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FROM THE VERMONT JOURNAL.

MR. ELLIOT TO HIS CONSTITUENTS.

SECOND SERIES—LETTER II.

The first session of the ninth Congress commenced under circumstances of considerable agitation in the public mind, accompanied with gloomy apprehensions in reference to our foreign relations. The voice of the people was evidently in favor of energetic measures, but it did not authorize, and it would not have sanctioned, the adoption of measures calculated to produce war and war only. The message of the President met the public feelings, and was a faithful epitome of the public reflection and opinion. It deserved and commanded almost unanimous applause. It described, in many terms, the situation of our concerns with Spain and Great Britain, and the unprovoked injuries we had sustained from both nations; and it recommended strong "measures of preparation" for the defence of the territory and the support of the interests of the nation. — But it called for no measures of offensive or general hostility. It indicated a more correct course of policy. It was by no means a war message. Expressing a hope that this and a more correct estimate of interest and character would induce the nations with whom we had disputes to do us justice, it clearly pointed to new negotiations with both powers. — This prominent feature of the message none could overlook. Hence nothing can be more unfounded than the assertion that the measures which were afterwards pursued were inconsistent with the official communication at the opening of the session.

So peculiar is our "local habitation and name," such is our distance from the scene of European action, and such the nature of our government that even preparations for war may, with propriety, be of a different character with us than with other nations. The invasion of our shores cannot be the work of a moment; and we can at no time protect our commerce upon the ocean, except by rendering it the interest of foreign nations to respect our rights. It is not necessary for us, upon every alarm to organize armies and equip fleets. The President, therefore recommended preparations for defence only. Congress did not think it necessary to increase either the naval or military establishment. In this it is probable that the majority misjudged and it is probable also that the opinions of the minority and of the executive coincided. But it is the constitutional duty of the legislature to act independently of the executive, and were it otherwise our government would not be republican. Your representative was in favor of the substance of the resolution reported by Mr. Randolph, which contemplated an additional force for the protection of the frontier; but he was opposed to its form, as it went to vest the President with power to determine the number of troops which should be raised, with a limitation only as to the extreme point. An unnecessary and dangerous power for a republican executive to possess, and which might form a precedent whose further effects might be fatal to the public liberties.

We now approach the celebrated sixth of December, when the confidential message was received by congress, which has been published, it is understood, by the writer who calls himself "Decius," and whose Roman patriotism I have no inclination to question, altho' I view many political objects through a different medium. This message was perfectly consistent with the public one, and was in every respect worthy of the President of the United States. It was even invulnerable to that wretched verbal criticism to which his violent enemies have so frequently and so ridiculously descended. It was one of the most lucid and correct of all state papers.

I took no copy of the message, nor do I charge my memory with any part of it. I cannot therefore vouch for the correctness of the copy of Decius. I merely quote, for the purposes of argument, what an anonymous writer calls the private message. Did I possess a copy of

the original, I should not think myself authorized to publish it. But the speculations of newspaper writers are public property; and the public has formed its own opinion as to the authenticity of the copy of Decius. I do not profess to give any new information upon the subject. Decius is an able and no doubt a patriotic writer; but it cannot be wrong to repel his attacks with his own weapons. There can be no impropriety in showing that, even if he be a correct reporter of secret documents, his premises do not sustain his conclusions.

