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## Political.

FROM THE BOSTON DAILY ADVERTISER.

### LETTER II.

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE U. STATES.

THE RUSSIAN MEDIATION.

1. Was the Mediation to Russia, to bring about a peace between the United States and Great Britain, tendered to the President by the orders of the Emperor Alexander—or was it gratuitously offered here by his minister, M. Deschakoff?

In his message to congress, at the commencement of their last session in May, President Madison says—"at an early day after the close of the last session of congress, an offer was formally communicated from his Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Russia, of his mediation, as the common friend of the United States and Great Britain, for the purpose of facilitating a peace between them." The President then mentions his immediate appointment of envoys to conclude a treaty of peace with persons clothed with like authority on the part of Great Britain: and two of his envoys (Messrs. Bayard and Gallatin) had proceeded to join their colleague (Mr. Adams) already at St. Petersburg. The issue of this friendly interposition (says the President) of the Russian Emperor, and this pacific manifestation on the part of the U. States, time only can decide. That the sentiments of Great-Britain towards that sovereign will have produced an acceptance of his offered mediation must be presumed.

Now, fellow-citizens, I will take leave to lay before you facts and reasons which at this time authorize the belief, that the offer of the Russian mediation, however "formally communicated" by Mr. Deschakoff, was made without orders or instructions from the Emperor. That this project therefore for effecting peace has proved abortive, should excite no surprise.

When at Philadelphia, in May last, on my way to Washington to attend the late session of congress, I was called on by Doctor Logan. He informed me of a conversation with the Russian minister, Mr. Deschakoff, in which he (Dr. Logan) manifested his earnest desire to have peace restored between the United States and Great Britain; and urged Mr. Deschakoff to interpose his good offices to effect it, even though he had no special instructions from his government. The hour of my departure from Philadelphia being arrived, my conversation with Dr. Logan, on this important subject, was less particular than I wished. For this reason, and in order to obtain precise information, I wrote to Dr. Logan from Washington, requesting a statement in writing. He was so good as to give it; and here it is, in his own words, in his answer of the 31st of May:—"I did suggest to Mr. Deschakoff, at his house in Washington, early in January last, to make use of his influence with Mr. Madison to restore peace between the United States and Great Britain. I understood Mr. Deschakoff to say, he had no instructions on the subject from his government, nor had received any public despatches from Russia since November last. I urged him to the measure, even unofficially, as highly beneficial to his country. My advice was kindly received, and I believe adopted."

Having received this information, and reflecting on the subject, I was inclined to think that the accepted mediation of Russia rested solely on the act of the Russian minister, Mr. Deschakoff. It seemed to me that common civility required of one government towards another, that before positively tendering its mediation to one, enquiry should be made whether its interposition would be acceptable to the other. But when I considered the close and important association between Russia and Great Britain in a terrible war against a common enemy, it seemed to me impossible that the Russian government should offer to that of the U. States its mediation without previously consulting its great ally, and asking—"will my mediation to effect a peace between you and the U. States be acceptable?" To this question the British government would have answered, yes or no. If yes, then it would have appointed a minister or ministers to meet those of the U. States. If no, it is certain the Russian government would not afterwards offer its mediation to the United States, because it would be justly offensive to Great Britain, and in itself absurd. If the answer of the British government had been indecisive—that they neither accepted nor rejected the offered mediation—the inference appears to me equally plain, that the Russian government would have stopped there, and waited the decision of the British government before offering its mediation to the U. States.

