

particulars of the transaction in a letter to Earl Grey, which his servant, instead of carrying to the post office, conveyed to the police. They averred that they were influenced by humanity alone in the enterprise.—That they had never seen Lavalette, until the moment of his escape; and Madame Lavalette, being called as a witness by some of the accused, after serving the British prisoners, deposed that she had never seen them before. Bruce avowed that he took a great interest in the fate of Ney, and that he escorted Lavalette in his escape on horseback. Wilson being asked by the President of the Court, if he was not the author of a celebrated work, which spread violent suspicions against the morality of certain agents of Bonaparte in Egypt? Answered, "it is true I said that which I believe to be true." They were of course convicted; and though it was in the discretion of the Judge to sentence them to any period of imprisonment from three months to two years, he adopted without hesitation, the shortest allowable term.—Previous to their sentence, Wilson and Bruce both addressed the court in long speeches explanatory of their conduct.—Bruce avowed himself an English whig; but declared his detestation of that fictitious revolutionary liberty which had desolated Europe. Neither Madame Lavalette, her daughter, aged 14, nor her nurse, were implicated.—Roquette de Kerquidec, the head gaoler, and Madame L's chairman and valet, were acquitted, but Eberle, the turnkey, was convicted, and sentenced to two years imprisonment. Madame L's conduct was fully justified.

SPEECH OF BRUCE.

This day we present a fine morceau of eloquence to the reader. It is the speech of Bruce before his judges. It breathes an air of chivalry, which is calculated to move every feeling soul.

Paris, April 25.

M. the President having asked Mr. Bruce if he had any thing to add to his defence, Bruce spoke as follows:

I appear before a court of justice, on an accusation of having contributed to the escape of Lavalette; if it is a crime to have saved the life of a man, I avow that I am guilty.

I do not derive any vanity from what I have been able to do: an appeal was made to my humanity, and my honour imposed on me the obligation of answering it. If the accusation had been confined to the affair of Lavalette, I should have put a few words to say to you, but I have been accused of having conspired against the political system of Europe, of having excited the inhabitants of France to take arms against the authority of the King. It is true that this charge, absurd, ridiculous, destitute of all foundation, and which has excited equal astonishment and indignation throughout all Europe, has been rejected by the wisdom of the chamber of accusation. But although this accusation has been rejected, the motives on which it was founded still subsist. The procureur-general, in his act of accusation, has allowed himself to say—

M. the President.—Accused, you speak French with great facility; in speaking therefore, of a magistrate, and of so respectable a magistrate, measure your expressions.

Mr. Bruce continued.—The procureur general said that I am one of those persons who are imbued with anti-social doctrines; that I am an enemy, from principle, of all order and government—an enemy, from principle, of all kings, of justice, and of humanity; and the friend of the factious in all countries. These it must be confessed, are grave accusations; but the explanation which I am going to give of my principles, will be a conclusive answer to these calumnious allegations.

I shall not enter into metaphysical abstractions on the rights of men, nor into digressions on politics: I will confine myself to a description of the principles which have always directed my political actions.

I was born an Englishman; I love with enthusiasm the constitution of my country—that is to say, the constitution as established by our glorious revolution of 1688. It was then that was formed, that beautiful system of government, which excites so universal an admiration, which serves as a model to other nations, which makes our country called, by distinction, the classic land of liberty, which earned for us the deserved eulogium of the philosopher Montesquieu, who is the patrimony not only of France, but of all the world, and who said of us—"the English are the only people in the world, who know how to make use of their religion, their laws, and their commerce." From the revolution of 1688 may be dated the prosperity, the greatness, and the liberty of England.

I am bound to say, that if these principles, which are mine, and which are those of the constitution of my country, are subversive of all idea of order and good government, and make me the enemy of kings, of justice, and of humanity, I am then the most guilty of men, and my accuser is in the right.

But if, on the contrary, these are the principles which procured for us our present laws, which secure to us our persons, our properties, and our religion, which have made of a people little favored by nature or by fortune, the most happy, the best governed, and most flourishing nation of Europe, I have a right to conclude that the accusation is nothing but a reviling calumny. Yes; such are the principles of that *Wilson* and of that *Bruce*, of whom the advocate-general spoke in so indecorous a manner. I inherited them from my ancestors; I shall carry them to my grave.

As to the affair of M. De Lavalette, politics had nothing to do with it: I was moved only by sentiments of humanity.—you have seen, from my interview, that I was hardly acquainted with him. It is true, that the goodness of his character, the amenability of his disposition, and the sweetness of his manners had inspired me with a greater interest than is usually felt for a person whom one has seen so little. I was never at his house: he had never been at mine; and it was here, where I appear as an accused person, that I had the honor of seeing, for the first time, that virtuous and interesting wife, and have been enabled

to pay her the homage of my devoted and respectful admiration.

