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RUSSIA AND FRANCE.

The paper (says the London Traveller) from which the following is extracted, has been universally circulated throughout all that part of Germany which has not yet fallen under the yoke of France. On the continent it has been considered as a kind of *demi-official* answer to some peculiar observations which appeared in the official paper of the French government. The reasoning, and the important facts which it embraces, have created a very great sensation among the Northern Powers.

“Twelve months are scarcely elapsed, since Alexander the First ordered that 11,000 men should be raised in his Empire; and that levy has been so effectually executed, that they are, at this time, formed into regiments, and perfectly disciplined. This levy has increased the Russian military force to upwards of 40,000 soldiers, and 60,000 seamen. Add to these 50,000 irregular troops, which are already embodied, and 100,000 more, which may be assembled in a short time, consisting of Kozaks, Bashkires, and the different hordes of Tartars, every man of whom, upon the promise of being allowed to plunder, would gladly enroll himself; with such a force at its command, can it be asked, if Russia has a right to the character she assumes, in an age when the power of the strongest is the only one that is respected.

It must be acknowledged, morally speaking, that it is to France that Russia is indebted for the brilliant situation which she now occupies, and which cannot be denied to be of the very first order. The period from whence this commanding and promising position was occupied by Russia, may be dated from the commencement of that system of tyranny & injustice, which France has established; a system of invasion, of rapine, and of oppression, which has been exercised wherever its power could reach; & above all, since it became apparent that its ambitious views were directed to no less an object than universal monarchy. Since that time Russia has become the shield of the weak, and Alexander, seated on his throne, has assumed the character of the protector and arbiter of empires. Can France compel her to lay aside this dignified character? Let her not deceive herself in imagining she can. Russia is not in the situation of an actor, who puts on the purple to play the part of a king; she is not an upstart, who appears what she really is not—the attitude of the Lion befits her, because she possesses both his force and his dignity; she is a Colossal power, whose eyes have been unsealed by the faults of others, and viewed, in her true light, a Colossus of the most formidable description.

What is the great danger to which a war with France, would expose the Russian empire? It does not follow that the Russian army is to march to Paris. No, nor can the French reach Petersburg, Moscow, or the Crimea, since they are not able to detach a single ship, the whole of their navy being blockaded and confined to their ports.—As to battles and marches, brave as the French are, they are but men like others; they cannot exceed the limits which the laws of nature have placed to human efforts.

“Will it be said, that the commerce of Russia will be affected by a rupture with France? Certainly not; for with what article does she supply that country? none directly. What does she import from thence? Articles of luxury, which are prohibited.—It is true, she receives some wine from France, but with that article she is, at present, plentifully supplied; and even if she were not, she could do without it, as she did during the former rupture.

“Will it be asserted that France could do infinite mischief to Russia, by the troubles that her emissaries could excite in the interior of the country?—Of all the errors in the political calculation, this would be one of the grossest. The people of Russia are those which approach nearest to a state of nature: except the savages, and they are the only people in the universe who neither know how to write or read; but still they are not barbarians. They know no government but their own, which they fear and respect.—They honor their Sovereign with the title of a God upon earth. They have no civilization but the practical one which their Sovereigns thought it useful and necessary to introduce. Masons, carpenters, joiners, locksmiths, armourers, and artisans of all sorts, and all excellent in their kind, are to be found in Russia in abundance, and still they know not how to read

and write. The strangers who reside in Russia are regarded by the natives as a parcel of leeches who absorb their wealth. After this deception, let the emissaries and instigators of France attempt to excite divisions in that country, and they will find that the government with a single blast can eradicate them.

“The Russian force, at this moment paid & provided, and actually under arms, is even more than sufficient to encourage their Sovereign to declare war. It is said, that the military strength of this country is embated on the Persian and Tartarian frontiers; quite the contrary. On the whole line between the Caspian and the sea of Onotzk, there are only 7 or 8000 men, and there is no necessity for a man more, if we look to the situation of the country, the number of forts, the immense deserts, and the disposition of the contiguous countries. In time of peace, between the Caspian and the Black Sea, there may be about 12 or 13,000 men; but at present there are from 20 to 25,000 on account of the peculiar circumstances of the hostility which is carried on in that vicinity. There are, moreover, 25 or 30,000 troops on the frontiers of Sweden; and notwithstanding all those deductions, there are 300,000 well disciplined and hardy troops between the Black Sea and the Baltic.—One hundred thousand of such gallant and hardy men, if once landed in Italy, would not be so easily conquered as some of the French politicians are pleased to suppose. Let them only bring to their recollection the gallant achievements of a handful of Russians, who, in the last war, in one campaign, drove all Italy and Lombardy before them, and they will find that the most renowned French generals were defeated one after another, and that even at Zurich, Russia gained admiration, notwithstanding the faults of her generals, and the backwardness of her allies.

