

THE ELIZABETH-CITY STAR

VOL. III.

ELIZABETH-CITY, (N. C.) SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1824.

NO. 45.

THE STAR

Is Printed and Published every SATURDAY morning, by William Albertson,

Three Dollars per annum, payable in advance.

TERMS:

No Subscription will be taken for a less term than twelve months.

No paper will be discontinued until all arrearages are paid, but at the option of the Editor.

All advertisements of no more length than breadth, inserted the first time for 50 cents, and 25 cents for every continuance; the same proportion for larger ones.

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NAPOLÉON AND LA FAYETTE.

Those who remember the occurrences at Paris on Bonapartes return to that capital after his discomfiture at Waterloo, will be at no loss in accounting for the odious and unwarrantable liberty he has taken with the name of La Fayette, in his Will. Too long indulged by the French Ministry with opportunities of retrieving his losses and defeats, at the most unheard of sacrifices to the country, and always without success, he would at that moment when the game was utterly hopeless, have staked every thing upon the cast of a die, and overwhelmed France in irretrievable ruin. The allied army flushed with victory, were approaching the capital. Were they to be met with the sword or the olivebranch? was the question. Bonaparte eagerly decided for the first, himself a fugitive and the once powerful army of France reduced to a skeleton! He demanded a dissolution of the powers of the government and to be invested with the supreme dictatorship. The ministers, the peers and the representatives all saw the rashness of this proposal, but hesitated to declare their opposition. But La Fayette, then a Member of the Deputies, could not be silent at a proposition to annihilate the liberties of France. The Deputies had assembled while the Ministers were engaged in the discussion of this portentous question. La Fayette, (says the historian) had received intelligence of the subject which engaged their attention, and which had been so repeatedly discussed in the private assemblies at the palace. He was eminently experienced in the manoeuvres of revolutionary times to know that no time was to be lost, and that all depended on striking the first blow. He therefore contrived that the chamber should meet at an earlier hour than usual; and on the president taking the chair, he immediately presented himself at the tribune. He had hitherto mingled with none of the parties, but had stood aloof, as if he were conscious of disgrace in belonging to the government of the usurper. His appearance therefore excited great surprise, and a profound silence reigned in the assembly, while he spoke to the following effect:

"Gentlemen, for the first time during many years you hear a voice, which the old friends of liberty may yet recognize. The country is in danger, & you alone can save it.

"The sinister reports which have been circulated during the last two days, are unhappily confirmed. This is the moment to rally round the national colors—the tri-colored standard of 1789—the standard of liberty, equality, and public order. It is you alone who can now protect the country from foreign attacks, and internal dissensions. It is you alone who can secure the independence and the honor of France.

"Allow a veteran in the sacred cause of freedom, and a stranger to the spirit of faction, to submit to you some resolutions, which the dangers of the present crisis demand. I am assured that you will feel the necessity of adopting them:

"Art. I. The chamber declares that the independence of the nation is menaced.

"II. The chamber declares its sitting permanent. All attempts to dissolve it, shall be considered high treason. Whosoever shall render himself culpable of such an attempt shall be considered a traitor to his country, and condemned as such.

"III. The army of the line, and the national guards, who have fought, and still fight, for the liberty, the independence, and the territory of France, have merited well of the country.

"IV. The minister of the interior is invited to assemble the principal officers of the Parisian national guard, in order to consult on the means of providing it with arms, and of completing this corps of citizens, whose tried patriotism and zeal offer a sure guarantee for the liberty, prosperity, and tranquility of the capital, and for the inviolability of the national representatives.

"V. The minister of war, of foreign affairs, of police, and of the interior, are invited to repair to the hall of the assembly."

[We quote from Kelly's History of the

Wars in Europe. He proceeds thus:—]

These bold and alarming resolutions met with no opposition. The court-party was taken by surprise, and overwhelmed with consternation. The leading members were with their master, and the others had not sufficient courage to face the impending storm.

After an observation from M. Flaugergues, that "the minister ought to be summoned without delay, and required to communicate every particular of the defeat which the army had sustained; and the real designs of Napoleon,"—and a still bolder remark from another member, "that in a few moments the chamber might be dissolved, and that they might lose, by their delay, an opportunity which might not be regained,"—the propositions were all carried by acclamation, except the fourth. This was, for the present, suspended, as conveying an invidious distinction between the troops of the line, and the national guards.

The national guard were no sooner apprised of the fourth proposition, than they availed themselves of the hint. They immediately assembled at their respective rendezvous, and a picquet was despatched from each arrondissement to do duty at the hail of the deputies, and to protect the national representatives.

The resolutions of the deputies were transmitted to the chamber of peers, and were adopted after a short discussion, without amendment.

The speedy termination of Napoleon's authority was now obvious to all but himself.—He saw, in these measures, only the expression of the fears which the deputies entertained, lest he should dissolve them, and re-establish his former despotism; and he believed that, when these apprehensions were removed, they would readily assist him in endeavoring to save the country.