The natural course of proceeding would obviously have been this:—If for the sake of enlarging its commerce, by opening a free intercourse with the United States—and in order to prevent any part of the British force being diverted by the American war from its co-operation against France—the Russian government had been disposed to offer its mediation—it would have first applied at London, three thousand miles nearer, than the United States, and have asked the British government the above question—"will my mediation be acceptable?" If the answer had been affirmative, then the same question would have been proposed to the

United States; and if this likewise were affirmative, the previous assent of the British government would have been made known; and then the way would have been open to appoint ministers on the part of the U. States to treat with those whom the British government would appoint, as soon as apprised of the assent of the U. States to negotiate under that mediation. But intelligence has reached this country, through various channels, that the British government will not consent to treat with the U. States under the mediation of Russia. This fact alone authorises the conclusion, that the offer of that mediation to our government was merely the act of Mr. Deschakoff, without instructions from his government. For had it been authorized by the Russian government, that of Great Britain would certainly have been first consulted, and its assent obtained before the mediation would have been positively offered to the government of the United States. If that assent had been so obtained, the British government would not afterwards have exposed itself to the charge of bad faith, and the just displeasure of the Russian government, by refusing to conform to such previous assent.

With this train of reasoning, I present to my fellow-citizens the following information which on my way home from Washington, in August, I received from a respectable gentleman, an old acquaintance and friend, who is conversant in public affairs, and very attentive to important occurrences.

The facts stated to me by that gentleman were these: That on the 30th of January last, Mr. Deschakoff told him that he dined with the President of the United States on the 28th; and that when the rest of the company had left the table, he observed to the President that he thought it was then the proper moment to make peace with Great Britain, while the issue of the war between Russia and France remained undecided. That the President gave no answer. That Mr. Deschakoff then told the President, that although he had no instructions from his court, yet he would, on his own risk, offer the Emperor's interference as a mediator to make peace between the U. States and Great Britain. That the President then, seeming to reflect, acknowledged the offer to be very liberal and the moment favorable; but asked Mr. Deschakoff—Will, or can you guarantee to us all the rights we claim? To which Mr. Deschakoff replied—That is out of my power. That Mr. Deschakoff and the President then went into another room and joined the company.

Mr. Deschakoff having made this communication to the gentleman, my informant, asked him if he thought he had done right in making such an offer. The gentleman answered, that as the conversation had taken such a turn (by which I understand my friend to mean, the offered mediation not being accepted) it was well enough; but that he thought he (Mr. D.) ran a considerable risk in making such an offer without instructions. Mr. Deschakoff again assured the gentleman that he had no orders for what he had done.

That afterwards, from the 30th of January to the 6th of March, Mr. Deschakoff and that gentleman frequently met, and often spoke about the above mentioned mediation. That on the 6th of March Mr. Deschakoff repeated the foregoing details, and assured him he had no instructions from his government.

That on the 9th of March the National Intelligencer stated that the President had accepted the offered mediation of Russia. On seeing which, the gentleman wrote to Mr. Deschakoff, expressing his surprise that the mediation was again offered, and accepted by the President, when on the 6th of March he had assured him (my informant) that he had no instructions from his government. That afterwards the gentleman wrote to Mr. Deschakoff two more letters on the subject; all of which Mr. Deschakoff, on the 21st March, acknowledged the receipt, but waved answering relative to the Russian Mediation.

Some further statements on this subject, with observations on the whole, will be given in my next letter. TIMOTHY PICKERING.

September, 1813.

Dr. Logan is of a family of that respectable portion of our fellow citizens called Quakers; and perhaps no member of that society is a more ardent lover of peace. With such pacific principles, and possessed of an ample fortune, he, at his own expense, visited France in 1798-9, and England in 1810—in the former case to contribute what might be in his power to restore peace—in the latter to prevent war. For his interference in the case of France he was censured. In both cases, I have since been perfectly convinced of the purity and patriotism of his views. In England he made it his business to mingle in society; and among all classes of people, nobility, gentry, merchants, farmers, mechanics and others, he assured me that he found but one person, a single naval officer, who was indifferent to peace, or willing to have war with the United States.

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## Foreign.

### DESCRIPTION

OF PAMPELUNA AND ST. SEBASTIANS.

The following description of Pampeluna and St. Sebastians, is taken from LABORDE'S "View of Spain" a very minute and instructive geographical and statistical work.

PAMPELUNA, in Spanish Pampelona, the capital of Navarre, is moderately large, and is partly situated on a little eminence and partly in a fertile plain, on the banks of the Argu, which washes a portion of its walls. Lofty mountains surround it on all sides, at two or three leagues distance. It is said to have been built by Pompey, after the defeat of Sertorius, whence it derived the name of Pompeiopolis.

