

FROM THE AURORA. TO THE FRENCH INHABITANTS OF LOUISIANA.

A publication having the appearance of a memorial and remonstrance, to be presented to congress at the ensuing session, has appeared in several papers. It is therefore open to examination, and I offer you my remarks upon it.

"To the Congress of the United States, in Senate and House of Representatives convened. We the subscribers, planters, merchants, and other inhabitants of Louisiana, respectfully approach the legislature of the United States, with a memorial of our rights, a remonstrance against certain laws which contravene them, and a petition for that redress to which the laws of nature, sanctioned by positive stipulations have entitled us."

It often happens that when one party, or one that thinks itself a party, talks much about its rights, it puts those of the other party upon examining into their own, and such is the effect produced by your memorial.

A single reading of that memorial will show it is the work of some person who is not of your people. His acquaintance with the cause, commencement, progress, and termination of the American revolution decides this point; and his making our merits in that revolution the ground of your claims, as if our merit could become yours, shows he does not understand your situation.

We obtained our rights by calm, undisturbed principles, and by the successful event of a long, obstinate, and expensive war. But it is not incumbent on us to fight the battles of the world for the world's profit. You are already participating, without any merit or expense in obtaining it, the blessings of freedom acquired by ourselves; and in proportion as you become initiated into the principles and practice of the representative system of government, of which you have yet had no experience, you will participate more, and finally be partakers of the whole. You see what mischief ensued in France by the possession of power before they understood principles. They earned liberty in words but not in fact. The writer of this was in France through the whole of the revolution and knows the truth of what he speaks; for after endeavouring to give it principle he had nearly fallen a victim to its rage.

There is great want of judgement in the person who drew up your memorial. He has mistaken your case and forgotten his own; and by trying to court your applause has injured your pretensions. He has written like a lawyer, straining every point that would please his client, without studying his advantage. I find no fault with the composition of the memorial, for it is well written; nor with the principles of liberty it contains considered in the abstract. The error lies in the misapplication of them, and in assuming a ground they have not a right to stand upon. Instead of their serving you as a ground of reclamation against us, they change into a satire on yourselves. Why did you not speak thus when you ought to have spoken it? We fought for liberty when you stood quiet in slavery.

The author of the memorial injudiciously confounding two distinct cases together, has spoken as if he was the memorialist of a body of Americans, who after sharing equally with us in all the dangers and hardships of the revolutionary war had retired to a distance and made a settlement for themselves. If in such a situation, congress had established a temporary government over them in which they were not personally concerned, they would have had a right to speak as the memorial speaks. But your situation is different from what the situation of such persons would be; and therefore their ground of reclamation cannot of right become yours. You are arriving at freedom by the easiest means that any people ever enjoyed it; without contest, without expense, and even without any contrivance of your own. And you already so far mistake principles that under the name of rights you ask for powers to import and enslave Africans and to govern a territory that we have purchased.

To give colour to your memorial you speak of the treaty of cession (in which you are not one of the contracting parties) concluded at Paris, between the governments of the United States and France. The third article (you say) of the treaty lately concluded at Paris declares that the inhabitants of the ceded territory shall be incorporated in the Union of the United States, and admitted as soon as possible, according to the principles of the federal constitution, to

"the enjoyment of all the rights, advantages, and immunities of citizens of the United States, and, in the mean time, they shall be protected in the enjoyment of their liberty, property, and the exercise of the religion they profess."

As from your former condition you cannot be much acquainted with diplomatic policy, and I am convinced that even the gentleman who drew up the memorial is not, I will explain to you the ground of this article. It may prevent your running into further errors.

The territory of Louisiana had been so often ceded to different European powers that it became a necessary article of the part of France, and for the security of Spain, the ally of France, and which accorded perfectly with our own principles and intentions, that it should be ceded no more; and this article, stipulating for the incorporation of Louisiana into the Union of the United States, stands as a bar against all future cession, and at the same time as well as "in the mean time," secures to you a civil and political permanency, personal security & liberty, which you never enjoyed before.

France and Spain might suspect (and the suspicion would not have been ill founded had the cession been treated for in the administration of John Adams, or when Washington was president, and Alexander Hamilton president over him) that we bought Louisiana for the British government, or with a view of selling it to her; and though such suspicion had no just ground to stand upon with respect to our present president Thomas Jefferson, who is not only not a man of intrigue, but who possesses that honest pride of principle that cannot be intruded with, and which keep intruders at a distance, the article was nevertheless necessary as a precaution against future contingencies. But you, from not knowing the political ground of the article, apply to yourselves personally and exclusively what had reference to the territory to prevent its falling into the hands of any foreign power that might endanger the Spanish dominions in America, or those of the French in the West India islands.

