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PETERSBURG, Dec. 2.

THE late Empress, we hear, had, about two months before her decease, formed the project of excluding the present Emperor from the succession to the throne, on account of her pretending to have strong reasons to complain of his conduct. She communicated her ideas on this head to Count Bedborodko, but this minister, considering his own interest, and the age of the grand duke, exerted his utmost efforts to dissuade her from the execution of her plan. After her death, the present Emperor having found the whole correspondence carried on between the Empress and Count Bedborodko, with respect to this project, sent for the latter, and questioned him on the subject. The Count confessed the whole business, and the emperor made him immediately his favourite.

The Emperor acts in many respects on principles diametrically opposite to those of his late mother. There remains no doubt but that he leans towards Prussia; that he will not furnish one single man to Austria against France.

HILDESHEIM, Nov. 26.

The assembly of the circle which has been held in this city has happily finished every thing which relates to the neutrality of the North of Germany, and the measures necessary for maintaining it. The circle of Lower Saxony, and the other states interested in the measures have assigned a fund of 400,000 ecus (about 311,200 dollars) to defray the expenses of it. Of this sum there is calculated for the maintenance of the body of Prussian troops 225,011 ecus 18 gros, for the Hanoverian corps 162,047 ecus 6 gros, for that of Brunswick 12,311 ecus. The different states and cities comprehended within the line of demarcation will each furnish their quota of the sum total. We learn that a person of note, who was present at the assembly and who is known by his political productions, will soon publish a work about this assembly, its objects and its labours; the foundation of it is the new convention between his Prussian majesty and the French Republic.

LONDON, January 3.

By express we yesterday received Paris papers to the 33d ult. the contents of which are not very interesting.

From Italy we learn, that the blockade of Mantua continues without interruption; & that nothing remarkable had happened since the battle of Arcole. Buonaparte was at Milan on the 12th Dec.

A declaration has been published by the King of Prussia, intimating his resolution to protect those princes of the empire who have made separate treaties with France, and who have consequently refused their contingencies to the Imperial army.

The crew of the ship of the line Seduisant, were not saved, as has been reported. The twelve hundred men of whom it consisted all perished, with the exception of from 55 to 60.

It is certain that the army of the Sambre and Meuse has entered into winter quarters; as has also the Austrian army to which it has been opposed.

NEW-YORK, March 15.

Yesterday arrived here the schooner Little John, captain Henry King, from Port-au-Prince, who informs us that by a vessel directly from Jeremie, advice was received there from Cuba, that a fleet of American vessels homeward bound, were all taken coming out of the Keys by French privateers and carried into that island;—that an American captain directly from Leogane, says that twenty-two sail of American vessels which had been detained some time in that port were all condemned and most of them sold;—that four American captains had died in Leogane, and a considerable number of seamen—that it was computed, at a low calculation, that the property taken from Americans in the island of Hispaniola, since July last, amounted to eight hundred thousand dollars. In lat. 30, 00, N. long. 74, 19, W. Captain King spoke the ship Nancy, of Wilmington, (N. C.) from Bristol, bound to Wilmington, out 93 days—supplied her with provisions.

Yesterday afternoon, a committee appointed by the proprietors of the Tontine Coffee-House, assembled in the principal room, and superintended the removal of the emblematical figure, some time since affixed at one end thereof; and which united the American and French flags.

This step was taken in consequence of the disturbances occasioned by the frequent displacing of those figures by inconsiderate individuals to gratify their private folly, or intemperate opinions.

Several instances had occurred where perfect strangers, lodging at the house, were supposed to have

been concerned in these petty depredations: thereby, involving the peace and harmony of the house, by irritating the public mind, and rousing the inconsiderate zeal and resentment of a few individuals.

The original impropriety of enforcing a peaceable acquiescence in a measure, which had no possible use in its first adoption, (by men who had no business to call them to the room; or right to dictate at all to the public opinion) was long considered as derogatory to the independence of those by whom the house was really supported; and nothing but a desire to prevent further ridiculous disturbances admitted of its being countenanced in any degree whatever.

The temperate manner in which this RENE OF CONTENTION has been at length displaced; and the inconsistency of fixing for our standard any foreign flag whatever, we are induced to hope will prevent a revival of those improper intrusions upon the public attention, and keep our worthy citizens engaged in better employments.

PHILADELPHIA, March 15.

On Friday, the 15th instant, in the House of Representatives of the United States, Mr. Harper moved that a resolution, which he laid on the table yesterday, respecting Major General La Fayette, should be taken up for consideration. The motion was seconded by Mr. W. Smith. The resolution was the following words:

"This House, strongly impressed with a just sense of the important and disinterested services rendered to their country, during the late war, by their fellow-citizens, Major General La Fayette, and deeply regretting their sufferings to which he is now subjected from a long rigorous imprisonment, and which have equally excited their sympathy, and the ardent wish of their constituents for his deliverance, do resolve, that the President of the United States be informed, that this House will see with highest satisfaction any measures, which we may deem it expedient to adopt, towards effecting the restoration of our said fellow citizen to liberty."

