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"The strength of a Nation is the Loyalty of the People."

Answer returned to the Council of Government by the most illustrious Bishop Orense, Don Pedro Quevedo Y. Quintano, on the subject of his having been appointed a deputy to the meeting of Council in Bayonne.

MOST EXCELLENT SIR—A Collector of Taxes of Corunna delivered to me on Wednesday, the 25th instant, in the afternoon, your Excellency's letter dated the 19th, by which I have perceived among other things, that I am appointed to be present at the meeting, which is to be held at Bayonne, in order to concert, as far as possible, means of securing the liberty of the realm, agreeably to the wishes of the Great Emperor of the French, who feels anxious to raise it to the highest degree of prosperity and glory.

Although my measures and information are but scanty, yet in the most anxious desire to promote the true happiness and glory of the Nation, I ought not to yield to any person whomsoever and I would not omit any thing which would appear to me practicable and conducive to that end. But my advanced age of seventy-three, a fit of illness, and habitual infirmities, prevent me from undertaking so long a journey in so short a time; which is not sufficient to perform it, and much less to acquire the intelligence and information which are requisite to fulfil the duty attached to the above appointment. I therefore, think myself obliged to decline that charge, as I hereby do, entertaining no doubt, but that his Serene Highness the Duke of Berg, and the supreme Council of Government will deem my prayer to admit my excuse and exonerate me from that office, just and necessary.

At the same time I take leave with regard to the welfare of the nation; and with respect to the views of the emperor and King, who intends to become, as it were, the Angel of Peace, Protector and Tutelary Divinity of our Country, and who has so many times evinced the lively interest he takes in augmenting the power, wealth, and felicity of our nation and Sovereign, his allies, to represent and observe to the Supreme council of government and through it to the Emperor and King of Italy, himself, what I should say and declare at the meeting at Bayonne, if it were in my power to be present, before I would enter upon the discussion of the object for which it seems to be convened.

It is intended to cure evils, to repair losses, and to improve the fate of the Monarchy, and Nation; but on what principle and foundation is this intended to be done? Have the means or remedies stood the test of experience? Does there exist for that purpose any firm authority acknowledged by the nation? Doth it choose to subject itself, and doth it expect to be saved in this manner? And are there no infirmities, which are rendered worse, and more exhausted by medicine? Of which it has been said, *tangunt vulnera sacra nulle manus*—(Let no hands touch sacred wounds.)

And doth it not appear, that the remedies which the mighty protector the Emperor Napoleon, has administered to his ally, and to the Royal Family of Spain, are of that description? These evils have been aggravated to such a degree, that there is reason to despair of their recovery. We see them shut up in the French Empire, in a country which banished them for ever, and where the elder branch was cruelly cut off by the fury and violence of a senseless and sanguinary revolution; and such being the case, what has Spain to hope? Will her care render her situation more favorable? The means and remedies to be employed do not warrant that hope. The abdications of her Kings in Bayonne, and other Infants in Bordeaux, where they are not supposed to be free, and where they are considered as being surrounded by artifice and force, and deprived of the talents and assistance of their faithful subjects; abdications which cannot be conceived nor indeed appear possible. If the natural impressions of paternal and filial love, the honour and lustre of the whole family, in which all honest men feel so deeply concerned, be taken into consideration; abdications, which have been rendered suspicious to the whole nation, and from which depends all the authority which the Emperor and King in justice can assume, demand for their validity and firmness, or at least for the satisfaction of the whole Spanish Monarchy, that they be ratified by the Kings and Infants, who made them, in a state of perfect freedom from compulsion and fear. And there is nothing which could reflect more glory on the great Napoleon. Napoleon I. who feels so deeply concerned in their happiness, that to restore to Spain her august monarchs and their family; to dispose that in her bosom, and in a general assembly of the state of the realm, they may act as their free and unconstrained will shall direct, and that the nation with that independence and sovereignty which belong to it, may proceed in consequence thereof, to acknowledge him as

their lawful king, whom nature, right, and circumstances shall call to the Spanish throne.

