

From the Gazette of the United States.

Conduct of the French Republic towards the Republic of Batavia, respecting their late change of constitution— an awful warning, to the people of the U. States of America.

To a free people, jealous of their liberties, no privilege is so precious as the right of modifying their form of government, according to such principles as are best adapted to their local and other circumstances, and most congenial with their habits and dispositions; no interference of a foreign power is so humiliating and so galling as an interference imposing on them a form of government, different from that which would have been the result of their own free choice.

Notwithstanding the insidious attacks which have been made on the free constitution by the agents of France, first by Genet, in insolently dictating to the executive exercises of his constitutional powers; afterwards by Fauchet, in insidiously fomenting an insurrection; and finally by Adet, in fostering an unconstitutional opposition to the British treaty, and influencing by menaces the important election of our executive, yet we may exult in having hitherto escaped any direct and open attacks from the avowed interference of foreign powers.

How long we shall be suffered to enjoy, without a struggle, those blessings for which our gallant fellow-citizens nobly fought and bled, I feel no disposition to predict; but I cannot resist the injunctions of duty which command me, at this alarming crisis, to warn my country of the danger which impends, and to stimulate them to those exertions, and precautions which their independence will soon be only as nominal as that of Holland.

When the frozen canals of Holland, during the uncommonly severe winter, of 1795 presented an uninterrupted road to the armies of France, and thus facilitated their march to Amsterdam, the conquerors, with affected generosity and deceitful promises, congratulated the Batavians on their emancipation from the yoke of the Stadtholder and held forth to them, under the protection of France, the full and free enjoyment of their liberties.

\* It has been indeed strongly asserted that even in those times the agents of the French government in the U. States were very averse to an efficient federal system.

intrigues of France, after a discussion and delays of many months, to collect the free and unequivocal voice of the people, the convention rejected this project, and by a majority of about 70 votes to 2, agreed to a constitution founded on the basis of an efficient confederation of the provinces, and of the debts remaining chargeable as before on the several provinces which had incurred them.

Whether the people of the different provinces will accept it, is yet problematical. It is however to be apprehended that, after much struggle and bloodshed, the unhappy Batavians will be allowed no other mode of showing, "that they alone possess the power to alter or modify their own form of government," than that of submitting with a good grace, and with counterfeited acquiescence, to the will of their new tyrants.

Whether the new constitution is better than the rejected one is immaterial— justice it to say that the latter was the free choice of the Dutch, the former has been forced upon them.

The views of France in preferring the one to the other are obvious. Having such a decided influence over the government of Holland as she possesses, it is highly important to her that her will should be promptly and efficaciously obeyed. It is evident that this effect will be more easily attained through the medium of one small assembly at the Hague containing all power, and regulated by her mandate, than by the embarrassed movements of a complicated machinery, extending into all the provinces.

Chief Justice Ellsworth's charge to the Grand Jury of the United States for the district of New-York.

Gentlemen of the Grand Jury, Placed as guardians of the laws, you have in trust the government itself—A government, let me remark, entitled to affection as well as support—A government, legitimate, in its origin, free in its principles, and tested by effects eminently beneficent.

That fondness for novelty, and extravagant anticipation of good, which aided the government at its outset, must, from an eight years experiment of what any government on earth could realize, have given way to disgust, and the project of some new theory.

Let us have been expected is the baneful influence of those elements of disorganization, and tenets of impiety, which have been propagated with a zeal that would have done honour to a better cause. Of the disciples many it is manifest, that, unheeded and imperious, the mind revolts at every institution which can preserve order or protect right; while the heart demoralized, becomes insensible to social and civil obligations—So radically hostile to free government, are the impassioned and the impious!

It is further observable, that evils which annoy us, by a desingenuous ascription to causes that have no agency in producing them, are made extensively the means of seduction.

With concern I add, that whatever of disaffection has sprung from the sources, or the common incidents of government, or from outwardness of temper, a spirit of party has not failed to cherish, to ripen, and to marshal. A spirit, alas! which circumspicion has been incompetent to prevent; and which mischief seems incompetent to satisfy.