It has been demonstrated to you, that there was no connexion between us and the other persons accused. I inspected the chains and gates of the house of justice. I did not go, like Don Quixotte, in quest of adventures; but an unfortunate man comes and asked my protection; he shows a confidence in my character he puts his life in my hands; he appeals to my humanity! What would have been said of me, if I had denounced him to the police? I should then have deserved that death with which I have since been threatened.—What do I say? What would have been thought of me, if I had refused to protect him? I should have been looked upon as a paltrifier, as a man without principle, without honor, without courage, without generosity: I should have deserved the contempt of all good men.

But, gentlemen, there were other considerations which decided me. There was something romantic in the story of Lavalette. His miraculous escape from prison, that cruel uncertainty between death & life in which he so long remained—the noble devotedness of his wife, that French Alcestis—her heroic action, which will live in history—all struck my imagination, and excited in my heart an interest so lively, that I could not resist its impulse; besides, as your La Fontaine says, who in his simplicity has said every thing:—

"Dans ce monde il se fait l'un l'autre secourir, il se faut entr'aider: c'est loi de nature."

Gentlemen, I am yet young, but I have traveled a great deal: I have seen many countries, and have examined, with all the attention of which I am capable, the customs of the people. I have always observed, even among the most barbarous nations, among those whose almost in a state of primitive nature, that it is a sacred thing among them to succor those who have recourse to their protection: it is a duty enjoined by their religion, by their laws, by their customs. A Bedouin of the desert, a Druze of Mount Lebanon, would rather sacrifice his life than betray the man who had fled to him for an asylum; what ever be his country, whatever be his crime, he sees only the duties of humanity and of hospitality—I, a civilized man, thought it my duty to imitate the virtues even of barbarians.

And I cannot persuade myself that, among a people celebrated for their sensibility, their humanity, and their chivalrous character—which reckon among their Kings a Henry IV. that model of a Prince, and would to God all kings were like him—which recognized among their heroes a Bayard, the completest of all, without fear, and without reproach, whose device was always to succor his distressed fellow-creatures—I cannot believe that among such a people, an Englishman can be condemned for having saved the life of a Frenchman.

Gentlemen, I have confessed to you, with all frankness and honour, the whole truth with respect to the part I took in the escape of Lavalette; and notwithstanding the respect which I entertained for the majesty of the laws—notwithstanding the respect which I owe to this tribunal, I cannot be wanting in the respect which I owe to myself, by avowing that I feel the least repentance for what I have done.

Gentlemen, I have now said all: I leave you to decide upon my fate, and I implore nothing but justice.

This discourse, pronounced with a strong foreign accent, and with a firm tone sustained throughout, produced, like Wilson's, the liveliest impression; and we heard several old advocates applaud equally the eloquence of the accused and of their defenders.

The sentence of the court against Mess. Wilson, Bruce, and Hutchinson was three months imprisonment.

FROM SOUTH-AMERICA.

Baltimore, June 27.

Captain Watkins, arrived at this port from Port-au-Prince, has handed us the following, which was received there just before his departure:

Port-au-Prince, June 6, 1816

Copy of a letter from Mr. Francis Sage at Jacquinet, to Mr. Scribner, a merchant at this place.

"I arrived here last evening, and according to promise hasten to give you the news of the Carthaginian expedition, as received by a vessel from Curacao, that came into port yesterday. The fleet, it appears, proceeded to the island Margareta, which they took with but little trouble, where they hung and shot 7 or 8 hundred Royalists—here they took 13 vessels of war, and 200,000 dollars in cash. With this reinforcement they went to Cunana, which, together with six or eight other towns on the Main, is in their possession; and the last news states, that they were marching triumphantly towards Carracas, which no doubt is in their hands before this time. The Royalist General MORILLO has made several attempts to penetrate to Santa Fee, but has been often defeated; he is now cooped up in Carthagena, from which he cannot stir without the greatest hazard. In short, the Patriots seem to get the better of the Royalists in all parts, and it appears to me very probable they will carry their point."

NEW YORK, JUNE 21.

Extract of a letter, dated Bay of Algiers, April 15th, 1816.

"The American squadron arrived off this port on the first instant, where we found the British fleet, under the command of Lord Exmouth, consisting of 6 ships of the line 2 frigates, and 8 or 10 bomb and other vessels. The object of this British expedition, as was understood previously to its leaving Port Mahon, was to release all Christian slaves, and oblige the Algerines to submit to the laws of civilized nations; and in the event of not being able to accomplish these objects by negotiation, they were certainly to level the town. But notwithstanding their threats, and the ample force they possessed, they have ended the business disgracefully.—They have indeed obtained the release of about 500 Christian slaves, Sardinians and Neapolitans; but however by force of arms, but by negotiating to pay a ransom of 500 dollars each for the Sar-

dinians, and 1000 dollars each for the Neapolitans! Having thus accomplished their business, the British fleet sailed on the 7th, bound as is supposed for Tunis, for a similar object.