This magnanimous and generous proceeding would prove the greatest eulogium on the emperor; it would be greater and more worthy of admiration than all the victories and laurels that encircle his brow, and distinguish him among the monarchs of the earth. Spain would be rescued from the calamitous fate with which she is threatened, recover from all her infirmities, enjoy perfect health, offer up thanks to God, and pay the tribute of unfeigned gratitude to her saviour and true protector; then the greatest of the emperors of Europe, the moderate, the just, the magnanimous, the benevolent Napoleon the great.

For the present, Spain cannot but look on him in a widely different light: he appears, unless he proves the contrary, the oppressor of her Princes and herself. She must consider herself as chained and enslaved, while offers of felicity are held out to her; chained and enslaved by artifice, violence and a numerous army, which were admitted as friends, either by imprudence and fear, or perhaps by fraud and base treachery, serving to sanction an authority, which it is no easy task to esteem lawful.

Who is it that appointed the Duke of Berg Deputy Governor of the realm? Is this not an appointment made in Bayonne, in France, by a pious king, worthy of the most sincere respect and love of his subjects, but who is in the hands of imperious advisers, and controlled by the force and power to which he subjected himself? And is it not an artificial, fantastical idea, to appoint the commanding general of an army by which he is threatened, Deputy Commander of his kingdom, and immediately to abdicate his crown? Did Charles IV. wish to be restored to his throne only for this reason that he might dispossess it of his children?—And was it necessary to appoint a Deputy Governor, in order that by means of that authority and of his military power, he might be able to prevent Spain from adopting measures to obstruct the consummation of a project of that nature? I much doubt that, not only in Spain, but in all Europe one upright person can be found, who does not in his bosom declaim against acts so extraordinary and suspicious, not to say more.

To conclude, the Nation is without a King, and at a loss how to act. The abdication of its King, and the appointment of a Deputy Governor of the Realm, are acts done in France, in sight of an Emperor, who conceives that he secures the happiness of Spain, by giving her a dynasty, springing up from that lucky family, which he fancies to be incapable of producing Princes who do not possess the same talents for governing nations as the invincible and victorious Napoleon, the Legislator, the Philosopher, the Great Emperor. The Supreme council of Government, controlled by an armed President, and surrounded by an army, cannot but consider itself deprived of liberty;—all Public Boards and Tribunals of the Capital are in the same situation. What confusion! what chaos! what source of calamities for Spain! They cannot be warded off by a meeting convened without the kingdom, and the Members of which can neither possess, nor believe themselves possessed of liberty. And should the tumultuous commotions which may be apprehended within the Realm, be joined by pretensions of foreign Princes and Powers, by succour offered or solicited, and troops should come and fight in her bosom against the French, and the party, which sides with them; is it possible to conceive greater devastation and a scene more calamitous than would then ensue? The compassion, love, and solicitude of the Emperor and King, evinced in her favour, so far from healing her wounds, will increase her disasters.

I therefore request, with all due submission, the Supreme Council of government will take into its most serious consideration, what appear to me just apprehensions well worthy of their deliberation, and of being represented to the Great Napoleon. It has hitherto been in my power to reckon on the rectitude of his mind, free from ambition, and abhorring a crafty and artful policy.—And I still hope, that being perfectly satisfied, that the prosperity of Spain cannot be secured by enslaving her, he will not apply himself to chain her down in order to perform her cure, because she is neither insane nor mad. Let first a lawful authority be established, and afterwards her cure be taken in hand. &c. &c.

PEDRO, Bishop of Orense.
Orense, the 29th May, 1808.
To his Excellency Don Sebastian.

ADDRESS FROM THE COUNCIL OF LEON TO THE SPANISH NATION.

