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HIGHLY IMPORTANT SPEECH.

BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS, June 24.

Extract from Canning's speech on American Affairs.

"America, sir, is the next subject of the hon. gentleman's speech which I shall notice. Of nearly all that has passed between the two countries, the house and the public have been put in possession by the publication of the American government. I presume that the honourable gentleman does not intend to blame his majesty's ministers for not having made similar communications to parliament: for if he had thought such communications necessary, he would doubtless have moved for them. Without censuring their production by the American government, his majesty's ministers have felt that the transaction being pending, any appeal from government to parliament, would look as if it were concluded. I shall only state, that in the whole conduct of the British government with respect to the affair of the Chesapeake, we have endeavoured to keep in view the principle upon which we set out, namely to make ample reparation for that which was decidedly a wrong act; but to make that reparation under a firm determination not to surrender a right which the great majority of the country has ever considered as essential to its dearest interests. Sir, I may boldly appeal to the country to determine whether from the correspondence on the table of the house, any such disposition on the part of his majesty's ministers, has appeared through the whole transaction. That the rupture of the negotiation on this subject, was not attended with any hostile feeling on either side, is an incontrovertible truth. The reparation was not accepted by America, because America would not accept the condition on which alone it was tendered, namely, the revocation of that proclamation by which the British ships were not allowed to enter the harbours of America, while those of the enemy visited them at pleasure. But sir, the manner in which the British reparation was tendered to America by special mission, was to all the feelings of nice honor, an affective reparation; although not accepted; and so in fact we have every reason to believe it was considered by the American government. With respect, sir, to the embargo, and to the probable effects of the orders in council in pronouncing its abandonment, the honorable gentleman has misstated my right honorable friends' propositions.—The honorable gentleman declares my right honorable friend to have predicted that the orders in council would do away the embargo; whereas my honorable friend only argued in opposition to the honorable gentleman on the other side, that the orders in council did not produce the embargo; that they were not substantively known in America when the embargo took place, and that they were not included in the complaint made by the American government to Congress, on which complaint the embargo was founded. Nor, sir, do I think that the orders in council themselves, could have produced any irritation in America. If I were not disposed on this occasion to avoid making any observations that might be suspected of a party feeling, I would say, that I do not think irritation in America may have been produced by the echo of the discussions in this house.—(Hear, hear, hear!)

Sir, since the return of Mr. Rose, no communication has been made by the American government, in the form of complaint, or remonstrance, or irritation, or any description whatever. I mention this particularly, because it is notorious that there have been several arrivals from America, supposed to be of great importance, and that several special messengers have reached this country from thence, after having touched at France. But, sir, if the honorable gentleman in the execution of his public duty, had not fit to move for any communication, that had been made by the American government since the departure of Mr. Rose, my answer must have been, not that his majesty's government were disinclined to make them, but that absolutely there were none to make.

If it be asked, why? I am unable satisfactorily to reply. I can only conjecture that America has entered into negotiations with France, which are expected to lead to some result, and that the communications from America to this country are to be contingent on that result. This, sir, is conjecture alone, but it is founded on the extraordinary circumstance of so many arrivals without any communication. It cannot be expected of me, that I should state prospectively, what are the views of his majesty's government on this subject. The principle by which they have hitherto been guided, they will continue invariably to contemplate. They attach as much value to the restoration, and to the continuance of cordiality, and perfect good understanding with America, as any man can desire; they are ready to purchase that advantage by every justifiable conciliation—they have provided that readiness, by the Act of the present

session, in which the trade of America has been placed on the most favorable footing. But sir, they are not ready to purchase that advantage, as great as they acknowledge it, as the price of the surrender of those rights, on which the naval power and preponderance of Great Britain is immutably fixed."

BOSTON, August 23.

NEWS FROM SPAIN.

