

which he left the 8th of February. So short a passage, from a country which aspires to govern even the fates themselves, we hoped would have afforded something to gratify the solicitude of an expecting public: but on application to captain Hay, we were disappointed to find, that he did not bring a single paper: the little verbal information which he gathered in the intercourse of business, he politely communicated, and it is nearly as follows:

That the French government expressed the utmost resentment against the American government, accusing them of being a party with England against France—that it was expected our neglected envoys would return home in the spring, as their longer continuance there was hopeless—that the preparations for the invasion of England were vigorously continued; every French vessel was in a state of requisition, and sailors were constantly pressed for the service—that England, Scotland, and Ireland were declared in a state of siege, and all neutrals bound to or from these countries, subjects of capture and condemnation—and that it was a common sentiment among the enthusiastic populace, that France was to give law to the universe. But notwithstanding appearances, there were those who believed the project of invasion was a mere pretext for raising contributions. The taxes had become enormous: the merchants and others were very uneasy, and wished a new order of things; and even the privateers would frequently curtail the republic. Buonaparte was said to be still at Paris, and 100,000 troops, devoted to him, in its environs. A report was in circulation (whether it deserved any credit captain Hay could not ascertain), that a misunderstanding had arisen between the conqueror of Italy and the Executive Directory, in consequence of the former having proposed a new modification of the government, one feature in which was, that instead of five directors, the executive power should be vested in one man.

Captain Hay further informs, that the ship John and Richard, of Philadelphia, from the Isle of France for Hamburg, had been captured and carried into Rochelle, where the cargo was taken out, the ship stripped, and he supposed she would be condemned.

NEW-YORK, March 22.

Extract of a letter from Paris, dated 7th January.

Having business with Mr. Marshall, one of the American commissioners, I called at the American secretary's office to inquire where he lodged.—I was directed to No 170, Rue Vauguirard, to which place I went immediately; but Mr. Marshall was not visible. It was the morning after the ball given by the minister of foreign affairs. I ought not to have forgot it. I called next day when I had an interview with him," &c.

Remark of the Diary.

[The above seems to contradict the account we have had of Mr. Gerry only of the American commissioners having been invited to the minister's ball, as the writer evidently holds out the idea of Mr. Marshall's having been there also.]

They write from Brest, that the Sandwich had fallen in, about 200 leagues off Cape Finisterre, with the Indian, a French vessel of 18 guns, manned by 300 negroes, having more than 200 white men confined in the hold and loaded with iron. The seamen of the Sandwich had seen Santhonnax, and other officers, on board that vessel—we apprehend is either taken or lost.

CHARLESTON, March 13.

Yesterday arrived the brig Aurora, captain Woodman, from Bourdeaux.—The Aurora left Bourdeaux the 22d of January, and the river the 23d, as it was expected another embargo would be laid on.

Accounts from Paris as late as January 18, had been received at Bourdeaux, which stated that the American commissioners had not been at that time admitted to an audience, nor were they noticed. It was said to be their intention to remain in Paris until they were received or ordered to depart, in which case they would retire to Holland until the spring.

The verbal information by this vessel does not confirm prior accounts of commotions and divisions in Paris.

The talk of invasion of England was still pursued, and vessels of all descriptions were placed in requisition for the purpose.

The report of the day in Bourdeaux was, that England was declared in a state of blockade; that Buonaparte's brother, the French minister at Rome, had been assassinated; that general Berthier had marched with his army into that city, and that the pope had fled.

Several letters of the 12th and 14th of January mention, that captain Pratt, of the ship Federalist, had gone to Bayonne, to attend the trial of his ship; that from the clearness of his papers, and the cargo being American, they expected she would be cleared. Captain W. says that two days before he sailed, accounts of her condemnation were received.

By the Aurora we have received the Paris Moniteur and National Gazette to the 12th January, which contain nothing of importance.

BALTIMORE, March 19.

COUNTERFEIT DOLLARS.

The following letters have been politely handed us, with a request that they should be published, for public information:

London, Dec. 18, 1797.

SIR,

IN order that the public may be protected against the frauds about to be practised upon them, I take the liberty to send you annexed the copy of a letter that I have lately received from Mr. Colquhoun, an en-

lightened and vigilant magistrate of this city. I shall dispatch copies to the principal ports of your country, and hope that they may arrive in season to put the custom-house officers and others upon their guard.

With perfect respect I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient and faithful servant,

RUFUS KING.

To the President of the Branch Bank.

(COPY)

Charles Square, Hoxton, 14th Dec. 1797.

SIR,

HAVING reason to suspect, since the circulation of dollars has been stopped, that some of those miscreants, both here and at Birmingham, who were concerned extensively in the coinage of false dollars, have found means to send quantities to America for the purpose of perpetrating the same species of villainy which has been but too successfully practised in this country, I feel it to be my duty as a magistrate, to apprise you of this circumstance, that if you conceive it necessary you may put the executive government of the United States upon its guard against their nefarious designs to cheat and defraud the innocent and unwary, and to furnish the means of detecting the infamous agents who may be engaged in this traffic, which I suspect, will be principally confined to Jews in the large trading towns.

The dollars which are or may be fabricated for this particular purpose will be without the Tower or King's mark or Head. They are made of copper, and generally covered with a thin plate of silver, and the workmanship and imitation is very perfect. They are generally discovered by ringing one against another, or by boring with any sharp pointed instrument, which last operation discovers the copper at once. If you have any desire that I should transmit a specimen of this false coinage, I will with pleasure send you one.