“All this serves to prove, that a declaration of war on the part of Russia against France, would be sufficiently formidable to encourage the German empire, now crushed by the latter power, to occupy the troops of France, and by that means to afford an opportunity to Italy, to Switzerland, to Portugal, to Holland, and to Hanover, to shake off the galling yoke. As to the project of invading England, it is an absolute chimera, a castle in the air, which can never be successful; and even were it so, it must prove destructive to the rest of the world.

From the NORFOLK LEDGER.

“Under the administration of Mr. Adams, an extended navy was seen springing up on our coasts. The peaceful husbandman, the industrious mechanic, the commercial sailor, and even the young man of genius and education, were seen deserting their plough, their looms, the pursuits of a lucrative trade, and the improvements of a liberal study, and joining themselves to the motly, disciplined, and degraded crew of vessels of war.”

The ENQUIRER (a publication of distinguished merit) of the 31st ultimo, contains a piece signed AN AMERICAN, from which the above extract is taken. The conspicuous place assigned to it by the Editor authorizes us to conclude that the sentiments it contains are his own, or that they meet his full approbation.

We think it would be impossible to peruse the sentence which we have extracted, without being astonished at the absurdities into which some men may be hurried by party zeal.

It was hoped and believed that there was not a reflecting American who did not approve of the equipment of our navy, at the time alluded to. The United States were forced into this measure, or otherwise (which they were not then prepared for) they must have totally relinquished an extensive & lucrative commerce; upon which the revenues of our government in a great degree depended.

It was not until French cruisers insulted and plundered us even in sight of our ports; it was not until our commerce was menaced with extinction, or pursued at the most imminent hazard; it was not until we had lost every hope of redress for past, or assurance of forbearance from future injuries; it was not until the patience of the citizens was completely exhausted, that the equipment of the navy was resolved on. Then, indeed, it was pursued with vigour. The public treasury was not wasted by visionary and impracticable schemes, nor upon whimsical and useless gun-boats. An efficient force

was employed, which produced advantages even greater than were at first expected.

The American character never stood higher than at that moment; was never more respected than on that occasion. No nation can prevent others from doing them an injury in the first instance; the disgrace must proceed from a supine endurance of wrong, when it possesses the power by a timely and spirited resentment to put an end to it.

But mark the consistency of the friends of Mr. Jefferson. Under Mr. Adams, according to them, it was criminal to equip a navy for the protection of our commerce & revenues, against the predatory aggressions of a rapacious and insolent foe, who assailed us even in our harbours. Under Mr. Jefferson's administration a war has been maintained for four years, and a formidable fleet commissioned against a contemptible foe, that attacks but a small fraction of our trade, and in a distant quarter.

Let it not be thought that we mean any censure on this last step taken by the administration. Tardy and procrastinated as it has been, it was necessary; and the only censure which we would attach to the conduct of the Tripoline war, is that of not being decisive in the first instance. The same measures that may now succeed, would have had the same chance of succeeding then.

By pointing out the tendency which such paragraphs as the above are calculated for, we have principally in view, to show how frequently the strong desire of the democrats to cast a censure upon the administration of a Federalist, betrays them into a direct censure of their own party. This is not their intention, but it is a very natural consequence, and is a striking example of retributive justice.

The writer in the Enquirer treats with indignation the *degeneracy* of every class of citizens, in condescending to enrol themselves in “the motly, disciplined, & degraded crew of a vessel of war;” under the direction of a Federal Executive.

The crews of vessels of war must be composed of men of different descriptions, of persons, manners, characters, and degrees of authority; thus far they may be considered as *motly*; but it would be difficult to prove that this variety is more *degrading* on sea than it is on shore. They ought also to be *disciplined*; but this is the first time we have heard it asserted that *discipline* was *degrading* either to the officers or crew of a ship of war. He will not be able to convince us that this means of *degradation* is not still preserved in our navy. Most of our commanders and subordinate officers are *Federalists*, who, we are told, are naturally so fond of *strong government*, that their crews have but little chance of escaping from their *aristocratical* domination; however *degrading* it may be to their equal and unalienable rights. It is certainly *anti-democratical* thus to subject the *many* to the will of the *few*; and we hope our ADMIRAL will order things otherwise on board his present *disposable force* at Washington, Gun Boat N. 2!!!

