

The following letter communicated to the Secretary of State, is published at the request of the Marquis de Casa Trujillo.

SIR,
Having been absent from Philadelphia for these 18 days past, and travelled far into a part of Virginia where I had no opportunity to see the late newspapers from the northward, it is but to-day on my return to Washington, I have been apprised of a publication highly injurious to my character, which under the garb of sworn evidence, has been made by a certain W. Jackson, of Philadelphia, in the paper of which he is the Editor, called the Political Register.

Had the said evidence appeared isolated, with no other weight but the name of the Editor, and the circumstances of the deposition, I would have treated his malicious attack with the silence of contempt, and all the facts therein related even when true, would not prove I had violated the laws of this country, nor the duties of my station: but a letter from the President of the United States to Jackson, having been circulated along with his evidence, this circumstance alone, although the President does not express his opinion upon the subject, stamps this affair with a degree of importance, it would have been otherwise divested of.

For this reason, and for the respect I owe to the President of the U. States, to this government, and to myself, I have thought proper in thus addressing you, to enter into an explanation of this transaction, inherent in itself, consonant with the laws of the country, proper in my station, and which cannot be disguised even by the artifice of insidious malignity.

In a country where the liberty of the press prevails, its use must be a shield of defence, as it is an instrument of attack. This is consonant with justice and congenial with the principle of equal rights, it is then legal to establish a defence by the press against the attacks made through the medium of the press. This sacred principle of self-defence is as inherent to political states as it is to individuals; and when an offence is thus made against a sovereign, it is not only the right, but also, it is the duty of the representative of that sovereign or nation to repel the attack with the same weapons which are made use of for his injury.

Were the foreign Ministers to be deprived of this right, enjoyed by every individual who breathes the air of the United States, they would be reduced to the sad condition of distinguished slaves in the very centre of the land of liberty. For some time past some of the Philadelphia newspapers have published paragraphs and circulated comments about the existing differences between the King of Spain and the United States, mutilating facts, altering circumstances, and drawing false conclusions highly contrary to the character of justice and generosity so often and so magnanimously proved by the king, my master; I myself was pointed out as the author of some letters from Cadiz and Madrid, although I never knew of them but by the newspapers, and with the same injustice, an abusive paragraph against the President was since attributed to me; thus the public mind was poisoned with incorrect accounts and obnoxious conclusions; under such circumstances I believed then, and I believe now, it was not only my right but also my duty to check the torrent of impressions as contrary to truth as to the interest of my country. Being very well acquainted with the great influence of public opinion in a popular government as is that of the United States, with a just intention of bringing the subjects of discussion under a forcible point of view which had been carefully concealed, and presenting them to the public eye under new aspects, and apprehending that the editors who had previously espoused a party on the question, would refuse to insert in their papers my intended publication, I then directed Mr. Jackson among others would not perhaps, but the reluctance which I experienced in the former, I requested him to call on me and having need of his own request, after a respectful conversation about the news of the day, of Mr. Pinkney, having called for his passports (my apprehensions of the rash step which he might take) which would arise from the war between two nations invited by their reciprocal interests to the preservation of peace, I told him he could do more good to his country by advocating peace, than by the warlike principles, he was proclaiming in his paper; I dwelt a while upon this topic, and finished by bringing forward the only child of our meeting, and telling him that if so disposed, I could give him for publication explanations and elucidations which could not fail to be favourable to the cause of peace, and that far from trouble he would have the acknowledgment that would be proper—those were my only words upon this head in the whole course of our conversation. In this offer I had in view but the just compensation which is due to an ed-

