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NATIONAL CONVENTION.

Speech of Chenier, in commemoration of Ferrand, the member assassinated in the convention by the insurgents.

SO long as the contest lasted between virtue and between liberty, and anarchy, between justice and assassination, between persons who had a respect to property, and robbers, your committee of public welfare, general safety, and military affairs, thought it better to originate victory, than to invoke your regret, and solicit honors to the memory of a martyr in the cause of republicanism. Now the country has to mix with the enjoyment of the triumph, which it has obtained, the sensation of the loss which she has experienced; and it may now be permitted to shed a few tears on the field of battle where we have conquered. Within these walls, only three days ago, the murderers dictated their laws; a representative of the people fell their victim at the foot of this tribune. What was his crime? his crime was his intention to preserve the dignity of the national representation.

Liberty! at one moment near perishing survived our virtuous colleague. Let us render thanks to the good destiny of the republic? Ferrand did his duty; his course was accomplished, and his life useful, because he died for the country!

Let us discharge our duty like him, in imitating his heroism, in celebrating his memory. The honor decreed to the dead, tend to the advantage of the living.

Let that day, representatives, so horribly memorable, never escape from your recollection; when the national convention, outraged by factious men, invested, stormed, taken forcible possession of by a horde thirsting after blood and pillage, saw the majesty of the people trod under foot, and the discretionary mandates of criminals passing for law in the sanctuary of the law itself.

Forget not those seditious cries, those atrocious vociferations, that mad and homicidal intoxication, that shocking sight of representatives of the people, sitting on the same benches with the executioners.

Recall to your recollection this august assembly, listening with a calm and dignified silence to the decrees of a frantic populace, some guilty deputies mingling with it, basely flattering it, and fancying themselves legislators when the legislature existed no longer; two presidents, both of them respectable by their patriotism and courage, and one still further by his gray hairs, both insulted, threatened, almost massacred; and, to complete this horrid picture, see the tribune covered with blood; contemplate the head of your virtuous colleagues, severed by a sacrilegious steel, paraded about before your eyes, and carried in triumph on the point of a pike, while he still seemed to cast an indignant look on the criminal, and to be opening his mouth to defend the national representation against the despotism of robbers and assassins.

No, representatives; these events, which will form an epoch with posterity will not be overlooked by you, nor lost to the republic: this is the moment for you to establish the empire of the laws, so long held in derision; the time is come, when the constitution which your commission of eleven is to digest, may be made worthy of a great nation. It will be possible henceforward to substitute the immortal principles consecrated by the meditation of the philosophers and the reason of ages, for demagogic absurdities, destructive of liberty, and productive of all factions. It is time for the individual, or the rebellious junto, that shall dare, in contempt of your power, to offer to you, with arms in their hands, imperious petitions, to be instantly struck with death.

The twenty five millions of men who sent us here, did not commit us to the tuition of the markets of Paris, or put us under the axe of assassins. It is not the suburb of St. Antoine that they have delegated the legislative power, but to us. Those who dare to usurp it, under whatever pretext, are in open revolt against the sovereignty of the people. Now, surely, the republic and the national representation will be avenged of the numerous outrages meditated, undertaken, and executed against them. The impunity of the 2d of September, produced the 31st of May; the impunity of the 31st of May has produced crimes and calamities without number; but the days of tyranny and impunity are passed, and there is criminality and indulgence towards wretches sullied with every kind of vice.

And you, citizens of Paris, incessantly called *the people*, by all the the factious men who have wished to elevate you on the wreck of the national power, you, who have been long flattered like a king, but to whom it is become necessary at last to declare the truth—great and glorious circumstances have done you honor in the course of the revolution; but the republic would have much to reproach you with, if the 4th Priarial had not repaired the disgrace of the days that precede it.

Henceforward be at least worthy of the sacred deposit that is confided to you; reflect that the national representation belongs to the whole republic, and merit the preservation of it. Denounce the guilty, enlighten your deluded brethren; tell them of the numerous sacrifices which the people of France and the national convention have made for Paris; tell them that at the moment when the impious blade struck the representative Ferrand, as having been concerned in causing the panic, with which the people have been afflicted, our worthy colleagues, after repeated journeys and continued fatigues, had just ensured a supply of provisions from the departments for this vast commune; tell them that the shameful calumnies directed against the national convention, have been the invention of strangers sent to seduce, and a band of ferocious brigands, who, enriched by assassination to preserve their ill got riches.

