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WILMINGTON, N. C. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1806.

[10TH YEAR.]

Extracts from London Papers.

September 20.

The report current in Holland, that France had declared war against Prussia, is reported in letters from other parts, but is believed to have originated in the circumstance of the Prussian Ambassador having quitted the Hague. General Knobelsdorf is at Paris. A letter received yesterday from the Hague, dated the 18th, says, "This moment it is reported, that 1700 Prussians have defeated 3000 Bavarians on the borders of Saxony; and a declaration of war from France against Prussia is hourly expected."

An opening is stated to have been made for the adjustment of the differences between this country and Prussia. If Prussia be really determined to throw off the yoke of France, she may be sure that this country will feel every disposition to make peace with her.

If the treaty between Russia and France had been arranged between two French negotiators, without the intervention of any negotiation on the part of Russia, it could not have been more favorable to France, or less honorable or advantageous to Russia. Russia in fact was to get nothing. France was to obtain Cattaro; but in order to evince her great attachment to the Emperor Alexander, she was to suffer the republic of Ragusa to be independent under the protection of the Porte!—The independence of the Seven Islands was to be acknowledged, and the Russians were to retire to the Ionian Islands; not more than 4000 troops being to be kept there, a force too small to be of any service against the French—but even this force was to be withdrawn whenever Buonaparte deemed it necessary. But Buonaparte promised to remove his troops from Germany!—true—but not till the expiration of three months, by which time his plans with respect to Germany would all have been complete; and carried into execution. Russia was to obtain by the Treaty—what? Any terms for the King of Naples? No.—Any indemnity for the King of Sardinia? No.—Any counterpoise for the British confederacy? No.—Any pledge that France would stop in her career of encroachment to Germany? No.—Any stipulation that Switzerland should remain as it is? No.—Any condition favourable to Austria? No.—She was to obtain leave to use her good offices to put an end to the war between Prussia and Sweden; and her good offices to restore peace between England and France. England at that time negotiating herself to restore peace, were to be graciously accepted by his Imperial Majesty Napoleon! When we read such a Treaty, it is not without much hesitation that we can pronounce it to have been produced by the treachery or insincerity of the Russian Negotiators. For the greatest idol of the rank and file could hardly have supposed that the Emperor of Russia would have ratified such a Treaty. There are numerous conjectures upon the subject which would release M. d'Oubril from any imputation of having betrayed his country.—It has been reported that Buonaparte and Mr. Talleyrand were made the dupes of the policy of the Russian Cabinet; that the Russian Negotiator subscribed to such terms as, inducing the French Government to imagine that the Emperor Alexander wished for peace, and to instigate understanding & connection with France would induce the French Minister to open Buonaparte's ulterior views, both with respect to Austria, Turkey and Prussia. And this conjecture is somewhat strengthened by the circumstances of M. d'Oubril having, on his return to Petersburg, made an important communication to the Court of Berlin, which is generally believed to have given additional spirit and activity to its military preparations. Increased activity has also taken place in the movements and measures of the Austrian Cabinet.

September 21.

Westminster Electors.

The public meeting, called for the purpose of ascertaining the general sentiment respecting the merits and pretensions of those who aspire to the honor of succeeding Mr. Fox in the representation for Westminster, was held on Thursday, at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, in the Strand.

At half past 12 nearly 830 persons were assembled in the great room.

Mr. WISEMAN was called to the chair, who after stating the object of the meeting, and the irreparable loss occasioned by Mr. Fox's death, enforced the necessity of choosing a man of honorable character and proper political principles to succeed him.

Mr. O'BRYEN then offered himself to the notice of the meeting.—He said that his course would be clear but short. He had been led to think that Lord Percy and Mr. Sheridan were ineligible, but having been corrected in that opinion, he should as soon think of opposing the descendant of the noble Lord Hotspur, in the command of an army, as of opposing him in the representation for Westminster. With regard to his honorable friend Mr. Sheridan, he should have no difficulty in giving to him; but understanding that Lord Percy was perfectly eligible he

should propose Lord Percy as a candidate.—(Applauds.)