itor of a newspaper full of advertisements as Mr. Jackson's, for the room that my intended essays would have occupied in his Gazette, or a reward for his labour if he was to take upon himself to couch my ideas in a more correct language than I could do it myself. Surely the honor of a man who is in the habit of retailing the space of his paper by lines should not be hurt at a just compensation which was offered when it was questioned of occupying some columns of it, and Mr. Jackson is less excusable in the preservation of my meaning (converting under oath a mere promise of his into the affirmation of a fact) as I repeatedly told him, "Sir, this is not a diplomatic intrigue, it is a plain case, and if there was any thing dishonorable in it I would be the last man to propose it, and you would be the last man to whom it would be proposed by me." Why Mr. Jackson has omitted in his affidavit these expressions of mine, so illustrative of my true meaning, is better known to himself, but if he is a man of honour I defy him to deny them; and leave to your consideration, Sir, if it had been my intention to persuade a person to an improper conduct I would have been so awkward as to bring the sentiments of the most scrupulous honor before his eyes; it is then evident that Mr. Jackson has perverted the meaning of the compensation offered, and this is the more ridiculous as the only thing which in rigour was contemplated by me was the mechanical part of his office, that is the printing of my publications; it could be apprehended that a foreign minister would risk an intrigue to bribe directly or indirectly a high officer of a Crown, depository of the secrets of state, and director of its measures, but to bribe Mr. Jackson, the Editor of a newspaper whose sheets are scarcely to be seen across the waters of the Schuylkill and Delaware, without a place in the government, without personal influence, to bribe him for the typographical publication of ideas which were not his own, by their nature perfectly harmless and legal, is a conjecture only to be suggested by a wicked heart and a miserable head. I repeat that the only reprehensible refusal of the Editors who had espoused a side of the question contrary to my ideas determined me to call on the said W. Jackson; but although I consider him a man of some talents, he is highly deceived if he supposes I could mistake his pen for the key to the temple of Janus.

When is then what he so very politely is pleased to term my infamous purpose? Is it in the elucidations or explanations proposed? Surely not, as he knew very little of them, and even if known were perfectly innocent. Was it in their tendency? that is impossible when their object was by his own confession the peace and advantage of our two governments; was it in the attempt of publishing them? it is demonstrated that in such circumstances I have not only the right, but it was even my duty to do it; was it in the tender of the compensation? it was evident there was no more delicacy in this proceeding than there is in the offer of the present of a fee to a lawyer or to a physician; where is then the offence to Mr. Jackson's honor or to the rights of his country?

If Mr. Jackson has proceeded with a culpable levity and affirming under oath that he had penetrated my infamous purpose, when it is evident he had completely mistaken it, he has been not less incorrect in asserting upon oath that I had mentioned to him to have myself received a letter from New-Orleans, which stated there was a letter at that place in Mr. Jefferson's hand-writing which declared that if the settlers between the Mississippi and the Rio Perdido would raise the American colours they should be supported. No, sir, it is not true, although given under oath by Mr. Jackson, that I had received such a letter. I only told him, in the way of conversation, and not for any other purpose whatever, that there were in Philadelphia one or two letters from New-Orleans, mentioning the above account. I never informed him I had received one, as in reality this was not the case; that such letter or letters, under the above mentioned date, have been written from New-Orleans is a fact known by some people in the city. I myself have seen one of them directed to a very respectable person in Philadelphia, and authorized by him I would mention his name; but after the President's declaration, I am convinced of the falsehood of the assertion, persuaded that calumnies can be invented and propagated with the same facility in New-Orleans as they are in Philadelphia.

This, Sir, is the history of this transaction ridiculously magnified by Mr. Jackson, who has presented it to the public, with as much solemnity, as if he had discovered the gunpowder plot or the conspiracies of Fiesque and of Bedmar—all the heinous crime is, that I wished to make use with decency and decorum of the incontestible right I possess of self-defence, applying it to my sovereign and to my country; the intended elucidations have since appeared in other papers under the signature of Graviola Manent, and by the perusal of those essays, you may easily judge if their contents are of a nature to bribe Mr. Jackson with any acknowledgment, as he declares in his evidence, or if there is in them to be found a single expression contrary to the respect due to the government or to this country: the use I have made of the liberty

of the press cannot be disputed without attacking the constitution, as the law does not consider in its salutary restrictions, the publisher but the publication, and if this does not infringe the law, it would be a criminal attempt to restrain any person in the United States from the exercise of this sacred right; this is, Sir, what was intended to be done and has since been done by me: my means have been just and legal, my object pure and benevolent, and can only give offence to persons, who groaning under yoke and disappointment, establish their expiring hopes of retrieving their shattered fortunes on the public calamities of a war for such persons the doctrine of advocating peace cannot but be high treason.

