

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1797.

VENICE, April 22.

GENERAL BUONAPARTE, in offering the option of peace or war to this republic, has demanded the payment of a considerable sum, and that Bergamo, Brescia, &c. be declared independent. The emperor has admitted the resignation of general Wurms, and granted him a considerable pension.

FRANCFORT, April 29.

Yesterday a vessel sailed from hence to Cologne, the first instance of the kind that has occurred these five years in consequence of the war.

PARIS, May 7.

The hopes of a general peace begin to prevail. There is scarcely any doubt entertained that the emperor has promised to make England become a party to the negotiations which are to be opened at the congress of Berne. We hear of a courier having crossed Germany, in order to repair to London, to give intelligence to the court of St. James's in the name of the emperor, of his intention to conclude a peace, and to press England to accede to it. The emperor did not pretend that his preceding engagements with the king of Great-Britain would prevent his concluding a separate peace, but that he was anxiously desirous that England should send ministers for the purpose of negotiation to the congress of Berne. Here it appears, that the emperor, who played a subordinate part to Great-Britain, has forced that power, in some degree, to follow his example.

Every thing, in this intervention, appears to be for our advantage. England has nothing butstitutions to make to us, and we have had only two ways of obtaining our object; one, by ourselves, making restitutions to its continental allies; and the other, a much more hypothetic, or, to speak more correctly, an infinitely more improbable way, by forcing England to it, either by our successes at sea, or by annoying them on their own territory.

When a power which has obtained great advantages in war, does not behave with insolence, but consents to appear in a congress, it can no longer propose its conditions with the same pride as in other situations, because all the other powers will unite in checking its hauteur.

This congress will become an epoch in the political system of Europe, as decisive as that of the treaty of Westphalia. The policy of the Austrian cabinet will seek to indemnify itself. It is probable that the proposition often spoken of by us, of secularizing the ecclesiastical electorates, will be strenuously supported by the emperor; but he will use every effort to revive his pretensions to Bavaria. The neutral adversary which the house of Austria will find at the congress of Berne, will be the king of Prussia, who will make his appearance there as a member of the Germanic body, and as the only support that this body can now boast. As for us, our policy leads us neither to favour the emperor nor the king of Prussia. The Germanic body, with its unwieldy constitution, offers to us great advantages; by preventing that warlike nation, whose population far exceeds that of France, from forming into two empires, which would prove dangerous neighbours to us.

From these observations, it follows, that the peace should be directed by the same spirit and the same views as that of Westphalia; that we should be constantly the moderators of Europe; and that it should always be our endeavour to set bounds both to our own ambition, and to that of our most powerful neighbours.

As to England, what is to be asked of it? Will the restitution of every thing that it has taken from Holland, be required? Good; but what are our forces, our armaments, and what our victories? Where are our fleets, and where the means of building them, to enforce such absolute conditions? What has been the reply by which we have justified our new acquisitions on the continent? Why, our victories there; and England will consider its naval victories as authorizing it to retain its acquisitions.

Has Holland any means of concurring in this general restitution, that power which dares not send to sea its fleet, though in readiness, because it has reason to mistrust both its soldiers and its sailors. From this, we may judge how it will be able to support its commerce, and what must be its weight in the balance of maritime powers.

As to Spain, she is entirely occupied by the care of defending her immense possessions. The ignominious check which she sustained off Cape St. Vincent, should make her timid and mistrustful. She will take care not to undertake any offensive operation, without even a fleet to send into the south seas, where an English squadron has already shewed itself.

We must not suppose that England thinks of keeping the whole of the new colonies which she has acquired. Nothing is important or useful to her but what ensures her dominion in the Indies. She will restore us without much difficulty, the Antilla Islands; for she is anxious to concentrate her force, already too much spread, and will not imitate Spain, who, by extending her colonial system, has weakened every one of her colonies in turn; and even exposed the centre of its government.

(Tableau de France & de l'Europe.)

General Clarke is named as plenipotentiary at the approaching congress.

Massena, who assisted at the conferences which took place previous to the signing of the preliminaries, and of the treaty of peace with the king of Hungary, speaks in high terms of the frankness which the plenipotentiary of the emperor employed; and we have no doubt that this power will acknowledge that it can no where find a better ally than France, and that she will even facilitate the negotiations which have been opened.

According to a private letter from Francfort, which is entitled to some credit, the court of Vienna has sent a courier to London, with the most earnest request to the British court to acquiesce in the conditions stipulated by the preliminaries to the treaty of peace. The British minister is pressed to consent to the cession of Belgium, or if he will not acquiesce in that, to free the emperor from the engagements which he has contracted with England by former treaties. The cabinet of Vienna at the same time declares, that whatever may be the answer of that of London, circumstances more strong than any engagements will oblige his Imperial majesty to treat for peace with the French republic, on the basis agreed on by the preliminaries.

We are assured, that the king of Prussia is very ill, and cannot live long. This circumstance makes the Directory very circumspect in their conduct, as they do not know the intentions of his successor.

If we may give credit to the journals of Milan, as to the conditions on which Buonaparte will treat with the republic of Venice, they are as follow:

1. The setting at liberty all persons confined on account of opinions, or for their attachment to the French.
2. The evacuation of Terra Firma by all the troops that shall exceed the number which was there five months ago.
3. The disarming of the peasantry.
4. The punishment of those who set fire to the house of the consul of Zante, and the rebuilding of the house at the expence of the senate.
5. The arrest of the commander who fired on the frigate La Brune, and the payment of the value of the Austrian convoy, which, without this act of hostility, would have fallen into the power of the captain of the Sybille, commander of the French Flotilla.