But though the crews & officers of our ships of war were then a *degraded set of wretches*, they must not now be so considered. We should certainly be sorry to hear it said by a *foreigner*, and would despise the *American* who would tell us, that the crews who man our little fleet in the Mediterranean, are *degraded* by submitting to *discipline* in the service of their country.

Are they less so now than they were at that time? Is it more *degrading* to have obeyed the call of their country against a foreign foe, under the administration of Mr. Adams than it is under that of Mr. Jefferson? Were they *degraded* by having been subordinate to other officers than those who now command? Was the crew of the *Constellation*, under the authority of the brave and victorious TRUXTON, more *degraded* when boarding *L'Insurgente* in 1799, than when enjoying the pleasures of the Italian and Spanish ports in 1802? Was the crew of the same fortunate vessel, when, under the happy auspices, and directed by the aspiring genius of the same intrepid and gallant officer, she mingled her fire with the fire of *La Vengeance*, more *degraded* than it is by its present service, under her worthy commander captain Campbell?

We have mentioned the *Constellation* & Commodore TRUXTON in particular, not with a view to any invidious distinction, but because the singular good fortune of that ship, gave her such brilliant opportunities of proving that, however *motly* or however

well-disciplined her crews may have been, neither they nor their commander, were *degraded* by the distinguished services which our navy at that period rendered to the nation.

If degradation was then the consequence of being enlisted in the service of the United States, neither the superior justice nor the superior magnanimity of the present executive, can be supposed to have removed the stain from those who are now sent out to chastise the piratical audacity of Tripoli. But as we would most heartily condemn any man who would attempt to apply such terms to those now employed on board our vessels of war, so we doubly despise the ignorance and ill-nature of him who has applied them to those who formerly in the same manner devoted themselves to their country.

NOTICE.

THE Subscriber is one of the persons who in June last at Camden, South Carolina, apprehended John MacDonald on a charge of having robbed the Mail of the United States, and is also Clerk of the Court of Marlborough District in the said State, where MacDonald was to have stood his trial if he had not haanged himself in jail before the sitting of the Court—from these circumstances he has been adolfed by one of the Judges of the Superior Court of South Carolina, to receive into his hands, and has accordingly received from Duncan M'RAE, Post Master at Fayetteville, (in whole sale keeping it was at first placed) all the money that was found in the Truck or possession of the said MacDonald, which he is ready and anxious to deliver up to the legal owners, on their giving him satisfactory proof of the justness of their claim, or such proof as will fully justify him in forfeiting it up.

The different Printers who published an account of the robbery of the Mail and apprehension of MacDonald, will please also give publicity to this advertisement, and it is particularly requested that it be inserted in the National Intelligencer, and in the several papers of North Carolina, South Carolina &c. Georgia three different times, that those having claims may avail themselves of this Notice.

JOHN WINFIELD

Winfieldville, Marlborough Dist. }
with, 's c) Nov. 1, 1804. }

The Mills at Hillsborough.

WITH the Lots thereto attached, will be sold at public vendue in Hillsborough on the tenth day of January next, on a credit of five annual equal payments with interest from the day of sale, agreeable to a decree of the Court of Equity for the District of Hillsborough. Good personal security will be required.

Hillsborough, Nov. 1, 1804.

State of North-Carolina }
Hillsborough District. } In Equity, 1804.

Richard Nall, et al,

vs.
Charles Reynolds, et al.

IN this Cause the court ordered that publication be made three weeks, successively, in the Minerva, as to Charles Reynolds, that unless he files his answer to the Bill of Complaint of Richard Nall, et al, within the three first days of next Term, the Bill will as against him be taken pro confesso, and decreed accordingly.

True copy from the Minutes,

ROBERT BELL, C.M.

Hillsborough, October 17, 1804.

Ten Dollars Reward.

STAYED from Pittsborough, Chatham County, on the 17th of October last, a Bay Horse, inclining a little to the roan colour, particularly about the root of his tail; his four feet are white; he has a blaze in his face, and one eye I believe is lighter than the other; of this however, I am not sure. He was seen within seven miles of Hillsborough, on his way, as it was supposed, to Judge Moor's plantation, in Orange county; but probably he may make for Guilford county, where I understand he was raised. Any person who will deliver him to me in Pittsborough Chatham county, shall receive the above reward and all reasonable expenses paid; or if notice shall be given to me by any person taking him up so that I can get him, I will give Five Dollars reward.

A. D. MOORE.

For Sale at the Minerva Book Store,

Tucker's Blackstone.

The Federalist.

Terrible Tractoration.

Blank Books,

Ink-Powder, Wafers & Quills.