You claim (you say) to be incorporated into the Union of the United States, and your remonstrances on this subject are unjust and without cause.

You are already incorporated into it as fully and effectually as the Americans themselves are, who are settled in Louisiana. You enjoy the same rights, privileges, advantages & immunities which they enjoy, and when Louisiana, or some part of it shall be created into a constitutional state, you also will be citizens equally with them.

You speak in your memorial, as if you were the only people who were to live in Louisiana, and as if the territory was purchased that you exclusive might govern it. In both these cases you are greatly mistaken. The emigrations from the United States into the purchased territory, and the population arising there from will, in a few years exceed you in numbers. It is but 26 years since Kentucky began to be settled, and it already contains more than double your population.

In a candid view of the case, you ask for what would be injurious to yourself to receive, and unjust to us to grant. Injurious, because the settlement of Louisiana will go on much faster under the government and guardianship of congress than if the government of it were committed to your hands; and consequently the landed property you possessed as individuals when the treaty was concluded, or have purchased since, will increase so much faster in value. Unjust to ourselves, because as the reimbursement of the purchase money must come out of the sale of the lands to new settlers the government of it cannot suddenly go out of the hands of congress. They are guardians of that property for all the people of the United States. And besides this, as the new settlers will be, chiefly from the United States, it would be unjust and ill policy to put them and their property under the jurisdiction of a people whose freedom they had contributed to purchase. You ought also to recollect that the French revolution has not exhibited to the world that grand display of principles and rights that would induce settlers from other countries to put themselves under a French jurisdiction in Louisiana. Beware of intruders who may push you on from private motives of their own.

You complain of two cases, one of which you have no right, no concern with; and the other is founded in direct injustice.

You complain that congress has passed a law to divide the country into two territories. It is not improper to inform you, that after the revolutionary war ended, congress divided the territory acquired by that war, into ten territories; each of which were to be created into a constitutional state, when it arrived at a certain population mentioned in the act; and in the mean time, an officer appointed by the president, as the governor of Louisiana now is, presided as governor of the western territory, over all such parts as have not arrived at the maturity of statehood. Louisiana will require to be divided into twelve states or more; but this is a matter that belongs to the purchaser of the territory of Louisiana, and with which the inhabitants of the town of New Orleans have no right to interfere; and besides this it is probable that the inhabitants of the other territory

would chuse to be independent of New Orleans. They might apprehend, that on some speculating pretences, their produce might be put in requisition, and a maximum price put on it; a thing not uncommon in a French government—as a general rule, without refining upon sentiment, one may put confidence in the justice of those who have no inducement to do us injustice; and this is the case of congress stands in with respect to both territories, and to all other divisions that may be laid out, and to all inhabitants and settlers of whatever nation they may be.

There can be no such thing as what the memorial speaks of, that is, of a governor appointed by the president, who may have no interest in the welfare of Louisiana. He must from the nature of the case, have more interest in it than any other person can have. He is entrusted with the care of an extensive tract of country, now the property of the United States by purchase. The value of these lands will depend on the increasing prosperity of Louisiana, its agriculture, commerce, and population. You have only a local and partial interest in the town of New Orleans, or its vicinity; and if, in consequence of exploring the country, new seats of commerce should open, his general interest would lead him to open them, and your partial interest to shut them up.

There is probably some justice in your remark, as it applies to the government under which you formerly lived. Such governments always look with jealousy at an approaching civilization, as a loss of increasing prosperity and population. But when you argue from the conduct of governments distant and despotic, that of domestic and free government, it shows you do not understand the principles and interest of a republic, and to put your rights in French hands, we have had experience and you have not.

The other case to which I alluded as being founded in direct injustice, is that in which you petition for power, under the name of rights, to import and enslave Africans!

Have you put up a petition to heaven for such a power, without fearing to be struck from the earth by its justice? Why then do you ask it of man against man?

Do you want to renew in Louisiana the horrors of Domingo?

COMMON SENSE.

NEW-YORK, September 24.

Captain Decker, of the brig The Isis, of this port, has been informed that a schooner had been hired to transport the baggage of a number of gun boats for Boulogne. The embargo continued until the first of August.

The brig Neptune, Sydemann, which arrived at New York a few days ago from St. Pierre's, Martinique, via Antigua, had been seized by a British frigate, and detained 21 days during which time the captives were commodore Hardy, to know whether or not he considered Martinique in a state of blockade. The commodore replying in the negative, the vessel and cargo were restored without trial, each party defraying their own expenses.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 25.

