

# STATE GAZETTE OF NORTH-CAROLINA.

EDENTON: PRINTED BY HENRY WILLS, JOINT PRINTER TO THE STATE WITH A. HODGE.

VOL. IX.

F R I D A Y, N O V E M B E R 14, 1794.

NUMB. 461.

From the PHILADELPHIA GAZETTE.

The following article, as to the existing State of France, deserves particular notice. It is borrowed from a Cork paper of the 14th of August. The author is a nobleman and an exile. Hence, we may be satisfied, that his exaggerations, if he makes any, will not be in favour of the resources or stability of the Republic. The picture presents an alarming prospect to the enemies of France.

STATE OF FRANCE, in May 1794.

SUCH is the title of a pamphlet lately published in London, by the Count de Montgaillard, who left Paris at the above date. This report of an eye-witness, written in a style always shrewd, and sometimes vigorous, has excited some curiosity. Certain it is, however, that two conclusions, diametrically opposite, may be drawn from it; the one, that a counter Revolution is impossible; The other, that a counter Revolution is easy. We have collected into one point of view all that M. Montgaillard says of the difficulties to be surmounted in effecting a counter Revolution. In a subsequent article, we shall examine what he says in favour of a counter Revolution.

**National Convention.**—Though the National Convention possesses neither their confidence nor their esteem, the French people will soon sanction the dispositions of order and property that it decrees: it has long reigned by terror; but will soon demand respect, if it can this year resist, or rather repel, the allies from the frontiers of France. Time gives strength to the Assembly; and the assassinations which its sanctions, are already, in name, softened into acts of necessary rigour: The government will be consolidated, when the executioners are no longer seen; and the moment is not far distant, when the places, now appropriated for public executions, will witness the celebration of public festivals.

**Committee of Public Safety, Executive Power, General Administration, &c.** The power, the action, and right of sovereignty, are concentrated in the Committee of Public Safety. The thirty committees, amongst whom are divided the labours of the Convention, have no share of the government; they are entirely ignorant of the great external and internal measures, which are exclusively taken by the Committee of Public Safety; but the greatest activity every where reigns in the execution. Twelve Commissioners replaced the six Ministers; but their members are chosen by the Committee of Public Safety; & to this the Revolutionary Tribunal have also taken the oath of obedience. The Administrative Authority of Departments devolves upon the Convention; but the influence of the departments, as well as of the districts and municipalities, is confined to the imposts, the distribution of succour, national sales, and the maintenance of the interior. Every thing acts in concert with the Committee of Public Safety: laws are made, roads constructed, and canals dug almost at once. The arts and sciences are called upon to consecrate their crimes; workshops and military manufactories are every where founded to defend them. The most abundant resources are lavished; public schools instituted, and the French language is carried to the foot of the Pyrennees, and amidst the heaths of the lower Brittany. One sitting frequently produces thirty decrees upon subjects the most opposite; orders fifty millions to execute them, and erects every where scaffolds to maintain them.

**Popular Societies and Revolutionary Committees.** The popular societies still exercise the powers of vigilance and censure in the Republic; they are under the protection and direction of the committee of Surete Generale; but the Revolutionary Committees, to whom all real authority and power are entrusted, and who ever exercise it against the administrative bodies and popular societies, hold immediate and direct correspondence with the Committee of Public

The author says in another place, that the committee de Surete Generale receives and executes the orders of the Committee of Public Safety.

Safety, and are in fact, its submissive and blind agents. They have reposed the sovereignty upon its bosom, and they will soon lay their powers at its feet.—The Committee of Public Safety, affrighted with the number of agents which it had every where spread through the Republic, soon felt the necessity of reducing (if its external situation produces no inquietude) the twenty thousand Revolutionary Committees, those instruments necessary to universal destruction, auxiliaries of their tyranny; they have felt the necessity of reducing them to seven or eight hundred despotic authorities, a number, at present, sufficient to answer for the obedience of the cities and districts. The Committee intends to recall into its bosom, all those portions of sovereignty and of crimes, which it had before so profusely abandoned to them. By the rights of Man, they invaded all property and social order; and by the same, they will impose them again.—The public force will second these measures in the departments.

**Finances.**—In Finances, the Convention is richer than united Europe. Seven ninths of the soil belong to the Republic; and this continual pledge of paper credit is now become inexhaustible, by the rapidity with which property is exchanged, and always to the advantage of the assembly. They have already conceived the project to nationalize the whole soil of France; to register the territory, like a public debt, in the Grand Livre; and to resume the property of the clergy and nobility, purchased, as they pretend, at a price much inferior to their actual value.—Near five hundred millions (about twenty million pounds sterling) in gold and silver, are deposited in the coffers of the National Convention. The mint of Paris, to which was transmitted all the bullion of the suppressed provincial mints, contains near 70 millions, [about 3,000,000. sterling.] of metals, and daily additions are thrown in, by deposits, collections and penalties. The plunder of the churches produced thirty two millions [near 1,350,000. sterling] and through the whole extent of France no longer now remains a sacred vase, not even in the domestic chapels. Though improbable, it is not impossible, that the French Republic will one day present itself to combat with the money of every other nation, at a time when they have spent all theirs, when France is freed from taxes [the public domains making this easy] and when all the powers are reduced to the last extremity.

