

# THE MINERVA.

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From the *Trinidad Courant Extraordinary* of the 26th June.

PORT SPAIN, June 27.

We hasten to perform the promise inserted in our ordinary of Saturday last, by laying before our readers the most extraordinary intelligence that has ever been produced by political events, to astonish the universe.

One of the first empires on the globe, extending over both hemispheres, its dominions, on which the sun never sets—this colossal power—this transcendent throne and its immense treasures, all is abandoned! all is resigned by the monarch—and to whom? a foreigner! to a foreigner who has deceived him—subjugated him—disgraced him, and whom he does not blush to call his friend, his loyal and faithful ally!!!

Read! mark! learn! O beloved Britons and let the base partizans of the Tyrant now apologize for him, if they can.

MADRID GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.

April 9, 1808.

His excellency Don Sebastian Pinuela has communicated, under yesterday's date, the following royal order to his excellency the president of the council.

Our lord the king has just received credible intelligence of his intimate friend and august ally the emperor of the French, king of Italy, being already at Bayonne, for the purpose the most agreeable, valuable, and flattering to his majesty, namely, that of entering these kingdoms, with views in which his majesty perfectly concurs, and of known utility and advantage to his beloved subjects. And, it becoming the most intimate friendship, happily subsisting between the two crowns, and the most high character of his imperial and royal majesty, that his majesty should go to meet and compliment him, and to give him the most sincere, positive and constant proof of his intention and resolution to keep up, renew, and draw closer the good intelligence, intimate friendship and advantageous alliance which have happily prevailed, and should prevail, between these two monarchs, his majesty has resolved speedily to set out for the purpose of affecting it. And, as this absence is to last but a few days, he expects, from the loyalty and love of his beloved subjects, and particularly of the inhabitants of this capital, who have so repeatedly evinced their being animated by those sentiments, that they will keep quiet, trusty and confiding in the notorious zeal, activity, and justice of his ministers and tribunals, upon whom his majesty had laid the strictest injunctions to that end, and principally in the newly created board of government, over which his most serene highness the Infant Don Antonio is to preside; and that they will maintain, as they are bound to do, the peace and harmony which has hitherto subsisted between them and the troops of his imperial and royal majesty, punctually supplying them with whatever they may want for their subsistence, until they proceed to the points where they intend to go for the greater advantage and happiness of both nations: His Majesty giving the most positive assurances, that there is no apprehension whatever of the said tranquility, good intelligence and advantageous alliance being disturbed or altered; instead of which his majesty is fully convinced, that it will grow more and more solid every day.

(Signed) SEBASTIAN PINUELA.

GIBRALTAR April 29.

We have been favoured with the following translation of a letter from the count of Espelleta, captain general of Catalonia, to his excellency general of division Duheme, commanding in chief the army of observation of the Eastern Pyrenees:

BARCELONA, March 18.

SIR, The troops in the Citadel, and forts of Montjuich may consider the whole of this city as magazines, and all its provisions as theirs. They have no enemy to fear, nor any thing to expect, except in so far as having a common interest with the town and Spanish inhabitants. Your excellency occupied these fortresses, in the name of the emperor and king, as an ally: and as such, the Spanish government consented to the occupation of them by your troops, with the greatest good faith and confidence. With the same sentiments, it has opened to you and the army under your command, its treasures, its resources, and the bosom of its families, in order to afford you a hospitable reception, and to share with you the food destined for its own use.

Military laws prescribe the mode of supplying garrisons, when it happens that they are either engaged in hostile operations, or are besieged, or when a scarcity in the country is threatened, which obliges the general commanding to take precautions for the subsistence of his troops, by establishing depots. But exclusive of these circumstances, this

measure only serves to create suspicion and distrust. Neither my conduct, nor the constant moderation of my troops, nor the favorable reception the French army have met with ought to excite alarm.

The town is provided with supplies of every description, as you will perceive from the annexed official statement of the intendant; and even although there should be some deficiency, your excellency gives us the strongest assurance, that provisions are collecting at the ports of France, which are to be sent to this country, free of duty.

His Majesty the emperor and king, whose worthy name has inspired us with confidence, while his troops occupy our forts, being truly informed of our docility and honourable principles, will not be well pleased when he hears, that you alarm this city with terrible forebodings, as a recompense for its constant submissive conduct.

Your excellency will be pleased to request the opinion of his imperial majesty respecting your determination before you carry it into effect, and to accompany your request with this explanation of mine, as I shall lay the business before the king my master, without whose orders, I cannot give to your excellency what the forts in possession of the Spanish troops have not.

If, before you receive the resolution of the emperor, your excellency should find grounds for living with precaution, and under the influence of fear, in the forts which at present are to be considered as forming part of the town, then the measure you propose might be resorted to with propriety. But, in the meantime when no such necessity exists, I wish to impress on your mind, that it will serve no good purpose to supply the forts with stores of provisions; that such an intention is pointed and offensive: and that it will not be in the power of your excellency, or myself, to remedy the consequence of the sensation which such a measure may excite among the inhabitants.

