortunate, as to prevent its splendor and success from lessening its happiness.

However benevolent may be the views of the country, (of which you are not ignorant) the immense distance of such a colony, is a rampart which covers oppression, exacting and subtle, and the facility and certainty of concealment which it affords, often corrupts the man, who in other circumstances would have looked with detestation on injustice. From this moment you cease to be exposed to this fatal evil.

From the nature of the Government of the United States whose privileges you are immediately to enjoy you will have even under a provisional arrangement, popular governors, subject to your censure and recall, and to whom your permanent esteem, your suffrages and affection will be always necessary.

The public interests and affairs, far from being interdicted to you, will now be your own interest and your own business, upon which your wife and impartial opinions will be sure at length of obtaining a preponderating influence; and to which even you cannot remain indifferent with a self-condemnation.

The epoch will soon arrive, in which you will choose for yourselves a form of government; which while it will be conformable to the sacred principles of the social compact of the federal Union, will be adapted to your manners, to your necessities, to your climate, to your customs, soil and local circumstances.

But especially, you will soon be sensible of the precious advantages of an upright, incorruptible and impartial administration of justice; whose forms of procedure are inviolable. Where limits are carefully applied to the arbitrary application of laws, according to the natural and moral character of judges and juries, so as most efficaciously to insure to the citizens their safety and their property; for this is one of the singular attributes peculiar to the government under which you are to live.

Its principles, its legislation, its conduct, its care, its vigilance in regard to its interests of agriculture and commerce, and the progress made in both are well known to you, even from the advantages which you have yourselves, People of Louisiana, drawn from them.

There never has been nor even can be a Metropolis, without a colonial monopoly, more or less exclusive; on the contrary, on the part of the United States, you have a right to expect a liberty of exportation without limits, and that the privileges of importation will accord with your public wants and internal industry. From a happy concurrence, you will be able to buy cheaply, and sell at high rates, and will besides reap immense advantages from a place of deposit. The Mississippi, the Nile of America, borders not on deserts of burning sands, but plains more fertile and extensive than any known in the new world, will at the quays of this new Alexandria, be covered with thousands of vessels from all nations. Among these vessels, I trust, people of Louisiana, you will always distinguish with complaisance the French flag, and its sight will never cease to gladden your hearts. Such is our firm hope; I formally avow it in the name of my country, and its government.

Bonaparte in stipulating by the VII article of the treaty, that the French shall be admitted during 12 years to carry on commerce with your shores on the same conditions and without paying other duties than the citizens of the United States, has wished to renew and perpetuate the ties which unite the French of Louisiana, and the Frenchmen of Europe; new strength will be given to the relations already subsisting between these inhabitants of the two continents; the more satisfactory and durable, as it will be founded upon a constant reciprocity of friendly sentiments and services. Your children will be our children, and our children will become yours. Amicist you they will improve in knowledge and in talents, while at the same time they will increase your strength, your instruments of labour and your industry, and will reap with you the gifts of unsparring nature.

I have pleased myself, people of Louisiana, with drawing at least this pleasing picture, and of opposing it to the reproaches of abandonment, and the tender regrets uttered by many among you, who are attached to the country of their ancestors. France and its government will bear of these regrets, with gratitude and affection.

But ere long, you will by your own experience, prove the justice it has shown you by this eminent and most memorable of benefits.

The French government recognises in this event, the first example offered in modern times, of a colony voluntarily emancipating itself, after the example of those colonies of antiquity which we so greatly admire. In the present time, and in times to come, may an inhabitant of Louisiana and a Frenchman, never meet upon any spot of the globe, without feeling as brothers. May this title for the future, be the only one which will truly describe their eternal engagements, and liberal dependence!

At New-Orleans, the 8th Frimaire, year 12, of the French Republic, (November 30, 1803.) (Signed)

LAUSSAT.

By the Colonial Prefect, Commissioner of the French government.

(Signed) DANGEROT.

Secretary to the commission.

NORFOLK, December 29.

EVACUATION OF CAPE-FRANCOIS.

By capt. Moffat of the sch's An Ballard, from Gonaives, we are informed that on the 5th Nov. Gen. Desfolaines, as Commander in Chief, left Gonaives with 5000 troops, to attack Cape-Francois, 15,000 more having been collected at different other places to join them. Gen. Desfolaines, previous to his departure, notified his resolution, that if they did not surrender within ten days after his arrival, he should storm the place.

