

[Can be led from our lab.]
Many circumstances have been urged as affording power to the French government against adopting this suggestion, until the government of France had given some indication of a fairer, better calculated to promote the success of such a mission, and to meet the advances on the part of Great Britain. The king's desire for restoration of a general peace on just and honourable terms, his concern for the interest of his subjects, and his determination to leave to his enemies no pretext for imputing to him the consequences of their own ambition; induced him to overlook every such consideration, and to take a step which these reasons alone could justify.

The repeated endeavours of the French government to defeat this mission on its outlet, and to break off the intercourse thus opened even before the first steps towards negotiation could be taken; the incessant and injurious language employed with a view to irritate, the captious and frivolous objections raised for the purpose of obstructing the progress of the discussion; all these have sufficiently appeared from the official papers which appeared on both sides, and which are known to all Europe.

But above all, the abrupt termination of the negotiation has afforded the most conclusive proof, that at no period of it, was any real wish for peace entertained on the part of the French government.

After repeated evasion and delay, that government had at length consented to establish, as the basis of the negotiation, a principle proposed by his majesty, liberal in its own nature, equitable towards his enemies, and calculated to provide for the interests of his allies, and of Europe. It had been agreed that compensations should be made to France by proportionable restitutions from his Majesty's conquests on that power, for those arrangements to which he should be called upon to consent, in order to satisfy the just pretensions of his allies, and preserve the political balance of Europe. At the desire of the French government itself, memorials were presented by his majesty's minister, which contained the outlines of the terms of peace, grounded on the basis to be established and in which his majesty proposed to carry to the utmost possible extent, the application of a principle to equitable as with respect to France, and so liberal on his majesty's part. The delivery of these papers was accompanied by a declaration expressly and repeatedly made, both verbally and in writing that his majesty's minister was willing and prepared to enter, with a spirit of conciliation and fairness, into the discussion of the different points there contained, or into that of any other proposal or scheme of Peace, which the French government might wish to substitute in its place.

In reply to this communication he received a demand, in form the most offensive, and in substance the most extravagant that ever was made in the course of any negotiation. It was peremptorily required of him that in the very outset of the business when no answer had been given to the French government to his first proposals, when he had not even learnt, in any regular shape, the nature or extent of the objections to it, and much less received from that government any other offer or plan of peace, he should in twenty-four hours deliver in a statement in final terms to which his court would in any case accede. — A demand tending evidently to shut the door to all negotiation, to preclude all discussion, all explanation, all possibility of the amicable adjustment of points of difference.

A demand in its nature preposterous, in its execution impracticable, since it is plain that no such ultimate resolution respecting a general plan of peace can ever be rationally formed, much less declared without knowing what points are principally objected to by the enemy, and what facilities he may be willing to offer in return for concession in those respects. Having declined compliance with his demand and explained the reason which rendered it inadmissible, but having at the same time expressly renewed the declaration of its readiness to enter into the discussion of the proposal he had conveyed or any other that might be communicated to him, the king's minister received no other answer than an abrupt command to quit Paris in 48 hours. If in addition to such an insult further proof was necessary of the dispositions of those by whom it was offered such proof would be abundantly supplied from the contents of the note in which this order was conveyed. The mode of negotiation on which the French government had itself insisted, is there rejected, and no other practicable means left open for treating with effect. The basis of negotiation, so recently established by neutral consent, is there disclaimed, and in its room, a principle clearly inadmissible is asserted as the only ground on which France can consent to treat: the very same principle which had been brought forward in reply to his majesty's first overtures from Switzerland, which had then been rejected by his majesty, but which now appears never to have been in fact, abandoned by the government of France, however inconsistent with that on which they had expressly agreed to treat.

It is therefore necessary that all Europe should understand, that the rupture of the negotiation at Paris does not arise from the failure of any sincere attempt on the part of France to reconcile by fair discussion the views and interests of the contending powers: Such a discussion has been repeatedly invited, and even solicited on that part of his majesty,

it has been in the full and free, and absolutely, recorded by the act of the French government.

