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LETTERS UPON FRENCH INFLUENCE.

No. VII.

To the People of the United States.

It was originally intended, by the writer of these papers, to "unfold the history," as well as to "display the character," of French influence upon the affairs of the United States. This was precisely the pledge which he gave to the Public. It was his object to examine in succession the various viands and different dishes of the great political entertainment which France has given to the United States—*cb ovo usque ad mala*—from the egg to the apple of Thomas Jefferson's noble feast of Embargo. But there is a certain impatience and ardour in the public mind which the writer must suffer to influence his conduct, though he will not suffer them to govern it. As a public writer, he knows his rights, and will maintain them with a firm and proud independence. The Public have their rights also. They may manifest impatience, they may exercise all the powers of criticism, they may read or not read as they please. But here they must stop. The writer will listen to advice, but he will repel dictation. Some appear to require volumes in a moment upon a subject which has required the reflection of years in merely deciding upon the proper mode to be pursued, and every step in the progress of which, in his own poor judgment, demands great deliberation and great caution. Such shall be disappointed. Such shall not be obeyed. The author will, in this case, be governed by one of the few Jeffersonian maxims upon which he now sets any value, and will "manage his own affairs in his own way." The cool judgment of the Public, however, will be greatly respected. In deference to it, we now exhibit new, extraordinary, and most interesting information, to the American People.

Descending, then, at once, to the memorable session of 1805-6, the reader's recollection is recalled, for one moment, to the (public) message of the President, Jefferson at the commencement of that session. It indicated, in terms the most unequivocal, that the United States were on the eve of war with Spain. Speaking of the injuries received from that power, the message said, "Some of them are of a nature to be met by force only, and all of them may lead to it. I cannot therefore but recommend such preparations as circumstances call for." The message, indeed, abounded in that ambiguity of expression, and in that generalization of censure upon "every belligerent," for which the luminous mind of that remarkable man was distinguished. Spain was particularly complained of—the general censure upon "the belligerents," was evidently meant for Great Britain—but nothing was said of France! Yet the President had in his possession documents from General Armstrong, announcing to him, in the most perfect of all official forms, that as it respected the difficulties which appeared to exist between the American and Spanish governments, there was in fact, as Mr. Randolph soon after said in the House of Representatives, "no Spain." Speaking of Spain among other matters, the President said, "propositions for adjusting amicably the boundaries of Louisiana have not been acceded to." In a private message soon after, he said "It is the policy of Spain to reserve herself for events." Yet this arch deceiver knew that the reason why the boundaries of Louisiana could not be adjusted with Spain was that France would not suffer Spain to adjust them with the United States upon any terms whatever! And he was guilty of the most unprincipled conduct in telling Congress (this he would not say to the American People and the World) that it was the policy of Spain to reserve herself for events, when his agents abroad had informed him that it was the policy of France to reserve Spain for events! (The public message was sent to Congress on the 2d of December, and the private message only three days after.) The illustrious Jefferson's the only man on earth of whom the writer is at this time disposed to speak with severity, and that he appeals to his God for the truth of the assertion, for no private or personal reason, well knew that from the very origin of the negotiations in reference to the purchase as well as boundaries of Louisiana, the go-

vernment of Spain was suffered to take no step whatever without applying for the commands of France, and was in the constant habit, at every stage of the business, of sending to know what those commands were, facts which will not be denied by either of our Ministers who have been concerned in those negotiations, or by their private Secretaries. And yet this Man of the People—this President of the "good old United States"—told Congress, in the private message, "We have reason to believe that she (France) was disposed to effect a settlement (between the United States and Spain) on a plan analogous to what our Ministers proposed." What a horrible violator of Truth! When he said this, he knew that if France "was disposed to effect a settlement," it would be "effected" in one moment. But there is much virtue in that word, "analogous." Analogous to what? "Our Ministers," in the offers they made, "proposed" to RELINQUISH OUR CLAIMS FOR SPOILIATIONS, BOTH SPANISH AND FRENCH, merely to obtain a boundary for Louisiana! For Spanish spoiliations alone it is said we have lately been offered Eight Millions of Dollars! The "analogous," therefore, as the private documents do not show that our Ministers, in making those offers, said any thing about buying Florida, undoubtedly meant this—FRANCE WANTS MONEY, AT LEAST EIGHT MILLIONS, BESIDES THE RELINQUISHMENT OF ALL CLAIMS FOR SPANISH AND FRENCH SPOILIATIONS, AND MUST HAVE IT.

