

no notification whatever has been yet made to the British parliament relative to the official notes which have recently passed on the subject of preliminaries to negotiation between M. Barthelemi, on the part of the French Republic, and Mr. Wickham, on the part of the British cabinet, at Balle, in Switzerland, as expectations of such a circumstance taking place were formed, and a spirited debate on the chilling style of the British agent in seeking so desirable an object, it was imagined would be the consequence.

## FRANCE.

### COUNCIL OF FIVE HUNDRED.

April 12. THIBAUDEAU, in the name of the commission, charged with making a report upon the troubles in the South, proposed to defer the report; and wishing to serve the passions of no party, was desirous of sending a message to the Directory for more positive information.

Bentabolé — The commission has said nothing of the purpose for which it was formed. It was not established to foment the abominable anarchy of the South. The legislative body should at length open its eyes. It should not suffer assassins to go unpunished; and as long as there remains one murderer to punish, so long will I demand punishment from this assembly.

Several voices at once — they must all be punished. Great agitation in the hall.

Bentabolé — I do not dissemble, that the spirit of vengeance which manifests itself is the precursor of new troubles, and we cannot calculate their extension. But the constitution has assigned to the Directory alone the necessary powers to preserve the public tranquility. Nevertheless the legislative body ought not to remain an indifferent spectator of what passes.

I demand, that the Directory present you exact documents of the situation of the South, and that a new commission be appointed to draw up a message, in which the Directory shall be invited to take measures to stop the assassinations which stain the South, and to inform us what it has already done to that effect.

Several voices demanded, that the discussion should be closed.

Heard demanded in vain to be heard in the tumult, which forced him to leave the tribune. Indignation was painted upon his visage, and he menaced, both with voice and gestures, members who retorted his acrimony and his action.

The president put on his hat. This signal of public danger calmed them for a moment; but it gave way to more violent agitation upon the sight of Jourdan in the tribune. He implored as a favour to be heard; but he could not obtain it, and descended the Tribune with visible despair and agony. He raised his hands to Heaven with most expressive energy, and exclaimed — "You are striving to excite a civil war."

The President was all this time covered, and the tumult increased. The Huissiers endeavoured to compel silence. A new incident carried the agitation to its height. In a corner of the hall, Falot, Jourdan, and some other members, had the most furious altercation.

At this sight, the deputies rushed towards them in crowds. The tumult was extreme. They brought back Lesage, Senault, pale and wan, to his seat.

The president Doucet, who during this long scene was covered, upon calm being restored, reminded them of this scandalous conduct. "Enough of blood," said he, "has flowed in the Republic. Would you, by the afflicting picture of new dissensions, give a current to more?"

The discussion with difficulty was closed.

Bentabolé read his propositions. — The council of 500 decrees, that a commission of five members shall be formed to draw up a message (violent inuimars) which shall have for its object to demand — 1. What measures the Directory has taken to punish the assassins of the South, and what obstacles have been found in their punishment? 2. What are the measures (tumult and violent agitation) taken to prevent new assassinations?

Treillard then read his proposition, "That a message should be sent to the Directory to demand the state of the Southern Departments, and the cause of the troubles which agitate them."

That the deliberation which created the commission be repealed — After the most vehement tumult, these measures were both adopted.

April 13. Fabre moved, that all the papers concerning the disturbances in the South shall be sent to the Directory, which brought on a very animated debate, at the close of which it was decreed, that all such papers as had been communicated to the committee by the council should be sent to the Directory.

On the propositions of Camus the council adopted a resolution, purporting that a special committee be appointed to superintend the National Treasury.

April 14. Talot complained of the intolerance of some journalists, who had stated, that in the sitting of the 12th instant, he, Jourdan and Linar, had colored one another, and moved that those journalists should be turned out of the hall.

"I support that motion," exclaimed several members.

Tallien opposed the motion, on account of its insufficiency for the intended purpose, as the Jour-

nalists thus turned out could not be prevented from placing themselves in the galleries. He moved the order of the day; which was adopted.

