

IT appears by a letter from Washington, that the President has got certain assurances from the French Government, that they had "the greatest desire to cultivate a good understanding with the American Government and that General Victor who is to command in Louisiana, had received instructions from the first consul to pursue conciliatory measures such as would conduce to harmony and mutual improvement of the interests and the rights, territory and persons of the people of the United States."

When the French entered Holland, they issued a proclamation to this effect: "We consider you as friends and allies—we restore you to freedom—we seek to inspire you with confidence" &c. &c. and in less than two years they fleeced the Dutch of fifty five millions of dollars: of a whole province; of their strongest barrier towns, and of a seaport.— They placed the country under military commissioners, and confiscated to their own use, the whole of the Belgian Clergy's property, to the amount of 250 millions of dollars. So that the freedom they gave that country, according to promise was to free them of

55,000,000
250,000,000

Dolls. 305,000,000

When they entered Franconia, a proclamation calling on the people for confidence with other certain assurances. went before the army. And a volume is published in German, and translated into all the languages in Europe, of their murders, pillage, exactions and enormities.

In Lombardy, Bonaparte issued a proclamation:—"Nations of Italy, the French army are come to break your chains. The French are the friends of the people in every country.—Your property, your customs shall be respected."

BONAPARTE.

In Milan he published another:—"Respect for property, and personal security; respect for the religion of countries; these are our sentiments."

BONAPARTE.

Now let us see how he made good all this! From the Milanese, a very small state, he exacted a contribution of twenty million of livres, or one million pounds of money; & afterwards other successive exactions to the amount of six million pound sterling. The churches were given up to plunder—every religious fund, and every public treasure was confiscated; and the country was made one scene of rapine and disorder. At Pavia, a garrison of the French troops left by Bonaparte, having wantonly destroyed the tomb of St. Augustin, which the inhabitants had always religiously venerated, they collected around and took the garrison prisoners, but carefully abstained from offering violence to a single soldier. Bonaparte marched back, and carried military execution over the whole country—burnt the town of Benafco, and put 800 of its inhabitants to death in cold blood; and then marching to Pavia took it by storm, and massacred the inhabitants.

Bonaparte signed a treaty with the Duke of Modena promising neutrality on the payment of twelve millions of livres. When that was paid he arrested the Duke, and exported from him 200,000 sequins; on this another treaty was signed, called a Convention de Sartis, which, of course, was followed by fresh violation and exactions.

In breach of the treaty and rights of neutrality, he took possession of Leghorn to seize the British property lying there, and he made the Duke of Tuscany pay the expence of his army marching thither.

When he entered the territories of Venice he issued, according to custom, a proclamation of "certain assurances."—"Bonaparte to the Republic of Venice."—"It is to deliver the

first country in Europe from the iron yoke of the proud House of Austria, the French army has come. Sc. Sc. Sc.—Religion, government, customs and property shall be respected, all provisions for the army shall be paid in money."— This like every other, was followed by infamous exactions.—He established a democracy, and with the new government made a treaty, by which money and naval stores to the amount of six millions of livres, and three ships of the line were given to him, in return for which he gave to them certain assurances of friendship. This he performed in his own way, by handing them over in four months after, by the treaty of Campo Formio, to the iron yoke of the proud House of Austria.

In Egypt this proclamation ran thus:—"In the name of God, merciful and gracious—There is no God but God"—"He has no son or associate in his kingdom"

The French adore the Supreme Being, and honour the Prophet and his Koran.

"The French are true Mussulmen—not long since they marched to Rome and overthrew the Pope, who excited Christians against Ismaelism (Mohamedanism)." He returns home, establishes popery, and at a solemn mass held on the occasion, in the face of that worshi who knew of his pretending to a Mussulman, he takes the sacrament of the Lord's supper, as by CHRIST ordained, according to the rituals of the Church of Rome.—Infamous, abominable blasphemy!!

After this authentic detail, are we justified in casting off all confidence in such a man's professions? Or will our executive be justified in reposing any confidence in them?

We are aware, because we hear it every day and see it before us, that many men are obstinately averse to war, and would maintain peace at any rate; but have those persons duly considered war or peace in all their bearings and relations? War is a thing that relates to society, not to individuals, and if individual feelings or private self interest enter into the composition of a man's thought on these subjects, they cannot be correct.— We must often venture life to save it, and to render it more secure, and to make it worth the having—and many men have lost their all by being afraid to venture all in its defence. One has a land speculation—another a commercial one. One is afraid that lands will fall—another that insurance will rise. But this does not alter the real nature of the question—the question of war or peace extends to whole countries, empires, and regions. These see no further than the fence of their own estates, or walls of their own warehouse; and let them put this question to their minds and hearts; and as they themselves are not concerned, perhaps their judgment will not be warped, and they will answer it fairly:—Would it not have been better for the places which I have mentioned to have risen, en masse, opposed Bonaparte, and run the hazard of all the grievous murders, oppressions, exactions, and plunder of war, in an honorable resistance, with a chance of succeeding, than to endure them, as they did, with all the ignominy and infamy of cowardly base submission, to arrogant, barefaced impotence; and solely it speaks enough of Bonaparte. What can we say—what could Shakespeare, Milton, and all the poets in one, imagine of arrogant imposture, worse than his having the impudence after what he has done, to hold out the language of promise and expect to have it believed. Alas, Alas!—farewell the dignity of manhood—it is surely fled from the earth, when the motto that we can say under oppression, is, "Let me, oh let me die in peace"