Representatives, the body of our virtuous colleagues is entombed in the ffection of the Thuilleries; let a modest inscription immortalize his memory. Your committee have conceived; that in a conjuncture so extraordinary, it would be proper to have a celebration extraordinary from its simplicity. We shall not think of a splendid procession, nor of the honors of the pantheon. They have several times been misapplied, and we should never forget, that posterity alone can affix just value to the characters of men. It is here that the crime was perpetrated; it is here, in the midst of you, and in the sanctuary of liberty, that the martyr to liberty should be commemorated. These benches polluted three days ago by assassins, reeking with blood and wine, these walls, struck by sacrilegious lead, these doors, cut down by hatchets—this bloody tribune—this head, still present to our eyes, all will have the eloquence of speech in this august ceremony! Anarchy, already expiring, will be struck down and annihilated by you; and the chimerical hopes of royalty will be wafted away with the last sigh of anarchy.

A TOWN MEETING, HELD IN BOSTON; July 17, 1795.

[Concluded from our last.]

The reasons, which have induced this opinion, are as follows, viz.

1st. Because this compact professes to have no reference to the merits of the complaints and pretensions of the contracting parties; but in reality the complaints and pretensions of Great-Britain are fully provided for, while a part only of those of the United States have been brought in to consideration.

2dly. Because in the stipulation, which surrenders our ports to the western frontier, no provision is made to indemnify the United States for the commercial and other losses, they have sustained, and the heavy expences to which they have been subjected in consequence of being kept out of possession for twelve years, in direct violation of the treaty of peace.

3dly. Because no indemnification is to be made to the citizens of the United States for property taken from them at the close of the war, the restitution of which is provided for in the same treaty.

4thly. Because the capture of vessels and property of the citizens of the United States, made under the authority of the government of Great-Britain, is a national concern, and claims, arising from such captures, ought not to have been submitted to the decision of their admiralty courts, as the United States are thereby precluded from having a voice in the final determination of such cases.

And because the indemnification proposed to be made, is to be sought by a process tedious and expensive, in which justice may be delayed to an unreasonable time; and eventually lost to many of the sufferers from their inability to pursue it; and because this mode of indemnification bears no proportion to the summary

method adopted for the satisfaction of British claims.

5thly. Because this compact admits British subjects to an equal participation with our own citizens of the interior traffic of the U. States with the neighbouring indians, through our whole territorial dominions; while the advantages ostensibly reciprocated to our citizens, are limited both in their nature and extent.

6thly. Because the alien duty upon merchandize imported into the United States by British subjects in their own bottoms is, if not wholly suspended, at least contracted, not to be increased.

7thly. Because the commerce we have hitherto enjoyed in India, in common with other nations, is so restricted that in future it will be of little or no substantial benefit to our citizens.

8thly. Because in every stipulation respecting our intercourse with the colonial possessions of Great-Britain, the whole commerce of the United States in such intercourse is colonized in return.

9thly. Because the clause, by which the British government reserves to itself the right of imposing on American vessels, entering British ports in Europe, a duty which shall countervail the difference of the duty payable on the importation of European and Asiatic goods in the United States in British or American bottoms, places it in the power of that government to enable British subjects to become the importers of Asiatic and European goods into the United States, to the exclusion of our own citizens.

10thly. Because, although the terms of said treaty purport to be reciprocal in many instances, yet from the local situation and existing circumstances of the United States, and the pacific system of policy they have adopted, that reciprocity is merely nominal and delusive.

11thly. Because it prevents the United States from imposing any further restrictions on the British trade alone.

And because it is stipulated that neither the debts due from individuals of one nation to individuals of the other, nor shares, nor monies which they may have in the public funds, or in any public or private banks, shall ever in any event of war or national difference be sequestered or confiscated.—It is far from being impossible that the exercise of this right may in the opinion of the national legislature contribute to preserve the peace of our country, and protect the rights and property of the citizens from violation, we therefore esteem it highly impolitic that the public faith should be pledged that it shall never be exercised under any circumstances whatever.

12th Because it concedes a right to the British government to search, and detain our vessels in time of war, under frivolous and vexatious pretexts.

13th. Because it agrees, that ship timber, tar, hemp, sails, and copper, shall be considered contraband

For remainder see last page.