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frail.

This event is certainly decisive of the war in La Vendee—a war on which Mr. Pitt so confidently reckoned to increase the "prefure" on the French republic; and, which we are also free to add, was dreaded even, more by its successive rulers than all the combined efforts of their external enemies! It was in this country the boat and the resource of ministers and their agents—Were our allies defeated at Fleurus—there was Charette, at the head of one hundred thousand men, pelting it in La Vendee! Were we conquered with loss in any engagement—40,000 republicans vie the dock in La Vendee! Thus was the public mind if not comforted, at least diverted, from its immediate object.—The consolation and the diversion are now no more.

PORTSMOUTH, April 12.

TRIAL OF ADMIRAL CORNWALLIS.

Thursday morning at 8 o'clock, the signal gun for a Court Martial was fired, and the flag as usual on such occasions was hoisted on board the Orion of 74 guns, lying in Portsmouth harbour.—Lord Howe, and the other members of the court, went on board half past eight, and his lordship's flag was then hoisted.—At nine the court was opened, and the members sworn in. The following is a list of their names:

PRESIDENT.

Earl Howe, Admiral of the Fleet.

MEMBERS.

- Sir Peter Parker Bart. Admiral of the White
- Lord Bridport ditto.
- G. Vandepur, Esq. Vice Admiral of the White
- Sir Allen Gardner, Bart. ditto.
- Sir R. Curtis, Bart. Rear Admiral of the Red
- H. Harvey, Esq. ditto.
- R. R. Bligh, Esq. ditto.
- C. N. Poole, Rear Admiral of the Blue
- J. Colpoys, Esq. ditto of the White.

CAPTAINS.

- E. E. Nugent, Esq.
- Ch. Powel Hamilton, Esq.
- Edmund Dodd, Esq.

JUDGE ADVOCATE.

Sir George Jackson, Bart.

Admiral Cornwallis entered the Court and had a side-table assigned to him for his papers, and the Hon. Thos. Erskine.

Lord Howe then stated an outline of the charges to Admiral Cornwallis, they were three in number, and were introduced by stating the nature of his appointment, and the service in which he was engaged; that whereas Admiral Cornwallis was, on the 10th of February last, appointed to the command of a Squadron destined for the Island of Barbadoes; and was ordered by a letter from the Admiralty, dated the 25th of the same month, to sail from Spithead, as soon as possible, taking under his convoy all the victuallers and transports then in readiness, and to act on the Leeward Island station, according to his instructions, or to such further orders as he might receive from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty; that the said Vice-Admiral sailed on the 28th of February, and that his ship being disabled, he had been guilty of a neglect of duty, in not shifting his flag to another ship, and proceeded, as is usual in such cases, to the place of his destination; but had contrary to his instructions, and manifestly to the detriment of his Majesty's service, returned to port, after delivering his orders to another officer; that afterwards he had been guilty of disobedience to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, by refusing to proceed immediately in the Atrea frigate and join his Squadron.

The orders were then read.

After which the evidence commenced with reading certain papers, charging the Admiral with disobedience of orders, in not shifting his flag to the Atrea frigate, and proceeding to Barbadoes.

Sir Charles Cotton, captain of the Mars, was examined respecting the orders he received from the Admiralty, and his instructions from Admiral Cornwallis.

Mr. Tibbs, ship builder, gave an account

of the state of the Royal Sovereign, declaring she could not be repaired without going into dock.

Here the evidence for the prosecution closed.

The Defence.

The Admiral said, that being indisposed, with a weakness in his eyes, he should request the indulgence of the Court to permit his friend, Mr. Erskine, to read the paper which he had prepared in his defence. Permission being granted Mr. Erskine proceeded, and after reading a variety of reasons in justification of the Admiral's conduct in returning into port—not shifting his flag, &c. &c. read the following:

On the first charge I cannot, but remark, that even after my return to Spithead I was continued in my command, and even honored with fresh marks of confidence. This manifestly shews, that though my judgment was disapproved, I was not charged with the imputation of neglect of duty. Had I complied with the fresh orders and sailed in the Atrea, I should unquestionably not have been brought before this court-martial to answer for my conduct on board the Royal Sovereign. An officer, strongly suspected of labours under a charge so atrocious, would not have been employed in a station so arduous and critical, while so many useful and meritorious men could have been found to fill the appointment. My answer to the second charge is essentially involved in the rest, that I shall not detain the Court farther on that head.

