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WILMINGTON GAZETTE.

THREE DOLLARS PER ANNUM.

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FROM THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

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NEW-ORLEANS, Dec. 21, 1803.

THE work is at length consummated—Louisiana changes her government for the last time; and the flag of the United States has throughout this city every where replaced that of the French Republic.

The following account of the three last days, will complete the history of these events, which mark an epoch destined to be one of the most memorable in the history of America.

On Sunday last the 18th of this month, the colonial Prefect, commissioner of the French government, was invited once more to assist in the divine service of a form of worship, about to cease to be national in this country, from the nature of the government under which the people were about to pass. The religious ceremonies were celebrated with the greatest pomp: The Colonial Prefect, accompanied by the municipal body, by French officers, with those of the militia, and many other respectable persons, entered the church through a line of grenadiers, and there received mass with the honours due to the representative of the French Republic.

The lines

Domine, salvam fac rempublicam;

Domine, salvos fac Consules;

Once more resounded through the church, where they had been regularly sung, on festivals and sabbaths, from the first taking possession of the country by France.

At two o'clock in the afternoon were seen passing along the bank of the river, the commissioners of the United States, Mr. Claiborne and general Wilkinson, preceded by a fine detachment of volunteers of the Mississippi territory, on horse-back. They proceeded immediately to citizen Laussat's, and their arrival was announced by the discharge of 19 cannon.

Citizen Laussat received them in his saloon, in the midst of a numerous company; when after resting a few moments he led them into his cabinet, where they remained in conference, for more than an hour.

They had no sooner left him than it became public, that on the next day, Tuesday, at 11 o'clock in the morning, Louisiana would be given up to the United States.

Mean while, the American commissioners retired at three o'clock to their camp, and from that moment no doubt remained of preparations being made for their taking possession.

On Wednesday we were most agreeably surprised by the display of a body of fine cavalry, traversing the city from one end to another, and ending their way towards the camp. It was Citizen Laussat, who thus attended, was on his way to visit the commissioners of the United States, he was preceded by the Major and Adjutant Major of the militia in French uniform, at his side was the Commandant de la Place, the Colonel of the militia, an aid-de-camp, and the Secretary of the Commission; in the midst of which his superb dress, his noble horse, the richness of his harness, of blue velvet embroidered with silver, distinguished him from every other.

He was followed by a number of the young officers of the militia, French soldiers and inhabitants of the City. This retinue, amounting to about sixty men, offered a spectacle truly brilliant, and it was a matter of universal surprise, how, on so short a notice, had been collected a body of cavalry so numerous, so excellent and so well equipped. But what is impossible to a Chief beloved by the Louisianians.—In half an hour afterwards, the municipality followed in carriages; multitudes assembled, and the road for half a league, was completely covered.—Their reception at camp was a-la-militaire, and accompanied with every honour.

On their entering the marquee of the officers, the cannons were fired to salute the French Commissioners, music succeeded, and played the air, dearest to Frenchmen, namely, Buonaparte's march. The Colonial Prefect, presented the members of the municipal body, and afterwards the officers and principal citizens, to the American commissioners, conversed with them, and after making the tour of the camp, retired in the same order that he came. The night following the precautions of the police were increased, and the guards and patrols doubled, the Colonial Prefect went himself to reconnoitre the different posts, and rode through the interior of the city.

At length that day dawned, which was to usher in a new era for the people of the Mississippi.

Citizen Laussat Commissioner of the French Republic, proceeded to the city hotel on foot, at the head of the municipal body of the officers attached to his mission, a great number of militia officers, and distinguished inhabitants of the city and surrounding country, and of the citizens of his nation. He was saluted as he passed by the Republican

The weather was exceedingly fine, and the temperature mild as that of April. In about an hour the troops of the United States, presented themselves, where they were met in military form at the gates, and after receiving the orders of the Colonial Prefect, were introduced into the city.

They displayed in the square, having the American commissioners at their head, and being commanded by one of them, General Wilkinson. He formed them in the line of battle, opposite the front of the city hotel, the armed militia, and the French company under capt. Baugand, were arrayed on the opposite side. A detached company at a little distance was stationed near the national flag.

The American Commissioners ascending to the hall, were met on the grand staircase by the assistant of the mayor, the Chief of the battalion Commandant de la Place, the first adjutant mayor of the militia, and the secretary of the commission, who were placed there to receive them. The commissioner of the French Republic himself, with the municipal body received them in the audience hall; he was seated in an elevated chair, Mr. Claiborne at his right, and Gen. Wilkinson on his left in other chairs, the secretary of the French commission standing before them on the right, and the secretary of the American commission on the left.

The commissioners of the United States presented to the commissioner of the French republic their full powers which were immediately read by the Secretary of the commission, Wadsworth, and repeated by the secretary of commission, Daugerot.