On Saturday arrived the brig *Mercury*, capt. BRADFORD, from *Alicant* and *Gibraltar*. She sailed from the former place on the 29th June—only 9 days subsequent to our accounts from *Cadiz*; and the cities are at a considerable distance from each other. She left *Gibraltar* on the 11th July, where she remained but a short time, on account of apprehensions that it was possible she might be detained, as she was without her regular papers, and the first vessel from a Spanish port with a cargo that had put in there since the orders of council.

By capt. BRADFORD'S information, it appears, that the hatred of the Spaniards for the French, has never been exceeded even among nations that were natural enemies. The French Consul at *Malaga*, and several merchants, were said to have been put to death. At *Alicant*, every person born in *France* was imprisoned. Some who were confined, had resided 50 or 40 years in *Spain*.—The Patriots had heard that NAPOLEON had appointed them a King in his brother JOSEPH.

All classes of Spaniards were enthusiastic in their determination to resist the French. The instances of suspicion that persons were in the Gallic interest, were rare. At *Valencia* one person had been beheaded. At *Malaga*, a few persons had been arrested, but, upon examination, there appeared no reason to doubt their patriotism, and they were liberated. The person at the head of the Province of *Valencia*, was a gentleman of great distinction and property; and several persons at *Alicant*, denominated noblemen, had volunteered in the ranks to serve against their treacherous enemy—one of these persons was the gentleman who owned the American Consul's house.

Most of the Frenchmen at *Alicant* who were arrested, on account of the indignation against the ruler of the country which gave them birth, were loud and decisive against the conduct of Napoleon towards his faithful ally.

At the commencement of the revolution, *Valencia* established a local Junta; which has since declared that it will receive and execute the commands of the Junta at *Seville*.

In proportion to the enmity of the Spaniards towards the French, was their attachment to the British. When a British Government brig arrived at *Valencia* with supplies, the populace carried her commander on their shoulders to the town house, where the council was convened.

The islands of *Majorca* and *Minorca* had sent the Patriots reinforcements, and arms and ammunition.

The *Carthagena* squadron remained at *Minorca*. None of the French fleets were known to be at sea.

The account of the defeat of the French army under Gen. DUPONT, on his way from *Madrid* to *Seville*, is confirmed. It is said 5900 Frenchmen were killed.

The news of the capture of the French fleet at *Cadiz*, by the Spanish Patriots, is confirmed; and it was asserted, there were found on board of them, a large amount of money, and great quantities of muskets, cartridges, balls, powder, &c.

It was said there was at *Madrid* and in its neighborhood, about 50,000 French troops under the Duke of BERG.

Several skirmishes had taken place. In *Catalonia*, there were said to be about 25,000. Desertions were very frequent, and to prevent this at *Barcelona*, about 1000 selected troops had been stationed round the city. These the Revolutionists contrived to surprize, and they were all cut to pieces.

A body of French troops (reported at 5000) had been dispatched from *Madrid* to take possession of the city of *Valencia*.—They had been once attacked, succeeded in discomfiting the Spaniards and continued their march.—They had arrived within about 20 leagues of *Valencia*; but there was no despondency on that account—and about 30 000 regulars and volunteers had marched to give them battle; zealous in their country's cause, and confident of success.

We cannot learn that any fresh troops from France entered Spain in June.

All American vessels, which had been detained at *Alicant* and *Malaga*, had been released by the Spaniards; but it was reported this measure had not yet been adopted at *Algeziras*. The *Mercury* was one of the detained vessels; having been seized many months since by the French.

A formidable insurrection was reported to have broken out in *Naples*.

Two Algerine cruizers had put into Ali-

cant. A good understanding exists with the United States. The war continues between Algiers and Tunis.

At *Gibraltar*, capt. B. learnt, that the Portuguese had conquered the French in their country, and that at the last dates from *Lisbon*, they were firing upon the Russian squadron to compel it to surrender. It is very probable, many of the French had taken refuge on board these ships.

British troops had been landed at *St. Lucar*.