After some time a secretary announced the approach of the emperor, who was preceded by his three brothers. All the assembly rose. He saluted them respectfully, but with some embarrassment. They then resumed their seats, without waiting for any command and a profound silence succeeded.

Napoleon attempted to speak, but his voice was stifled by agitation, and his hand, which he extended on the table, was almost convulsed. The distress under which he labored, affected his audience, and produced a favorable impression on his behalf.

He spoke, at first, in a low and almost unintelligible tone. His sentences were disjointed and imperfect; but by degrees he became tolerably calm. He acknowledged the full extent of the disasters which the army had experienced. He spoke, with admiration, of the courage and devotion of his troops. He acknowledged the faults which he had committed in the opening of the campaign, and on the fatal day of Waterloo. He praised the unconquerable bravery of the British, and the unrivalled talents of their commander.—Finally, he confessed that he had now no resource but in the affection and fidelity of his people; and entreated that the committee would advise him as to the measures which it was necessary to adopt.

A murmur of approbation ran through the whole assembly, and several of his auditors, who had come to the meeting with hostile feelings, felt inclined to espouse his cause.

The debate was opened by Count Regnault, who was an advocate before the revolution, and practised at the town from which he has taken his title. He was deputy to the states-general, and, though he took no leading part in the discussions of that assembly, established his character for moderation and liberality. Under the reign of Robespierre, he shared in the persecution which awaited every rational patriot. He was proscribed, and with difficulty escaped. He appeared no more on the political theatre until the consulate of Buonaparte, whose cause he zealously espoused. For this he was made councillor of state, and president of the council.

"The glory of France," said this speaker, "is in the army. Her honor depends on the restoration of our losses. Her liberty and independence are connected with the strength of her defenders. The safety of the country consists in their number, their discipline, and their exploits. A great reverse is to great souls but a salutary warning. Let us turn to the triumph of principles, that misfortune which, at first sight, may appear to compromise them. If victory have ceased to crown our standards, are there not other palms besides those which are sprinkled with blood? The olive of peace may still flourish upon our menaced frontiers; but, that it may bear permanent fruit, it must be planted by the hands of heroes. The army already begins to rally; but our astonished eagle, afflicted at the absence of its defenders, demands that we should fill up those vacancies, which unheard-of sacrifices have made in their ranks. Will you refuse to recruit with heroes this gallant army? By enlarging its battalions, or, at least, by filling them up with devoted men, you will second the public enthusiasm—you will crown the wishes of the nation. Far, however, be from us the desire of revenge.—The only conquest which we desire is that of peace: but, in order that we may not be com-

pelled to beg it on our knees, it is necessary that the number of our soldiers should correspond with their courage. A nation defeated, but which never will be utterly vanquished, should only present the reed of peace, when leaning upon the massive club of her combats. I conclude with moving that the chambers make an appeal to French valor, whilst the emperor is treating of peace in the most steady and dignified manner."

La Fayette next rose. Every eye was fixed upon him, and the most profound silence reigned through the assembly. Napoleon was violently agitated; but he soon recovered himself, and assumed an appearance of unconcern.

"In love for my country," said he, "and ardent wishes to save it from the dangers which threaten to overwhelm it, I will not yield to the last speaker. I am not disposed to doubt the sincerity of his patriotism; but I am compelled to say, that the measures which he proposes, would hasten and aggravate the calamities that we all deprecate.—The fine army with which our northern frontiers were recently covered exists no longer. It can oppose no effectual resistance to the hordes of foreigners, who have already passed our borders, and whose course is marked with blood and devastation. It is under the walls of Paris alone that our scattered troops will be able to unite, and dispute with the enemy the possession of the capital of the empire.

"Respecting the issue of the contest, I should not be doubtful. At the voice of their government, and to defend the liberty, the integrity, and the independence of his country, every Frenchman would fly to arms, and the invaders would be chased from our soil with disgrace. But, though the triumph would be certain, the contest would be long and terrific. Our fertile fields would be laid waste, and our rivers be mingled with blood. Is it necessary to expose our country to these calamities? Is it necessary to fill it with widows and orphans? Are there no means by which peace may be obtained without compromising our honor?

"The last speaker has proposed that pacific overtures should be made to the allies; that, while an appeal is made to French valor, the emperor should treat for peace in the most dignified manner. But with what prospect of success can he treat? Have not our enemies pledged themselves to a line of conduct which, adopted when the issue of the contest was uncertain, and while all France appeared to have rallied round the sovereignty of their choice, will not be readily abandoned now that victory has crowned their efforts?

"Sentiments of united respect and affection prevent me from being more explicit.—There is but one measure which can save the country, and if the ministers of the emperor will not advise him to adopt it, his great soul will reveal it to him."

This speech excited many murmurs from the court party, and much applause from others. At the close of it, Napoleon cast his eyes down, and immediately raised them again with a smile of disdain.