Referring to the convention entered into between the governments of the U. S. and Spain, "by which it was agreed that spoiliations committed by Spanish subjects, and carried into the ports of Spain should be paid for by that nation, and that those committed by French subjects, and carried into Spanish ports should remain for further discussion," it stated says Decius, that "before this convention was returned to Spain with our ratification, the transfer of Louisiana by France to the United States took place: an event as unexpected as disagreeable to Spain. From that moment she seemed to change her conduct and disposition towards us. It was first manifested by her protest against the right of France to alienate Louisiana to us, which however was soon retracted and the right confirmed. Then high offence was manifested at the act of congress establishing a collection district on the Mobile, although by an authentic declaration immediately made it was expressly confined to our acknowledged limits; and she now refused to ratify the convention signed by her own minister under the eye of his sovereign, unless we would consent to alterations of its terms, which would have affected our claims against her for spoiliations by French subjects carried into Spanish ports." It then announced (Decius still quoted) the special mission of Mr. Munroe, and the discovery that it was the policy of Spain to delay the negotiation and "to reserve herself for events." It proceeded to state the impossibility of "obtaining indemnity for spoiliations of any description, or any satisfactions to the boundaries of Louisiana, other than a declaration that we had no rights eastward of the Iberville, and that our line to the west was one which would have left us but a string of land on that bank of the river Mississippi. Our injured citizens were thus left without any prospect of retribution from the wrong done, and as to boundary, each party was to take its own course." We have then the communication of certain documents which it is not lawful, and perhaps would not be expedient, even now to publish. The interesting conclusion of this highly important communication, cannot be read too often, and shall be cited from "Decius" as the foregoing quotations have been, whether accurate or not, without mutilation.

"Considering that congress alone is constitutionally invested with the power of changing our condition from peace to war—I have thought it my duty to await their authority for using force in any degree which could be avoided. I have barely instructed the officers stationed in the neighbourhood of the aggressions, to protect our citizens from violence to patrol within the borders actually delivered to us and not to go out of them, but when necessary to repel an invader, or to rescue a citizen or his property; and the Spanish remaining at N. Orleans are requested to depart without delay. It ought to be noted here that since the late change in the state of affairs in Europe, Spain has ordered her cruisers and courts to respect our treaty with her.

"The conduct of France and the part she may take in the misunderstandings between the U. States and Spain are too important to be unconsidered. She was prompt and decided in her declarations, that our demands on Spain for French spoiliations, carried into Spanish ports were included in the settlement between the United States and France. She took at once the ground that she had acquired no right from Spain, and had meant to deliver us none

eastward of the Iberville; her silence as to the western boundary leaving us to infer her opinion might be against Spain in that quarter. Whatever direction she might mean to give to those differences, it does not appear that she had contemplated proceeding to actual rupture or that at the date of our last advices from Paris, her government had any suspicion of the hostile attitude Spain had taken here. On the contrary we have reason to believe that she (France) was disposed to effect a settlement on a plan analogous to what our ministers had proposed, and to comprehensive as to remove as far as possible the grounds of future collision and controversy on the eastern as well as western side of the Mississippi.

"The present crisis in Europe is favorable for pressing such a settlement, and not a moment should be lost in availing ourselves of it. Should it pass unimproved, our situation would become much more difficult. Formal war is unnecessary, it is not probable that it will follow; but the protection of our citizens, the spirit and honor of our country require that force should be interposed in a certain degree. It will probably contribute to advance the object of peace.

"But the course to be pursued will require the command of means, which it belongs to congress exclusively to yield or deny. To them I communicate every fact material for their information, and the documents necessary to enable them to judge for themselves. To their wisdom then I look for the course I am to pursue, and will pursue with zeal that which they shall approve."

Here instead of a loud call to the field of battle, we have an express declaration that formal, doubtless meaning general war, is both unnecessary and improbable. The executive language, if Decius be correct, is still that of defence and protection only.

The publication of the confidential message has been considered by many as a very improper act. But be that as it may, it will form one of the most verdant and permanent laurels of its author. But it is true, as stated by Decius, "that this message, although deemed by the clerk to be a part of the secret journal which had been ordered to be printed, was nevertheless omitted; nor has the omission ever been satisfactorily accounted for." The house had voted to publish their proceedings while in secret session; the journal could not certainly contain more than their proceedings, and is in fact but a mere skeleton of them; and this message was a part of the journal. Besides, the president possesses no constitutional power to impose secrecy upon congress. Hence it appeared to me that the speaker was correct in pronouncing the message to be a part of the proceedings which had been ordered to be published. But "the house by a subsequent vote refused to make it public." And to a majority we must submit, although, as we read in Hudibras.

"The man convinced against his will
Is of the same opinion still."