P. S. Does Bonaparte say a word about our right at N. Orleans. His assurances are a declaration that the right does not exist. Having used the word oaths in the outset of this writing, we think it right to observe that Bonaparte, with his arms, imposed on the people, and swore fidelity to that constitution which he afterwards put down.

Raleigh,

MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1808.

We lately promised to take some further notice of the conduct of administration relative to the occlusion of the port of New Orleans and the cession of Louisiana, and to contrast it with the opinions of the Earl Chatham, and with what had been done by Great Britain when placed in similar circumstances.

It will be remembered that the objections made to Mr. Griswold's Resolution, requesting of the President information of the Cession of Louisiana, were, that it might obstruct the negotiation that was about commencing with Spain, that it might possibly be thought to imply a "suspicion of unfriendly or improper conduct on the part of Spain," and irritate the nice honour of the punctilious Spaniards, which it seems notwithstanding the multiplied injuries and insults we have received at their hands, we are not permitted even to suspicion. It has uniformly been said, in extenuation of the Spanish Government, "that the Intendant acted without authority." The Spanish Minister with all convenient sincerity has encouraged that belief. In the same manner when our vessels were detained and plundered at

the Havannah, the blame was exclusively charged to the "irregular" conduct of the Governor of Cuba, or the commanders of the Spanish Squadron, and when our vessels were taken and carried into the Spanish port of Algiers, our Jacobins were ready with some other excuse for their conduct. Within these few days their papers have had the effrontery to say that all these plunderings were "quarantine regulations" and very gravely tell the public that "the Americans are treated by Spain with great and increasing respect." It would seem that the democrats instead of attempting or wishing to vindicate our rights were only solicitous to find an apology for the conduct of the Spaniards. In the style of Randolph's offspring, the sensibility Resolution, they literally "vindicate our injuries."

In the year 1770, the Spaniards seized upon the Falkland Islands, which belonged to the British crown. The Duke of Richmond in the House of Lords moved a Resolution, that His Majesty be requested to lay before Parliament such information as he possessed respecting the seizure of those islands. Lord Weymouth and Lord Hillsborough opposed the motion. They said it might embarrass the negotiation which was depending. They insisted upon the delicacy of Spanish honour, that infinite attention and regard ought to be shown to the punctillios of that Court. It was also said the capture of the islands was not the act of the King of Spain, but ought to be charged to the irregular conduct of the Governor of Buenos Ayres.

Lord Chatham rose and seconded the motion of the Duke of Richmond in an eloquent speech delivered in his usual style of boldness and energy, a part of which we here insert. The coincidence in pretences and conduct of our Jacobins with the Lords Weymouth and Hillsborough, and of our Federalists in Congress with the Great Earl of Chatham, is very striking. By supposing Weymouth and Hillsborough to be John Randolph and Beau Dawson, and Lord Chatham to represent Rofs or Griswold, and by changing "Falkland Islands" into "New Orleans," we may very well imagine the following speech to have been recently delivered in Congress. Those who read it for political information will discover the shallow opinions and miserable expedients of our leading democrats, and those who read it only for its rhetorical merit, may pass over unnoticed the remarks which we have occasionally interspersed in it, and it will afford them much entertainment.

It would be offering an insult to the understandings of our readers if we suspected they did not already believe that Lord Chatham's opinion alone outweighs the opinions of a thousand such men as Robert Williams, Joe Nicholson, and the precious set of Renegades and natives, who form the cabinet council of Mr. Jefferson.

After an attentive perusal of the following speech, let every candid man ask himself if the peremptory decisive tone that Chatham would have assumed if placed in circumstances similar to ours, would not have been preferable to the abject, degrading supplications of our administration, and whether the former would not have made us feared and our rights respected, and whether the latter does not prostrate our national dignity, and invite a repetition of insult.