It arises exclusively from the determination of that government to reject all means of peace. A determination which appeared but too strongly in all the preliminary discussions; which was clearly manifested in the demand of an ultimatum made at the very outset of the negotiations; but which is proved beyond all possibility, no doubt by the obstinate alternative to a claim which never can be admitted — A claim that the construction which the government effects to put (though even in that respect unsupported by the fact) on the internal constitution of its own country shall be received by all the other nations as paramount to every known principle or public law in Europe, as superior to the obligation of treaties to the most pressing and urgent considerations of general security.

On such grounds it is that the French government has abruptly terminated a negotiation, which it commenced with reluctance, and conducted with every indication of a resolution to prevent its final success. On these motives it is that the further effusion of blood, the continued calamities of war, the interruption of the peaceable and friendly intercourse of mankind, the prolonged distress of Europe, and the accumulated miseries of France itself, are by the government of that country to be justified to the world.

His majesty who had entered into the negotiation with good faith, who has suffered no impediment to prevent his prosecuting it with earnestness, has now only to lament its abrupt termination; and to renew, in the face of all Europe, the solemn declaration, that, whenever his enemies shall be disposed to enter on the work of a general pacification, in a spirit of conciliation and equity, nothing shall be wanting on his part to contribute to the accomplishment of that great object with a view to which he has already offered such considerable sacrifices on his part, and which is retarded now only by the exorbitant pretensions of his enemies.

After the reading of the declaration, Mr. Canning informed the house that notwithstanding all possible diligence had been used in forwarding the publication of the papers relative to the negotiations, it was impossible to lay them on the table this day. He therefore moved that his majesty's message be taken into consideration on Friday, instead of Thursday; which was agreed to.

PHILADELPHIA, March 14.

A gentleman from St. Bartholomew's has obligingly made the following communication, which we give literally — I was informed by Capt. Bambridge of the ship Hope, from Bordeaux, that Mr. Pinckney was refused an audience by the directory. He then asked if he should remain in France — the directory replied that he might reside there, if he did as other strangers did, which was by petitioning. He further added that he had conversed with a number of well informed people there, and that they furnished he would ultimately be received.

To the Editor of the United States Gazette.
Department of State, Philadelphia, March 9, 1797.

SIR,

I inclose the copy of a letter which I received the 3d inst. from the late President of the United States. The letter itself will satisfy you of the propriety of its being published. The original, as desired, is deposited in this office.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
TIMOTHY PICKERING.

Philadelphia, 3d March, 1797.

DEAR SIR,

AT the conclusion of my public employments, I have thought it expedient to notice the publication of certain forged letters, which first appeared in the year 1777, and were obtruded upon the public as mine. They are said by the editor to have been found in a small portmanteau, that I had left in the care of my mulatto man, named Billy, who it is pretended, was taken prisoner at Fort Mifflin, in 1777.

The period when these letters were first printed will be recollected, and what were the impressions they were intended to produce on the public mind. It was then supposed to be of some consequence to strike at the integrity of the motives of the American Commander in Chief, and to paint his inclinations as at variance with his professions and his duty. Another crisis in the affairs of America having occurred, the same weapon has been resorted to to wound my character and deceive the people.

The letters in question have the dates, address and signitures here and owing:

- "New-York, June 12th, 1774. To Mr. Lund Washington, at Mount Vernon, Fairfax county, Virginia."
- "To John Parke Custis, Esq. Mount Airy, Maryland." "June 11th, 1776." "G. Washington."
- "New-York, July 8th, 1775. To Mr. Lund Washington, at Mount Vernon, Fairfax county, Virginia."
- "New-York, July 16th, 1776. To Mr. Lund Washington, &c." "G. W."
- "New-York, July 15th, 1776. To Mr. Lund Washington, &c." "G. W."
- "New-York, July 22d, 1776. To Mr. Lund Washington, &c." "G. W."
- "June 24th, 1776. To Mrs. Washington" "G. W."