The following extracts of letters are from one of our unfortunate countrymen in Tripoli:

"April 7. A few days ago, a small craft, under English colours was captured by the Syren, on this station, in consequence of which the Bashaw sent for the British Consul to know what a United States vessel dare take any article out of a vessel under the protection of his Majesty's colours? Mr. M'Donough answered in the negative, also gave the Bashaw a written certificate or passport. The vessel was immediately laden with a very valuable cargo, belonging to the Bashaw's subjects, and set sail for Malta; but unfortunately for his Majesty's Consul, she was captured almost under the forts.—Captain Stewart ordered her for Syracuse.—The Bashaw sent for Mr. M'Donough, and after giving him sufficient abuse ordered him to quit his demerons in 12 hours.—The next day he set sail for Malta in a small craft; but was captured off the harbour, by the Syren and sent to Syracuse. His excellency is very much enraged at the conduct of the British Consul and is determined not to receive him again let the consequence be what it may, we are in hopes that the affair will bring Lord Nelson, off this station.

Five months have already been experienced of our captivity, and yet no hopes of our country's redeeming us! However, I trust they will recollect in whose hands and at whose mercy we are. Adieu."

"Tripoli, May 21. Since my last, nothing worthy of recital has occurred, except the death of 1 of our crew. I fear this will be the purport of all future letters; as the autumn is fast approaching, and the heat will naturally have a fatal effect upon our unfortunate countrymen, who are daily yoked to a large waggon, which they are obliged to drag into the country, where it is loaded with heavy timber for their return."

On Saturday evening last, William Barry, a mariner from Norfolk, aged nineteen, was stopped in the street by several Spanish sailors, and without any provocation on his part, stabbed in four places.—He was taken to the Pennsylvania Hospital, where he now languishes under his deep wounds.—This outrage having incensed the American sailors, several scenes of riot and violence occurred in the course of yesterday; and last night, we are informed, a body of these inconsiderate men, armed with clubs, &c. proceeded to a house inhabited by the crew of a Spanish vessel now in port, and commenced a most violent assault. The building was almost entirely demolished, and we are informed, five or six Spanish sailors either killed on the spot, or so severely wounded, as to render their lives precarious. Several of them have been taken to the Hospital, and the ringleaders of the riot committed to gaol.

DIED, On Saturday the 20th inst. THOMAS AITKEN, son of Robert Aitken, printer, aged 14 years.

CHARLESTON, September 13.

Captain Bradshaw, from Havana, informs that a few days before he sailed, the Royal Treasury was robbed of 250,000 dollars, in Dubloons: The building we are told, is constantly surrounded by a strong guard—but the robbers entered by the roof, which communicates with the adjoining houses, and carried off the rump under without molestation. This took place between Saturday night and Monday morning; at which time an embargo was laid upon the shipping in the harbour, and every vessel closely examined.—Strict search had also been made throughout the city, but without leading to any discovery. Some of the inferior officers were suspected of being concerned in the plot.

Capt. Bradshaw left a number of American vessels at Havana, mostly for Northern ports.—The ship Richard Caton, for this port, was to sail the same day. The coppered schooner Experiment, for Baltimore, sailed in company; and a few days after, Capt. Bradshaw observed a schooner on the Florida shore, surrounded by wreckers, which he supposed to be the Experiment.

Captain George Bunker, late of the schooner Ino, of Baltimore from Kingston, (Jama.) bound to Baltimore, arrived in this city last evening from Cape Roman, where his vessel went on shore on Sunday last, about nine o'clock in the morning—the vessel is still lying on the beach, having lost both her masts, sails, boats and every thing from off deck—the crew were all saved.

Loss of the brig Consolation.—Captain Bunker has brought the disagreeable intelligence of the loss of the packet brig Consolation, Capt. Webb, from New York for this port. While lying to in the gale on Saturday night, about 8 o'clock, she shipped a sea, which carried away both masts, swept every article from the deck, and what is stated as a most extraordinary fact ROLLED THE VESSEL COMPLETELY OVER. The captain passing us (21 in number, mostly French) and crew, were all below, except one seaman, who was washed off and drowned. The passengers were severely bruised by the rolling of the vessel; and one of them, Mr. Marsh, ship-carpenter, of this city, had his shoulders dislocated, and is otherwise much hurt. In this distressing state, she drifted about until Monday, when the brig got ashore about four miles to the southward of Cape Roman wind mills. The water being carried off the decks, for three days they were all deprived of this necessary article of sustenance. Capt. Webb writes that he hopes to save a considerable part of the cargo; & will use his utmost exertions to get the vessel off.

The Spanish ketch La Calibre, arrived yesterday morning, sailed from Havana for Cadiz 25 days since, with a cargo of sugar and cash. To the eastward of the Gulf, in the late gale, carried away her mizen-mast; the cabin was also swept off with the cook, who was drowned, and the vessel much injured. In this situation they drifted about for some time, ignorant of the coast on which they were driven; when they fell in with the brig Washington, 10 days from New York for Savannah, who put a man on board to direct them. Saw a schooner ashore on the east point of Capers's Island.