### St. JOHN'S (Antigua) May 16.

The gun and mortar batteries which are erected against Morne Fortune, in the island of St. Lucia, were opened yesterday, and so completely surround that fortress, that we may naturally hope and expect that it will be reduced in a few days.

A republican officer and several privates, a few days ago deserted to the English in St. Lucia — the officer gave information of Morne Fortune being undermined, and that it was the determination of the besieged to blow up the hill as soon as they found all further resistance vain; as a proof of what the officer said, he threw one of the pipes by which water was conveyed to the hill, which was immediately cut and turned another way. He further informed, that with the assistance of six men, he would blow up the hill, but his offer was rejected by the general.

### BRIDGETOWN, May 21.

An advice boat arrived yesterday evening from St. Lucia, and brings accounts down to the 18th instant, but which do not afford any prospect of a speedy decision, although ultimately the most decisive success is likely to issue from the steady perseverance and bravery of our arms.

On the 16th, at ten o'clock in the morning, all the British batteries (about thirteen in number) were opened on the different posts of the enemy, and a continued fire of 300 shot and shells an hour, kept up until Tuesday night, when a detachment of 800 men, under Lt. Colonel McDonald, attempted the Vigie by storm, but were repulsed with some loss, owing principally to the separation of the party from their guide's being killed at the onset, and an indiscreet fire from an advanced detachment, which apprised the enemy of the design.

On the same night the town of the Caranage was set fire to, and was still burning when the advice boat left it, at which time about two thirds was consumed.

Although no visible impression has yet appeared from our fire on the Morne, yet it being an open fortification without casemats, rendered strong more from its eminence than fortified state, there can be no doubt of considerable slaughter being made among the enemy, who are completely hemmed up within its narrow limits, and cut off from all communication with the interior of the country, so that not the least supply can reach them.

The Vigie had been twice, previous to the above night, fired, but renewed its annoyance to our works, which made it necessary to destroy it altogether, for which purpose the attack was then made but not succeeding, was to be renewed with an additional force and co-operation by sea, the following night.

### S A L E M, May 31.

Extract of a letter from the Captain of the Cork fleet, dated Barbadoes, April 7.

"Accounts were received here yesterday, by the arrival of a sloop of war, that a French fleet, consisting of seven sail of the line, and ten frigates, had captured the Cork fleet, which was conveyed by a seventy four and the above sloop of war. Another ship which escaped confirms the above. They were 25 in number, and captured in lat. 23, N. As the 74 had not arrived, it is conjectured the must be taken."

### B O S T O N, June 6.

Extract of a letter from a master of a vessel belonging to Portland, to his father, dated Barbadoes, April 28.

"Yesterday arrived here a sloop of war, which had under her convoy 28 sail of the Cork fleet. — Four French 74's and eight frigates came up with them in lat. 23, and took 25 of them under their protection; the other 3, and the sloop of war, came on to bring the news."

Capt. Wayne, from Guadaloupe, informs, that Victor Hughes, has placed that island in a fine state of defence; that he has a large number of stores filled with provisions, and military stores are in abundance. French privateers have lately captured sixteen vessels loaded with necessaries for the British troops, and had carried them into St. Martins. In one of them was found considerable specie, probably intended for the English paymaster in the West-Indies. Capt. Wayne saw several casks from this vessel, of about 10 gallons, filled with dollars, which were so heavy, it was impossible for one person to move them.

### N E W - Y O R K, June 10.

A gentleman who left Niagara the 25th ult. informs, that every preparation was making by the British for evacuating the garrisons. No permits for goods or other things had been for some time given by the governor, they being so soon to become unnecessary; in consequence of which no boats, excepting those with family goods, pass in; and those already there, are remaining for the free intercourse before they return. The gentleman who brings the intelligence, came in a dispatch boat to Oswego, which brought orders for the troops there, to

be in readiness to embark on board the gun boats from Kingston, ordered to receive them.

