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FOREIGN.

LONDON, FEB. 16.

We have received this morning American papers to the 19th ult. from which we extract the following message of the president to both Houses of Congress, upon laying before them the documents relative to the occupation of America &c. These documents consist of letters that passed between General Arce and the officer commanding the American expedition. They are not very important, but they are the parts of the president's message, which evidently point to the more than probable occupation of the Florida. It Spain cannot prevent this, it is a territory from becoming a province to America, then America will feel it her duty to ask possession of it. That is the real purport of the message.

Extraordinary Circumstance.—On the 11th of this month, a lady of independent fortune, named Johnson, who resided in Bay Street, Clerkenwell, died. The customary ceremony of laying out and preparing the corpse in a coffin were performed, but in consequence of no visible change having taken place in the appearance of the body, the friends were induced to defer the performance of the last offices for a longer period than usual, and the funeral was postponed from time to time, until a month had actually elapsed, without the slightest appearance of the appearance of decay being manifested in the person deceased. An opinion became prevalent among many of her friends that she was enchanted, and on Wednesday last several medical gentlemen were called in to take a view of the body. One of them applied a lancet to a vein, and to the astonishment of every person present, the blood flowed profusely through the incision; there was, however, no appearance of returning life, and the professional gentlemen having unequivocally given their opinion that her mortal existence had terminated, she was interred on Thursday last in the burial ground at Clerkenwell. Mrs. Johnson was about sixty years of age.

LONDON, FEB. 18.

The Pretended Dolphin.—An article from *Revue* of the 9th inst. says:—“Since eight o'clock in the morning, those persons who had obtained tickets of admission into the interior of the Court occupied all the avenues to it. The principal personage was Mathurin Bruneau, then came Brauzon, Ancient Director of the *Oratoire*, sentenced to three years' imprisonment, for some years since the widow Dumont, and lastly, the Abbe Maitouillet. (The latter refused to appear.) Bruneau was dressed in a green frock coat, and wore a cotton cap. His appearance, though somewhat altered, recovered itself in a few minutes. He spoke to Brauzon, one of the prisoners, whom he called *his Minister*. “Leave me alone,” replied Brauzon; “in consequence of listening to all your tales, I have been confined these six months in prison. It may easily be supposed, that neither the gravity of the place, nor the respect due to the Magistrates, could restrain the laughter of the spectators, which was redoubled when the clerk of the Court called on the cause in the following words, *The King's Attorney General against Mathurin Bruneau, the latter furiously exclaimed, “I am Charles de Navarre.”* He then burst out into the most violent declamations, which the noise prevented from being heard. The other prisoner said nothing.—Brauzon laughed at what was passing. Nothing more was done than calling over the names of the witnesses, who are very numerous. The president adjourned the Court till to-morrow at one o'clock.”

LONDON, FEB. 19.

There is still some uncertainty respecting the outrages stated to have been committed on the European subjects by the Dey of Algiers. The letters in town this morning from Gibraltar, are dated the 29th ult. there had been no arrival from Algiers. The only place from whence intelligence might have been received was Tunis. The Tunisian frigate *Cuttifa*, Rais Ali, had arrived from Tunis in 35 days, and 10 from Mahon; she brought no intelligence of any such event. The following is an extract of a letter:

GIBRALTAR, JANUARY 29.

“There are three Tunisian vessels of war here; they were chased in by the Arguese who have three frigates watching their motions.—The Americans continue to carry on a great trade to the Mediterranean, notwithstanding the British government have thrown open the intercourse in British vessels from the East-India possession, which will be productive of great good. The American ship *Ganges*, arrived here from Messina, in 160 days, and 104

from Batavia, brings 300 tons of sugar, 100,000 lbs. Java coffee, 16,000 lbs. indigo, &c.

LONDON, FEB. 23.

The Mauritius and St. Helena.—We learn with pleasure, by the arrival at Portsmouth of the *Phaeton* from the Mauritius, having on board Governor Fatouhar and family, that there had been no recent seizure of slave vessels in the neighbourhood of that colony.—The traffic, indeed, has been abolished by the native powers of Madagascar, (heretofore the great source of supply) in conformity to a treaty concluded between the King of Ova and the Government of the Mauritius. The most zealous efforts were employed by the British attached to that settlement, in order to accomplish this object.—The *Phaeton* touched at St. Helena, on her way home, and Bonaparte was reported to be in good health at that period, (Jan. 8) but he had not been accessible to strangers for a considerable time past. The intelligence is of a more recent date than which communicates the rumor of his illness, which was, therefore, probably unfounded.

PARIS, FEB. 15.