General Armstrong, at length, tantalized beyond endurance in this business, and well knowing that there was a *snake in the grass*, applied to M. Talleyrand to know what the United States must expect from France, should they go to war with Spain. The General wrote to the President (and the President incautiously suffered this to go to Congress in the mass of confidential documents)—"M. Talleyrand was instantaneous, prompt, unequivocal in his reply. IF YOU GO TO WAR WITH SPAIN, FRANCE CAN NEITHER DOUBT NOR HESITATE!! SHE MUST TAKE PART WITH SPAIN!!"

Thus early was the criminal man, who then pretended to administer the Executive Department of the Government of the United States, informed, officially, by his own confidential agent, of the inflexible determination of the Emperor Napoleon to controul the conduct of the United States in its foreign relations, and thus early, as we shall soon abundantly prove, did he submit to such controul. These facts, infinitely momentous beyond any thing in our recent history, have been concealed from the good People of the United States from 1805 to 1810. The confidential message so often alluded to—the confidential documents which accompanied it—the attempt of Mr. Jefferson to make Mr. Randolph, as chairman of the committee to whom the private message was referred (the independent and honest Macon being then the man who named the committee) the tool of the Executive to bring forward, in conclave, a proposition to appropriate Two Millions of Dollars, with a view to supercede the measures which it seemed must naturally grow out of the message, as it contained not a hint about money, and did contain many hints about war—the conversation between Jefferson and Randolph, involving the indignant refusal of the latter to act the dishonourable part assigned him—the substance of conversations between the same gentleman and Mr. Madison and Mr. Gallatin, on the same subject—the (sort of) commission issued to Mr. Bidwell and Gen Varnum, as Managers of the House of Representatives and Knights of the Back Stairs, when it was ascertained that Mr. Randolph would oppose the administration—the sub-caucuses, and other manoeuvres of the "new leaders"—with the result—will be reviewed in the succession. For the present, with the leave of the Public, we will take a little time to PAUSE AND REFLECT.

PHILADELPHIA, July 4.

Latest from Europe.—Yesterday arrived brig Caesar, captain Powers, from Liverpool, by whom we have London and Liverpool papers to the 23d May, but we have only time to extract the following:

LONDON, May 21.

Mr. Brand makes this day his motion for a Parliamentary reform. It is supposed the debate will occupy two days.

New Budget.—The power of money begetting money was never more pleasingly illustrated than in the financial arrangement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.—The scheme he wishes to impress the

public with is, that no new taxes are necessary; the scheme that Carter wishes to impress the public with, is a cheap plan of paying the old ones. To those who wish to adopt it, the time is the 8th of next month, the place 3, Charing-cross. The loss may be a few pounds—the gain may be 100,000L.

Accounts from Lord Wellington state that his head-quarters were at Almeida on the 8th. General Hill's brigade was at Castle-Bom, and General Payne's at St. Pedro. The advanced corps of General Hill's brigade was within ten miles of the enemy's head-quarters at Ciudad Rodrigo. General Crauford was at Gelegos, between Almeida and Ciudad Rodrigo. The British force amounted to 23,000 men, which would be reinforced with about 3000 more who were on their march from Lisbon. The Portuguese troops are about 35,000 strong, making together about 60,000 men.

The enemy are about the same number.—They having been joined by the division of Regnier and Loison, and Junot being on his march from Astorga to join him with 10,000 infantry and 2000 cavalry.—10,000 more troops were to be drawn from Valladolid. Loison's division was on the 5th on the right bank of Agueda.

The following is an extract of a letter from Cadiz:—

CADIZ, April 22.

"The French are very busily employed in erecting numerous batteries in front of our advances here; and I have no doubt they will succeed in driving us from thence with considerable loss, when their fortifications are complete.—Still I continue to think they will not get further. I imagine we will soon be obliged to move our ground or be shelled by a battery they have nearly completed, and which will reach over our encampment. We are hard worked, well fed, and consequently, continue healthy.

"I am afraid the French are in possession of much valuable information regarding our advances, &c. as all our killed were left at Matagorda, and Lefebvre's pocket contains all his memorandums, and a valuable journal of his observations since here—his loss is a lamentable one indeed, for us."

Extract of a private letter.

OPORTO, May 10.

"On the 24th of April the French approached the advanced guard under General Crauford, in the neighbourhood of Ciudad Rodrigo, and drove in the piquete. During these operations, advices were sent to Lord Wellington, at Viseu, who immediately began his march with 22,000 English and 14,000 Portuguese, to support the division under General Crauford. On the 26th he passed Almeida, and by the last accounts, which was of the 5th inst. from head quarters, he was a few leagues to the South-east of Almeida. A reinforcement of 3000 men was hourly expected to arrive at the camp.