I now proceed to the third charge, that of disobedience. In the case of positive orders, I certainly had neither judgment to form, nor discretion to exercise. I had only to obey.—I trust that it forms no part of my principles, nor has it been the tendency of any action of my life, to shake the influence of subordination. I solemnly and firmly deny that I have been guilty of disobedience of orders. When I received the order to go on board the Atrea, the object could no longer be the convoy. It must be with a view to act in the Leeward Island station, and such a commission could not be lightly accepted, under circumstances by which I was deprived of all the assistance on which I was most accustomed to rely. If the abridgment of my own convenience, and the sacrifice of my health, had been the only evils to be dreaded, I might have braved the worst. But I was in no situation to accept of so serious a responsibility.

The paper likewise contained some remarks on the conduct of the Admiralty Board towards him and concluded with declaring that his conscience acquitted him of any blame.

Captain Whitby, T. Alexander, master, and Mr. Kaine, surgeon of the Royal Sovereign, were all examined, touching the Admiral's conduct, anxiety for the service, health, &c.

Admiral Cornwallis then informed the Court, that he had no more witnesses to call, nor any more evidence, except some letters which had passed between him and the Lords of the Admiralty.

After the reading of some papers, and a few observations of no importance, the trial was closed a little before one. The Court was then cleared, and the members remained there till four o'clock, when they broke up without determining their sentence; and they are to sit again tomorrow at nine.

On Friday morning at nine o'clock, the court again assembled, and remained deliberating from that time until one, when the court was again opened, and strangers admitted.

The judge advocate then called over the names of the members; and after having noticed, in the usual forms, the occasion for which the court had assembled, the time it had sat, and read over the charges, he proceeded to deliver

THE SENTENCE:

"That the Court having heard the evidence in support of the charges exhibited against the Honourable William Cornwallis, Vice-Admiral of the Red; and having heard his defence, and evidence in his behalf; and

having maturely weighed and considered the same, were of opinion,

"That with respect to the two first charges, of his returning without leave, after having been ordered to proceed to Barbadoes and of his disobeying the orders he had received, misconduct was imputable to him, for not having hoisted his flag on board the Mars or Montaur, and proceeded in either of them to the West-Indies. But in consideration of other circumstances, the Court acquitted him of any disobedience in his conduct on that occasion.

"With respect to the third charge, of his having, after his return, disobeyed the orders of the Board of Admiralty, in not going out to the West-Indies in the Atrea frigate the Court were of opinion that the charge was not proved, and therefore acquitted Admiral Cornwallis upon that charge.

Admiral Cornwallis, who during the trial conducted himself with great firmness and composure, heard the sentence read without any emotion; and then making a slight bow to the Court, retired along with Mr. Erskine and some other friends.

MILAN, March 14.

We yesterday received by a private letter, the most melancholy accounts from Sardinia; insurrection and rebellion are raging with irremediable fury in that Island. The Viceroy is arrested—the insurgents triumphant; and a great majority of the people desire to put themselves under the protection of the French through whose assistance they are determined to establish a Government on the principles of Liberty and Equality.

MADRID, March 2.

Our situation with respect to England is no longer so critical as it has been some time past. In the mean time our Court think it prudent to make every necessary preparation.

All the orders for dismantling the ships of war have been countermanded, and it is said that Admiral Langara will soon put to sea from Cadiz with a fleet of 15 ships of the line.

PARIS, April 5.

Pichegru is appointed ambassador to Sweden, where he will be well received, as the Duke of Sudermania, who, to the talents of a wife Minister, unites those of an able Warrior, is one of his great admirers. We may ask, if it be politic to send to the midst of the manners of a Court, a man, destined, notwithstanding the intrigues of the envious and the manoeuvres of his columniators, to enjoy a high rank in the Republic?—(L'Eclair).

A letter from Strasbourg, dated the 29th ult. confirms the report of the Armies on the Rhine retiring further from each other. It is said that the greatest part of our army on the Rhine and Moselle, is going into the Department of La Meurthe. It is added that its Head Quarters are already at Saverne, near Strasbourg.

APRIL 6.

The nomination of General Pichegru to be Ambassador in Sweden, is not generally approved. It is considered only as an honourable exile.

The Ministers of the interior will on Decadi next give a very brilliant Fete to General Pichegru.

A Squadron of five sail of the line and two frigates sailed from Toulon on the 21st ult. its destination unknown, but supposed to join another Squadron on the Coast of Spain.

PHILADELPHIA, May 24.

REPORT

Of the committee of Senate to whom was referred the message of the President of the United States, of the 8th of April, 1796, relative to the Territory of the United States, South West of the river Ohio.

BY the deed of cession of the State of Virginia, the United States are bound to lay off the Territory north west of the river Ohio into states not less than one hundred nor more than one hundred and fifty miles.