Citizen Laussat briefly announced the object in French, and at his order, citizen Daugerot afterwards read the treaty of cession of Louisiana, with the powers of which the first consul Buonaparte had invested citizen Laussat, in the name of the French people, that he might execute the same, according to the process verbal of the exchange of ratifications which were to precede this execution.—These readings over, citizen Laussat rose and said—"That from this moment he gave to the commissioners of the United States, possession of the country and dependencies of Louisiana, conformably to the articles 1, 2, 4, and 5 of the treaty and to the conventions of the 10th Floreal, year 11th (30th April) in order, that according to this treaty, the sovereignty and property of Louisiana, should pass to the United States under the same clauses and conditions with which it was ceded by Spain to France in virtue of the treaty concluded at St. Idefonso, the 9th Vendemiaire, year 9, (October 1, 1800) which had received its execution by the French having taken possession of this colony."

After these words, citizen Laussat took the keys of the forts of New-Orleans, and presented them to Mr. Claiborne; he then continued thus—"I here declare that in virtue of the powers with which I am invested, and of the mission with which I am charged by the first consul, that all citizens and inhabitants of Louisiana, who shall remain under the government of the United States, are from this instant released from their oaths of fidelity to the French republic." Citizen Laussat then rose and changed seats with Mr. Claiborne. The secretaries of commissions then read the process verbal of this ceremony, the one in the French, the other in the English language; they were then on both sides signed and sealed and reciprocally exchanged, and the sitting ended. The citizens went to the principal balcony of the hotel. At their appearance the flag of the French republic was lowered, and at the same time that of the United States raised, when they met at equal height they remained till at a signal of the firing of cannon on the square, the forts commenced a discharge which was repeated by all the batteries; at this moment the American colour was raised & the French flag was taken down.

Citizen Laussat then descended from the city hotel with Mr. Claiborne and general Wilkinson. They placed themselves in front of the line formed by the militia, when citizen Laussat spoke as follows:—"Militia of New-Orleans and of Louisiana! You have given proofs of the greatest zeal, and of a filial devotion to the French standard, during the short time it appeared on your banks. I shall make this known to France, and her government. In their name I return you thanks. Behold the commissioners of the United States, to whom I transfer the command over you. Obey them henceforth as the representatives of your legitimate sovereign."

This concise harangue being finished, citizen Laussat placed himself along side of the standard of the republic. Immediately the drum beat, and the company of French citizens put themselves in motion—the weather was uncommonly favourable for this ceremony, the crowd was great, the windows and balconies presented to view the most beautiful women of Louisiana; the French, Spanish, and American plumes rose here and there as in tufts from the midst of the various groups. A large number of Americans collected at a short distance from the city hotel throwing their hats in the air and huzzing. But in general the greatest silence and order reigned

throughout the multitude. A thousand persons have observed and repeated that, during the day, at the sight of the French flag beheld on high, and then disappearing, sorrow and emotion were depicted in almost every countenance, and tears flowed from almost every eye. This emotion was redoubled when the company of French citizens carried off, with slow steps, this beloved emblem of our national alliance. It would be difficult for the spectator ever to forget this moment on the affecting spectacle. Fifty different Frenchmen, brought to this country, by different views and chances, the one unknown to the other, surrounding the standard of their country, finding themselves all brothers, render to it, from the spontaneous and abundant overflowings of their hearts, a homage of affection, devotion and respect.—Their manners and habits had neither resemblance or military uniformity; but from their positions, their motions, their distance and their steps, it was easy to see that many of them had marched with the brave, and had been counted among the distinguished defenders of their country. As this company passed before the American lines, they presented their arms to the beat of the drum, displayed their colours, and saluted it with their cannon; and while it could be perceived, weeping eyes remained fixed upon it. It was at the house of the commissioner of the republic, and into his hands that the company deposited the flag for whose protection it had been organized. On leaving the ranks to receive it, citizen Laussat thus spoke:—"French Citizens! I shall render an account to our government of the patriotic sentiments with which you have fulfilled at the distance of 2,500 leagues a religious duty to this standard.—I shall require from your commander a list of your names, and shall transmit them to the Minister of Marine and the Colonies, and you may rest assured that they will be placed under the eyes of the first Consul." Scarcely had the French Commissioner entered his dwelling, when the officers of the militia waited upon him with the following address:—"We have desired to render to you, and through you to the French republic this new homage, while we still wear (pointing to their cockades) this emblem of the transient union which has subsisted always between us and of the attachment