This is a fortified town. Its fortifications are not however very considerable, but it is defended by two castles, one of which is in the town, the other contiguous, though without the walls. (This last place, which is the citadel, was built by Philip II—it is strong, from its situation on the rock; it has five bastions covered with stone, and good fosses; a deep marsh of considerable extent renders the approach difficult towards the side on which it could be attacked. This citadel has a handsome tower, several magazines, a square ornamented with trees, and an armory in the very centre of the fortress; which is round, and opens by five great and straight streets, which lead to the five bastions. There is a hand-mill preserved here, of rather an ingenious construction, and which would prove extremely useful in case of a siege; it is a large machine, composed of several wheels, which turn by grinding stones, with many hoppers; one hundred and twenty loads, or three hundred and sixty quintals, of wheat, may be ground with it daily—it is turned with the hand or may be worked by horses.

ST. SEBASTIANS (Sancti Sebastiani) is the most important town of the district of Guipuzcoa. It is but of middling strength, situated on the coast of ancient Cantabria, now Basque, between two arms of the sea, which form a peninsula of it, and at the mouth of the little river Crumea, or Curumera, which was the Menacium of the antients; there is an eminence which serves it as a dyke on the sea side. This town flanked with bastions and half moons, appears defended by a castle or citadel of little importance, placed upon an almost circular and tolerably high mountain, which is bare, without trees, almost smooth, and ascended by a spiral road. St. Sebastians has a small harbor inclosed by two moles, that leave a very confined space for the passage of ships, which are afterwards protected from the winds, on arriving at the bottom of an eminence of rocks which covers this harbor, where there is a large square tower; it holds at most five and twenty or thirty vessels. The town is very city; it contains twenty streets, several of which are straight, long and broad, and all paved with large smooth stones. There are from 650 to 700 houses in it, and many of them are pleasant enough. It is the residence of the governor of the province, who had the title of captain-general until the beginning of the present century. It has a governor, a king's lieutenant, a major, an aide-major, a small garrison, and a naval academy; two parishes, and a third in the suburbs, which are very populous; two convents of monks, 3 convents of nuns, and a hospital. There are in this town and its suburbs five manufactories of hides and leather, some tanning yards established in the faubourg Saint Martin, a manufactory of anchors for the royal navy in the faubourg of Santa Catalina, and rope-walks, where cables are made.

Saint Sebastians has also carried on a considerable trade; here the Philippine company was formed, with which that of the Caraccas was afterwards united. Its harbor is very much frequented by English, Dutch, French, and other ships. It receives the produce of foreign industry, and returns in exchange iron anchors, cables, leather, wool, and sometimes cotton. This port was the place from whence the company of the Caraccas despatched their ships, and where they landed the merchandise which they received, on their return. It attracts a considerable population to the town, which is estimated at 13,000 inhabitants.

A French writer says there are 75 passes over the Pyrenees, 28 of which are practicable for cavalry, and 7 for carriages and artillery.

Between 5 and 6000 troops were sent from England in July, to reinforce lord Wellington; and a naval expedition against Bayonne was talked of.

By the late accounts it is made certain that the French gen. Suchet had not joined Soult with his army. If he had, he must have evacuated the South of Spain, and left the contiguous parts of France almost defenceless. He would also have left the Anglo-Spanish army under lord Bentinck at liberty to have joined Wellington, or to have made inroads on the French territory.