"Since they sailed, we have been on the verge of another war with Algiers, respecting the brig that was given up by Com. Decatur.—The affair proceeded to such a length that we actually prepared the boats of the squadron, for the purpose of burning their vessels in the Mole. We have however come to an accommodation, and I understand the Dey has agreed to refer it to our government, and is willing to wait a reasonable time for an answer. I refer you for the particulars of this business to the Commodore's dispatches.

"We sail hence early to-morrow morning, where we are bound I cannot say; report says Tunis."

ANOTHER LETTER.

Extract of a letter from an officer on board the American Frigate Constellation, dated Bay of Algiers, May 14.

"I wrote you last from Mahon; at present we are at anchor in the Bay of Algiers, where we arrived the 2d of this month, and came to among a squadron of 17 sail of British ships, under command of admiral Pelew (Lord Exmouth) who, it is much to be regretted, on the score of humanity, did not succeed in his demand for all Christian prisoners, but, on the contrary, received only one thousand, for which he pays from 500 to 81000 per head. This, in our opinion, is a pitiful arrangement. I think we could have done better with our little squadron; however, as the old maxim says, "what is one man's loss is another's gain," for it will only make our bright stars shine with more brilliant lustre in the eyes of the world; and I can assure you, those stripes, which have so waved victoriously, still continue to strike terror into the hearts of our savage enemy.

"At the departure of the British fleet, the Dey without alleging any cause, began to show such signs of hostility, as to make it prudent for our consul to come immediately on board with his family and effects.

"Com. Shaw, considering it the best plan to keep these barbarians in awe, instantly commenced preparations to give them a drubbing. Every boat in the squadron was ordered to be ready for immediate service, and put in the best possible condition for a bold, though necessary, enterprise; which was, to mount and scale those immense and terrible batteries, and to burn and destroy their fleet, which consisted of 4 frigates, with numerous sloops, corvettes and gun-boats. The evening of our expedition arrived; all anxious for the moment which was again to encircle the brow of Columbia with another wreath of laurels; but while below, reflecting on my beloved home, I was surprised, in the midst of my reverie, by the information that the Dey, discovering our intentions had sent off a flag of truce, stating that it was entirely contrary to his wishes to make war with the Americans, but that he was proud of their friendship.

"We have since understood that his reason for acting in such a hostile manner, related to the capture of the brig *Naba*, the particulars of which I have not time to give. Report says, some of us will continue to blockade Algiers till the determination of our government be known."

Extract of a letter from the American Consul dated St. Vierre, Martinique, May 26, 1816.

"I take the liberty to advise you of the change which has taken place in this market, in the price of flour, owing chiefly to the demand for the different island near this, most, if not all being in want. For the last three months we have had only two cargoes from the United States—they have sold at \$11 per bbl. and \$5 25 per bbl. for corn. The first arrivals will obtain the same, or possibly \$12 for flour, in the Road, for exportation. Our fresh flour would command more was it permitted for consumption; for good flour is very scarce, and even of bad, the supply is very short, and if we have not arrivals soon from France, American flour must be admitted for consumption.

"Fresh French flour retails at \$20—old 16 dolls. and none in first hands. The first cargoes from the United States will command from 14 up. I think our flour must be soon admitted here for the consumption of the island.

"The regulation of 1784, being in force will cramp our commerce. At present salt provisions & naval stores are a glut here, and no sales. Flour, corn, rice and lard, are the only articles to recommend. An early cargo will do well.

"Soliciting your favors, should you send to this place, I am, sir, your most obedient servant. JOHN MITCHELL."

"Molasses, 28 cents—Rum, English, 50 to 55 cents."

Paris 7th May.

The United States of America and Prussia are the powers whose stocks are the highest on the Amsterdam Exchange. American 6 per cents, (Louisiana) are quoted at 94, the Prussian loan at 99 per cent.

German accounts mention, that, though the manufactures of Prussia are in a state of tolerable prosperity, some hands not sufficiently employed mean to emigrate to the Brazils, to North-America, and particularly to Poland, where they are sure of a good reception from government.

The magazines of the Isle of Angouleme, near Toulouse, (containing 2220 quintals of gun-powder,) exploded on the 16th April. About 16 persons lost their lives, and 4 were dreadfully injured—of 14 workmen, only 3 were saved. All the buildings in the vicinity were levelled with the ground; large trees torn up by the roots, and immense rocks, &c. thrown to a great distance, some of which fell on the houses at Toulouse, where considerable damage was done. Where the powder houses stood, an excavation was made in the earth 20 feet deep and 200 wide. Among those who perished, was a lady and a beautiful daughter, with a young gentleman betrothed to her. They had visited the Island from curiosity.