The brig Eliza, King, (late Luscombe) from Demerara, encountered the gale on Thursday evening, in lat. 27, 71. About nine o'clock was thrown on her beam ends; when, having cut away her main mast, and the fore top mast going at the same time, the brig tumbled. One man was washed overboard and drowned. Saw a schooner ashore on Demerara's Island. Captain Luscombe died of a severe fever, two days after leaving Demerara.

The schooner Sally left Savannah about 27 days since, with a cargo of lumber and four negroes, for Havana. When she arrived off that port, would not be allowed to enter, and after remaining three days, was ordered off in conse-

quence, it is supposed, of a recent regulation, which declares, seven negroes necessary to obtain a permission to enter the vessel. The Sally sailed from off Havana on Saturday morning, and has not felt the gale. Fell in with the quarter deck of a vessel of about one hundred tons burthen.

The sloop Sydney, 13 days from Havana, in consequence of the gale, lay to from Saturday to Monday morning, but has experienced little injury. Fell in on the coast with a number of pieces of wrecks, two bulk heads, a new horse cart, barrels of apples, &c.

The ship Richard Caton, for this port, came out in company with the Sydney, but parted a short time after. The brig Venus, Churnsides, and the Maria, Corry, were to sail in a few days; and the brig Charleston in ten days. A ship from Philadelphia, with a cargo of flour, had been seized at Havana.

Extract of a letter from Christ Church, dated 13th of September 1804.

On Saturday last we experienced a storm more destructive to the planters on the seashore than any preceding, within the recollection of our oldest inhabitants. In the morning of that day, when it should have been low water, every part of our shore usually covered by spring tides, was flooded by the waters of the ocean, which continued gradually to rise until ten o'clock, when the sea having covered the shallows of the chain of islands along our coast which before had impeded its passage, flowed with increased rapidity until near one o'clock, which was beyond the time of high water. It then became stationary for half an hour, when it was perceived to fall slowly until the hour of low water, at which time all of our lands under cultivation were covered, and great apprehensions excited lest another tide on that should inundate every part of the parish, and sweep away the buildings on the sea shore. At this time I removed my family and negroes to a house some distance from the sea shore; they were taken from my door in a flat.

The next morning opened to us scenes the most distressing—crops of Cotton, Plantains and Corn destroyed, every parcel of fence swept away; brick kilns, with at least one hundred tons of shells on them levelled; the foundation on which they stood, which was made land, destroyed; schooners, sloops and sailing boats driven on shore and into fields; the injury done a distance sustained on the sea shore, can only be repaired by time and great industry."

SAVANNAH, September 11. HURRICANE.

On Saturday last, this city was visited with the most violent hurricane ever experienced since its settlement. It commenced, by slight wind and rain in the morning, until about ten o'clock, when it began to blow with uncommon violence accompanied by heavy rain, and continued to increase until six or seven at night, and did not cease before three in the morning of Sunday.

During its continuance, the shaking of the dwelling houses, the scattering of the slate and tile from such roofs as were covered with those materials, the falling of several chimneys in the city, and the levelling of fences & trees around, created an incessant alarm, which the arrival of morning proved to be too well founded.

A chimney in falling, killed two children of Mr. J. Nelson; a house fell and killed John F. Webb, and slightly bruised his child who was sitting near him.

But it was in the morning that the full horrors of the scene were witnessed. The shores covered with lumber and the ruins of stores destroyed; the wharves with shipping; the hopes of the merchants scattered among the fragments of the buildings or floating in the river, and in many of those stores which withstood the gale, damaged or ruined; the innumerable small boats crashed like egg shells and thought almost as little worthy notice; reeds and marsh grass torn by the roots from the opposite island, and accompanied by numerous serpents, turtles, marsh birds, &c. forming a background of the picture; and the negroes who had survived the night on that island, composed wholly of rice plantations, screaming for assistance and for loss of their drowned companions, completed the afflicting and sublime collection. Insensibility itself could not have looked on unmoved.

We have not yet heard from the neighbouring plantations, nor can we form any idea of all the damage done.

On Wilmington island, Mrs. Scriven, wife of Major Scriven, and one of their children were killed by the fall of the house.

On Hutchinson's island, Mr. Moxham and wife, who had the care of a plantation, were carried away and drowned. The number of negroes drowned cannot yet be ascertained. It is supposed not less than thirty.

Fort Green, at Copepur island, is completely levelled, and all the buildings destroyed. Of the soldiers, 7 of those who were there, escaped by getting on the roof of the last house which fell, with fourteen others, men and women, soon after floating, the roof parted and they separately escaped to land on Wilmington island. A son of captain Nicholas is among the drowned. Four soldiers and a non-commissioned officer were Britishly detained in town, as well as a private.