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## EXTRACTS FROM THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE Court and Cabinet of St. Cloud.

Though government foster a religious, or rather anti-religious liberty of the press, the authors who libel or ridicule the Christian, particularly the Roman Catholic religion, are excluded from all prospect of advancement, or if in place, are not trusted or liked. Cardinal Caprara, the nuncio of the Pope, proposed last year, in a long memorial, the same severe restrictions on the discussions or publications in religious matters, as were already ordered in those concerning politics. But both Bonaparte, and his minister in affairs of the church, Portalis, refused the introduction of what they called a tyranny on the conscience. — Caprara then addressed himself to the excellent Talleyrand, who on this occasion was more explicit than he generally is. "Bonaparte," said he, "rules not only over a fickle but a gossipping (bavard) people, whom he has prudently forbidden all conversation and writing concerning government, or affairs of state. They would soon (accustomed as they are, since the Revolution, to verbal and written debates), be tired of talking about fine weather or about the opera. To occupy them and their attention, some ample subject of diversion was necessary, and religion was surrendered to them at discretion; because, enlightened as the world now is, even atheists, or Christian fanatics, can do but little harm to society. They may spend rivers of ink, but they will be unable to shed a drop of blood." — "True," answered the Cardinal, "but only to a certain degree. The licentiousness of the press, with regard to religious matters, does it not also furnish infidelity with new arms to injure the faith? and have not the horrors from which France has just escaped proved the danger and evil consequences of irreligion; and the necessity of encouraging and protecting Christianity? By the recal of the clergy, and by the religious concordat, Bonaparte has shown himself convinced of this truth." — "So he is," interrupted Talleyrand, "but he abhors intolerance and persecution (not in politics.)" — "I shall however, to please your Eminence, lay the particulars of your conversation before him."

Sometime afterwards, when Talleyrand and Bonaparte must have agreed about some new measure, to indirectly chastise impious writers, the senators Garat, Jaucourt, Roederer, and Demeunier, four of the members of the senatorial commission of the press, were sent for & remained closeted with Napoleon, his minister Portalis, and Cardinal Caprara, for two hours. What was determined on this occasion has not transpired, as even the Cardinal, who is not the most discreet person when provoked, and his religious zeal gets the better of his political prudence, has remained silent, though seemingly contented.

Two rather insignificant authors, of the names of Varennes and Beaujou, who published some scandalous libels on Christianity, has since been taken up, and after some month's imprisonment in the temple, been condemned to transportation to Cayenne for life; not as infidels or atheists, but as conspirators against the state; in consequence of some unguarded expressions, which prejudice or ill-will alone would judge connected with politics. Nothing is now permitted to be printed against religion, but with the author's name; but by affixing his name, he may abuse the worship and gospel as much as he pleases. Since the example of severity alluded to above, however, this practice is on the decline. Even Piquault Le Brun, a popular but immoral royal writer, narrowly escaped lately a trip to Cayenne, for one of his latephemous publications; and owes to the protection of Madame Murat, exclusively, that he was not sent to keep Varennes and Beaujou company. Some years ago, when Madame Murat was neither so great nor so rich as at present, she presented her with a copy of his works, and she has been unfaithful to her duty, not only to remember the commission, but wished to return it, by nominating him her private secretary; — which, however, the wit of Napoleone prevented.

Of Napoleone Buonaparte's religious sentiments, opinions are not divided in France. The influence over him, of the petty superstitious Cardinal Caprara, is therefore inexplicable. His prelate has forced from him assent to transactions which had been refused both to his mother and his brother Joseph, who now often employ the Cardinal with success, where they either dare not nor will not show themselves. It is true, his Eminence is not easily rebuked, but returns to the charge unabashed by new repulses; and he obtains by teasing more than by persuasion; but a man by whom Buonaparte suffers himself to be teased with impunity is no insignificant favorite, particularly when, like this Cardinal, he unites cunning with devotion, craft with superstition; and is as accessible to corruption as tormented by ambition.

As most ecclesiastical promotions passed through his pure and disinterested hands, Madame Napoleone, Talleyrand, and Portalis, who also wanted some *douceurs* for their extraordinary expenses, united together last spring to remove him from France, and Napoleone was cajoled to nominate him a grand almoner of the kingdom of Italy; and the Cardinal set out for Milan. He was, however, artful enough to convince his Sovereign of the propriety of having his grand almoner by his side; and he is therefore obliged to this intrigue of his enemies, that he now disposes of the benefices in the kingdom of Italy, as well as those of the French empire.