A *Valencia* paper of the 21st June, states under the head of *Madrid*, June 15, "that the Russian minister had left *Madrid*; that the emperor ALEXANDER was displeased with the conduct of NAPOLEON, who had violated one of the articles of the Tilsit treaty—that the Arch-Duke Charles was to marry a Russian Princess, and a war between France and Russia and Austria was expected.

A *Valencia* paper of June 21, mentions the defeat of the French under Dupont.

PHILADELPHIA, August 26.

We are indebted to a respectable Mercantile House in this City, for the following interesting details, furnished by Capt. John W. Cox, of the ship *John Jones*.

Left *Lisbon*, on the 17th of June, 1808, at that time there was a report in circulation that a revolution had taken place in Russia, and that the emperor Alexander had been deposed by his people, and his brother Constantine proclaimed Emperor.

About the middle of May, the Spanish Gen. Belessta who commanded at *Porto*, marched from thence for Spain, and took with him as prisoners the French Gen. Quessel with all his suit and troops, as also the chief magistrate, Mr. Labourau, and the people at *Porto* it is said had appointed a governor in the name of the former prince regent and hoisted the Portuguese flag, the greater part of the Spanish troops that entered Portugal with the French, also marched to Spain, but those in *Lisbon*, and its environs were all disarmed on the night of the 10th of June, by the French, and put on board some Portuguese ships of war then in the Tagus under French colours. Gen. Junot published the next morning his motives for disarming the Spaniards, in which he says that he was obliged to take those steps, although (very much against his feelings) on account of the infamous behaviour of the Spanish Gen. at *Porto*, and to prevent any effusion of blood. In *Lisbon* there was only about 800 Spaniards, and in the environs about 1200 men, making in the whole 2000 men. There was to more than 5000 French troops in Portugal when I left it, the rest of the army having marched for Spain, and in different parts of the frontiers of Portugal. The French had been attacked by the Spaniards, particularly at *Badajoz*, where they permitted them to enter, and then attacked them, killed a great number and took the remainder prisoners.—The Portuguese Lieut. Gen. Gomez Freire de Andrade, who marched with the Portuguese troops for France, it is said was at one of the frontier towns of Portugal, at the head of an army of forty thousand Portuguese and Spanish troops; he is a Gen. of some experience, having distinguished himself formerly in the Russian service, as also when he was second in command of the Portuguese troops that were sent to assist the Spaniards in the commencement of the French Revolution, where he also distinguished himself as a Gen.

The French General Junot, gave orders that all the property belonging to this general should be immediately confiscated, who is very popular and almost adored by the Portuguese People. The French had fortified the castle of *St. George*, in *Lisbon*, and put in bread and water for six months, and it was generally supposed, should they be attacked by the Spaniards by land, and the British by sea, that they would retire to that castle, as it commands the city which they could easily destroy.—Off *Lisbon* there was a strong fleet, as also a number of transports with troops on board, but they had not disembarked in any place when I left *Lisbon*. There are no French troops in the province of *Algarve*, where the people are all in arms, and that part of Portugal is governed in the name of the Prince Regent and the Portuguese flag flying there, as also in a number of the provinces throughout Portugal.

Both Spaniards and Portuguese have red ribbons about the left arms as a distinction, they have also seized about 5000 barrels of flour, destined for *Lisbon*; as also the greater part of the Church plate, & upwards of 5000 bags of cotton going from Portugal to France. When I left Portugal there was no great want of provisions, but every thing very dear; and a great deal of poverty; there being no business whatever doing, and should they not shortly receive some supplies of corn, bread must rise considerably in price, although there was a very great prospect of an abundant harvest all over the country. In *Lisbon* the French are preparing with great activity all the old ships of war the Prince left behind

him, but not one of them it is said is seaworthy.

The Russian fleet, commanded by Rear Admiral Sevini, consisting of nine ships of the line, one fifty gun vessel and a frigate, still continue in the Tagus; they are also repairing.

