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render it ridiculous.---his own pen, more powerful than all the figures of rhetoric, stultifies and flattens whatever it touches. There were others present, and officers who served a little longer in the army than the Major, who heard me, with other sensations than those of envy, hatred and malice.——I had been called an enemy to the government, and it was openly said that I would be influenced by some dirty trivial difference of interest, which, in fact, did not exist, to side with Virginia politics—A state of planters and farmers as we are, connected with us by intermarriages, and strongly united by a common interest in the Patowmack and Federal Seat.—To such indefinite clamour, I could only oppose my disinterested public services to the continent for seventeen years.—I stated, and as briefly as possible, that from the first dawn of light that broke in on my understanding, I had devoted myself to the sacred cause of the rights of man—That in 1775, at fifteen years of age, when I could scarcely wield a musket, I took up arms, and was appointed adjutant to gen. Mercer's battalion of minute-men—That in 1776, I marched a first lieutenant in the first battalion sent from Virginia to the assistance of our northern brethren; that in the gloomy and desperate campaigns of 1776, 1777 and 1778, I was present at most of the heavy actions, and was wounded at Brandywine; that in 1779 I retired with the general officer to whom I had been aid-de-camp, and attempted to study the law, but that, on Leslie's invasion of Virginia in 1780, I was appointed lieutenant-colonel of a regiment in gen. Lawson's corps, and sent on the lines near Portsmouth, for which I never asked or received any pay. In 1781, at the request of the marquis of Fayette, who then opposed in Virginia the numerous army that had united there under lord Cornwallis, with a few troops destitute of horse, and at the solicitation of general Weedon, I raised and supported, at my own expence in a great measure, as long as I had money, a corps of horse, who did regular and essential duty. At the action of Green-Spring, at the Marquis's pressing desire, I led on the attack with the riflemen on the right, drove in the enemy's advance and attacked their main body, in doing which I had my horse killed under me, that I gave 45 guineas for not three hours before, for which service I received the Marquis's thanks in public orders—That my expences and losses in these exertions were not less than 200 guineas, of which I never received one shilling—At the siege of York and Gloucester the same year, being then lieutenant-colonel of my native county, I served at my own charges as commandant of a battalion of select militia, termed grenadiers, which, by my own very great exertions, I got up in time to save the French horse, who had committed themselves without support, and who instantly took refuge in my rear, when I repulsed Tarleton's and Simcoe's legions united, and 200 British light infantry, killing the officer who led them not fifteen steps from my lines, for which we had the commander in chief's public thanks—That this was all before I attained the age of 21—That as soon as I was eligible, my native county chose me their representative to the legislature, where I served, and that very year, 1782, I was, by a great majority of the legislature, elected to represent that powerful state in congress, where, in the second year of my service, on Mr. Morris's resignation, six states out of eight then on the floor, insisted on placing me at the head of the treasury; but having formed an attachment here, I left congress, married and settled in Maryland, since which period I had been intrusted in the most confidential and important charges, and had been a constant public servant, except during two years that I languished under a dreadful and most painful complaint—That, losing my parents in my infancy, turned out on the world, under the weak control of fraternal authority, a well grown boy of strong vivacity, I had many indiscretions to lament, which could injure none but myself; but I call upon my enemies to produce an act of my life undutiful to God, or unfriendly to man, one public wrong, or one private injury.—In a warm and unpremeditated effusion, I said my blood now stained the soil of Pennsylvania—Is it the expression major Ross quarrels with? His whole genius, if distilled to-morrow, would not produce the spirit it contains.—I hope such flies will now leave me, unless they expect to blow my dead carcase, for the little remains of life in a constitution broken in the spring-tide of youth, is now almost exhausted by madness and fatigue.

JOHN F. MERCER.

PARIS, *July* 17.

Extract of a letter dated Coblentz, July 8.

"THE Prussian troops arrive. The son of the king of Prussia came the day before yesterday at the head of a regiment of hussars about 1500 strong, the finest regiment in Europe. It is composed of men all near six feet high, who look like so many Hercules's.

"The next day arrived a body of chasseurs: these handle their carbines with such skill, that often at the distance of 500 steps will hit a crown.

"To give you an idea of the severity of their discipline, I will just relate to you what we witnessed yesterday. A Prussian soldier ventured to make some disrespectful remarks relative to the war against the French, before four of his comrades. Two days after a subaltern officer was informed of it and related the circumstance to his superior, it reached the duke of Brunswick. He won't suffer philosophers in his army, he condemned the soldier to die. He was shot and over his dead body three of his comrades received each 200 lashes for listening to his discourse without denouncing him to the officer."

