

boat, in order to procure, in season, what intelligence she might have brought; our reporter returned, in company with the ship, about 9 o'clock last evening, and informs, that the left London the 14th of October; but could obtain no papers: he undertook from several intelligent passengers on board, that two of the American commissioners, Messrs. Marshall and Pinckney, had received passports from the French Directory, and were actually preparing to set off for Paris; and that an additional passport was received for Mr. Gerry; but whose arrival in Holland, though reported, was not authenticated; this information was received in London by Mr. King from general Pinckney. On any other subject, nothing essential had transpired since the new era of things in France. Peace was despaired of.

NEW-YORK, November 10.  
IMPORTANT.

Extract of a letter from Mr. Scovell in St. Domingo, to his owners at this place, dated October 8.

Gentlemen,

"I am very happy to inform you, that on account of the late order from France, the trial of all the American vessels bound to British ports IS SUSPENDED. I shall no doubt be liberated. Your schooner Adventure's trial will come on the 21st of this month, when she will most assuredly be cleared. Mr. Casafat, from Rhode-Island is empowered from the judge and council to go up to Porto Rico, and take charge of all the American vessels captured and brought into that port."

November 20.

By the ship Betsey, captain Phelps, arrived from Bristol, in 60 days.

OFFICE OF GENERAL POLICE.

Letter from the commissary of the Executive Power at the central department of the Rhone, to the minister of police.

LYONS, September 9.

The important events which have taken place at Paris, attract universal attention; they have not, however, troubled the commune of Lyons, and still less the department.—Curiosity and uneasiness occupy all minds. The most clear sighted of the merchants and tradesmen already begin to entertain hopes of a change of affairs more favourable to their commercial interests. Malevolence is dismayed and terrified. Its agents a few days ago were much more active than at present. I shall be particular, citizen minister, at this critical period, in informing you of every thing which concerns general or individual safety.

(Signed)

SOTTIN.

The commissioner of the Executive Authority in the criminal tribunal of the department of L'Orne, to the minister of justice.

Alencan, 24 Fructidor, Sept. 11.

Citizen minister,

I am this instant informed, that at Sieez preparations had been made for the organization of the national guard; that uniforms with black collars were quite ready, and that the corps were about to be formed into divisions of chasseurs and grenadiers, under the title of Chasseurs and Grenadiers of Pichegru; that at Prenais, in the department of La Sarthe, uniforms had likewise been made, and the plan of insurrection had been entertained.

This proves that it was time to strike the conspirators.

How vast was the scheme of Pichegru! The law which he proposed and carried, was nothing more than one of the means to render the success of it more certain.

Upon this very day were the black collars to have been brought forward, and the satellites of Pichegru to have shown themselves.

Happily these projects have been disconcerted.

Health and Fraternity.

(Signed)

LEROYER LATOÛNERIE.

An exact copy. For the minister of justice.

PLEVILLE LEBELEY,

minister of marine.

November 22.

A London paper of the 27th September, states, that general La Bayette and his companions in suffering, are at length delivered from their long and painful captivity; They were released on the 27th of August.

The British parliament were to meet about the middle of this month.

PHILADELPHIA, November 12.

A gentleman of this city, now in France, in a letter to his friend, dated Paris, 30th September, writes, that Mr. Pinckney and Mr. Marshall had arrived there, and were treated with much austerity by citizens Fauchet and Ader, who were appointed to confer with the American commissioners.

Annapolis, November 30.

On Thursday last at 12 o'clock, the President of the United States met both Houses of Congress, in the Representatives' chamber, and addressed them as follows:

Gentlemen of the Senate, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, I WAS, for some time apprehensive that it would be necessary, on account of the contagious sickness which afflicted the city of Philadelphia, to convene the national legislature at some other place; this measure it was desirable to avoid, because it would occasion much public inconvenience, and a considerable public expense; and add to the calamities of the inhabitants of this city, whose sufferings must have ex-

cited the sympathy of all their fellow-citizens: Therefore, after taking measures to ascertain the state and decline of the sickness, I postponed my determination, having hopes, now happily realized; that, without hazard to the health of the members, Congress might assemble at this place, where it was next by law to meet. I submit, however, to your consideration, whether power to postpone the meeting of congress, without passing the time fixed by the constitution upon such occasions, would not be a useful amendment to the law of one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four.