“As there will be many reports concerning the shot fired at the Duke of Wellington last Tuesday night, I will give you the following list of facts, of the accuracy of which you may rely. On Tuesday, the Duke gave a grand dinner to all the French cabinet, foreign ambassadors and ministers now in Paris. As soon as the cloth was drawn, the Duke stood up and proposed the health of “the king,” which all departed, which they generally do directly after coffee, the Duke went out in his carriage, and as he was returning, at one o'clock on Tuesday night, or to speak more correctly, Wednesday morning, some persons who had been in evidence waiting for his return, stood within a few yards of the entrance gate, and after the carriage had passed, a pistol ball from which happily missed him, fell over the carriage and struck the opposite wall. If the footman had had the presence of mind to give an immediate alarm, the Duke and one of the grooms of his grace could have caught the miscreant, as he passed them by in a great hurry, going towards the Rue de Valenciennes St. Honoré.”

New Comet.—A new comet was discovered at Marseilles on the 20th of January last, in the constellation Cygnus. The astronomers of Paris received notice of it on the 21st of January, but they have not yet been able to see it.—The presence of the moon in the horizon, clouds, and rainy weather, have rendered her attempts fruitless. The weather is rather more favorable at Marseilles. M. Blanpain has addressed to the Bureau of Longitude an account of several observations of this comet, which he made between the 4th and 15th of January inclusive. The observations of M. Blanpain embrace only a very small arc of its course.—In the mean time, M. Nicollet has deduced from it a parabolic orbit, which is only a first and a very imperfect approximation, out of which may serve to find the position of the comet, for some time, to within a few minutes. The result of his calculations is, that it will pass its point of nearest approach to the Sun on the 3d of March, at 11 hours 15 minutes mean time, computed from midnight, at the Observatory of Paris. This comet presents nothing interesting in its physical phenomena. On the first days of January it resembled a little nebulous speck, without any determinate form, and emitting a very feeble light. On the 18th it appeared sensibly to augment in apparent size and brilliancy, showing the commencement of a body, but without any trace of a tail.

PARIS, FEBRUARY 18.

The trial of Bruneau still continues; a few extracts from his interrogative examination will best portray the whimsical pretensions of this impostor.

The President.—What is your name?

Bruneau.—Charles Duke of Provence.

Q. What age are you? **A.** (With an oath) I know nothing about it—go to the Public Library, or to Versailles.

Q. Where were you born? **A.** I believe at Versailles.

Q. What is your profession? **A.** I am chief of all the states.—You know it.

Q. Are you not the son of Mathurin Bruneau? **A.** I do not belong to that family. The Abbe Marmonnier knows well that I am the son of the unfortunate Louis the Sixteenth.

Q. On the registers in the naval department it appears that you entered into the service at Marseilles. Did you not engage yourself on the 3d Nov. 1803 under the name Mathurin Bruneau, son of Mathurin, a clog-maker at Vazins, and of Frances Testier? **A.** No, I did not enter the service.

Q. You agree that you were conducted from brigades to brigade from St. Denis to L'Orient, what profession was assigned to you on your arrival there? **A.** That of a private soldier; I deserted to the United States and was not one of those who thought Bonaparte a God.

Q. Did you not serve on board the *Cybele* frigate? **A.** Yes; I was also on board the *Constitution* frigate.

Q. Was it not in 1805, that you set sail? **A.** Yes, I think it might have been in 1805.

Q. At what time did you desert? **A.** I did not desert; I went to Norfolk; I did not belong to them.

Q. Did you not live with a baker at Philadelphia? **A.** Yes, you ought to know that

Q. On quitting Philadelphia did you not go to New York? **A.** Yes, I was always shifting about.

Q. Were you not servant in a house there, which was the abode of a great number of English and Americans? **A.** That is the truth.

Q. What route did you take on returning to France? **A.** I was at Madeira, and many places.

Q. Where did you land? **A.** At St. Maloes, safe and sound.

Q. You know that the motive of your being arrested was because you called yourself the son of Louis XVI. **A.** I do believe that I am; but I did not say so in the United States.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16.

Amendment to the Constitution.—Mr. Lewis moved for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two-thirds of the same concurring, that the following sections be recommended to the several states of the union, for their adoption, as amendments to the constitution of the United States:—

I. The President of the United States shall not, in future, have the power of approving or disapproving any bill, or bills, or joint resolutions, passed by the Senate and House of Representatives.

II. The Senate and House of Representatives of the United States shall, by joint ballot, appoint to offices and fill all vacancies in the Judiciary of the United States.

III. The Senate and House of Representatives of the United States shall appoint, by joint ballot, the following heads of departments, whose term of service shall continue — years; but may be removed from office at any time, during the term for which they were elected, for inability to discharge the duties of office, or for high crimes and misdemeanors:—

1st. A Secretary of the Treasury, who shall appoint all officers belonging to the department of the Treasury.

2d. A Secretary of War, who shall have the power of appointing all officers, both civil and military, belonging to the Department of War.

3d. A Secretary of the Navy, who shall have the power to appoint all officers both civil and military, belonging to the Department of the Navy.

4th. A Post-master General, who shall have the power to appoint all officers belonging to the Post Office Department.

IV. Vacancies occasioned by death, resignation, or removal from office, in the Judiciary, or of the Heads of departments, shall be amenable to Congress for all appointments made by them; and to prevent improper recommendations to office, whenever any person in office, shall be convicted of any crime, misdemeanor, or be dismissed from office for neglect of duty, the name of the person so convicted, or dismissed, with the name or names of those who recommended him to office, shall be advertised for six months in some newspaper, in every state and territory of the United States in which there shall be a printing office.