During the Pope's residence in this capital his Holiness often made use of Cardinal Caprara in his secret negotiations with Buonaparte; and whatever advantages were obtained by the Roman Pontiff for the Gallacian church, his Eminence almost extorted; for he never desisted, where his interest or pride were concerned, till he had succeeded. It is said that one day last January, after having been for hours exceedingly teasing and troublesome, Buonaparte lost his patience and was going to treat his Eminence as he frequently does his relatives, his ministers and counsellors, that is to say, to kick him from his presence; but suddenly recollecting himself, he said, "Cardinal, remain here in my closet until my return, when I shall have more time to listen to what you have to relate." It was at ten o'clock in the morning, and a day of great military audience and grand review. In going out he put the key in his pocket, and told the guards in his anti-chamber to pay no attention if they should hear any noise in his closet.

It was dark before the review was over, and Bonaparte had a large party to dinner. When his guests retired, he went into his wife's drawing-room, where one of the Pope's chamberlains waited on him, with the information, that his Holiness was much alarmed about the safety of Cardinal Caprara, of whom no account could be obtained, even by the assistance of the police, to which application had been made, since his Eminence had suddenly disappeared. — "Oh! how absent I am!" answered Napoleone, as with surprise; "I entirely forgot that I left the cardinal in my closet this morning: I will go myself and make an apology for my blunder." His Eminence, quite exhausted, was found fast asleep; but no sooner was he a little recovered, than he interrupted Bonaparte's affected apology with the repetition of the demand he had made in the morning; and so well was Napoleone pleased with him, for neglecting his personal inconvenience, only to occupy himself with the affairs of his Sovereign, that he consented to what was asked, and in laying his hand upon the shoulders of the prelate, said: "Faithful minister! were every prince so well served as your Sovereign is by you, many evils might be prevented, and much good effected." The same evening Duroc brought him as a present, a snuff box with Bonaparte's portrait, set round with diamonds, with one thousand Louis d'ors. The adventures of this day certainly did not lessen his Eminence in the favor of Napoleone or of Pius VII.

Last November, some not entirely unknown persons intended to amuse themselves at the Cardinal's expense. At 7 o'clock one evening, a young Abbe pre-

sented himself at the Cardinal's house, hotel de Montmorin, rue Plomet, as by appointment of his Eminence; and was by his secretary ushered into the study, and asked to wait there. Hardly half an hour afterwards, two persons, pretending to be agents of the police, arrived just as the Cardinal's carriage had stopped. They informed him, that the woman introduced into his house in the dress of an Abbe, was connected with a gang of thieves and house-breakers, and demanded permission to arrest her. He protested that, except the wife of his porter, no woman in any dress whatever could be in his house, and that, to convince themselves, they were very welcome to accompany his valet-de-chambre into every room they wished to see. To the great surprise of his servant, a very pretty girl was found in the bed of his Eminence's bed-chamber, which joined his study; who, though she pretended police agents insisted on her getting up, refused, under pretence that she was there waiting for her *bon amie*, the Cardinal. He Eminence was sooner told of this, than he shut up the gate of his house, after sending his secretary to the commissary of police of the section. In the meantime, both the police agents and the girl entreated him to let them out, as the whole was merely a *badinage*; but he remained inflexible, and they were all three carried by the real police commissary to prison. Upon a complaint made by his Eminence to Buonaparte the police minister, Fouché, received orders to have those who had dared to violate the sacred character of the representative of the holy Pontiff, immediately and without further ceremony transported to Cayenne. The Cardinal demanded, and obtained a process verbal of what had occurred, and of the sentence on the culprits, to be laid before his Sovereign. As Eupenius de Beaumonts interested himself so much for the individuals involved in this affair, as both to implore Buonaparte's pardon and the Cardinal's interference for them, many were inclined to believe that he was in the secret, if not the contriver of this unfortunate joke. This supposition gained credit, when, after all his endeavors to save them proved vain, he sent them seventy-two thousand livres, 3000 to Rochfort, that they might on their arrival at Cayenne be able to buy a plantation. He procured them also letters of recommendation to the governor, Victor Hughes, to be treated differently from other transported persons.