At the time when these letters first appeared, it was notorious to the army immediately under my command, and particularly to the gentlemen attached to any person, that my mulatto man, Billy, had never been one moment in the power of the enemy. It is also a fact that no part of my baggage or any of my attendants were captured during the whole course of the war. These well known facts made it unnecessary, during the war, to call the public attention to the forgery, by an express declaration of mine, and a firm reliance on my fellow-citizens, and the abundant proofs they gave of their confidence in me, rendered it alike unnecessary to take any formal notice of the revival of the imposition during my civil administration.

But as I cannot know how soon a more serious event may succeed to that which will this day take place, I have thought it a duty that I owe to myself, to my country, and to truth, now to detail the circumstances above recited, and to add my solemn declaration, that the letters herein detailed are a base forgery, and that I never saw or heard of them until they appeared in print.

The present letter I commit to your care, and desire it may be deposited in the office of the Department of State, as a testimony of the truth to the present generation and to posterity.

Accept, I pray you the sincere esteem and affectionate regard of,

Dear Sir,

Your obedient,

G. WASHINGTON.

TIMOTHY PICKERING, Secretary of State.

[The New-York papers received by this day's mail contain a lengthy essay by William Wilcocks, on various topics relative to the interest of the United States, and the jealousy and covert enmity of the belligerent powers to this country. The following extracts from that production are judged of too important a nature to be withheld from our readers; and we therefore present them without observations or comment, leaving to time and future discussion, the proofs of the truth or falshood of the assertions they contain.]

It is rumoured that the Spaniards have, or are cede to France, Louisiana, and the Floridas. The policy of the French in this, is too manifest to require discussion — It is also reported, that the French have it in contemplation to establish a republic at Louisiana — and that it is a part of their plan, to affiliate and incorporate with it the people of the Western Territory, by dismembering the United States — That this would be a desirable object with them, is probable, from the nature of things — But this is a FACT, I have received evidence sufficient to satisfy my mind — and altho' it is true that I cannot at present disclose the source of information, I think it a justifiable policy, and a social duty, that I should sound an ALARM by a detail of circumstances, the truth of which, being myself persuaded of, I leave the world and Mr. Adet, to think and act as they please.

SIR,

You have sent a certain French general to explore the Western part of the United States — The counties of Pennsylvania beyond the Alleghany — Kentucky — The country along the Ohio, to the Mississippi. You instructed him, in writing to tell the people that Louisiana would probably be surrendered to the French — You instructed the general (I could tell his name,) to sound the disposition of the people ABOUT A SEPARATION from the United States — and a union with Louisiana. — You instructed him to persuade them, that the Atlantic States were in their interests, prejudices, and inclinations, English — That the interest of the western people made them French. — Sir, you instructed this gen. to sound the dispositions of the people with regard to a President for the United States — and to promote the election of Mr. Jefferson!!! — You also desired him, to observe the country, as to the military purposes — State of fortification, &c. — And lastly, for this same general was FURNISHED MONEY, to be employed in accomplishing the object of his mission.

SIR,

You may not have known that this general was detected in promoting the very business you sent him on, but I have satisfactory reason to know, and believe he was detected.

You may wonder how I came by my knowledge — and I am sorry, that I may not at this time, disclose it — But I fancy, if you recur to your files, you will be convinced you do not hear without authority, from

WILLIAM WILCOCKS.

AT a meeting of the Commissioners of the town of Fayetteville at Lewis Barge's, Esq. on Saturday evening 25th February 1797.

ORDERED — that all free negroes, mulattoes, and other persons of mixed blood, who are at present inhabitants of this town, shall on or before the 1st day of April next, apply to the town clerk, in order to have their names registered and receive a badge agreeably to an act of the General Assembly of this State — and that every person of the above description who may hereafter become an inhabitant of the said town, make the like application within three days after their arrival, under the penalty by law prescribed.

By order, DUNCAN McRAE, CLK.
Fayetteville, March 4th