If from these indications within, we derive an argument for vigilance and firmness in the execution of laws, how much is it strengthened by the convulsing aspect of exterior affairs? Whether allured by caresses, or impelled by violence, the object still is to separate the people from the government. Yes the avowed object is to separate the people from the government;—and of course to prepare them, by

sedition and rebellion, for a new order of things. We trust in God that foreign government is not to prevail here; but without prompt support and energy given to our own, our trust is but presumptious.

You will now, gentlemen, retire for consideration. You will diligently enquire after all offences cognizable by this court, and due presentment make. Should it be necessary, Mr. attorney will assist you with forms, or the court with further directions.

BOSTON, April 15.

IMPORTANT!

Extract of a letter from London, dated in Feb. last.

Those who have claims pending in England for compensation for British Spoilations, will do well to attend to the information given by Mr. Bayard, in his letter of Jan. 10th, '97, to the secretary of state, relative to the evidence requisite to support their claims. The individual sufferers must see to it, that all necessary documents in their respective cases are forwarded to their peculiar agents, or to Mr. Bayard, or Mr. Samuel Cabot, who are public agents; and not rely wholly upon the government of the United States to do the needful duties for them.

1st Copies of the proceedings and decrees of the courts in the cases where the property was condemned by regular courts.

2d Protolls, and other evidence of the property being captured and taken from them, in those cases where there was no condemnation by the regular courts of admiralty; such as the Martinique cases for example.

3d Evidences of the value of the captured West-India and other goods at the port of destination, about the time when they would have arrived there, and also the value of the vessels.

4th Authenticated copies of the invoices and bills of lading of the captured goods in all instances where they have not advice of their being already among the papers in the case.

These proofs will be indispensable in whole or in part, as the case may be, to a recovery of the property; and where they have been necessarily delayed, or have miscarried, the declaration of the parties stating the causes of his delay will be necessary, more especially where the appeals have been delayed beyond the periods mentioned by Mr. Bayard.

The evidence of the value of molasses, sugar, coffee and cotton, in Boston, and other large places, may be easily ascertained, and stated monthly, from the fall of 1793, to the close of the year '95, by recurring to books of the large dealers in those articles, who buy of the importers, and whose depositions as to their value, will have the more weight, as they appear to be less interested than importers. The value of fish of all kinds, of beef, pork, butter, lard and other exports may be ascertained also better by the dealers who sell them to the exporter, and may be stated monthly. A general certificate, or declaration, as to the imports from the West-Indies, made by the dealers in Boston, might, indeed serve for the whole of the Massachusetts's claims, as the price in the other ports are governed by the Boston market; and such general evidence will save much trouble to individuals. If it will be much for the interest of the claimants to have their demands estimated by the prices at the port of destination, instead of being allowed 10 per cent. advanced upon the cost of their goods, with freight, &c. then the evidence of those prices should be obtained, and sent on without delay. It will not be easy to ascertain the value of cargoes bound to foreign markets, and in such cases the other rule allowing a certain rate of advance with freight, &c. must generally be adopted; and for these claims, the monthly prices of American exports will be very important to substantiate the prices stated in the invoices."

PROVIDENCE, (R. I.) April 22.

On Wednesday morning last, between three and four o'clock, a smart shock of an earthquake was felt in this town, attended by a rumbling noise like distant thunder, which seemed to progress from east to west.

The collectors of the customs have received circular instructions (of the 8th of April) from the secretary of the treasury, to prevent the sailing of all vessels armed in the United States, except such as are bound for the East-Indies, until otherwise directed by congress.

PHILADELPHIA, April 29.

By the schooner Dick, captain Brown, which sailed from Trinidad the 29th March, we learn, that the part of the British fleet which had captured that place had sailed a few days after the capture, leaving there the Dictator of 74 and a frigate, and several other frigates cruising off the island—the inhabitants tranquil under the British government—four at 16 dollars.

The English will not permit the exportation of any produce from Trinidad, unless in exchange for provisions, and then only in proportion to the amount brought.

About six days after his departure from Trinidad, passing Porto Rico, saw a fleet of ships of war,