### From THE PEOPLE'S FRIEND.

We have it from highly respectable authority that the discontents of the inhabitants of New Orleans and Louisiana have risen to such a height as not only to render the President exceedingly unpopular, but to have subjected his conduct to animadversions little conducive to his interest there, and little gratifying to his pride. The feeble conduct, and timid policy of the American Cabinet towards Spain, is held by the newly acquired citizens of that country in sovereign contempt. While the withholding from them the same rights as all other American citizens possess, as was guaranteed to them, rouses their indignation. Fortunately, they have so finished a sense of the evils of Spanish and French government, that should their old matters attempt to tamper with them, their fidelity to America would be found impregnable. Indeed they are now so impatient of Spanish intrusion, that they only wait for the word to strike a blow in that part of this continent which would make old Madrid tremble to her foundations. Like grey hounds in the leash, they are bounding with eagerness to be let slip at the Don's. And here rests our only hope for the safety of that part of the American territory. While the mind of Bonaparte, ever brooding upon mischief, looks a-kance at the rich domains of Louisiana and Florida, the constitutional guardians of the nation are probably engaged in planning congressional tribute-schemes for the next session, or calculating the measure by which the offices of the state may be doled out either in hand expectation, or reversion for the purposes of influence. While, for ought that is

known to the contrary, the spoliator of the earth is appointing armaments to furlur the country, our government sleeps. — While the robbers are at the door, the house dog claps his tail between his legs and coils himself up in his kennel. Affuredly if ever there was a crisis in the affairs of a nation which more than any other required those qualities of which our executive has hitherto shown no symptom, it is that at which America has now arrived. To the hostile designs of an unprincipled despot, rendered more dangerous by his just contentions with what have we to oppose? — It is a *offensive* and alarming contrast. To his ships, squadrons of which are found constantly to evade the British, we have to oppose unprotected harbors — one-gun signal batteries, probably supplied too with rusty powder, but no shot — like our cabinet councils. To their armies, a militia scattered over a country of many hundred miles extent — brave men and strong, but, comparatively with his troops, undisciplined — to his able and experienced commanders who have we to oppose? — Our experienced revolutionary generals have been long turned out, to make way for persons better suited to the kind of warfare which our administration deals in. To encounter the hell-inspired sagacity of Talleyrand, we have nothing but the slippery oiliness of Mr. Madison; and to oppose the bold enterprize and practical genius of Bonaparte, nothing but the pusillanimous councils, the hesitating efforts, and the natural philology of Mr. J. Berrien!! Perhaps from the weakness and unfortunate situation of the country, its safety may arise, and its strength start up again in renovation and increase. In the history of the world, there are innumerable examples of despatch, producing more than the effects of confidence in retrieving men and nations from ruin. When the subjugators of the European continent shall stand arrayed in myriads upon this, and catch us unprepared, the people may then perhaps awake from their profound dream, and like a giant refreshed with wine at least show what they would have effected, if the head by which they were guided had been endowed with wisdom and the person by whom they were swayed had been informed with a spirit like their own.

Excerpt of a letter from the honorable Robert C. Foster, to the Editors of the Tennessee Gazette, dated Knoxville, Aug. 25.

"You have no doubt, heard of the refusal of the governor of North-Carolina, to deliver up the documents relative to the land bills of this state. After the result of the application was known, the legislature determined to go as far as public expediency and prudential considerations would at this time justify: various opinions were at first entertained with regard to the propriety, safety, and even policy of attempting to legislate without them; but a desire to allay public inquietude, to manifest a determination on the part of this state to satisfy the just expectations of her citizens, and convince the state of North-Carolina, that the absence of those papers were not to defeat the honest intentions of this state, weighed the legislature to adopt the course she is now pursuing. The subject of our land interests, were, in consequence, committed to a joint committee, with directions to report by bill: In pursuance of their instructions two bills were reported, one providing for the sale of the land south of French Broad and Holston, and the other for adjusting and settling the bona fide claims to other lands within the state. The first provides for the sale of the occupant and pre-emptive rights, at one dollar per acre, the price to be paid by instalments. The bill also contains necessary regulations for ascertaining the extent of said claims, and for deciding conflicting ones. The latter bill contemplates the division of the state, into five districts, with a principal surveyor to each; also the appointment of two boards of commissioners to consist of three persons each, one for west and one for east Tennessee; together with the appointment of two registers of land office — which registers are to be associated with and to constitute one of