We noticed in this paper of Thursday last the 6th inst. the extraordinary circumstance of a fall of snow, upwards of an hour's duration, on that day. Since that time, the weather has presented more permanent and extraordinary features of severity. On the afternoon of the 6th, when the clouds cleared away, the tops of the mountains to the north of this city were perceived to be covered with snow, the most distant apparently to the depth of a foot.—On the 7th there was a slight fall of snow during the whole day; the thermometer constantly standing at the freezing point. At half past 10 o'clock at night, the roofs of the houses, the streets and squares of the town, were completely covered with snow; and the next morning, the 8th, it was observed that the whole of the surrounding country was in the same state, having within twelve days of the summer solstice, the appearance of the middle of December!! A gentleman who was on Friday on the south shore, about fifteen miles back from the St. Lawrence, found banks of snow up to the axles of his carriage, and a drift as in the midst of winter. On the 8th, snow continued to fall at intervals, in different parts of the country. It again snowed on the 9th. From the 6th to the 10th it froze every night. On the 7th, the ground, in exposed situations, became hard with frost in the day-time.—The wind was constantly strong from the N. W. driving before it an immense mass of towering clouds, which continually concealed the sun: it was not till Sunday afternoon that they finally began to clear away. It was then discovered, that though the snow which fell on the night of the 7th, had disappeared in the vicinity of this city early the following day, the tops of the mountains to the north and south still remained covered with snow.

Among the many unusual circumstances which accompanied a state of weather so entirely unexampled in the memory of the inhabitants or in the annals of the country, we have to notice that on Thursday, great numbers of birds, which are never found but in the distant forests resorted to the city, and were to be met with in every street and even among the shipping. Many of them dropped down dead in the streets, and many were destroyed by thoughtless or cruel persons. The swallows entirely disappeared for several days. Some descriptions of trees began to shed their leaves, withering before they were half expanded. In the country, numbers of sheep newly shorn were killed by the cold.—The prudent farmer housed his cattle for several days. In almost every house the stoves were regularly heated the same as in winter.

DOMESTIC.

LATEST FROM NEW ORLEANS.

Charleston, June 26.

The ship Union, Captain Arnold, arrived at this port this morning from New-Orleans, left that city on the 4th inst. The captain and passengers state, that on the 25th of May, the water began to recede, and at no time did cover more than one-third of the city: its rise, they say, was very gradual, & no danger of the lives of the inhabitants was apprehended, though much damage had been done to the property over which the water flowed. When they left New-Orleans the water had fallen considerably, and no fears were entertained but for the health of the place.—Many of the inhabitants, impressed with an idea that it would become sickly, were removing; tho' at the time the ship left there, it was very healthy.

We also learn by this arrival (the President's proclamation to the contrary notwithstanding) that Col. Perry and some other officers of the Mexican army, were recruiting men in New-Orleans and its vicinity, where they had procured four or five hundred, with whom they intended to depart for Mexico.

[Communicated for the Philadelphia Gazette]

Extract of a letter dated New-Orleans, June 2d.

Since my last, per the Orleans, nothing materially interesting has occurred in relation to the crevasse or irruption of the river. The measures of the Governor and City Corporation proved inadequate to the object, and it has been permitted to flow uninterrupted; and at one time it threatened a wide spread ruin to the whole city. But divine Providence, which seems always ready to extend a protecting hand to us in our misfortunes, has again come to our relief, and by a very unexpected and extraordinary early fall of the river, has checked the evil, and promises an early termination to our calamity. The water has already reduced considerably, and it is hoped in a few days more the city will be free from it; it will however take some time for the surrounding country to be perfectly drained.

With the subsiding of the river we are happily favoured with plentiful rains, which tend to wash away the places that have been inundated—a circumstance which we consider favourable to the health of the city, notwithstanding great emigrations are taking place; and it is supposed that few persons who are able to remove, will remain here after the end of the present month.

The constitution of the Norfolk Bible Society has been so modified as to render the institution auxiliary to the American Bible Society. The society have passed the following resolutions:

Resolved unanimously, that the Society will place their surplus revenue, after providing for the supply of the District under their immediate care at the disposal of the American Bible Society.

Resolved unanimously, that the sum of three hundred dollars be transmitted to the American Bible Society, as a donation to its funds.

Lavalette in America.—The N. Y. Columbian states, that letters have been received there, which mention the safe arrival of LAVALETTE in Philadelphia some time last week!