The French made an attack on the fort of *Castro Marin*, in *Algarve*, on the night of the 23d June, were repulsed with the loss of a number of men killed and taken prisoners, and all over that part of Portugal they have been attacked by the Portuguese and completely routed.

It was likewise reported that the 21st June, was the day fixed for all the Portuguese to rise on the French; but I cannot say if they rose in *Lisbon*, as I was on my journey at that time for *Algarve*; and all communication was stopped between that part and the South of Portugal, but it was said that they had rose there, as also in *St. Ubes*, *Alcaceres do Sal*, *Belja*, &c. as also at *Mertola*, where they took a great quantity of flour intended for *Lisbon*.

The cargo of the schooner *New-York*, which vessel was stranded on the coast of *Algarve* in Portugal in December last, on a voyage from *New-York* to *Messina*, was in store at *Ville Real* on the 16th of last June; such part of it as consisted of provisions, had been forcibly taken out of the stores by order, and for the use of the French government, and the remainder of the cargo detained. The super cargo was at *Lisbon*, endeavoring to obtain payment for the provisions, and also to recover possession of the remainder of the cargo; but had not succeeded as late as the 16th of June, and on the 25th of the same month, the cargo of the same schooner was transported by order of the Spanish government, from *Ville Real* to *Ayamonte*, the keys of the stores containing the cargo, were delivered to the supercargo's agent in *Ayamonte*.

NARRATIVE OF THE LATE PROCEEDINGS AT MADRID.

Brief narrative of the transactions at *Madrid*, on Monday, the 2d of May, 1808, by an English gentleman who was there on that day.

The public mind had never been in a state of perfect tranquility since the middle of March, when the intention of King Charles the IVth to remove to *Seville*, with all the Royal family, was first suspected.

The deposition of the Prince of Peace on the 18th, his imprisonment on the 19th, with the abdication of King Charles, and accession of his son Prince Ferdinand, which took place on the same day, were events that gave great satisfaction, and might in time have produced the happiest effects; the arrival of the French troops in *Madrid*, the delivery of the sword of Francis the first to general Murat, which had remained in the Royal Army as a trophy ever since the battle of *Pavia*, the departure of King Ferdinand for *Burgos*, the delivery of the Prince of Peace to the French and finally the King's determination to pass the frontiers, and put himself in the hands of the French at *Bayonne*, were circumstances which revived the ferment, and gradually increased it to such a violent degree, that some formidable explosion was hourly dreaded by the Junta de Gobierno (of which the infant Don Antonio, was left President) to quiet the alarms of the people, and prevent them proceeding to open acts of violence against the French.

A Parte or extraordinary courier used to arrive every evening from *Bayonne*, with accounts of the transactions there; those accounts were never published in the Gazette, but circulated in the form of extracts from private letters from the king's attendants, and the first of them afforded a momentary satisfaction, as they consisted solely of the honours paid to Prince Ferdinand on his arrival, and the cordial reception he had from Bonaparte. The subsequent accounts became daily less satisfactory; first, obscure hints were given that all was not well, and then it was explained more clearly, that the intention of the ruler of France was to prevail upon Ferdinand to resign his crown.

The Parte due on Saturday, 30th April, did not arrive. It was still due on Sunday evening, May 1st, and many thousand people were assembled at the *Peuerta del Sol*, and other streets near the post-office, in anxious expectation of the messenger.

The French garrison at *Madrid*, remained all night under arms; and the sun of Monday the 2d of May, arose on many an unfortunate inhabitant, who were destined never to see another morning.

This day fixed on for the departure of the Queen of *Etruria*, and her brother the Infante Don Francisco de Paula, for *Bayonne*.—The curiosity of many people led them to the square before the Palace to witness the scene, and many of the wives and families went there to take leave of their husbands and parents, and to lament their hard fate, in being left without any certain provisions. When the first carriage appeared at the gate, many of the mob expressed a suspicion that the Infante Don Antonio, President of the Junta, or provisional government, was also to leave