I would have demurred from this government the punishment of the said Jackson, for the offence of converting a mere surmise of his into affirmation of a fact, and employed under his perverted idea an infamous and defamatory language, had I not anticipated that when the particulars of his letter shall be known to the public I shall be completely avenged by the severity of his feelings.

Although the vindication of my conduct exclusively belongs to my King and government, a favorable opinion of the good people of America is far from being indifferent to me. For this reason and for the degree of interest and importance that the circulation of the President's letter has impressed into this affair, I have thus condescended publicly to notice an incorrect affidavit with unjust and abominable conclusions.

With sentiments of high consideration,
I have the honor to be,

Sir,
Your most obedient and humble servant,
EL MARQUIS DE CASA TRUJILLO.
James Madison, Esq.
Washington, October 2, 1804.

P. S. I have reserved to the last what Mr. Jackson has mistakenly introduced to imply that I had assumed a contemptuous style by refusing to term the administration "the government."

On this head I am particularly desirous of vindicating myself, as it is so foreign to my disposition—In truth during the debates of Congress in 1798, I learnt the difference between the two terms, and in speaking to Mr. Jackson, I mentioned the administration and added "not to say government" thereby meaning to distinguish between the administration and the three branches of the Legislature which constitute the government—Thus this apparently disrespectful language evinces only the cautious precision of a foreigner.

So many misconstructions, if they had not been given upon oath I could not have suspected of being accidental.

NOMINATION OF THE EMPEROR OF HAYTI, J. J. DESSALINES.

We generals of the Army of Hayti, Desirous of consecrating by an authentic act the will of our hearts, and to answer to the strongly pronounced will of the people of Hayti:

Persuaded that the supreme authority should be undivided, and the interest of the country requires the reins of the administration to be placed in the hands of him who unites the confidence, the affections, and the love of his fellow-citizens.

Well convinced by cruel experience, and by the history of nations, that a people cannot be properly governed but by one man; and that he only is worthy of the preference who, by his services, his influence, and his talents, has known how to consolidate the edifice of our independence and liberty:

Considering that after so long a series of misfortunes and vicissitudes, it is necessary to assure the guaranty and safety of the citizens in a manner durable and irrevocable; and that the most certain method of attaining this object is to bestow upon the only chief capable of representing and of governing the nation worthily, an august and sacred title which will concentrate in him the forces of the state, will be imposing abroad, and will be the pledge of tranquillity and prosperity at home:

Considering that the title of Governor General heretofore conferred on the Citizen Jean Jacques Dessalines, does not express in a satisfactory manner, the general wish, as it supposes a secondary power depending upon a foreign authority whose yoke we have shaken off forever:

Without having any longer regard to the constant and obstinate refusal of Citizen Jean Jacques Dessalines to accept the power which had been delegated to him by the people and the army at the epoch of the declaration of our independence, such refusal being contrary to the interests, the wishes, and the welfare of this country:

We confer upon the said Jean Jacques Dessalines the title of EMPEROR OF HAYTI, and the right of choosing and nominating his successor.

We desire that this free expression of our hearts, already called for by the people be offered to its sanction with the least delay, and receive its prompt and entire execution by a decree from the Senate which shall be extraordinarily convoked for that purpose.

At Port-au-Prince, the 25th January, in the year 1804, the first of the independence of Hayti.

(Signed) Vernet, minister of finances; Clerveaux; Christoph, commandant of the division of the north; Pétion; Gabard; and Gessard, commandant of the division and councillors of state.

[To these signatures, in the French copy, are 250 others, consisting of councillors of

state, staff officers, and the heads of the different departments of government.]

At Dessalines, Feb. 15.

