

gage waggons have fallen into the hands of the conquerors.

The success which on this occasion has attended the Austrian arms is to be ascribed chiefly to the personal conduct of his royal highness the archduke. Present every where, where the danger was most pressing, he animated the troops by his example, and preserved them in order by the coolness and quickness of his manœuvres; and at length seized, with infinite judgment, the true point of attack which decided the victory.

The army passed the night on the field of battle, and next day crossed the Meyn at different points, encamped near this place.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed)

ROB. ANSTRUTHER,
Captain 3d Guards.

September 23.
Pacific Article.

Mr. Hoffman, a messenger from the Danish Minister at our court, was the person who went to Paris, with the demand from the British ministry, that a Passport might be granted to a confidential Agent to repair to Paris, for the purpose of proposing to the Executive Directory of France, moderate and equitable propositions for a general pacification. Mr. Hoffman arrived in London yesterday afternoon, with the answer of the Executive Directory: that we believe to have been so far favourable, that the passport is granted: Such at least was the report in a well-informed Political Circle.

There are said to be nearly two thousand Spanish ships in the different ports.

It is a fact not much known, that the Spaniards lost 40,000 seamen, 15 months ago at Cadiz, from the effects of filth and flux.

PLYMOUTH, September 11.

The late dreadful havoc made by the climate at St. Domingo, amongst the British Officers has been thus officially detailed, viz.

5 Brigadier Generals.
24 Lieutenants-Colonels and Majors, and
77 Captains and Subalterns.
Orders are gone out for the whole island to be instantly evacuated.

PHILADELPHIA, October 31.

AUTHENTIC.

The undersigned Minister plenipotentiary of the French Republic, in conformity to the orders of his government has the honor of transmitting to the Secretary of State of the United States, a resolution taken by the Executive Directory of the French Republic, on the 14th Messidor, 4th year relative to the conduct which the ships of war of the Republic are to hold towards neutral vessels. The flag of the Republic will treat the flag of neutrals, in the same manner as they shall suffer it to be treated by the English.

The sentiments which the American government have manifested to the undersigned Minister Plenipotentiary, do not permit him to doubt, that they will see, in its true light, this measure as far it may concern the United States, and that they will also feel, that it is dictated by imperious circumstances, and approved by justice.

Great-Britain during the war she has carried on against the Republic has not ceased using every means in her power to add to that scourge, scourges still more terrible. She has used the well known liberality of the French nation to the detriment of that nation. Knowing how faithful France has always been in the observance of her treaties—knowing that it was a principle of the Republic to respect the flags of all nations, the British government from the beginning of the war, has caused neutral vessels, and in particular American vessels, to be detained, taken them into their ports, and dragged from them Frenchmen and French property. France, bound by a treaty with the United States, could find only a real disadvantage in the articles of that treaty which caused to be respected as American property, English property found on board American vessels.—They had a right, under this consideration, to expect, that America would take steps in favor of her violated neutrality. One of

the predecessors of the undersigned in July 1793, applied on this subject to the government of the United States—but he was not successful. Nevertheless the National Convention, who by their decree of the 6th May, 1793, had ordered the seizure of the enemy's property on board neutral vessels, declaring at the same time, that the measure should cease when the English should respect neutral flags, had excepted on the 23d of the same month, the Americans from the operation of this general order. But the convention was obliged soon to repeal the law which contain this exception so favourable to Americans;—the manner in which the English conducted themselves, the manifest intention they had to stop the exportation of provisions from America to France, rendered it unavoidable.

The National Convention, by this, had restored the equilibrium of neutrality which England had destroyed; had discharged their duty in a manner justified by a thousand past examples, as well as by the necessity of the then existing moment. They might, therefore, to recall the orders they had given to seize enemy's property on board American vessels, have waited till the British government had first definitively revoked the same order, a suspension only of which was produced by the embargo laid by Congress the 6th March 1794. But as soon as they were informed, that under orders of the government of the United States, Mr. Jay was directed to remonstrate against the vexatious measures of the English, they gave orders by the law of 13 Nivose, 3d year, to the ships of war of the republic to respect American vessels, and the Committee of Safety, in their explanatory resolve of the 14th of the same month, hastened to sanction to the same principles. The National Convention and the Committee of Public Safety had every reason to believe, that this open and liberal conduct, would determine the United States to use every effort, to put a stop to the vexations imposed upon their commerce; to the injury of the French Republic. They were deceived in this hope: And though the Treaty of friendship, navigation and commerce between Great Britain and the United States had been signed six weeks before France adopted the measure I have just spoken of, the English did not abandon the plan they had formed, and continued to stop and carry into their ports all American vessels bound to French ports or returning from them.