The important but much misrepresented subject of the appropriation of two millions of dollars will next come under consideration. JAMES ELLIOT.

From the NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

In the following curious talk we think we perceive a new evidence of British amity!—as well as what we may expect from our friends on the frontier. Americans are also considered as objects of hatred by the Great Spirit, and no ardent spirits, forsooth, ought to be drunk by the Indians, except such as comes from Montreal! It is impossible to view such extravagance as flowing from the unprejudiced mind of the savage. It can only be ascribed to the interested views of a foreign trading company, or to the instructions or countenance of the government from which that company emanates.

SUBSTANCE of a talk delivered at Le Mississinong, entrance of Lake Michigan, by the Indian Chief Le Magnois, or the Treaty, May 4th, 1807, as coming from the first man whom God created, said to be now in the Shawanese country, addressed to all the different tribes of Indians.
Le Magnois, holding in his hand eight

strings of old wampum, four white and four blue, said:

Brothers: These strings of wampum come from the Great Spirit. Do not despise them, for he knows every thing.— They are to go all round the earth till they are lost. They were sent to you by the first man he created, with these words:

Children. I was asleep, when the Great Spirit, addressing himself to another spirit, said: I have closed my Book of accounts with man, and am going to destroy the earth; but first I will awaken, from the sleep of the dead, the first man I created: he is wise, and let us hear if he has ought to say.— He then awoke me, and told me what he was about to do.

I looked round the world and saw my RED CHILDREN had greatly degenerated; that they had become scattered and miserable. When I saw this, I was grieved on their account, and asked leave of the GREAT SPIRIT, to come and see if I could reclaim them. I requested the GREAT SPIRIT to grant, in case they should listen to my voice, that the world might yet subsist, for the period of three full lives. And my request was granted.

Now, therefore, my CHILDREN, listen to my voice, it is that of the Great Spirit! If you hearken to my counsel, and follow my instructions for four years, there will then be two days of DARKNESS, during which I shall travel unseen through the land, and cause the animals, such as they were formerly, when I created them, to come forth out of the earth. The Great Spirit, bids me address you in his own words, which are these.

My Children.—You are to have very little intercourse with the whites. They are not your father, as you call them; but your brethren. I AM YOUR FATHER. When you call me so, you do well, I am the father of the English, of the French, of the Spaniards, and of the Indians; I created the first man, who was the common father of all these people as well as yourselves, and it is through him, whom I have awaked from his long sleep, that I now address you. But the AMERICANS I did not make. They are not my children, but the children of the evil spirit. They grew from the scum of the great water, when it was troubled by the evil spirit, and the froth was driven into the woods by a strong east wind, they are numerous, but I hate them.— They are unjust; they have taken away your lands, which were not made for them.

My Children.—The whites I placed on the other side of the Great Lake, that they might be a separate people. To them I gave different manners, customs, animals, vegetables, &c. for their use. To them I have given cattle, sheep, swine, and poultry for themselves only. You are not to keep any of these animals, nor to eat of their meat. To you I have given the deer, the bear, and all wild animals, and the fish that swim in the rivers, and the corn that grows in the fields, for your own use; and you are not to give your meat or your corn to the whites to eat.

My children.—You may salute the whites when you meet them, but must not shake hands. You must not get drunk; it is a great sin. Your old men and chiefs may drink a little pure spirits, such as comes from Montreal! But you must not drink one drop of whiskey. It is the drink of the evil spirit. It was not made by me, but by the Americans. It is poison. It makes you sick. It burns your insides. Neither are you on any account to eat bread, it is the food of the WHITES.

My children.—You must plant corn for yourselves, for your wives, and for your children, and when you do it, you are to help each other, but plant no more than is necessary for your own use.— You must not sell it to the whites. It was not made for them. I made all the trees of the forest for your use; but the maple I love best, because it yields sugar for your little ones. You must make it only for them, but sell none to the whites. They have another sugar, which was made expressly for them; besides by making too much you spoil the trees and give them pain by cutting and hacking them, for they have a feeling like yourselves. If you make more than is necessary for your own use, you shall