

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, J U N E 9, 1796.

FRANCFORT, March 29

ESTERDAY the equipage of the archduke Charles, passed through this place for Mentz. Every thing is in readiness to open the campaign, in case the negotiations for peace are broken off. The French gen. Marceau's head quarters are to be removed from Treves. The head quarters of the army of Conde removed yesterday to a small town near Friburg, in the Brisgau—the expected arrival of Bohemian, and other Imperial troops, is said to have been the cause of this movement—These will increase the emigrants to 40,000.

W E S E L, April 2.

Düsseldorf swarms with French, and preparations for opening the campaign are pushed with the utmost activity—It is thought the republicans will begin by attacking the Austrians upon the Sieg, after endeavouring to turn them at Elberfeld—For this reason, no doubt, they have been inspecting the Rohr, and its fords. According to the latest intelligence Jourdan's head quarters are removed to Wittlick, near the Moselle.

G E N O A, March 20.

Some bloody scenes have lately taken place between the French soldiers and the peasantry upon our territory—the former over-running the vineyards, tore down the palings for fuel; the countrymen fell upon them with such force that 17 Frenchmen were killed, and several wounded.

The French fleet have not sailed from Toulon—They want so many necessaries it cannot take place under a month; nor has the squadron sailed from Cadix. The British minister, Mr. Drake, has come from Milan to prevent the French from obtaining any loan.

Notwithstanding the rumours of peace both the Austrian and French armies continue to receive reinforcements; and to approach each other.

The French have obtained 6,000,000 as a part of the proposed loan, which is looked upon as a doctour to prevent any disagreeable consequences. The disturbances in Sardinia still continue, and are the cause of much bloodshed.

L O N D O N, April 7.
STATE PAPER.

Proclamation of the Dutch national convention, for manning the navy; published at the Hague, March 16.

CITIZENS OF THE NETHERLANDS.

Dear Countrymen;

THE unjust and destructive war in which we have been involved by the British ministry, cannot but attract our whole attention. It is the first object of our solicitude, that by our courage and prudence in the conduct of it, we may procure an honourable peace, firmly establish our freedom, and maintain the independence of our state; and the glory of our ancestors. Our navy, under Divine Providence, is the natural and only means to set bounds to the insupportable insolence of the British ministry, and to defend our country against their treacherous conduct and cruel treatment. To this object the endeavours of the best patriots have been uniformly directed since the time when our heavy chains were broken by the assistance of our French brethren, since the day when the Stadholder left the Batavian shores; the day when we began to breathe a free air, and were at liberty to exert ourselves for the improvement of the great sources of our prosperity, our trade, our fisheries, our navigation, our colonies, and our manufactures. By their navy, fellow-citizens, did our ancestors become great. The Batavian flag was known, feared and honoured; in each of the four quarters of the world. Under our late government it was insulted, and became the ridicule of nations. It is therefore our first duty to restore our marine. The zeal of the committee of marine has done much; where nothing severely had before been done. Its exertions were incessant. But in the present state of our navy, all hands seem to have lost the habits, and all hearts the inclination necessary for the service. The Batavian youth are no longer accustomed to the labours requisite on board the armed fleets of their country. Is our nation then less brave, less indignant against its enemies, or do we less love our native land, than in the time of a Ruyter or a Tromp? No fellow-citizens; no! Far from us be such a thought! We rely with confidence on your patriotism, and cannot doubt but you will act with vigour in the present critical situation of our country. For why should we conceal that such is our situation, when to make it known must procure the remedy. Our ships, which are very numerous, and more than sufficient to secure us a superiority in our seas, and to cut off from the enemy all supplies of provisions and stores from the

north, and thus compel them to peace—our ships are in want of men. The recruitings proceed with languour, and the measures hitherto taken have had little effect. Nor should this excite our wonder; they were of a partial nature, and not in consequence of the expression of the will of the assembly, representative of the whole Batavian republic. This will is now made known; supported by you it shall deliver our country. Let the people be called together in all the towns and villages of the Netherlands.—Let the example of Haerlem be proposed to them; that town so zealous for liberty, that it has already raised two hundred young men for the navy. Let all the constituted authorities remind the Batavian youth, that their country looks up to them for her defence; they will not be deaf to her call. The time of oppression is past. The fleet of the republic is under the command of true patriots, who do not consider their comrades as slaves, but as fellow-citizens. The attention of the representatives of the people will be continually directed to provide for the wants of the mariner, and they will consider the rewarding of heroism and faithful service as the most pleasing part of their great labours. Let therefore fathers exhort their sons, sisters their brothers, and the people in general the youth of the country, to acts of heroism, and to engage in the naval service, to maintain the honour of the Batavian flag, and to defend their native land. When they shall thus nobly have fulfilled their duty, they will find their reward in our tender care for them and their relatives. In the approbation of every noble mind, and the congratulations and gratitude of all their countrymen.

VAN DE KASTEEL.

April 11. Late last night we received the following very important papers, which were yesterday communicated by lord Grenville, to all the foreign ministers resident at this court. They are the contents of the dispatch received on Friday last, from Mr. Wickham, his majesty's envoy to the Swiss Cantons, and appear to be the result of the measures Mr. Pitt some weeks since announced to be in train for ascertaining the real disposition of the French directory on the question of peace or war. It will also be recollected that we mentioned, about three weeks since, that we had reason to believe that Mr. Wickham was the gentleman whom Mr. Pitt alluded to, as being charged with his inquiry. We are sorry the result is of that gloomy nature, as to leave no other alternative with his majesty and his ministers, than of continuing the war with unabated vigour; in which determination they must, and no doubt will, be supported by every good subject in this kingdom.