Your excellency will be pleased to accept of my most high consideration. May God preserve you many years.

The count of ESPELETA.

MADRID GAZETTE, May 13.

Circular Address of the council of Castile. Most Faithful Spaniards!

You have, for twenty years, together obeyed with unexceptionable loyalty, the august monarch of Spain, ever treading in the steps of your forefathers; you have made suitable returns to his paternal love, and shared the just concern which the council expressed to his majesty respecting his abdication, on the day following that on which it took place. If we published his successor's accession to the throne, it was merely to comply with his supreme commands. We would have long continued submissive and faithful to his majesty, if we had understood, that his abdication and resignation of the crown was not accompanied with the requisite spontaneous freedom.

Ever since Charles IV. made it known that this abdication had been forced from him, and that he deemed himself fully entitled to resume the crown, the board of government, the council of Castile, and the whole nation, have been anxiously waiting for the decision of a question of such high importance; and the council have examined, with the greatest attention, the documents upon which the powerful umpire who has been appointed for that purpose, has grounded his determination. The most important of these are subjoined here; and in the opinion formed by the council, they have certainty, that they have not deviated from that which the august party himself would have adopted, if less complicated circumstances had not opposed that concert. It is undoubtedly unfortunate that the union of the fathers of this people has not yet taken place; but this misfortune will prove less distressing to their beneficent hearts as the result of the late events holds out flattering hopes for the future, and the nation will shortly be enabled to proceed, with steady steps, in the career of her happiness and prosperity.

Those hopes begin to be realized, since the king has appointed, to supply his place in the government of these kingdoms, a prince who, without any other interest than that of Spain, already evinced by his beneficent and unremitting exertion at the head of his army, devotes himself, with eagerness and the most suitable means, to whatever is conducive to her glory and felicity.

The board of government, which shares all the sentiments of the council, has viewed the crisis of the preceding events in the same light, and considers the determination adopted by the wisdom of the tribunal, and to which it subscribes without restriction, as the fulfilment of the irrevocable decrees of Providence, which never forsakes a religious people, attached to their sovereign and to the laws by which they are governed.

The principal documents quoted, and which the council had taken into consideration at

the meeting held on the 6th inst. in the presence of their excellencies Marquis Cobelero, don Feo. Gil. and Gonzalo O'Farril, members of the board of government, are the following ones:

PROTEST OF CHARLES IV.

"Dearest brother—On the 19th of last month, I put into the hands of my son a decree of abdication.—On the very same day I entered a solemn protest against the decree which had been issued in the midst of wild commotions, and forced from me by the critical circumstances of that period.—Now that tranquility is restored; that my protest is in the hands of my august friend and faithful ally the emperor of the French, king of Italy, and it is notorious, that my son could not induce his imperial and royal majesty to acknowledge him in that capacity—I solemnly declare that the deed of abdication, which I subscribed on the 19th of last month, is null and void in all its parts: and, therefore, it is my will that you should make it known to all my subjects, that their good king who loved them, wishes to dedicate the remainder of his life to unremitting exertions for their happiness. I provisionally confirm in their situations the members of the present board of government, and all the civil and military officers who have been appointed ever since the 19th of March last. I intended to go and meet my august ally, the emperor of the French, king of Italy; after which I will send further orders to the board.—SAN LORENZO, April 17, 1808.

I THE KING.

To the supreme board of government. Letter of his Majesty the Emperor of France to his Royal Highness the Prince of Asturias.

"Brother—I have received your royal highness's letter. The inspection of your royal father's papers, must already have convinced you of the affection which I ever bore him: under the present circumstances, you will allow me to speak to your highness with frankness and candour: I entertained a hope that, upon my arrival at Madrid, I might persuade my illustrious friend to make some necessary reforms in his dominions, and in some degree to gratify the public opinion. The prince of peace's dismissal appeared to me requisite for his happiness and that of his people. The events in the north have retarded my journey. In the mean time the occurrences at Aranjuez have taken place. I do not set up for a judge of what has happened, nor of the conduct of the prince of peace; but, what I know is, that kings should never cure their subjects to shed blood, doing themselves justice. I pray to God that your royal highness may never experience it. It would not suit the interests of Spain that a prince who has married a princess of the royal family, and who has so long governed the kingdom should be persecuted. He has no friends left; nor would your royal highness have any, if you should one day be unfortunate. The people gladly seize the opportunities of making themselves amends for the respect they show us. You cannot try the prince of peace; his crimes, if he were charged with any, ought to be buried in the rights of the throne. I have often expressed my wish, that the prince of peace might be dismissed: If I have not been more urgent, it has been owing to my friendship for king CHARLES, from whose weak partiality I chose to turn my eyes. Oh wretched humanity! imbecility and error; such is our motto! All this, however, may be reconciled; let the prince of peace be banished from Spain and I offer him an asylum in France.