### ANECDOTE OF BONAPARTE.

When Bonaparte was examining the great pyramid with Denon and others, a Messenger arrived at the entrance, with information that the Turks had landed in great force on the coast. Without returning to Cairo, Bonaparte

ordered Kleber to join him with the troops there as a reserve, as rapidly as possible, and arrived the next night at Aboukir, to command those that had been collected for him. With his generals, Lasnes, Murat and Marmont, who accompanied him, were his interpreter and his interpreter's brother, an artist. They were all in the same tent with their commander; and when every thing was arranged for the approaching fight, lay down in their cloaks around him to repose. This artist (from whom I had the anecdote) told me he never, in his life, was near Bonaparte, without being impressed by his profound and his terrible heart—and now more than ever, the associations being peculiarly interesting from the time of night, the approach of battle, and the general only awake, with a single lamp—He found himself so irresistibly attracted to his features that he could not sleep; curious to observe whether Bonaparte would sleep himself, he kept his attitude of apparent repose, and fixed his eyes on him with an eager and breathless anxiety. It was now the very depth of midnight; and to the rumbling of artillery and rattling of arms, succeeded the most gloomy silence! After a considerable pause, during which Bonaparte was hanging over a map, he leaned his spare and sallow cheek on his hand—the lamp glittered on his broad forehead, while his eyes, burning in the shadows of their sockets, gleamed with a tense and lustreous fierceness—he looked at his watch, then walked to the door of his tent, and earnestly observed the dark and still horizon; then returned, put his watch on the table, and dwelt on its echoing and solitary tick with irritated agony. In a few minutes he strode again to the opening of his tent, and again returned disappointed, for nature was proceeding with her accustomed regularity, uninfluenced by his turbulent haste. He now took the lamp, and holding it above his head, locked round on those who were sleeping; the artist instantly shut his eyes, as if asleep like the rest—when Bonaparte, deceived, replaced his lamp, and perfectly unconscious of being observed, yielded to his own feelings without restraint—his whole frame began to shake with a restless impatience—he seemed weary of waiting the regular process of nature, he seemed longing to have time and eternity in his grasp, that he might wield or control them as he willed, for his purpose—unable to compose himself, he dug a hole in the table with a pair of compasses, in agitated spasms, and appeared inwardly to curse the irrevocable limit of being.

How justly would this enthusiastic eagerness have been ennobled, had the object been elevated and virtuous; but degraded by its ferocity, we consider it only as the restless turbulence of a tyrant, who hated delay, the consequence of any will but his own, though the consequence even of the systematic regularity of Nature!

Excited nearly to madness by his fiery agitation, he rushed once again to the door, when, as if in pity to this victim of passion, the day dawned on his heated face with a smiling and beaming freshness; the mists of the morning were rolling away as the light glittered on their roundness, and nature began to awake from her drowsy stupor with a sort of stirring hum, that indicated life, though nothing was heard distinctly. Bonaparte extinguished the lamp, and, with an energy that marked his delight, roused his Generals—mounted his horse—rode through his soldiers, telling them "an army of Turks existed near them, and by 10 he expected they existed no longer!" The battle shortly afterwards commenced, and by ten, indeed, nothing remained of his gorgeous enemies but the melancholy and shadowy remembrance!

LONDON, July 28.

The Emperor of Russia has been elected, by the Prince Regent, a Knight of the Most Honorable Order of the Garter.

The partial victories of the American ships, at the commencement of hostilities over the British frigates, are said to be attributable in a great measure, to an improvement in their shot. The cartridge (instead of being made up in canvas) is ascertained to have been cased with lead.—This enabled them, it seems, to lead with greater despatch, and to fire with additional effect—hence the destructive havoc of their broadsides.—The Commissioners of the Admiralty are now in full possession of all the circumstances, which are stated to have been communicated by a Lieutenant in the Navy. Such it is rumoured are the consequences attached to this discovery, that the officer who made it and gave the important information, has very properly, by way of reward, been promoted by their Lordships to the command of a vessel.

Naval Experiments at Portsmouth.—On Wednesday, last Capt. G. W. Manby, well known for many ingenious and most useful inventions, made some interesting experiments on the fortifications of this place, in the presence of Vice Admiral Sir Richard Bickerton, Commander in Chief at this port, Admiral Fatten, Generals Fisher, Houston, and Elliot, the Hon. Commissioner Grey, and a great number of naval and military officers of all ranks, as well as some of the principal inhabitants. Captain Manby stated his experiments to have proceeded from attention he had paid to the accounts of actions which have been fought with American ships; in which the effect of their fire was more destructive than usual on such occasions.