This conduct was the subject of a note which the undersigned addressed on the 7th Vendemiaire, 4th year [29th September, 1793:] Yet this note has remained without an answer, though recalled to the remembrance of the Secretary of State by a dispatch of the 9th Germinal, 4th year [29th March, 1796, O. S.]; and American vessels bound to French ports or returning from them have been seized by the English. Indeed a ore, they have added a new vexation to those they had already imposed upon Americans:—They have impressed seamen from on board American vessels, and have thus found the means of strengthening their crews at the expense of the Americans, without the government of the United States have made known to the undersigned the steps they had taken to obtain satisfaction for this violation of Neutrality so hurtful to the interests of France, as the undersigned had set forth in his dispatches to the Secretary of State of the 9th Germinal, 4th year (29th of March, 1796, O. S.), 29th Germinal, (8th of April, 1796), and 1st Floreal, (20th April, 1796), which have remained without an answer.

The French government, then, finds itself with respect to America at the present time, in circumstances similar to those of the year '93; and if it sees itself obliged to abandon, with respect to them and neutral powers in general, the favourable line of conduct they had pursued, and to adopt different measures, the blame should fall upon the British government; it is their conduct which the French government has been obliged to follow.

The undersigned Minister Plenipotentiary conceives it his duty to remark to the Secretary of State, that the neutral governments or the allies of the Republic have nothing to

fear as to the treatment of their flag by the French, since, if keeping within the bounds of their neutrality, they cause the rights of that neutrality to be respected by the English, the Republic will respect them. But if, through weakness, partiality or other motives, they should suffer the English to sport with that neutrality, and turn it to their advantage, could they then complain, when France, to restore the balance of neutrality to its equilibrium, shall act in the same manner as the English? No, certainly; for the neutrality of a nation consists in granting to belligerent powers the same advantages, and that neutrality no longer exists when, in the course of the war, that neutral nation grants to one of the belligerent powers advantages not stipulated by treaties anterior to the war, or suffers that power to seize upon them.—The neutral government cannot then complain if the other belligerent power will enjoy advantages which its enemy enjoys, or, if it seizes on them; otherwise that neutral government would deviate, with respect to it, from the line of neutrality and would become its enemy.

The undersigned Minister Plenipotentiary, thinks it useless further to develop these principles. He does not doubt that the Secretary of State feels all their force, and that the government of the United States will maintain from all violation a neutrality which France has always respected, and will always respect when her enemies do not make it turn to her detriment.

The undersigned Minister Plenipotentiary embraces this opportunity of reiterating to the Secretary of State the assurance of his esteem, and informs him, at the same time, that he will cause this note to be printed, in order to make publicly known the motives which, at the present juncture, influence the French Republic.

Done at Philadelphia, 6th Brumaire, 5th year of the French Republic, one and indivisible, (27th of October, 1796, O. S.)

(Signed) P. A. ADET.

Extract from the Register of Resolves of the Executive Directory, of the 14th Messidor, 4th year of the French Republic, one and indivisible.

The Executive Directory, considering that it becomes the faith of the French nation to respect treaties or conventions which secure to the flags of some neutral or friendly powers, commercial advantages, the result of which is to be common to the contracting powers; those same advantages (if they should turn to the benefit of our enemies, either through the weakness of our allies or of neutrals, or through fear, through interested views, or through whatever motives), would *ipso facto* warrant the inexecution of the articles in which they were stipulated.

DECREE AS FOLLOWS:

All neutral or allied powers shall, without delay, be notified, that the flag of the French Republic will treat neutral vessels, either as to confiscation, as to searches, or capture in the same manner as they shall suffer the English to treat them.

The Minister of Foreign relations is charged with the execution of the present resolve, which shall not be printed.

A true Copy.

(Signed)

CARNOT, President.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

November 1, 1796.

S I R,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 27th ult. covering a decree of the Executive Directory of the French Republic, concerning the commerce of neutral nations.

This decree makes no distinction between neutral powers who can claim only the rights secured to them by the law of nations, and others, between whom and the French Republic treaties imposed special obligations. While treaties exist, the republic, by seizing and confiscating the property of their enemies, found on board neutral vessels, would only exercise an acknowledged right under the law of nations. If toward