We should have been happy to have given both the original French, as well as the translation, but as the translation is an official one, it will be almost equally satisfactory to the public.

In consequence of Mr. Wickham's dispatch, a message from his majesty is expected to be delivered this day by Mr. Pitt to the house of commons.

N O T E.

Transmitted to M. Barthelemi, by Mr. Wickham, March 8, 1796.

THE undersigned, his Britannic majesty's minister plenipotentiary to the Swiss Cantons, is authorized to convey to Mons. Barthelemi, the desire of his court to be made acquainted, through him, with the dispositions of France in regard to the object of the general pacification. He therefore requests Mons. Barthelemi to transmit to him in writing (and after having made the necessary inquiries) his answer to the following questions:

1. Is there the disposition in France to open a negotiation with his majesty and his allies for the re-establishment of a general peace, upon just and suitable terms, by sending, for that purpose, ministers to a congress, at such place as may hereafter be agreed upon?
2. Would there be the disposition to communicate to the undersigned the general grounds of a pacification, such as France would be willing to propose, in order that his majesty and his allies might thereupon examine, in concert, whether they are such as might serve as the foundation of a negotiation for peace?
3. Or would there be a desire to propose any other way whatever, for arriving at the same end, that of a general pacification?

The undersigned is authorized to receive from Mons. Barthelemi, the answer to these questions, and to transmit it to his court; but he is not in any manner authorized to enter with him into negotiation or discussion upon these subjects.

(Signed)

W. WICKHAM.

Berne, March 8, 1796.

N O T E.

Transmitted to Mr. Wickham, by M. Barthelemi, March 26, 1796.

The undersigned, ambassador of the French republic, to the Helvetic Body, has transmitted to the executive directory, the note which Mr. Wickham, his Britannic majesty's minister plenipotentiary to the Swiss

Cantons, was pleased to convey to him, dated the 8th of March. He has it in command to answer it by an exposition of the sentiments and dispositions of the executive directory.

The directory ardently desires to procure for the French republic, a just, honourable, and solid peace. The step taken by Mr. Wickham would have afforded to the directory a real satisfaction, if the declaration itself which that minister makes, of his not having any order, any power to negotiate, did not give room to doubt of the sincerity of the pacific intentions of his court. In fact, if it was true that England began to know her real interests, that she wished to open again for herself the sources of abundance and prosperity; if she fought for peace with good faith, would she propose a congress of which the necessary result must be to render all negotiations endless? Or would she confine herself to the sining, in a vague manner, that the French government should point out any other way, whatever, for attaining the same object, that of a general pacification?

Is it that this step has had no other object than to obtain for the British government the favourable impression which always accompanies the first overtures for peace? May it not have been accompanied with the hope that they would produce no effect?

However that may be, the executive directory, whose policy has no other guides than openness and good faith, will follow in its explanations, a conduct which shall be wholly conformable to them. Yielding to the ardent desire by which it is animated to procure peace for the French republic and for all nations, it will not fear to declare itself openly. Charged by the constitution with the execution of the laws, it cannot make or listen to any proposal that would be contrary to them. The constitutional act does not permit it to consent to any alienation of that which, according to the existing laws, constitutes the territory of the republic.

With respect to the countries occupied by the French armies, and which have not been united to France, they, as well as other interests, political and commercial, may become the subject of a negotiation, which will present to the directory the means of providing how much it desires to attain speedily to a happy pacification.

The directory is ready to receive in this respect, any overtures that shall be just, reasonable, and compatible with the dignity of the republic.

(Signed)

BARTHELEMI.

Basse, the 6th of Germinal, the 4th year of the French republic, 26th March, 1796.

N O T E.

The court of London has received from its minister in Switzerland, the answer made to the questions which he had been charged to address to Monsieur Barthelemi, in respect to the opening of a negotiation for the re-establishment of general tranquillity.

This court has seen, with regret, how far the tone and spirit of that answer, the nature and extent of the demands which it contains, and the manner of announcing them, are remote from any disposition for peace.

The inadmissible pretension is there avowed, of appropriating to France all that the laws actually existing there may have comprised under the denomination of French territory. To a demand such as this, is added an express declaration, that no proposal contrary to it will be made, or even listened to; and this, under the pretence of an internal regulation, the provisions of which are wholly foreign to all other nations.

While these dispositions shall be persisted in, nothing is left for the king but to prosecute a war equally just and necessary.

Whenever his enemies shall manifest more pacific sentiments, his majesty will at all times be eager to concur in them, by lending himself, in concert with his allies, to all such measures as shall be best calculated to re-establish general tranquillity on conditions just, honourable and permanent; either by establishment of a congress, which has been so happily the means of restoring peace to Europe; or by a preliminary discussion of the principles which may be proposed, on either side, as a foundation of a general pacification; or, lastly, by an impartial examination of any other way which may be pointed out to him for arriving at the same salutary end.

Downing-street, April 10, 1796.

The countries which, by the existing laws in France, constitute the French territory, are;

1. France, as it stood at the commencement of the war.
2. The French colonies in the West-Indies still occupied by France.
3. The islands of France and Mauritius.
4. Martinico and Tobago.
5. The whole island of St. Domingo.
6. Pondicherry, Chandernagore, Carara, Mahe, and the other French establishments in India.