Although I cannot yet congratulate you on the re-establishment of peace in Europe, and the restoration of security to the persons and properties of our citizens from injustice and violence at sea; we have, nevertheless, abundant cause of gratitude to the source of benevolence and influence, for interior tranquillity, and personal security, for propitious seasons, prosperous agriculture, productive fisheries, and general improvements, and above all, for a rational spirit of civil and religious liberty, and a calm, but steady determination to support our sovereignty, as well as our moral and religious principles, against all open and secret attacks.

Our envoys extraordinary to the French republic embarked; one in July, the other early in August, to join their colleague in Holland. I have received intelligence of the arrival of both of them in Holland, from whence they all proceeded on their journey to Paris, within a few days of the 19th of September. Whatever may be the result of this mission, I trust that nothing will have been omitted on my part to conduct the negotiation to a successful conclusion, on such equitable terms, as may be compatible with the safety, honour, and interest of the United States.—Nothing in the mean-time will contribute so much to the preservation of peace, and the attainment of justice, as a manifestation of that energy, and unanimity of which on many former occasions the people of the United States have given such memorable proofs, and the exertion of those resources for national defence, which a beneficent Providence has kindly placed within their power.

It may be confidently asserted, that nothing has occurred since the adjournment of congress, which renders inexpedient those precautionary measures, recommended by me to the consideration of the two houses, at the opening of your late extraordinary session. If that system was then prudent, it is more so now, as increasing depredations strengthen the reasons for its adoption.

Indeed whatever may be the issue of the negotiation with France, and whether the war in Europe is, or is not to continue, I hold it most certain that permanent tranquillity and order will not soon be obtained: The state of society has so long been disturbed, the sense of moral and religious obligation so much weakened—public faith and national honour have been so impaired, respect to treaties has been so diminished, and the law of nations has lost so much of its force; while pride, ambition, avarice, and violence, have been so long unrestrained, there remains no reasonable ground, on which to raise an expectation that a commerce without protection or defence, will not be plundered.

The commerce of the United States is essential, if not to their existence, at least to their comfort, their growth, prosperity and happiness. The genius, character, and habits of the people are highly commercial; their cities have been formed, and exist upon commerce: our agriculture, fisheries, arts, and manufactures, are connected with, and depend upon it: in short, commerce has made this country what it is, and it cannot be destroyed or neglected, without involving the people in poverty and distress; great numbers are directly, and solely supported by navigation. The faith of society is pledged for the preservation of the rights of commercial and sea-faring, no less than of the other citizens. Under this view of our affairs, I should hold myself guilty of a neglect of duty, if I forbore to recommend, that we should make every exertion to protect our commerce, and to place our country in a suitable posture of defence, as the only sure means of preserving both.

I have entertained an expectation, that it would have been in my power, at the opening of this session, to have communicated to you the agreeable information of the due execution of our treaty with his Catholic majesty, respecting the withdrawing of his troops from our territory, and the demarkation of the line of limits; but by the latest authentic intelligence, Spanish garrisons were still continued within our country, and the running of the boundary line had not been commenced.—These circumstances are the more to be regretted, as they cannot fail to affect the Indians, in a manner injurious to the United States;—still, however, indulging the hope, that the answers which have been given, will remove the objections offered by the Spanish officers, to the immediate execution of the treaty, I have judged it proper, that we should continue in readiness to receive the posts, and to run the line of limits—further information on this subject will be communicated in the course of the session.

In connexion with the unpleasant state of things, on our western frontier, it is proper for me to mention, the attempts of foreign agents to alienate the affections of the Indian nations, and to excite them to actual hostilities against the United States; great activity has been exerted by these persons, who have insinuated themselves among the Indian tribes, residing within the territory of the United States, to influence them to transfer their affections and force, to a foreign nation, to form them into a confederacy, and prepare them for war against the United States.

Although measures have been taken to counteract these insinuations of our rights, to prevent Indian hostilities, and to preserve their attachment to the United States, it is my duty to observe that to give a better

effect to these measures, and to obviate the consequences of a repetition of such practices, a law providing adequate punishment for such offences may be necessary.