A gentleman whose name we understand to be COCKER, said, that the object of the meeting was not only to choose a fit person, but to choose the most fit. Of Lord Percy he knew nothing; but there were no traits that could impress any man with an idea that he was the most fit person. He meant no reflection upon Lord Percy, but he was an untried character—his family had great influence in Parliament, and he might have had a seat in Parliament elsewhere. Mr. Cocker then expressed his deep regard for Mr. Fox, whom he had been attached to for 30 years—he said that out of respect for Mr. Fox, he would tell whom he thought the most fit person. He should look for him, and find him amongst those who had fought on the side with Mr. Fox—Mr. Sheridan was the man, and therefore he should propose Mr. Sheridan. (Plaudites.)

Mr. SHERIDAN.—"Gentlemen, in offering the few sentences I shall address to you in the present instance, I shall, I am afraid, require your indulgence, having but lately recovered from a short but sharp illness. Upon the one great topic, the loss, the irreparable loss of that great and illustrious character, Mr. Fox, I shall say but little. There must pass a long interval between the heavy blow and the consideration of the subject, to enable any man to speak upon it with composure. (Applauds.) To say any thing would indeed be unnecessary—he must be still living before your eyes—his virtues must be in your hearts, as his loss must be in your despair. I have seen in a public paper what has been stated to be his last words. They were so—"I die happy;" but turning to the dearest object of his affection, he added, "I pity you."—Gentlemen, if his modesty would have allowed him, he need not only have said, "I pity you," but he might have added, "I pity England—I pity Europe—I pity human nature."—He died in the spirit of peace—he died in creating and promoting the spirit of universal peace. In his heart, I say, he was happy! because he sought to restore the tranquillity of the world.

From this consideration I pass to one comparatively insignificant—it is to consider of the pretensions of those who have the presumption to succeed him. I have had a friendly hint conveyed to me that I may offend the electors of Stafford if I offer myself for Westminster. I am obliged to the authors of it for their solicitude; but I say that merely to be a member for Westminster was not so much the object of my wish as to have been chosen to succeed Mr. Fox. My constituents, I am sure, will feel that it is one thing to represent Westminster, and another to be judged worthy of succeeding Mr. Fox. Having stated these objections, I have but a word or two to say:—I have followed Mr. Fox step by step, through his whole political life, and in all those measures which recommended him to your reverence and affection. It is true I have sometimes differed with him upon particular points, and there have not been wanting men who have endeavoured to aggravate those differences. But his noble nature never suffered any suspicion to enter his head; for he knew me well, and knew that if I differed with him it was from principle. His friendship was the first pride of my life—I could not but share in his exclusion from power, and in his exile, than in any honors that kings or governments could bestow (plaudites); and, gentlemen, had I to pass my life over again, I should still have thought it more honorable to have shared in that exclusion, than to have been the most successful instance of servility—to have been loaded with titles, covered with distinctions, and to have been hampered with wealth obtained by the plunder of the people. (Loud applause.)—My anxious wish is, that while the corpse of our revered friend lies unburied, not a thing should be done to produce discord. If the remedy should be in my now retiring, this objection might be made:—it might be said, as has been very scandalously observed, that I retired because I was afraid of risking the loss of my official situation.—Gentlemen, I should have thought my life would have been a sufficient answer to such a charge. But if any minister expects to find in me a servile vessel, my place shall certainly be at the service of that minister. Independence, gentlemen, is not in wealth, it is not in honors, it is not in high birth; but it is in the mind, or it is no where. But I must here do ministers the justice to say, that there is not one of them who will feel inclined to rebuke or censure my conduct. If I have failed in offering myself earlier to your notice, I cannot lament it; for whilst breath quivered on those lips, I should have felt it unbecoming in me to have expressed a wish or desire to be his successor.