Earl of CHATHAM. "I rise to give my hearty assent to the motion made by the noble Duke; by his Grace's favour, I have been permitted to see it, before it was offered to the House. I have fully considered the necessity of obtaining from the King's servants a communication of the papers described in the motion, and I am persuaded that the alarming state of facts as well as the strength of reasoning, with which the noble Duke has urged and enforced that necessity, must have been powerfully felt by your Lordships. For entering upon such considerations, no season is improper; no occasion should be neglected. Something must be done my Lords, and immediately, to save an injured, insulted, undone Country. If not to save the state my Lords, at least to march out and drag to justice those servants of the Crown, by whose ignorance, neglect or treachery, this once great flourishing people are induced to a condition as deplorable at home as it is despicable abroad. [Remember Jacobins, that this speech was delivered long ago in England. The orator therefore does not mean you.] Before this country they stand as the greatest criminals. Such I shall prove them to be; for I do not doubt of proving to your Lordships satisfaction; that since they have been intrusted with the conduct of the king's affairs, they have done every thing that they ought not to have done, and hardly any thing that they ought to have done. The noble Lord [Hillsborough] talks of the Spanish punctillios in the lofty style and idiom of a Spaniard. We are to be wonderfully tender of the Spanish point of honor, as if they had been the complainants, as if they had received the injury. I think he would have done better to have told us what care has been taken of the English honour. [Here Lord Hillsborough should have shewed a bit of paper "about so big" covered with soft words about sensibility.] My Lords, I am well acquainted with the character of that nation, at least as far as is represented by their court and ministry, and should think this country dishonored by a comparison of English good faith with the punctillios of a Spaniard. My Lords, the English are a candid, an ingenuous people;

the Spaniards are as mean and crafty as they are proud and insolent. The integrity of the English merchant, the generous spirit of our naval and military officers would be degraded by a comparison with their merchants or officers. With their ministers I have often been obliged to negotiate, and never met with an instance of candour or dignity in their proceedings. After a long experience of their want of candour and good faith, I found myself compelled to talk to them in a peremptory, decisive language. [Chatham was not a man to have hid himself in Carter's mountain at the sight of a few Light horse.] Since however, for reasons unknown to me, it has been thought advisable to negotiate with the court of Spain, I should have conceived that the great and single object of such a negotiation would have been to have obtained complete satisfaction for the injury done to the crown and people of England. But, if I understood the noble Lord, the only object of the present negotiation is to find a salvo for the punctillious honor of the Spaniards. The absurdity of such an idea is in itself unsupportable. But My Lords, I object to our negotiating at all under our present circumstances. We are not in that situation in which a great and powerful nation is permitted to negotiate.

A foreign power has forcibly robbed his Majesty of a part of his dominions. Is the Island restored? Are you placed in statu quo? [Is the port of New Orleans opened or another place of deposit assigned?] If that had been done, it might then perhaps have been justifiable to treat with the aggressor upon the satisfaction he ought to make for the insult offered to the crown of England. But will you descend so low? Will you so shamefully betray the king's honour as to make it matter of negotiation, whether his Majesty's possessions shall be restored to him or not? [Whether we shall be allowed the free navigation of the Mississippi, or not?] I doubt not my Lords, that there are some important mysteries in the conduct of this affair, which whenever they are explained will account for the profound silence now observed by the king's servants. The time will come my Lords, when they shall be dragged from their concealments. These are some questions which, sooner or later, must be answered. [Don't tremble Jacobins, we tell you once more all this happened in England.] The ministry, I find, have taken pains to possess the public with an opinion that the Spanish Court have constantly disavowed the proceedings of their Governor; & some persons I see have been shameless and daring enough to advise his Majesty to support and countenance this opinion in his speech from the throne. Certainly my Lords, there never was a more odious, a more infamous falsehood imposed on a great nation.— It degrades the king's honor—it is an insult to Parliament. His Majesty has been advised to confirm and give currency to an absolute falsehood. I beg your Lordships attention, and hope I shall be understood, when I repeat, that the court of Spain's having disavowed the act, is an absolute palpable falsehood. Let me ask, my Lords, when the first communication was made by the court of Madrid, of their being apprised of their taking of Falkland's Islands, was it accompanied with an offer of instant restitution, and the punishment of the Spanish Governor? If they have not they have adopted the act as their own, and the very mention of a disavowal is an impudent insult offered to the king's dignity. The King of Spain disowns the thief [De Yrujo] disowns the Intendant.] while he leaves him unpunished and profits by the theft. In vulgar English he is the receiver of stolen goods and ought to be treated accordingly.

My Lords, if the falsehood of this pretended disavowal had been confined to the court of Spain, I should have admitted it without concern. I should have been content, that they themselves had left a door open for excuse and accommodation. The King of England's honour is not touched till he adopts the falsehood, delivers it to his parliament [for the President states it to the Governor of Kentucky] and makes it his own.

I cannot quit this subject without comparing the conduct of the present ministry with that of a gentleman (Mr. George Grenville) who is now no more. The occasions were similar. The French had taken a little Island from us called Turk's Islands. The Minister then at the head of the Treasury took the business upon himself; but he did not negotiate: [nor express his sensibility] he sent for the French ambassador, and made a peremptory demand. A courier was despatched to Paris and returned in a few days, with orders for instant restitution, not only of the island, but of every thing the English subjects had lost.

From what I have said my Lords, I do not doubt but it will be affected to be understood by many Lords, and given out to the public that I am for hurrying the nation at all events into a war with Spain. My Lords, I disclaim such councils, and I beg that this declaration may be remembered. Let us have peace my Lords, but let it be honourable, let it be secure. I have better reasons perhaps, than many of your Lordships for