V. No member of Congress shall be appointed to any office, either civil or military, under the government of the United States, during the term for which he was elected, and for twelve months thereafter.

The resolution having been read, on motion of Mr. Lewis, ordered to lie on the table, and be printed.

On motion of Mr. Robertson, of Louisiana, it was

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to obtain from the Spanish authorities, all the records and official documents appertaining to the government of Louisiana, particularly such as concern grants and titles to land, which may have been taken out of that country at the period of its cession to the United States.

And a committee was appointed to wait on the President of the United States with the said resolution.

Bank of the United States.—Mr. H. Nelson from the Judiciary, having reported, without amendment, the bill from the Senate to authorize the Bank of the United States to appoint a Vice President, &c.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore to strike out the first section of the bill. Whereupon, Mr. Poindexter moved to postpone the bill indefinitely.

After a debate of two or three hours, the question on indefinite postponement was decided by yeas and nays, as follows:—yeas 85, Nays 50.

So the bill was rejected.

The bill for the Senate in addition to the act to prohibit the introduction of slaves into the United States, was read a third time and passed.

The engrossed bill, to continue in force from June 1819 to June 1826, the clause of the act of 1816, laying duties on imported cottons, woolens, &c. was read the third time, passed, and sent to the senate for concurrence.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17.

Mr. Burwell, from the committee to whom was referred the petition of Jonathan Elliot, reported a bill authorizing a subscription to an

addition of domestic documents; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Scott, from the committee appointed for the purpose, reported a bill to suspend the sales of certain lands in the State of Louisiana and Territory of Missouri; which was twice read and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

On motion of Mr. Pleasants, it was

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Navy be instructed to lay before this house, at an early period of the next session of Congress, a statement of the different places in the U. States in which provision is made for the accommodation of seamen, under the several laws relating to navy and marine hospitals, the number of persons, as nearly as it can be ascertained, annually accommodated at each, and the expense attending the same; also, an estimate of the costs which will attend the erection of a naval hospital at this place, sufficiently large for the number of persons annually provided for.

Mr. Trimble submitted the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the secretary of War be, and he is hereby instructed to report to this house, at an early period of the next session of Congress, whether any, and if any, what change ought to be made, in the regulations for the establishment of companies of the army.

Mr. Smith of M. C. opposed the resolution, and fully referred to the various fortifications and extensive frontiers, to show that a reduction would be incompatible with the public interest; and his objection was, that this resolution would leave many officers in duty, not as to the length of their term of service, &c. He concluded by moving, that the words “of the expenses of” be inserted after the word “reduction.”

Mr. Williams, of N. C. opposed this amendment, and advocated the resolution, on the ground, that the present military establishment was more extensive than it ought to be, and was larger than necessary;—it being his opinion, as declared on a former occasion, that an army of 6000 was amply sufficient for a peace establishment.

Mr. Reed made some remarks of the same character, in favor of the resolution; and hoped the report would be required, at an early period, and suggested the insertion of these words, which were adopted by the house, and passed.

Mr. Miller made a few remarks against the first resolution, and moved that it be stricken out of the proposition.—This motion was lost.

After some further conversation, Mr. Smith's motion was agreed to; and, as amended, the resolution was adopted.

The engrossed bill to compel delinquent paymasters to settle their accounts, was read the third time, and then, on motion, laid on the table.

The House then took up the amendments of the Senate to the bill to enforce neutrality.

The House, on motion of Mr. Forsyth, disagreed to that amendment of the Senate which proposed to continue in force so much of the act of 1797 as makes it punishable by the courts of the United States, for a citizen to take out of the limits of the United States, a commission to serve against any foreign power in amity with the United States.

The bill from the Senate concerning tonnage and discriminating duties, was reported by Mr. Sibley, from the committee of commerce and manifold duties, without amendment, and the bill ordered to a third reading.

The bill from the Senate fixing the compensation of Indian agents and factors, was reported by Mr. Southard, without amendment, and the bill ordered to a third reading.

The House then took up the report of the committee of the whole House on the bill concerning invalid pensioners; and after receiving and discussing numerous amendments proposed thereto, the bill was finally ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The House (having, on motion of Mr. Lowndes, previously discharged the committee of the whole House therefrom) took up successively the bills “supplementary to the several acts relative to direct tax and internal duties,” and “for changing the compensation of Receivers of Registers of land offices,” and spent nearly two hours busily in maturing the details of these bills; after which they were severally ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18.

Mr. Mercer, from the committee to whom was referred the memorial of the annual meeting of the Society of Friends, held in Baltimore, and sundry other memorials and petitions upon the subject of colonizing the free people of color of the United States, made a report thereon; which was read and committed to a committee of the whole House.

The speaker laid before the house a letter from Benjamin O. Tyler, accompanied by a copy of the declaration of independence, which he has lately published, from the original document. The letter was read and laid on the table.