Brave and faithful Spaniards!—When we behold the great and noble resistance which is at this moment opposed by the provinces of Galicia and Asturias, to the projects of the basest and most execrable of tyrants, it is impossible to believe but that they must be seconded by all, who like themselves, have a sovereign to avenge, sacred rights, and a coun-

try to defend. Still, should any be restrained by fear; should any fail to concur in the sentiment which calls them to arms against an unprincipled oppressor, it will sufficiently determine them if we recall to their memory what Spain owes to the virtues, to the courage, to the heroism of Pelage, to the valor and to the patriotism of Roderigue Diere de Bivar.

These two great men, one from the province of Asturias, the other from that of Castile, were called forth at different epochs, but both equally difficult, each to preserve our country from a foreign yoke. To their characters, and to their sentiments of enthusiasm which they excited in every breast, does Spain owe the glory and the happiness which she has so long enjoyed.

Should the government of Asturias discover that any part of the inhabitants take up arms coldly or indifferently in the defence of the country, let it address to them those sentiments which the immortal Pelage addressed to the citizens, to his brave companions in arms, when a formidable and cruel enemy wished to subjugate them to his power:—

"It is no longer time to deliberate said this virtuous and courageous Spaniard, under circumstances nearly resembling the present, the nature of our cause, the situation of our affairs, and those of the enemy, require promptitude and activity, and that we should not waste our time in useless deliberation. We arm to re-establish our altars, our religion, our glories, the liberty of our children, of our friends, of our country! to place in safety the honor and chastity of our wives; to rid ourselves of the yoke of a conqueror base as he is cruel, who has covered himself with our spoils, and under whose dread dominion our lives could not but be the security of a moment. If ever opportunity occurred to tempt almost glorious enterprise this is the moment—this moment in which we are assembled united, bound together by a chain of interest, which equally concerns all!—Inhabitants of the mountains, and ye of the valleys! bear our determination to arm, and join yourselves to us. Those, even whom the love of tranquility hath hitherto deceived, and retained among the Moors, I now behold ready to break their fetters, and join those who hasten to accomplish the great purpose of their struggle. The Moors, in short, are occupied with great projects; but for us, necessity should put an end to indecision, we have taken the first step there is no longer time to retreat; already they march against us, while we hesitate to place ourselves in a disposition to drive the enemy from our mountains, we shall be surrendered. We shall have no escape, and we are too great in number to submit upon the stunted produce of bare and sterile rocks.—Come on then!—God, whose cause we support against the enemies of his name, will fight for us while we fight for him, and the hand which has punished us because we have forgotten him, will fortify our arms in a war undertaken for the honor of his glory?—Let us put our confidence in the invincible strength of the Almighty! I will lead you to battle; I will never be the first, and require of you nothing but that of which I will set you an example."

This harangue, so suitable to the occasion, produced then the same effect as it will produce to day. At the voice of Pelage, all the Asturias took up arms, each of them performed prodigies of valour; Cantabria and Galicia severely sent deputies, praying to be admitted in the Confederation of Asturias; they were received, their means united, and the Moors were conquered.

Three hundred and thirty-nine years afterwards, Spain had another defender; this was Roderigue Diere de Bivar, a fierce and noble Castilian, of the city of Burgos. This virtuous citizen and gallant warrior, burning with desire to secure the liberty of his country, did not hesitate to remonstrate with animation, in a Council where the King of Castile himself presided. He said he was ashamed to deliberate upon the pretensions of the Emperor Henry the II.; that the independence of Spain was established above all title! that base Spaniards alone could admit of its being compromised; that it should be upheld even at the expense of life; and that he would declare himself the enemy of that man who should advise the King to tarnish its luster!

If the Prince of the Peace instead of betraying his Sovereign & his country, had had the foresight, the loyalty, or the energy of the two great men we have just cited, the pretensions of Bonaparte, like those of Henry would have been received with indignation. As the Moors were under Philip, so the French would have been expelled, and Spain would have been saved. What has not hitherto been done, may yet be achieved; but for that purpose there must be unanimity among principals, and a re-union, wisely combined, of all our forces and of all our means.