July 18. Marshal Luckner is still here; he asks for disbursements to oppose the prodigious bodies of troops, which advance towards our frontiers. This is the answer he made to the multitude, which surrounded and questioned him two days after his arrival.—"I give you my honour, that France has not more than 65,000 men in the three frontier armies, and that the enemies will soon shew themselves 280,000. The army under my command, and myself, agree, in our cry of *Vive la Nation! Vive le Roi!* Instead of sowing dissentions, as you do here, come to the frontiers and assist us, if possible, in repelling the enemy." Marshal Luckner has been named commander in chief of the two armies. Biron is under his orders to command the army on the Rhine, and La Fayette the northern; but those armies amount to little more than 45,000 men, and our enemies are 200,000 in number. M. Luckner proposes several modes of recruiting: he calls for the suspension of the courts-martial, and asks, that it be left to the general to supply their place.

Extract of a letter, dated Turin, July 7.

"The court of Sardinia is not establishing new regiments; but increasing each company with ten men, which will give a total increase of 4 or 5000 men. Loans are taken up by the government at Genes, and one of four millions of livres at Geneva. It is difficult to conceive by what means these debts will be paid. The state owes much already. I expressed this sentiment, and was answered, that this was only money advanced to France.—that all lent to the emigrants and the expences of the war would be refunded.

"To this it is added, that the hostile powers will hold, as a security for payment, the towns and provinces they shall take in the course of the war."

Letter from M. Maisonneauve to the minister of foreign affairs, dated Stutgard, July 10.

"I have the honour of informing you, Sir, that we just learn, that orders are circulating through Suabia, Franconia, the Palatinate, and the ecclesiastical electorates, to the Austrian forces, to press forward towards the frontiers, and to lose no time. The bakers of the army have received the same orders. As this information is of consequence, I have communicated it immediately."

BENNINGTON, *September* 7.

By a private letter from Canada to a gentleman in this town, we learn, that lieutenant-governor Simcoe, brought from England with him all the civil officers of his new government of the Upper Province which he governs; also a new regiment called the Queen's Rangers, raised for the service of that country, together with one battalion of the 60th, and the whole of the 24th regiments, amounting to nearly eighteen hundred regular troops: the militia of both provinces are also under the strictest discipline. The letter further adds, that all the Indian warriors of Lower Canada have assembled, and are on their way to join the confederation (which is said to be general) against the United States; they are to meet a grand council which they say are to assemble at the Miami Villages. It is thought in Quebec that the Americans would save much expence and blood-shed by a timely peace, as there never was known so general a league of those barbarians of the wilderness.

PHILADELPHIA, *September* 19.

"From the best information that can be had (says a letter from Havre) France will have to cope with an army of at least two hundred thousand men of the combined forces. General Luckner has demanded a reinforcement of one hundred and thirty thousand men, without which he has declared he cannot act even on the defensive. He has also proposed to the assembly, from motives of the most urgent necessity, that the generals shall be permitted to inflict punishments without court-martials."

It is mentioned in a London paper, by one of the last arrivals, that the empress of Russia has agreed to add eighteen thousand auxiliaries to the army of his Apostolical majesty (the king of Hungary) in order to act in concert against France.

A fleet of six or seven ships of the line were preparing at Toulon the beginning of July, with a view, it was said, to bombard Trieste, an important Austrian commercial port on the Gulph of Venice. It was thought not improbable in France that Leghorn would share the same fate, as it was in no state of defence to resist such an attack.

London papers are received by way of New-York to the 8th of August. French accounts by this arrival say, that the mayor and forty-eight districts of Paris had petitioned the national assembly to declare, "that the king had forfeited his crown, and that a ministry be elected, into whose hands the reins of government shall be intrusted until a national convention shall have adopted definitive measures." This demand was referred to a committee extraordinary—a decree had passed the assembly unanimously about the first of August, that it was expected would desolate the camps of the emperor and the king of Prussia, almost as soon as they were pitched in France. By this decree every officer or soldier of the enemies armies deserting from them, and appearing at a French military post, or before one of the constituted authorities, or before a French citizen, is to be received with fraternal affection, presented with the national cockade, pensioned for life, and their pensions after their deaths to be continued to their widows.

About the 26th or 27th of July, a part of the Austrian forces attacked the French camp at Maulde. The advanced guard of the French, consisting of 6000 men, was attacked by 10,000 Austrians; the latter of whom were beaten off the field after losing 200 men killed, a great number prisoners, and the chief of their baggage taken by the French.