With respect to the abdication of Charles IV it has taken place at a time when my armies occupied Spain and Europe and posterity might believe that I have sent so many troops for the sole purpose of driving my friend and ally from his throne.

As a neighbouring sovereign, I am bound to inquire into what has taken place, previous to my acknowledging this abdication. I therefore wish to converse with your royal highness upon the subject. The caution with which I have hitherto proceeded in these affairs, ought to convince you of the support you will find in me if factions, of any description, ever disturb your reign. When king Charles informed me of the events of October last, I was greatly concerned at them, and I flatter myself, that I have contributed, by my suggestions, to their happy issue. . . . Your royal highness should dread the consequences of popular commotions; some of my scattered soldiers may be assassinated, but such excesses could only bring ruin upon Spain. . . . Your royal highness knows all the recesses of my heart; you may see, that I am agitated by various ideas which want to be fixed. You may be certain, that, at all events, I will deal with you as I have done with your royal father: rely upon my wish to reconcile every thing; and to find opportunities to give you proofs of my affection and high regard. And so, I pray God may keep you, brother, under his holy and worthy protection.

(Signed) NAPOLEON.

The royal council has subsequently received under date the 7th and 8th, the following

Royal Address, Letter, Royal Decree, and Order:—

ROYAL ADDRESS.

"Spaniards and beloved subjects—Percussive men are endeavouring to bring ruin upon you, and would fain supply you with arms, that you might turn them against the French troops, anxious reciprocally to stir you up against them, and them against you. What would be the result of such sinister intentions? No other, without doubt, than the devastation of Spain, and calamities of every description. The factious minds, from which I had so much to bear, are as yet in agitation; and under circumstances equally important and critical, I am concerting measures with my ally, the emperor of the French, concerning whatever is connected with your happiness. But be sure not to listen to his enemies; they who exasperate you against France thirst for your blood, and are either the enemies of our nation or the agents of England. If you harken to them, you will occasion the loss of your colonies, the division of your provinces, and a long series of disturbances and evils to your country.

"Spaniards, trust my experience, and submit to the authority which I hold from the Almighty and from my ancestors. Follow my example, and believe that the friendship of the emperor of the French, our ally, can alone save Spain, and make her happy.—Bayonne, in the imperial palace of government, May 4, 1808.

I THE KING.

Letter enclosing the Royal Decree to his imperial and royal highness (Murat.)

Brother—My absence and infirmities not allowing me wholly to dedicate myself to the unremitting exertions required for the government of my states, the tranquillity of my kingdom, and the preservation of my crown, it has struck me, that I could do nothing better than to appoint a *Locum tenens*, who invested with the supreme authority, which I hold from God and my ancestors, should govern and rule for me and in my name, over all the provinces of Spain.

In consequence whereof, and having previously consulted the welfare of my people, and my wish to rescue the monarchy from the precipice into which the malevolent, and the enemies of the peace of the continent, were on the eve of plunging her; duly appreciating, on the other hand, the eminent virtues of which your imperial and royal highness has given us so many proofs, and the great services you have done us; I have resolved, with the consent and approbation of my faithful and great ally the emperor and king, upon appointing your imperial and royal highness my *Lieutenant General*; by the decree which I have just issued to the board of government, and which is here annexed, entreating you, prince, to transmit it to them, and to accept of this appointment, which will restore peace to my mind.—And so I pray God may keep you, brother, under his holy and worthy protection. Bayonne, May 4, 1808.

(Signed) CHARLES.

Appointment of the Grand Duke of Berg to the high dignity of Lieutenant General of the Kingdom.

TO THE SUPREME BOARD OF GOVERNMENT.

"Having deemed it proper to give the same direction to all the forces of my kingdom, with a view to the security of the property of individuals, and to the maintenance of public tranquillity against both internal and external foes, I have thought it my duty, in order to attain that object, to appoint lieutenant-general of the kingdom, our beloved brother, the grand duke of Berg, who, at the same time, commands the troops of our ally, the emperor of the French.

And therefore, we command our supreme council of Castile, and other councils, the chanceries, audiences and justices of the kingdom, the captains general and governors of our provinces and places, to bear him obedience, execute and enforce the execution of his orders and dispositions, such being our will, as likewise that, as lieutenant general of the kingdom, he shall preside over the board of government. Let it be so understood for the due fulfilment of my present supreme determination.—Bayonne, imperial palace of government, May 4, 1808.

(Signed) I THE KING.

Order accompanying the royal Decree and Address

"Most illustrious sir—The grand duke of Berg has directed me to transmit to the council, as I hereby do, the annexed royal decree of our lord king Charles IV, issued at Bayonne, in the palace of government, and by which his majesty has been pleased to appoint lieutenant general of the kingdom, his imperial and royal highness the above named grand duke of Berg; that the same may be so understood by the council, and by them carried into execution, and circulated with all possible speed for the corresponding purposes.

"I likewise send to the council, in compliance with the said grand duke's commands, the annexed address of our said lord king Charles IV, in which he exhorts his subjects