At York, a town on the head of Lake Ontario, 40 miles distant from Niagara, the future seat of government of that province, the public buildings go on with spirit, several of them are already in considerable forwardness.

The British garrison, which has occupied the post at Point-a-Fair, on Lake Champlain, ever since the late war, have left it, and gone to Canada.

By accounts received at Albany, it appears that the British were leaving several of the western posts.

James Burnes, Samuel Lovette and W. Atkinson, of Salem, have been impressed on board British ships — A captain of a vessel at the Mole writes that a French privateer robbed him of one barrel of pork, 60 wt. cheese and 90 wt. butter. Both parties take what they want — the British ships want men — the French want provisions. Both parties are our enemies. No matter. Parties at war never regard strictly laws of justice or right.

But the villainies of the captains of ships and privateers, are not the acts of governments on either side. The French government never licensed their cruizers to rob Americans of provisions — and the British government has expressly forbid the impressment of American seamen who have protections. — Nay, more: we have the authority of our Executive for asserting that whenever complaint of impressment has been made to our government — and their interference requested, application has been made to the British government with success, and the men discharged. This has been asserted by the Secretary of State, and repeated on the floor of Congress, without contradiction.

No government can answer at all times in war for the conduct of its subjects. — The French do not and cannot prevent the depredations of their privateers on American property — nay, their administrations in the islands take American property where they can find it — pay for it when they please and how they please, and if they do not please, they do not pay for it — They now owe our merchants millions. — And all their pleas, *impertinent* and *useless*.

It is the same with the British. The government cannot prevent the licentiousness of captains — but redress is obtained, on application. They have taken millions of property from the Americans — some is condemned justly to meanness. But the door is open for redress. One thing is certain, and every merchant knows it, that a great deal of smuggling business is carried on in neutral bottoms; and for a great portion of the property seized and condemned no claim has ever been entered. Why? because the American owners are so only ostensibly. — The real owners are Frenchmen. The American is paid for the property before it leaves the docks. — He makes a great noise indeed when the property is taken and condemned; but this clamour is necessary to keep the business going on with success.

Country people therefore, when they read of seizures, ought not to believe one half the real injury is done, which the accounts on paper represent.

### PHILADELPHIA, June 9.

Extract of a letter to a gentleman in Philadelphia, from his correspondent in London, dated April 2, 1796.

"There is every appearance that the Prussians, Russians, Danes and Swedes, will be at war in the course of this summer, from the great preparations which are making by sea and land, and it is the general opinion that the Swedes in this port who are ready for sea, are ordered to remain until they have a fair wind."

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Philadelphia, to his correspondent in this city, dated April 22, 1796.

"The situation of Europe is at this moment exceedingly critical: a war is on the eve of breaking out between the empires of Russia and the Swedes; vast preparations are making by both powers. — 60,000 Russians are on the borders of Sweden, and all the troops of the latter are in motion. The King of Prussia is said to have an army of 40,000 men ready to join the petty principalities, then to march into Holland and once more restore the Stadtholder, in consequence, as he alleges, of the French having violated their treaty. — On the other hand, in consequence of this republic having refused to acknowledge the French minister, they have laid an embargo upon all the ships of this flag in their ports; in consequence of which, numbers of ships that were ready to proceed to the different southern ports have been detained. England and France seem to maintain the war with unabated activity; so that, in short, from present appearance, it is reasonable to conjecture the summer will find all Europe in a blaze."

Accounts from Hamburgh, by the ship America, state a number of failures there — We were yesterday favoured with a list of 15 houses, two of which broke for upwards of a million sterling each. Their misfortunes arose chiefly from enormous speculations in grain; but it appears that none of them are connected with this country.

Last evening arrived the brig Role, capt. Meany, after the remarkable short passage of 68 days from the Isle of France, putting into the Cape of Good-Hope but 43 days ago.

Yesterday arrived the brig Sophia, capt. Crandon, in the service of the United States, 40 days from Lisbon. In the Sophia came passenger captain RICHARD O'BRIEN, who was twelve years in captivity at Algiers.