By the last accounts from Port-au-Prince, we learn, that the mulattoes had all come in under capitulation, but that the blacks will not yet suffer the proprietors of estates to take possession of them, although they have agreed to furnish the whites with all the supplies they require.

[FRENCH HISPANIOLA.]

Extract of a letter from Cayes, dated August 18.

"Referring to my last by captain Stites, I am now sorry to inform you that, since his departure, the political situation of affairs in the island has undergone a most unfortunate change. General Blanchelande, it is supposed, encouraged the negroes who were in a state of insurrection, they consequently descended from the mountains, and killed many of the inhabitants, and burnt many valuable estates. The troops and inhabitants immediately assembled, to the number of 1500 or 1400, under the command of general Blanchelande, and attacked them, but unfortunately were entirely defeated, with the loss of seven officers and about 200 men killed, and a great number wounded. This unexpected defeat obliged the planters to take refuge once more in town, and encouraged the negroes to revolt, to the number of about 2000. They have since burnt and destroyed near one half of the Plain. Finding themselves entirely masters of the country, they have now made propositions of peace, which are, freedom to all who are in a state of insurrection, and Les Platoons (a delightful coffee country in the mountain) for themselves. Whether or not these terms will be acceded to, I cannot pretend to determine—If not, Heaven knows what will be the consequence—should they be granted, the entire insurrection of the remaining negroes will inevitably follow. I therefore look upon every thing as certainly lost. I am sorry the immediate departure of this vessel will not admit of my entering into particulars."

The following extract of a letter (dated Saratoga Springs, August 23,) *appears in an Albany paper.*

"Since I saw you I have been as far as lakes Ontario, Erie, &c. and returned by way of Buffaloe creek. The Indians from Lower Canada, some few of the Six Nations, the Chippeways, Ottoways, Hurrons, Potoways, &c. are assembled already at Detroit, and the Miami towns to act in hostility against the United States. The prospect of a peace this summer is very faint, if we may judge from apparent and probable circumstances; notwithstanding the negotiation carrying on by way of the Six Nations, whom the secretary at war has employed as mediators. Captain Henry and the three Indians, dispatched by general Chapin from Buffaloe creek, with a message to the Shawanees, have proceeded on as far as Detroit.—Colonel Brandt's son previous to his father's return to Philadelphia, was gone off with a banditti of Mohawks, to join the hostile Indians, but the colonel has dispatched a messenger to bring him back. He is assuredly a friend to the United States, and is shortly to set off to see the hostile tribes. But how far his and the influence of the few friendly Six Nations will extend, among a savage banditti, eager after plunder and rampant after blood, I shall leave undetermined.—The Shawanees and Delawares are much exasperated at the Senecas; in consequence of Cornplanter's people scouting with some of the troops under lieutenant Jeffers, and killing four of the latter, and unless the Senecas make them satisfaction, their arms, it is said, will be turned against them. Should this be the case, God only knows the consequences—our frontiers in this state will stand but a narrow chance.

"I think it ill policy to endeavour to spread the seat of war, which inevitably will be the case provided the Six Nations openly declare themselves for the United States. Their forces can do little against so numerous a race as they will have to contend with, provided they do not remain neuter.

"Had such measures been taken last summer, as these, an amicable treaty might have been formed, but their success last fall has much raised them in their own self importance."

Will be SOLD, at PUBLIC or PRIVATE SALE, at the dwelling plantation of Mr. THOMAS LANE, November 23, 1792, if fair, if not on the first fair day,

A PARCEL of valuable NEGROES, consisting of Men, Women and Children, and a fellow that is a house carpenter, and can work at the blacksmith's trade.

On the twenty-sixth, there will be SOLD, at the late dwelling plantation of Mrs. Mary Brooke, deceased, a parcel of good household furniture, and many other things. All persons that have any claims, against her estate, are desired to bring them in that day. The terms of the sale, will be known on that day. 10 d 7/6

By virtue of a writ of *fieri facias*, from the general court, to me directed, will be EXPOSED to PUBLIC SALE, on SATURDAY the fifth day of October next, on the premises for ready money,

A TRACT of LAND in Prince-George's county, called Stoney Fields, containing two hundred acres, late the property of Joseph Selby, now in possession of Rinaldo Johnson, tenant of said Joseph Selby. Taken at the suit of John Clapham and William Eddis, for the use of Samuel Lane. The sale to commence at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

WILLIAM D. BEALL, sheriff of Prince-George's county.

September 12th, 1792.

THE subscriber intends petitioning the next general assembly of this state, to be released from his confinement in gaol.

10 d 15/. GEORGE ROBERTSON.

Somerset county, Maryland, September 16th, 1792.