The scene was very affecting. At 5 o'clock the company seated themselves at the table of the Colonial Prefect, who gave a dinner to the Commissioners of the United States, followed by a tea party in the evening. The festival was splendid.—On the dinner table were ninety-two covers; and there were from four to five hundred guests at supper. The main table accommodated sixty, the remainder were distributed at small tables arranged under the outer galleries; with which all external communication was cut off; while within glittered the American, Spanish and French colours, which intermingled and falling in large folds, formed the most elegant drapery around the walls. The decorations of the great table consisted of plateaux, embellished with beautiful paintings, and surmounted with temples, pavilions and pillars. The polite attention and significant allusion, indicated by raising the American colours over every other decoration escaped the observation of no one. It was also noticed that nearly all the American families of the city were invited to the entertainment. A number of civil and military officers, accompanied the commissioners of the U. States. The Spanish civil and military officers surrounded the commissioners of his Catholic Majesty; and the rest of the company was composed of French, and principally Louisianians. The toasts commenced after the first course, and continued till the end of the repast which was prolonged by the firing that followed them. They were given in the following order: The United States and Jefferson, in Madeira, Charles the 4th & Spain, in Malaga and Canary; the French republic and Buonaparte in Red and White Champagne. Each of these toasts was announced by sixty-three discharges of artillery; of which twenty-one were fired from the sea; twenty-one from the French battery before the Prefecture; and twenty-one from the French brig L'Argo. After these toasts given by citizen Laussat, the Spanish and American commissioners gave, the French commissioner and his family; and the French commissioners then gave, to the friendship and indissoluble union of the three powers, whose commissioners are present.—additional discharges were heard; and others repeated on the Colonial Prefect announcing as the last toast, TO THE ETERNAL HAPPINESS OF LOUISIANA! Acclamations, transports, and huzzas accompanied each of these toasts. The assembly at tea was but an increased and uninterrupted continuation of the company at dinner. Tea was served at seven, and English country dances immediately commenced, continued alternately with French country dances, until 9 o'clock in the morning, except during the interval of supper, which was served up at two in the morning. Eight card tables detained part

of the company till a much later hour. No fire occurred to disturb the harmony of the festival, although there was the most magnificent illumination. The assembly was more numerous and protracted than we have before witnessed. It was as brilliant in society and dress, as any preceding; and only differed from them in being opened and terminated with less gaiety, and in being marked by a slight tint of melancholy. But in the animation of the dance, play, and conversation the night was devoted to pleasure.

Citizen Laussat, after the giving up of Louisiana, received the same day, during the festival, and again on the ensuing day, multiplied testimonies of the regret felt on his leaving the country. He showed himself so much affected by it and it was easily seen that he regretted them.

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

By an arrival at New-York.

The French government having learnt that the French General Boyer was detained in prison in Scotland, have directed that one of the most distinguished English prisoners shall be confined in the same manner and subjected to similar treatment.

Of Egypt.—A Paris paper of the 13th of November, received by the Minerva, has under the head of Frankfurt, Nov. 8, the following article.

"They have received at Trieste, circumstantial details of the unhappy situation of Egypt; delivered up to the horrors of civil war, the invasion of an European power, and an inundation of Barbarians. The first cause of these evils, comes from the Vizier, who, in returning from Egypt, left in different garrisons 4 or 5000 troops under the order of Fchar Paclia. These soldiers are brave and ferocious; not having been paid and being menaced with disbandment, they elevated the standard of revolt, massacred the Turks, Jews and christians, and uniting with the Mamelukes, they carried successively Cairo, Damietta, Rosetta, Alexandria, and in short all Egypt.

To all these circumstances which render the situation of this country very miserable, is added the report of the English, to retake Egypt; and their fears are still more increased by the conquest of Abdalhouab, commander of the Barbarians.

A Paris paper of the 13th of November, received by the Minerva, has the following article under the head of Frankfurt, Nov. 8.

"The last letters received from Venice prove that the fears of the inhabitants of Egypt were well founded. According to these letters they have received intelligence that an English fleet had left Malta, appeared before Alexandria; and debarked, with the consent of the Beys, several thousand troops, which immediately took possession of the forts and works of that place. This news if confirmed will be important on more than one account."

From France.—The brig Minerva from Bourdeaux, brings Paris news to the 22d of November. We have not room for many extracts, nor did the papers we have received furnish articles very particularly requiring translation.

It appears that the preparations for the grand expedition were still progressing with unremitting exertion; but the period of invasion was still, though very shortly expected, involved in uncertainty.

Buonaparte had paid his intended visits to the coasts, animating by his person & his conduct, the spirits and the eagerness of his troops. He did not now, as in his former tour, travel with the insignia and state of royalty. On the contrary he threw himself into a carriage and with a few guards and attendants, set out with little form upon his expedition. The celerity that usually attends his movements was distinguishable on this occasion.

On Friday Nov. 4, he arrived at Bologna; he arrived unexpectedly, and at one o'clock in the morning. He was embarked in the middle of the harbour before even his arrival was yet known. He remained till mid-night in the port visiting the different works.

Saturday, at 4 in the morning, the advance guard of the flotilla; consisting of about 100 boats sailed out into the road; at 10 a dozen English vessels, chiefly seventy-fours, put themselves in motion. A brisk cannonade ensued from boats and batteries; it terminated in the dismasting of one of the British vessels and their finally putting to sea.

Several divisions of the flotilla had joined those at Boulogne, one from Dunkirk, another from Havre. The enemy in vain attempted to oppose their passage.

The First Consul was in the road great part of a day, and visited in person most of the boats.

There are constructing along the coast a great number of ports, as also, great numbers of boats; and forts are established on the rocks in the middle of the sea. All these works so various in their nature, are carrying on with particular activity.