

# MARYLAND GAZETTE

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1797

LONDON, April 5

Palace Yard, Westminster, April 3

A MEETING of the inhabitants, house-holders of the city and liberty of Westminster, held this day, pursuant to advertisement signed by seven householders for that purpose.

PETER MOORE, Esquire, in the Chair;

It was resolved unanimously, That the following address and petition be presented to his majesty:

To the King's most excellent Majesty.

WE, your majesty's most dutiful subjects, the inhabitants, householders of the city and liberty of Westminster, humbly beg leave to approach your majesty in a crisis of the greatest danger to our country that it has experienced since the revolution.

Your majesty's ministers have involved us in a war, in the prosecution of which they have already squandered upwards of one hundred and thirty millions of money. They have already laid taxes upon the people to the amount of six millions and a half annually; and the lives which they have sacrificed, and the sum which they have added to human misery, exceeds all calculation or belief.

We humbly represent to your majesty, that in the hands of those ministers, nothing has succeeded.

Instead of restoring monarchy in France, they have been compelled to recognize the republic there established, and to offer proposals of peace to it. Instead of dismembering the territories of that republic, they have suffered it to add to them the Netherlands, Holland, and a great part of Italy and Germany; and even a part of these kingdoms, which the fleets of that republic have insulted, have only been preserved from the calamities of an invasion, by the accidents of the seasons.

In their negotiation for peace they have been equally unsuccessful. It was to be expected. When they asked peace, they were abject, but not sincere: they acknowledge their impotence; but not their errors: they discovered their most hostile dispositions towards France, at the very time they proved their utter inability to contend with her.

When they wanted to obtain our consent to the war, they assured us that it was necessary for the safety of our commerce. At this moment most of the ports of Europe are shut against us; goods to an immense amount are lying upon the hands of our merchants; and the manufacturing poor are starving by thousands.

They assured us the war was necessary for the preservation of property and public credit—They have rendered every man's property subject to an order of the privy council, and the bank of England has stopped payment.

They assured us that the war was necessary, for the preservation of the constitution. They have destroyed its best part, which is its liberty, by oppressive restrictions upon the right of petitioning, and upon the freedom of the press; by persecuting innocent men under false pretences; by sending money to foreign princes, without consent of parliament; while by erecting barracks throughout the kingdom, they give us reason to suspect their intention of finally subjecting the people to military despotism.

They assure us that the war was necessary for the preservation of the unity of our empire. But they have so conducted, and still so conducting themselves in Ireland, as to alienate the affections of that brave, loyal, but oppressed and persecuted nation; and to expose the most flourishing of its provinces to all the horrors of lawless, military violence.

These are not common errors. They are great crimes; and of these crimes, before God and our country, we accuse your ministers. Our affections to your majesty's person, our loyalty to your government, are unabated. Your majesty's virtues are a pledge for the one; the constitution which makes you king, for the other. But duty to our fellow countrymen, and to our posterity, which is but another name for that affection and loyalty, impels us to represent to your majesty, that your ministers are defrauding us of the benefit of those virtues, by destroying the channels through which they flow. They have tarnished the national honour and glory. They have oppressed the poor with almost intolerable burthens. They have poisoned the intercourse of private life. They have given a fatal blow to public credit. They have divided the empire; and they have subverted the constitution.

We humbly pray your majesty therefore to dismiss them from your presence and councils for ever.

Resolved unanimously, That the thanks of this meeting be given to the right hon. Charles James Fox, one of the representatives of this city in parliament, for the firm and faithful discharge of his public duty, in the most trying times, and for his opposition to that calamitous system, of which he with prophetic sagacity foretold the ruinous consequences.

That the said address and petition be presented by the chairman; and by the several gentlemen who called this meeting; and the right hon. Charles James Fox.

That his grace the duke of Norfolk, his grace the duke of Bedford, his grace the duke of Northumberland; the earl of Derby, the earl of Thanet, the earl of Lauderdale, lord Robert Spencer, and the hon. Mr. Petre, be requested to accompany them.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to the seven independent inhabitants who called this meeting.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be given to the chairman, for his able conduct in the chair.

Resolved, That these resolutions be printed in the morning and evening papers, signed by the chairman.

PETER MOORE, Chairman.

MONTEGO-BAY, (Jam.) April 29

On the 12th inst. on appearance of the Mary, Galt, and George, Colquhoun, off St. Kitt's, the Tamar frigate and a line of battle ship came out of Basseterre Road. The Mary was boarded by a boat from the Tamar, the officer of which informed captain Galt that the February packet was taken.

Last Saturday, four leagues off the east end of this island, the Mary and George had an action with a French privateer schooner, armed with heavy metal and small arms, which lasted three quarters of an hour, when she gave up the contest—She fought under English colours, and after sheering off, hoisted the tri-coloured flag.

NEW-YORK, June 2.

A letter from Havanna dated May 10, says, the present governor, the earl of Santa Clara, has notified the French vice-consul, Bondenean, that he is determined to preserve the intercourse of neutral nations with that port free and uninterrupted, and that French cruizers are not to molest neutral vessels bound to or from it.

Captain Bingham arrived at Boston on Saturday last, in 25 days from Trinidad, was boarded near Porto Rico, by an English frigate, in company with several others, from the officers of which he was told, that they were a part of the armament from Martinico, that they had landed 8000 troops at Porto Rico, who were now complete masters of the whole island; that the troops marched into the capital without the loss of a man. This account is rather summary; but it is certainly later than the contradictory ones we have seen.