The chambers, in the mean time, had selected five commissioners, at the head of whom were La Fayette, and Count Ponticoulant, with B. Constant as their secretary, who were despatched to the head-quarters of the allies, to treat for peace. The interests of the nation were committed without reserve to their discretion. The intuity of resistance was universally acknowledged, and the instructions of the commissioners were comprised in one sentence; to "obtain peace on as advantageous terms as possible, without violating the integrity, or tarnishing the honor of France."

The allied monarchs received them with apparent kindness, and the conferences commenced immediately. The French plenipotentiaries related the events which had recently happened in France. They stated that Buonaparte had not only abdicated the throne, but that the government was adopting measures to prevent his ever exerting the least influence on the affairs of France. Here they were interrupted by the demand of the British minister, that Napoleon should be delivered unconditionally into the power of the allies. This proposition was received with mingled astonishment and indignation; and La Fayette replied, that Napoleon having voluntarily resigned the crown, that he might be no obstacle to the welfare of France, his person was under the protection of the national-gratitude and honor, and that the French people would never consent to commit an act of unexampled treachery.

The monarchs felt the impolicy of this demand, and immediately waded it.

ANOTHER REVOLUTIONARY GENERAL ALIVE—but in distress.

After noticing the paragraph which announces that Gen. Sumpter, one of the general officers of the revolution, is still alive (as it has often been said that La Fayette was the only one,) a writer in the Hartford (Conn.) Times remarks.— "In addition to the above, permit me to

declare, that editors of newspapers the people and government itself seem also to have forgotten Gen. Wm. Barton, of Providence R. I.—who instead of being "surrounded by his grand children," is, to this day and has been for twelve successive years past, imprisoned for heavy bills of costs, in the town of Danville, in the state of Vermont!

This revolutionary hero, now about 78 years of age, in the year 1777, at the risk of his reputation and life, planned and carried into effect the bold enterprise of capturing Major General Prescott of the British army, whose head quarters at that time, were on the island of Rhode Island. The chief object of this undertaking was to obtain a British officer of equal rank with a view to effect the exchange of that valuable soldier, who had been taken the preceding year. For his heroic act he was presented with a sword, and received the thanks of Congress.* But is this enough? How many thousands would have been paid for the reception of Green? Shall the venerable old patriot be suffered to linger out the remainder of his days deprived of that liberty and those privileges, to obtain which, he performed so much, and risked his all? Forbid it our country! Forbid it La Fayette. For one word, from the to our national government in his behalf, would restore this hoary veteran to the bosom of an anxious family—to the bosom of an affectionate wife who still, at the age of 72, resides at Providence, inculcating a faint hope that she may yet, before death, see the face of that beloved husband, from whom she has now been separated for twelve long and tedious years. Is there no redeeming spirit, to intercede for the unfortunate prisoner? La Fayette, listen to my feeble voice, and to the invaluable services which you have heretofore rendered to our country add this one more of restoring one of your brother officers of 77 to liberty, and to his family.

* See Marshall's Life of Washington.

From the Richmond Enquirer.

We understand that the late meeting at York consisted of deputations, from 15 volunteer companies. An express was dispatched to Gen. Taylor, who accepted the honorable office confided to him; and promptly repaired to York, in company with Col. Eustis and Major Gratot, of the army of the U. States.

The citizens of York and the surrounding country cheerfully tendered every facility in their power. The house of the late Gen. Nelson was offered for the accommodation of Gen. La Fayette and suite. The house of Major Griffin was most cheerfully tendered—Rooms for the accommodation of from 120 to 150 guests were readily obtained. Furniture, glass, &c. has been offered on the most liberal terms by the cabinet-makers, &c. &c. of this city.

None is to be paid for, except what is broke. It is delightful to witness such a spirit pervading our townsmen.

The Secretary of War has promised the use of tents (from Washington) to accommodate 2000 persons.—The Volunteers will carry tents for at least 500 of their own men—probably the U. States troops from Fortress Monroe will amount to 5 or 600 more, who will carry their own tents. Huts are also raising which will accommodate several hundred more persons. Thus shelter will be found for from 4 to 5000 persons.—As many beds as possible will be collected. Several will be sent from Richmond, on the most liberal terms.

As to provisions, the country around will pour forth its stores. A single gentleman in Gloucester alone, will send 100 muttons, to be disposed of. All who can, however, will do well to carry their own provisions.

Nineteen Volunteers Companies have engaged to attend. The Volunteers of the District, Baltimore, &c. will be welcomed at York—covering enough it is probable will be found there—and it is hoped sufficient provisions may be upon the ground.—Invitations are to be sent to our Ex-Presidents, to the President of the United States, to Revolutionary officers and soldiers, &c. &c.

"Forcing the Eyes to Work at Night even for a few moments after they are tired, will often, put them out of humour for the whole of the following day, and is of all eye spoiling acts the most mischievous;—want of mercy in this respect, has prematurely ruined the eyes of thousands!" Dr. Kitchener.

"I apprehend," says, one "there is not a more miserable; as well as a more worthless being, than a young man of fortune, who has nothing to do, but to do nothing."