Without this concurrence to retain our country's welfare, without the most resolute courage to drive from her bosom a cruel and perfidious enemy, like an enslaved people, we shall lose our fleet, our arsenals; our army

will be disbanded or sent into Germany, our military disarmed, our clergy, despoiled and destroyed, our churches pillaged, our altars profaned, the land of our grandees confiscated, our possession beyond sea no longer belonging to our capital; the Kingdom drained by enormous contributions; Spain, in short, happy and free under her kings, will be reduced to the most frightful slavery.

To avoid calamities so dreadful, one only resource remains to us. It is to rally round the standard which the provinces of Galicia and Asturias have raised, in defence of religion, of justice, and of honor. Children of our country! we will be worthy of ourselves; let us perpetuate the glory with which our ancestors are covered: great like them, let us think no sacrifice too much, when we have our liberties to preserve, the massacre of our parents, or our friends, to revenge, our wives and children to defend. If, to the shame of the Spanish nation, there have been found men, such enemies to themselves and to their country, as to hasten to the feet of the tyrant, and prostitute before him their existence and their rights, let us nevertheless hope, that the chiefs of the Spanish League will not like Pelage, have to guard against designs such as those of the Archbishop of Seville, who was base enough to betray his faith, his God, his king, and his country. Let us endeavor to believe that the great and laudable example which the Bishop of Oviedo and Compostella have afforded shall be followed, not only by all those in the Kingdom, but likewise by every member of our respectable clergy, secular and regular, who, alike interested as the ministers of religion, and as good citizens, to punish crimes, to accelerate the triumph of virtue, and to preserve Spain from the disgrace and oppression of a foreign yoke!

Signed by the members of the Council at Leon.
May 17, 1808.

NEW YORK, Sept. 8.

The British Packet Lord Hobart left Falmouth on the 13th of July, and Halifax on the 26th August, of course brings no later London news than we had already received by other arrivals.

A Spanish officer from Corunna arrived at Falmouth on the 10th July in a passage of only 5 days, and proceeded to London. He informed that 15,000 troops had been killed in various skirmishes by the Spanish Patriots, who were in possession of Madrid, and had taken prisoner of the wife of Murat.

A communication between Falmouth and Corunna had been opened; the first British packet would sail for the latter port on the 17th July.

The Austrians, it was said, had commenced hostilities, and had taken two or three French towns.

A vessel had arrived in Pictou, in Nova Scotia, in 20 days from Glasgow, with information of a Peace having been concluded between Great Britain and Russia. All the Spanish prisoners at Halifax had been released and sent to Havana, and all the transports had been ordered home from Halifax immediately.

This is the amount of the verbal news by the Packet. But all this is comparatively unimportant. The public attention is directed to Spain, where "high minded men," who love their country, are engaged in a struggle which will be glorious in history, whether it terminates in conquest or defeat. The Boston Gazette of Monday, enables us to lay before our readers the following

INTERESTING NEWS.

From the Boston Gazette of Monday.

On Saturday, arrived the fast sailing ship Arcturus, capt. Main, in 48 days from St. Sebastian. Among the passengers in that ship, came P. R. Livingston, Esq. who is the bearer of several dispatches from the French government to our own. Mr. Livingston reports, that a few days before he sailed he was at Bayonne, where a private interview took place between the French Emperor and himself; that on taking leave, he was entrusted by the Emperor with a verbal message to the President of the United States; but which he was not at liberty to communicate. It is understood, however, that the French Decrees, against neutral commerce, were not to be relaxed at present; of this we have ample evidence in the subjoined list of condemnations. No American vessels had been released under Murat's decree.

The general complexion of affairs in Spain, is said, by several of the passengers, to be highly flattering; that no doubts were entertained of the final success of the Spanish patriots; that the armies were filling up with great alacrity; that arms and ammunition were continually arriving, and the collected force, when arranged & supplied with military stores, would far exceed any force or body of men. Bonaparte could bring against them; that at present the steps of the Spaniards were precautionary, although in every instance, where they had been brought into action, they have succeeded in repelling or