**Conduct of the War.—Number of Fighting Men.**—The Military Committee, directed by Carnot, La Fitte, d'Anisli, and many other individuals, whose only talents are crimes and wickedness, draw the plans of attack and defence, combines their operations, and adapts their military tactics to the spirit of the Revolution. From the memoirs and from all the precious vestiges of the exploits, the zeal and intelligence of the great Generals, Ministers and Statesmen, who adorned our monarchy, these villains have extracted the means of its annihilation. Eight hundred and fifty thousand effective men fight under the orders of the Committee of Public Safety; and this number may be augmented. After the harvest and sowing season have assured the future subsistence of these new soldiers, when they are no longer useful at home, we may fear, that France, in the end of the campaign, and appearances warrant the assertion, will add to its actual means, those of a war generally offensive.

**Requisitions. Making of Arms. Salt peire. Iron.**—The requisition, this new kind of despotism which applies solely to defence, equally affects the necessaries, mankind, and all the resources of society. One portion of his property every Frenchman employs to preserve the other; and this they hope to ensure, by the treaty of peace, which the departments think of making. The Committee of Public Safety can now dispose of their fortunes and actions, make migrations of men, like the emission of assignats, and transport whole cities, and countries, upon every point of the Empire—they have destroyed the splendour of equipages, of dress and of servants, but they have replaced them by an expence, more suited to their new

empire, by an industry, wholly military, which employs their workmen, whom the want of labour had rendered dangerous. The listless activity of the people is turned to profit by their agitators. Two hundred thousand hands are, night and day, busied to forge the pikes of inflections, and the musquets of the army, and a thousand or eleven hundred are daily finished in the workshops of this city, [Paris.] One hundred pieces of cannon, [four, six and eight pounders] are monthly cast; and the exertions of the establishments of Moulans, of Corbeil and Fontainebleau, as well as those of each department, is correspondent with this dreadful activity. All classes of citizens concur in these objects; they feel the necessity of repose, and they believe that the most vigorous can alone procure it. They have lost every sentiment of fear, which the foreign powers once excited, and they all obey.—Iron, Lead, and Tin, are still abundant; private houses and public monuments, are not all stripped of them. This immense resource has not, till now been used by the tyrants. Brass and bronze cover the roads and rivers; and four thousand bells, now upon the quay of Rouen, are ready to submit to another form, and be founded into cannon. In this respect all the departments present proportional resources; and by their use, the French nation flatter themselves to weary out the allied powers, and reduce them to acquiesce in the vanity of conquering France. Salt peire is obtained throughout the whole extent of France from a fertile land, and is made with more success, than the first essays seemed to promise. Artists sent into all the parts of the Republic, have instructed their pupils with the most incredible activity. A million of men are employed in this work, and the greatest encouragements are given to them.

**Meat, Horses, Cloth, &c.** The animals which man has rendered necessary to his existence, are consumed quicker than nature can produce them; but the armies enjoy this dissipation and the provinces add daily to the resources, by the regulations which they impose upon themselves, some voluntary, others in the name of the law; and this alone makes meat so scarce in certain cantons, and abundant in others, particularly in Normandy.—Horses diminish and perish in a most sensible manner. The supplies which the Convention procures in Switzerland, and by the assistance of the neutral powers, are over balanced by the excessive consumption of the forced labours, convoys and armies. Truth, however, obliges me to acknowledge, that Agriculture uses nearly the same number of horses, that it requires: luxury, commerce and the conveniences of life, supply this wonderful prodigality. The post roads, however, are as abundantly provided as ever, and this service experiences neither interruption nor delay.—Cloth is manufactured at Sedan, Louviers and Olbecuf, and in the great manufactories, with less nicety but with more activity. The enhanced value, and the facility of eluding the law which regulates their price, affords to this branch of industry, the means which the wools of France will possess for some time. They can clothe the nation till the end of the year 1796. This precious animal has been put under the immediate protection of the Convention; and the consumption is consequently diminished.

**Famine impossible in France.**—We must no longer think of the famines of which news papers have so long given us hopes. Only some parts of France, and particularly Guienne, experienced a total want. But besides the motive for spreading this plague over a province, where the Convention dreaded the effects of the federalists, the corn was every where taken away, and sent to the frontiers, to which abundance called new defenders. A portion was restored to the inhabitants of the interior, after the frontiers, has been sufficiently provided. The exact distribution which has been adopted in the departments for four months and the subsequent economy, have taken away all reasons of inquietude. France is far from wanting grain; productive harvests will be peaceably gathered in from their most fertile

(See the last page.)