"But now, gentlemen, I come to what I feel an unpleasant part of this short address to you, namely, that notwithstanding what I have said, & notwithstanding the manner in which you have done me the honor of listening to me, I must feel myself under the necessity of retiring from this contest.—(Cries of No! No!)—There was in friendship like ours this advantage, that while living I considered such a man as Mr. Fox a kind of land-mark, and

his principles as a guide for our conduct after his death. Yet there is a duty incumbent upon me, I mean a desire to consider what would have been the wish of that illustrious person, were it possible for him to view what is going on at this moment. I am sure that if such a subject could have come across him on his death bed, that any friend of his should start a candidate for his situation, he would have wished him, rather than risk a pretence for a division among his colleagues, to decline the contest—he would have implored that friend to make a sacrifice.

Mr. Sheridan concluded by saying, that he saw no other mode of avoiding discord than to unite in supporting Lord Percy [Mr. Sheridan's speech was loudly applauded.]

Mr. Sheridan and Mr. Graham complained, that the chairman acted rather as the advocate and friend of Lord Percy, than as an impartial chairman.

After a good deal of noise in the room, in the course of which there were considerable indications of tumult, a resolution was moved by Mr. Gibbons, that the meeting do now adjourn. This was carried unanimously, on an understanding that it was adjourned till next Friday, in order that a committee might prepare, in the mean time, a requisition in a more regular manner, mentioning, specifically, the name of the proposed candidate.

September 25.

Yesterday, about noon, his majesty came to the queen's palace; soon after, which he gave audiences to the hon. Thomas Grenville (who resigned his office of president of the board of control); Earl Spencer, the secretary of state for the home department (who delivered to his majesty the seals held by the late right honorable Charles James Fox.) Viscount Howick had then an audience of his majesty, and resigned his office of first Lord of the admiralty, when his majesty was pleased to appoint him his principal secretary of state for foreign affairs, and delivered to him the seals of office accordingly. Viscount Sidmouth had an audience of his majesty, and, we understand, resigned the privy seal, which is to be given to Lord Holland.

The following had the honor of being presented to his majesty:

Viscount Howick, upon being appointed principal secretary of the state for foreign affairs, in the room of the right honorable Charles James Fox, deceased.

The hon. T. Grenville, when his majesty was pleased to declare him first lord of the admiralty, in the room of Viscount Howick, resigned.

The hon. major Donn, of the 86th regiment, who brought the dispatches of the capture of Buenos Ayres, upon his arrival in England.

Mr. Elliot, secretary to his grace the duke of Bedford, the lord lieutenant of Ireland, upon his return to England, by Mr. Windham.

Major-general Sir George Prevost, upon his being appointed to a battalion of the 60th regiment.

The resignation of Earl Fitzwilliam, as president of the council was not officially known.

After the levee his majesty held a privy council, at which we understand his majesty was pleased to command an order to the lord chancellor, to further prosecute the parliament from the 9th of October, to the 29th of the same month.

October 6.

The London Gazette of Saturday, from which we have made extracts, conveys the official details of the capture of the five French frigates, which we announced upon that day, and which appears to be of the utmost consequence at this moment. The four frigates captured by the Rochefort Squadron, under Sir Samuel Hood, are of the very first order of vessels of that size, all new or recently built, well found, large and roomy, and calculated to be employed in the British Navy at this moment. On board of these vessels, and of the frigate and corvettes of the same Squadron which escaped (we trust not finally), were upwards of 2,000 troops. Of their destination we cannot speak positively. If to Buenos Ayres or to St. Domingo, the two most probable points in view, their capture is of the greatest importance.

In the former case, they might, perhaps, possess themselves of, or strengthen Monte Video, on the Northern side of the River La Plata, and thereby oppose a serious obstacle to our ultimate establishment and success in that Colony; and if the latter, the lesser of the West-India-Islands might have been harassed, and become the object of their piratical depredation. Such a force as they carried off, whatever were the views of Buonaparte, must have been formidable, and its annihilation at this moment is proportionably gratifying.