"The French, after threatening the vanguard in the manner stated, proceeded with their main body under the Duke Elchingen, to the number of 30,000 men, and occupied the vicinity of Ciudad Rodrigo, which place had been long before surrounded by their piquets. Ciudad Rodrigo is strongly fortified, amply provisioned, and powerfully garrisoned, and is in no danger from any force that the French can at present bring against it, supported as it is by the neighbourhood of the allied armies.—The French have made a show of commencing the siege of that place, and for that purpose have brought all their heavy artillery from Salamanca.

"In this situation of things no apprehensions are felt for the result of the present manoeuvres; but on the contrary, great hopes are entertained of a successful issue. Lord Wellington's force amounts to 30,000 men in high spirits, with scarcely a person on the sick list, and supplied with every necessary of war & subsistence. Beyond the number of 30,000 stated, the enemy has not 5000 troops east of Burgos, and therefore can be in no condition to commence the siege of Ciudad Rodrigo in the presence of the allied army, or to make an attack upon that army reinforced as it progressively will be from the interior of Portugal.

"There has been lately no want of the essential articles of meat and flour in the British army. The cattle depot has always had 1000 bullocks, and the influx has been for some time so great, that they had not sufficient space for the herds.

"You will be anxious to know the distribution of the Spanish forces near the Portuguese frontiers.—O'Donnel, who has been much worsted at Merida, had, before the conflict, 8000 men. Romana has about the same number at Badajoz. The force of Ballesteros near Seville, may

be 10,000. The French occupy Merida and its neighbourhood with 90,000 men, under Marshal Mortier."

MAY 22.

The consul-general of Spain for the United Kingdom of G. Britain and Ireland, requests the editor to insert the following communication:

LONDON, May 20, 1810.

The council of regency of Spain and the Indies, in the name of his majesty Ferdinand the seventh, having discovered that it is the intention of the general enemy of mankind, to introduce into the Ultra Marine Provinces of Spain, spies and commissaries to disturb the peace of those establishments, and having already been informed that this design is in part accomplished, with the iniquitous purpose of spreading through those territories, disorder, anarchy, and insurrection; since his military forces are not extended to that remote part of the earth; and the said council of regency observing that such commissaries assembled in the United States of America, from whence, by stealth, and under various pretences, they proceed to the province of Texue, or embark for other Spanish dependencies.

It is resolved, that no Spaniard, or foreigner, of whatever class or condition, or for whatever business, shall be allowed to land in any of the Spanish dominions of that country, without being provided with the proper passports from the places at which they embark, in the name of Ferdinand the 7th, and such passports are correctly to designate persons to whom they are given, and the object of their journey or voyage.

It is ordered, that the viceroys and military civil governors of the said dominions, observe inviolably this sovereign determination, and if by any of those accidents which cannot always be avoided, one of these commissaries or spies should enter the Spanish territories, by land or sea, it is commanded that he be tried immediately, and punished with death, and that the cargo and vessel confiscated without appeal, to his majesty Ferdinand the seventh. This edict is to be carried into execution with respect to all ships which may have on board any person or persons not provided with the regular passport, and in the name of his present Majesty, even although such person or persons be a native or natives of the said dominions.

This public notice is given, that no individuals, either born in the country, or out of it, should plead ignorance of the regulation; and other means have also been taken to give it general circulation.

The princess Amelia, we are happy to learn, passed the crisis of her disorder on Saturday, and the accounts of yesterday, state, that her royal highness had a quiet night.

At a common hall held yesterday at Guild-Hall, several resolutions were passed expressing the severest disapprobation of the rejection of the city petition by the house of commons, and of the conduct of the liverymen who signed the counter address. A new petition was then proposed by Mr. M'Quin, assented to with great acclamations, and ordered to be presented by Mr. Alderman Combe.—Mr. Dixon and Mr. Kemble were permitted to declare their sentiments uninterrupted. The horses were taken from the carriages of the Lord Mayor and Sheriff Wood, and these gentlemen were escorted to their respective homes by an immense concourse of people.

LIVERPOOL, May 23.

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

A considerable degree of activity appears now to be manifested both on the part of the enemy and the allies of different parts of the peninsula. In Leon, Astorga, after a tremendous bombardment, has surrendered to the French, under Junot.—A great part of the garrison however escaped into Asturias in the disguise of peasants, but the governor having refused to swear allegiance to Joseph, on which condition he was offered to be continued in the command of the town, and 1000 men were sent to France. One circumstance very strongly marks the spirit of the Spanish peasantry. The governor, when he capitulated, enforced a stipulation that the troops of the enemy were not to be distributed in the adjacent country, assigning as a reason that he could not answer for their security among his indignant countrymen.

The force under Junot is stated at 10,000 men, of which number, after the capitulation of Astorga, 2000 were dispatched to Asturias and were defeated on their march by Porlier only 300 remained at Astorga, and the rest: amounting to near 8000 men marched towards Ciudad R.