June 5.

Extract of a letter from the Havanna, dated May 10.

"Had it not been for the firm and independent conduct of his excellency the earl of Santa Clara, the present governor of this island, our trade would have been as effectually interrupted with this port as it is already with the British islands by the piratical depredations of the French privateers.

"I formerly mentioned to you, that they had the assurance to take two American ships in one day, almost under the guns of the Moro, bound in, and that the governor not only ordered them to be instantly delivered up, but accompanied that order by a severe reprimand to the captains of the privateers; his excellency has since intimated to Monsieur Bondenean, the agent or vice-consul of the French republic, lately arrived here, that he is determined to preserve the intercourse of neutral nations with this port free and uninterrupted, and whatever may be their instructions, that the French cruizers are on no account to interrupt any neutral vessels bound to or from this port; and the agent has (as I am credibly informed) passed these orders to the captains of the French privateers that were then in this port, and no instance has since occurred of their acting contrary to them.

"The present governor is one of the most upright, just and independent men that ever presided in any part of the Spanish dominions; and has adopted a system so different from his predecessors, in the dispatch of public business, that the tedious delays and difficulties usually experienced here, which had become proverbial, exist no longer in his department. He is to be seen and spoke with at all hours, by all ranks of people, and promises to be the most popular governor they have hitherto had in this island."

June 8.

Capt. Charles White, late of the brig Trio, which was condemned at the Havanna, arrived yesterday from the above place in the brig Flora. He informs us, that one of the Carthagena fleet (a light ship) had arrived there before he sailed, with the news, that all the remaining ships were taken by an English two decker, and a frigate; they having on board two millions of dollars, besides other valuable property.

A full and satisfactory confirmation of the above, is also received by captain White of the Suffolk, who,

in the lat. of 28, between the Florida shore and the Bohemla banks, fell in with three Spanish frigates, and a 4 gun schooner, who had been sent out for the purpose of picking up the scattering vessels of the above convoy; as the English, not being able to man the whole, had stripped several of the ships of their valuables, and then let them go. This was communicated to captain White by the Spanish commodore. Should this fail of convincing any one, it is still further corroborated by captain Church, of his majesty's frigate Topaz, who, on the 2d inst. boarded captain White, and gave him similar information to the above. The number of Spanish vessels taken was supposed to be about 25 sail.

PHILADELPHIA, June 3.

This day, at twelve o'clock the house of representatives waited upon the president of the United States, with the following answer to his speech to both houses of congress, at the opening of the session:

To the PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES.

Sir,

The interesting detail of those events, which have rendered the convention of congress at this time indispensable (communicated in your speech to both houses,) has excited in us the strongest emotions. Whilst we regret the occasion, we cannot omit to testify our approbation of the measure, and to pledge ourselves, that no considerations of private inconvenience, shall prevent, on our part, a faithful discharge of the duties to which we are called.

We have constantly hoped, that the nations of Europe, whilst desolated by foreign wars, or convulsed by intestine divisions, would have left the United States to enjoy that peace and tranquillity, to which the impartial conduct of our government has entitled us: and it is now with extreme regret, we find the measures of the French republic tending to endanger a situation so desirable and interesting to our country.

Upon this occasion, we feel it our duty to express, in the most explicit manner, the sensations which the present crisis has excited, and to assure you of our zealous co-operation in those measures which may appear necessary for our security or peace.

Although it is the earnest wish of our hearts, that peace may be maintained with the French republic, and with all the world; yet we never will surrender those rights which belong to us as a nation: and whilst we view with satisfaction the wisdom, dignity, and moderation, which have marked the measures of the supreme executive of our country, in its attempts to remove, by candid explanations, the complaints and jealousies of France, we feel the full force of that indignity which has been offered our country in the rejection of its minister.

No attempts to wound our rights as a sovereign state will escape the notice of our constituents: they will be felt with indignation, and repelled with that decision which shall convince the world that we are not a degraded people: that we can never submit to the demands of a foreign power without examination, and without discussion.

Knowing, as we do, the confidence reposed by the people of the United States in their government, we cannot hesitate in expressing our indignation at any sentiments tending to derogate from that confidence—Such sentiments, wherever entertained, serve to evince an imperfect knowledge of our constituents. An attempt to separate the people of the United States from their government, is an attempt to separate them from themselves; and although foreigners, who know not the genius of our country, may have conceived the project, and foreign emissaries may attempt the execution, yet the united efforts of our fellow-citizens will convince the world of its impracticability.

Sensibly as we feel the wound which has been inflicted by the transactions disclosed in your communications, yet, we think with you, that neither the honour nor the interest of the United States forbid the repetition of advances for preserving peace: we therefore receive, with the utmost satisfaction, your information, that a fresh attempt at negotiation will be instituted; and we cherish the hope, that a mutual spirit of conciliation, and a disposition on the part of France, to compensate for any injuries, which may have been committed upon our neutral rights; and on the part of the United States, to place France on grounds similar to those of other countries in their relation and connexion with us, if any inequalities shall be found to exist, will produce an accommodation, compatible with the engagements, rights, duties and honour of our nation. Fully, however, impressed with the uncertainty of the result, we shall prepare to meet with fortitude any unfavourable events which may occur, and to extricate ourselves from the consequences, with all the skill we possess, and all the efforts in our power. Believing, with you, that the conduct of the government has been just and impartial to foreign nations; that the laws for the preservation of peace have been proper, and that they have been