BOSTON, July 3.

Captain Tilton, from Cadiz, in lat. 45, 28, long. 43, spoke the ship Phoenix, from Bremen to Baltimore, 35 days out, the captain of which informed him, that he had on board papers, giving information of the French having declared WAR AGAINST AMERICA. [To this report we give no sort of credit.]

Arrived, ship Mermaid, Tilton, 55 days from Cadiz. Captain Tilton passed the British fleet, before Cadiz, and was boarded by the Irresistible; the commander of which informed captain T. that the Spanish admiral Massaredo, by a flag of the 1st May, mentioned the hopes of admiral Jervis being soon in Cadiz, in the character of a friend; he also informed captain T. in case of the prolongation of the war, the Spaniards were determined to risk another engagement, and that admiral Massaredo would be ready in about a month with 50 ships of the line; the British fleet, off Cadiz, is 29 sail of the line, among them eight three deckers.

The 20th April, two frigates from the Havana, passed the English fleet, but were afterwards discovered by the reconnoitring ships, and after a short contest, were driven on shore—one of them, the Nymph, was got off again, with little damage, on board of which was the famous Mr. Muir, who was dangerously wounded in the engagement.

Same day arrived, schooner Federal George, Sampson, of Duxbury, 44 days from Bourdeaux. Spoke nothing—brought no list.

Extract of a letter from captain Fairbairn, of the ship Levant of this port, dated Algiers, May 10, 1797. I was taken by a Spanish privateer and carried into Ceuta, where my ship was immediately condemned. The sentence was read to me in Spanish, and only a few words interpreted, such as—That I was from London; had an English jack on board; was a d-d Englishman; &c. after which I was bid to get

out of the room—and underwent a confinement of ten days. At length was sent here with my crew in order to be exchanged at Gibraltar as Englishmen. I have, however, since got my liberty, and permission to go to Malaga, and have appealed to the court of Madrid for my ship. There is great talk here of war with America. The brig Minerva, Bray, of Philadelphia; and brig Hawk, Hall, of New-York, were also condemned at Ceuta. Ship Polly, Bradshaw, of Salem, brig Dispatch, Bram, of Philadelphia; brig Two Friends, Howland, of Boston; and ship Three Brothers, Smith, Portland, are condemned at Malaga. Danish and Swedish vessels are taken as well as American.

PHILADELPHIA, July 6.

The following papers were communicated to both houses of congress by a message from the president, July 3.

AUTHENTIC.

R. Lister presents his respects to colonel Pickering, secretary of state.

When you first mentioned to me the suspicions expressed by the Spanish minister respecting an expedition supposed to be preparing on the Lakes with a view to attack the Spanish posts in Louisiana, I took the liberty of observing to you that I had no knowledge of any such preparations, and did not believe that they existed.

I have since requested information on the subject from the governor-general of Canada, and from his majesty's secretary of state; and I have authority to assure you that no expedition of the nature of that alluded to has been, or is intended by the British government.—Indeed the impropriety of violating the neutral territory of the United States is an objection of sufficient magnitude to induce the king's ministers to reject any such plan, were it suggested to them.

Philadelphia, 19th June, 1797.

Department of state,
Philadelphia, 1st July, 1797.

SIR,

YOUR note of the 19th of the last month, alluding to the suspicions expressed by the Spanish minister, respecting an expedition suggested to be preparing at the Lakes against the Spanish posts in Louisiana, I laid before the president of the United States; who received great satisfaction from your assurance, that no such expedition has been, or is intended by the British government.

Will you permit me to inquire whether you can give any information concerning any other project of an expedition against any part of the dominions of Spain, adjacent to the territory of the United States, where, or from whence any co-operation was contemplated? I am aware of the delicacy of this inquiry, but the frankness of your verbal answer formerly, relating to the alleged expedition from Canada, and the assurances in your note above-mentioned, lead me to hope that you will not deem the present inquiry improper, and the proof you have uniformly given of respect to the rights and interests of the United States, authorize the further hope that you will feel yourself at liberty to communicate any information you possess, which on this occasion may concern their tranquillity and welfare; and I beg you to be assured that it is on this ground only that I would make the inquiry.

I will add, however, that it is not the result of suspicion, but of information (in which your name is introduced) that some project of the kind has been contemplated; and that the means proposed for carrying it into execution could not but be highly detrimental to the United States.

I have the honour to be,

With great respect, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

TIMOTHY PICKERING.

Robert Liston, Esquire, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of his Britannic majesty to the United States.

R. Liston presents his respects to colonel Pickering, secretary of state.

I have had the honour of receiving your letter of yesterday.

In the course of last winter, some persons did actually propose to me a plan for an attack on the Floridas, and the other possessions of his Catholic majesty, adjoining to the territories of the United States.

The general outline of the project was, that the expedition should be undertaken by a British force, sent by sea, and seconded by a number of armed residents within the limits of the United States, who, I was assured, would be willing to join the king's standard, if it were erected on the Spanish territory.

I informed the projectors, that I could not give any encouragement to a plan of this nature; and I particularly stated two objections to it—the impropriety of