First year of Independence.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF HAYTI,

To the Generals of the Army, and to the Civil and Military Authorities, Organs of the People.

CITIZENS,

If any consideration can justify in my eyes, the August title which your confidence has conferred on me, it is only my unalterable zeal in watching over the safety of the empire and my wishes to consolidate our enterprise. Let us not efface from our minds those strong remembrances which our recent misfortunes have imprinted on our hearts. They will be powerful preservatives against the surprise of our enemy, and we will fortify ourselves against every idea of indulgence with regard to them. If the milder passions place men in mediocrity, half measures arrest the rapid march of revolutions.

Since then you have judged it the interest of the state, that I should accept the rank to which you would elevate me, by imposing on me a new burthen, I contract no new obligation towards my country. I have long since made all sacrifices—but I feel that a higher, more sacred duty unites me to her destiny—I feel, I say, that I ought rapidly to conduct our enterprise to its determined object, and by laws wise and suited to our manners, suffer every citizen to enjoy individual liberty without injury to the rights of others, or without offending that authority which watches over our general happiness.

In accepting this burthen, as weighty as honorable, I make myself accountable for all the evil or advantages which may result from my administration—But remember that it is during the most stormy season, you have given me the helm of the vessel of state. I am a soldier—war was always my profession, and whenever the barbarity or avarice of your enemies shall bring them on your shores, I will justify your choice, and fighting at your head, I will prove that the title of your general shall be always honorable to me.

The illustrious rank to which you have elevated me teaches me that I am become the father of my fellow-citizens, whose defender I have been hitherto, but the father of a family of warriors should never lay down his sword, if he wishes to transmit his valor to his descendants, to insure them to battles.

It is to you generals and soldiers, who will ascend after me to supreme power that I address myself; happy in being enabled to transmit my authority to those who have poured out their blood for their country. I renounce, yes, I formally renounce, the unjust custom of transmitting my power to my family.

I shall never respect ancestry, but when the talents requisite for a good governor are united in the subject. Frequently the head which is fired by the burning ardor of youth, contributes more effectually to the happiness of his country, than the cool experience of age, which temporises at the moment when temerity alone should govern.

It is on these conditions that I am your Emperor, and destruction to him, who elevated by the gratitude of a people, shall ascend the throne with other sentiments than those of the father of his family.

DESSALINES.

By the governor general.

Adjutant-général.

BOISROND TONNERRE.

Late Foreign News.

London papers to the 15th August, inclusive, and Glasgow papers to the 18th, are received at the office of the New-York Mercantile Advertiser, by the ship Fanny, from Greenock. Though four days later than our former advices from that quarter, they contain very little intelligence of moment. We have subjoined the principal articles.

The prices of Stocks, (which are considered an almost unerring political barometer in England) on the 15th August, were, Consols 57 1/4—Omnium 5 3/2—American Stock, 3 per cents 54 to 55—8 per cents 104—Old and New 6 per cents 89 to 90.

LONDON, August 11.

Downing Street, Aug. 9.

The King has been pleased to cause it to be signified by the Right Hon. Lord Harrowby, his Majesty's principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to the Ministers of Neutral Powers residing at this Court, that the necessary measures have been taken by his Majesty's command, for the blockade of the entrance of the ports of Fecamp, St. Valéry en Caux, Dieppe, Treport, the Somme, Etaples, Boulogne, Calais, Gravelines, Dunkirk, Newport and Ostend; and that from this time, all the measures authorized by the Law of Nations, and the respective treaties between his Majesty and the different neutral powers, will be adapted and executed with respect to all vessels which may attempt to violate the said blockade.

August 14.
By accounts received on Saturday, from the squadron under the command of Sir R. Calder, off Rochefort, it appears that the enemy have five sail of the line and two frigates in readiness for sea. They used uncommon exertions in the equipment of the two 74 gun ships which were lately launched there; & for this purpose have withdrawn the hands from all the small craft. The 100 gun ship which was laid down about three months since, is so forward, that it is supposed she will be launched in the course of the year.