Messrs. Coit, Nicholas, Parker, Buck, Swanwick, and W. Lyman, acknowledged the great services of General La Fayette to the United States, and expressed a full confidence that the Executive would pursue such measures as might be consistent and proper for his deliverance, which would be so acceptable to the people of America; but they doubted whether it would be proper for the House to interpose, as it might interfere with executive rights, and look like making a claim, which might lead hereafter to some embarrassment; and as the House was about to adjourn, and they had not time sufficient to consider the subject, they moved the previous question, unwilling to negative a proposition so congenial with their own feelings and those of their constituents, and trusting that the Executive would do every thing that was proper on so interesting an occasion.

Messrs. W. Smith, Madison, Livingston, Sitgreaves, Harper, and Claborne, supported the motion:—several of whom contended, that so far from interfering with executive privileges, it went to strengthen any negotiation which the Executive might be disposed to enter into, while he did not require any, if the Executive saw good reason to forbear the attempt. They recalled the House to the recollection of the great and persevering services and friendship of the General for the United States, and the pledges so often repeated on the journals of Congress, of the interest which Congress would unceasingly take in his fortunes. They said the General had always been the peculiar favourite of the United States, and it was expected by the people that the government would take some step to attempt his release.

Of what avail was it to make him the object of their wishes at all their festive meetings, and to put up constant prayers for his deliverance, if nothing was attempted, which might accomplish the object. The attempt might be expected to succeed, to the power in whose custody he was, might, from some fortunate change of circumstances, wish for a pretence like this to restore him to his friends. At any rate, the attempt would do honour to our country, it would be gratifying to our fellow-citizens, and the acknowledge of it, though unsuccessful, would carry comfort and consolation to the gloomy cell of the afflicted captive. It was asked if they did not feel reproach from an attempt like this having been made in the House of Commons of England, a country to which the General had never rendered any service, before it was suggested in the Legislature of the United States, for which he had done so much.

In reply to the fears which had been intimated of the measure involving the United States, it was said that when the General, in his early youth, flew a cross the ocean, encountering the perils of war and his monarch's frowns, and embarking and hazarding all his fortune in the cause of America, he had not calculated with too much caution, nor even listened to the voice of fear. In the cause of gratitude and duty, America ought, in return, to cast aside trifling difficulties. But it was contended that nothing was hazarded, for the vote went no farther to assure the Executive, that the house would see with pleasure whatever measures might be thought expedient, leaving the Executive the alternative of acting, or forbearing to act, and the choice of the means to be employed. This was argued to be due the feelings of the people, to the eminent services of the General, and to the character of the nation, which owed a tribute of gratitude, to withhold which would be to dishonour it.

After a long discussion, the previous question was put and carried.

The gentlemen who moved and supported the business, declared, in the course of the discussion, that they had been prevented from bringing it forward at an earlier day, by the constant pressure of important business during the last week of the session.

PRESIDENT'S HOUSE.

Correspondence between the Governor of Pennsylvania and the President of the United States, on the subject of the house built in the city of Philadelphia.

SIR,  
In the year 1791 the legislature of Pennsylvania directed a house to be built for the accommodation of the President of the United States, and empowered the governor to lease the premises. As the building will be completed in the course of a few weeks, permit me to tender it for your accommodation, and to inform you that although I regret the necessity of making any stipulation on the subject, I shall consider the rent for which you may obtain any other suitable house in Philadelphia (and which you will be pleased to mention) as a sufficient compensation for the use of the one offered.

I take this opportunity, Sir, to present my congratulations upon your election to the office of chief magistrate of the United States—and to assure you that as far as my constitutional powers and duties extend, you may rely upon a zealous and faithful co-operation to advance the honour, and ensure the success of your administration.

I am with perfect respect and esteem,

Sir, Your excellency's

Most obt. humble servant,

THOMAS MIFFLIN.

Philadelphia, March 3, 1797.

To John Adams, Esq. President of the United States, elect.

SIR,

Having been out this forenoon, upon public business, it was not until my return after three o'clock, that I received the letter you did me the honour to write me on this day.

The respect to the United States, intended by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, in building a house for the President, will, no doubt be acknowledged by the Union as it ought to be.

For your kind offer of it to me, in consequence of their authority, I pray you to accept of my respectful thanks and to present them to the legislature.

But as I entertain great doubts whether by candid construction of the constitution of the United States, I am at liberty accept it without the intervention and authority of Congress, and there is not time for any application to them, I must pray you to apologize for me to the legislature for declining the offer.

For your obliging congratulations on my election to the office of President to the United States, and for your kind assurances of co operation as far as your constitutional powers and duties extend, to advance the honour and ensure the success of my administration I pray you to accept of my best thanks and fullest assurances of a reciprocal disposition on my part towards the governor and state of Pennsylvania.

With great respect and esteem I have

the honour to be, Sir,

Your excellency's most obedient

and most humble servant,

JOHN ADAMS.

His Excellency, Thomas Mifflin, Governor of Pennsylvania.