The President, of 44 guns, captured off Bellisle by Sir T. Louis's squadron, is a remarkably fine vessel; and well-grounded hopes are entertained, that her consort, the *Régulus*, of 80 guns, the *Sybilie* of 48, and a sloop of war, may also be fallen in with, and of course captured, by the same Squadron. The *President* was steering for L'Orient, and

had parted company on the 20th of August in a gale of wind, from the above named ships.

The Squadron under Sir Samuel Hood consisted of the *Mars*, *Monarch*, *Polyphemus*, *Centaur* (flag ship), *Revenge*, *Windsor Castle*, and *Achille*, all of the line, with some frigates. It will be seen, that the action, which was vigorously contested, was supported by the *Centaur* and *Monarch* alone on our side. The *Mars* was engaged in a separate chase; the others could not get up.

The force under Sir T. Louis consists of the *Canopus*, *Regulus*, *Ganges*, *Captain*, *Maia* and *Thetis*, ships of the line. No Officer in the British Navy is more looked up to than Sir S. Hood. His services at Toulon, Aboukir, and Algeiras, during the late war, are too well known to be particularized. In the present, he has already distinguished himself, in conjunction with General Greenfield, in the capture of the Dutch Colonies of Berbice, Demerara, and Surinam.

The coincidence is not unworthy of remark, that Lord Grenville as First Lord of the Treasury, and his elder brother, Mr. Grenville, as First Lord of the Admiralty, are at present in precisely similar situations with those which their Cousins filled some years ago, viz. Mr. Pitt, as head of the Treasury, and his elder brother, the Earl of Chatham, as head of the Admiralty. With respect to Peer and Commoner, however, the case is reversed; for, in the instance of the Pitts, the former was the Marine, the latter Finance Minister.

A letter from Dover states, that towards the latter end of last week, part of the enemy's camp at Boulogne broke up. Two or three thousand men were seen marching, by our cruizers, towards the interior, for the purpose, as they supposed, of proceeding to the Grand Army in Germany. We are inclined to think they are rather intended for the protection of Holland.

GOERLITZ, September 18.

Extract of a Private Letter to a Merchant in London.

"We are very uneasy in this quarter at the approach of war between France and the King of Prussia. The latter acts in concert with Hesse, Saxony, Sweden, and Denmark, whose forces will be joined to his. We are prepared here for the march of one hundred thousand Russians through this country, and for these three weeks we have had Prussian regiments marching through the town every day, who are in such spirits, and pant with such ardour to attack Mr. Buonaparte, that it is a pleasure to hear the men talk—so confident are they of beating him.—

What we the inhabitants have most to regret is, the excessive dearth of the necessaries of life, which will be the inevitable consequence of the passage of so large an army; indeed provisions have already experienced a considerable rise every day. Nevertheless we all pray Heaven to render successful the undertakings of the King of Prussia; and may be happy enough to recover that character which he tarnished a year ago. The startling and unjustifiable steps followed by Buonaparte have at length opened the Brandenburg Monarch's eyes; may he be now enabled to set bounds to that Bad Man's encroachments, that the world may at length obtain the invaluable blessings of Peace. Your country has proved itself worthy of this grand contest, and will, I am sure, not abate any thing of that vigorous resistance which springs, not merely from hatred or contempt, but from the spirit of justice, and the love of national liberty, inherent in a thinking people.—It was with very great mortification we learned, that your Admirals did not succeed in catching the Bird of Flight Brother Jerome."

HANAU, October 3.

The storm which has been hovering over Germany for some time past, becomes more and more ominous of important results, and affords the most dreary prospects of such a conflict between the two hostile powers, as to be perhaps without a parallel in history. The contending parties which are advancing against each other, are uncommonly numerous, and the courage of both holds a most formidable equilibrium. The French, led by the great genius, under whose banners they were victorious in so many campaigns, move towards the scene of action like a torrent which has broke its bounds. The Prussians are animated by the remembrance of the glorious exploits they achieved under the great Frederick. The Prussians stand ready at all points, and the French hasten from all quarters towards the Northern frontiers of Franco-Germania. In the latter part of September, they crossed the Rhine in continual succession