An attack was made on fort Picolet, the black houses, and other fortifications without the town,

which being carried, Gen. Rochambeau evacuated on condition that he would evacuate Cape in eight days; the time being expired, the troops were embarked on board the shipping, & went out and surrendered to the British blockade force, consisting of 4 line of battle ships & 4 frigates, who took them back into the harbour. Gen. Rochambeau was sent to Jamaica, but the French troops were kept on board the shipping. The attack was reported to have been very severe, and the slaughter immense on both sides—numbers of the wounded black troops had been sent to Gonaives—several French white people had been permitted to remain unmolested at the Cape.—Gen. Desfolaines was preparing to go against Cape-Nichola Mole, and the troops would be ready to march in a few days.

#### WILMINGTON, N. C.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1804.

The brig Mary, Benjamin Glasier, 21 days from Trinidad, arrived on Friday. List of American vessels in Port Spain, in the Island of Trinidad:

Schooner Recovery, Pierce, sch'r Aspasia, Brown, and sloop Favourite, Foster, of New-York; brig Nabby, M'Lellan, brig Traveller, M'aley, sch'r Mary, Gordon, and sch'r Anna, Robertson, of Portland; brig Diana, Wood, of Newbedford; brig Argus, Brown, of New-Haven; brig Trial Harridon, of Salem; brig Fitzwilliam, Deshields, of Norfolk; sch'r Liberty, Bliss, of Boston; sloop Little Rebecca, Kirr, of Georgetown; brig Herald, Gold, of Kennebunk; brig Milton, Henchman, of Norfolk; sch'r Union, Bartlet, of Plymouth, (N. C.); brig Three Friends, Hartly, of Pepperborough; brig Sally, M. Gregg, of Philadelphia; brig Reward, J. Light, of Portland; brig Flora, B. Bayton, of Norfolk.

The schooner Betsey, Capt. Buckley, 40 days from Port Royal, arrived here on Saturday last. The following vessels were sent into Port Royal, by British cruisers, while Capt. Buckley was there:—viz.

Sch'r Two Brothers, Capt. —, taken coming out of Cape Francois, and all the crew put on board a man of war.

A ship from Charleston (name and Capt. unknown) taken by the French and sent into the Mole, where the cargo was sold, and the ship ordered to the Cape for the proceeds thereof, but on her passage thither was taken by the British and sent to Jamaica for trial. On her arrival at Jamaica, the crew were put on board a man of war.

Brig Little Sarah, Capt. Welch, taken by the Brigands, and retaken by the British and sent in for trial.

Sch'r Amphion, Capt. —, of Baltimore, taken off the Cape attempting to go in, and sent to Jamaica for trial, all her men put on board a man of war.

The Barque American, Capt. Hopkins—his hands put on board a man of war.

Sch'r William & Margaret, Capt. J. Finch, of Newport, sailed from Port Royal the 3d of November, and was detained at sea the same day by a sloop of war, and sent into Port Royal the 22d ult.

The sch'r Charlotte, Capt. Pratt of New-York, was taken on her passage from the Cape, and ordered to Jamaica, but was retaken by the French and sent into some port of St. Domingo.

The following just and handsome encomium upon the present administration of the General Government, and especially upon its conduct relative to Louisiana, is extracted from the answer of the House of Representatives of Kentucky to Governor Garrard's speech at the opening of the present session of the Legislature of that state.

"The event of the acquisition of Louisiana, is one of such peculiar magnitude, that were it to be passed unnoticed, this house would disguise its own feelings, and do injustice to those of its constituents. While it secures to the Western people the enjoyment of those commercial advantages which nature evidently designed them, & opens an unembarrassed intercourse with every quarter of the globe, it announces on the part of the General Government, an interest in our welfare, which entitles it to our warmest approbation. Were other evidence of this solicitude wanting—the ratification of the treaty of Louisiana evinces how justly we have confidence in the Government of the Union for the effect of our rights. The pacific course by which this great national object has been obtained, is also worthy of the highest praise. Whilst other nations drench themselves in blood on the slightest occasions, the present administration, pursuing the just policy of a republic, instead of a hasty appeal to arms, have by a manly and dignified demand of redress decided all the calamities of war.

"Nor do we deem it among the least important consequences of this cession of territory, that the chain of connection which binds the several States of the Union, will be strengthened and extended, by combining the agricultural interests of the Western people with the maritime pursuits of their Eastern brethren."

The Secretary of State of Kentucky by the direction of the Governor, has written a circular to every Captain in the Volunteer Corps (to be commanded by Major General Samuel Hopkins) which after explaining the nature of the service, has these well expressed sentiments:

"It would discover an ignorance of the principles and spirit well known to prevail universally in our country, were it to be ima-