The commissioners appointed under the 5th article of the treaty of amity, commerce, and navigation, between the United States and Great-Britain, to ascertain the river, which was truly intended, under the name of the river St. Croix, mentioned in the treaty of peace, met at Passamaquoddy Bay in October, 1796, and viewed the mouths of the rivers in question, the adjacent shores and islands; and being of opinion, that actual surveys of both rivers to their sources were necessary, gave to the agents of the two nations instructions for that purpose; and adjourned to meet at Boston in August; they met, but the surveys requiring more time than had been supposed, and not being then completed, the commissioners again adjourned to meet at Providence in the state of Rhode-Island in June next, when we may expect a final examination and decision.

The commissioners appointed in pursuance of the 6th article of the treaty, met at Philadelphia, in May last, to examine the claims of British subjects, for debts contracted before the peace, and still remaining due to them, from the citizens, or inhabitants of the United States. Various causes have hitherto prevented any determinations, but the business is now resumed, and doubtless will be prosecuted without interruption.

Several decisions on the claims of the citizens of the United States, for losses and damages sustained by reason of irregular and illegal captures, or condemnations, of their vessels, or other property, have been made by the commissioners in London, conformably to the 7th article of the treaty.—The sums awarded by the commissioners had been paid by the British government; a considerable number of other claims, where costs and damages, and not captured property, were the only objects in question, have been decided by arbitration, and the sums awarded to the citizens of the United States, have also been paid.

The commissioners appointed agreeably to the 21st article of our treaty with Spain met at Philadelphia in the summer past, to examine and decide on the claims of our citizens for losses they have sustained in consequence of their vessels and cargoes having been taken by the subjects of his Catholic majesty, during the late war between Spain and France.—Their sittings have been interrupted, but are now resumed.

The United States being obligated to make compensation for the losses and damages sustained by British subjects, upon the award of the commissioners, acting under the 6th article of the treaty with Great-Britain, and for the losses and damages sustained by British subjects by reason of the capture of their vessels, and merchandise taken within the limits and jurisdiction of the United States, and brought into their ports, or taken by vessels originally armed in ports of the United States, upon the awards of the commissioners, acting under the 7th article of the same treaty; it is necessary that provision be made for fulfilling these obligations.

The numerous captures of American vessels, by cruisers of the French republic, and of some by those of Spain, have occasioned considerable expences, in making and supporting the claims of our citizens, before their tribunals.—The sums required for this purpose, have in divers instances, been disbursed by the consuls of the United States; by means of the same captures, great numbers of our seamen have been thrown ashore on foreign countries, destitute of all means of subsistence, and the sick in particular have been exposed to grievous sufferings. The consuls have in these cases also, advanced monies for their relief; for these advances they reasonably expect reimbursements from the United States. The consular act relative to seamen requires revision and amendment; the provisions for their support in foreign countries, and for their return, are found to be inadequate and ineffectual.—Another provision seems necessary to be added to the consular act; some foreign vessels have been discovered sailing under the flag of the United States, and with forged papers. It seldom happens that the consuls can detect this deception, because they have no authority to demand an inspection of the registers and sea-letters.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

It is my duty to recommend to your serious consideration, those objects, which by the constitution are placed particularly within your sphere, the national debts and taxes.

Since the decay of the feudal system, by which the public defence was provided for, chiefly at the expence of individuals, a system of loans has been introduced. And as no nation can raise within the year, by taxes, sufficient sums for its defence and military operations in time of war, the sums loaned and debts contracted have necessarily become the subjects of what have been called funding systems. The consequences arising from the continual accumulation of public debts in other countries, ought to admonish us to be careful to prevent their growth in our own. The national defence must be provided for, as well as the support of government; but both should be accomplished, as much as possible, by immediate taxes, and as little as possible by loans. The estimates for the service of the ensuing year will by my direction be laid before you.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and Gen-

tlemen of the House of Representatives,

We are met together at a most interesting period; the situations of the principal powers in Europe are singular and portentous. Connected with some by treaties, and with all by commerce, no important event there can be indifferent to us. Such circumstances call with peculiar importunity, not less, for a disposition to unite in all those measures, on which the honour,