I have the honour to be, with great respect and esteem, Sir, your most obedient, and most faithful servant,

P. COLQUHOUN.

To his excellency Rufus King, Esquire, &c.

A Paris paper of the 13th Jan. states, that the envoy from Rome at Paris has been taken into custody, and that a courier extraordinary has been dispatched to general Berthier at Milan, to desire him to march the republican troops against Rome, in order to avenge the manes of the brave Duphoz.

The same paper asserts, that there are strong reasons for believing that the Directory will soon give orders for the invasion of the electorate of Hanover.

March 21.

ACCOUNT

Of the dreadful catastrophe of the ship Thomas, of Liverpool.

Barbadoes, 14th October, 1797.

On Tuesday afternoon last, drifted on shore on the N. E. part of this island, a boat with two men and a boy.

Of all human sufferings, few (if any) can exceed what these miserable ill-fated mortals experienced, nor can dangers equal what they encountered, at the recital of which our blood freezes, and our feelings cannot but be deeply distressed at the relation of such a scene of human misery.

These are part of the crew belonging to the ship Thomas, McQuay, of Liverpool, on his middle voyage from the coast of Africa to this island. From that coast being infested with French privateers, captain McQuay had taught his male slaves the use of arms, in order that they should aid him to repel the attacks of the enemy, should any be made, as he had frequent skirmishes with them on his last voyage, but instead of becoming auxiliaries in his defence, they took advantage of his instructions, and seizing his ammunition chest, on the 2d of September, early in the morning about 200 of them appeared on the deck, accoutred, and fired on the crew; some of them fell, others in dismay leaped overboard, who were also fired at, whilst others cut away the boat lashed to the stern, and took refuge in her by escaping through the cabin windows, leaving the captain and rest of the crew endeavouring to quell the insurgents, by discharging such arms as are usually kept in cabins; but upon the captain's observing that some were in the boat, and about to desert the ship, he remonstrated so warmly as to induce them to return; but they perceived that they were overpowered, and seeing no possibility of escaping the danger that awaited them, again secured the boat and quitted the ship; of these were twelve.

Having fled from the fury of savage ferocity, they now became a prey to the wind and waves, to hunger and thirst, and after having suffered the horrors of these for some days, they providentially took a small turtle whilst floating asleep on the surface of the water, which they devoured; and again being driven to distress for want of food, they soaked their shoes, and two hairy caps which were among them, in the water, which being rendered soft, each partook of them.—But day after day having past, and the cravings of hunger pressing hard upon them, they fell upon the horrible and dreadful expedient of eating each other, and to prevent any contention about who should become the food for others, they cast lots, when on whom the lot fell, with manly fortitude resigned his life, with the persuasion of his body becoming the means of existence to his companions in distress, but solicited that he might be bled to death, (the surgeon being with them, and having his case of instruments in his pocket when he left the ship.) No sooner had the fatal instrument touched the vein, than the operator applied his parched lips, and drank of the blood, which flowed, whilst the rest anxiously watched his departing breath, that they might satisfy the hunger that gnawed them.—Those that glutted themselves with human flesh, and human gore, and whose stomachs

retained the unnatural food, soon perished with raging infamy, from putrefaction, as we conceive, superadding digestion. Thus the dreary prospect became the more so to the survivors, from seeing their fellow companions expire before them, from the very cause that ravenous hunger impelled them to imagine would give them existence. Those that remained attribute the preservation of their lives to having rejected following the example of their fellow sufferers. Indeed they assert having refused risking their lives to the chance of a straw, but the majority having determined it, they could not refuse.

Our narrator, Mr. Farmer, residing near Jeer's River, whose veracity, we are informed, is undoubted, has not furnished us with the time when the death of the others took place, but proceeds in stating, that on Tuesday morning, the 10th inst. being the 38th day, the lonely travellers deserted the shore, but having no helm to guide their little boat, despair took possession of their almost exhausted spirits, and being hopeless, resigned themselves to death. That Providence, however, without whose knowledge a sparrow doth not fall to the ground, and whose gracious interposition in favour of the two has been apparent, became their helm and guide, and directed them to the shore; which when having approached worn-out nature could scarcely permit them to leave the boat, and embrace the earth so fervently wished; for the boy having fallen into the surf, and unable to make an effort was drowned. The remnant of the woeful twelve exerting their little strength, crawled on their bellies to the mouth of Jeer's River, where they staked their thirst, and being discovered by a Mr. Malcott, then in the Bay house of Mr. Haynes, he hospitably gave them the assistance which humanity dictates, and such extreme distress required.

Annapolis, March 29.

APPOINTMENTS

John Quincy Adams, minister plenipotentiary of the United States to his majesty the King of Prussia, to be a commissioner with full powers to negotiate a treaty of amity and commerce with Sweden.

Edward Hinman, of Connecticut, to be master of a revenue cutter.

Samuel Winslow, of Massachusetts, to be surveyor and inspector for the port of Thomaston.

The following important message from the president of the United States, relative to the negotiation with the French republic, was read in the house of representatives March 19; and, upon motion, referred to the committee of the whole on the state of the union:

Gentlemen of the senate, and Gentlemen of the house of representatives,

THE dispatches from the envoys extraordinary of the United States to the French republic, which were mentioned in my message to both houses of congress, of the 5th instant, have been examined and maturely considered.

While I feel a satisfaction in informing you, that their exertions, for the adjustment of the differences between the two nations, have been sincere and unremitted, it is incumbent on me to declare, that I perceive no ground of expectation, that the objects of their mission, can be accomplished, on terms compatible with the safety, honour, or the essential interests of the nation.

This result cannot, with justice, be attributed to any want of moderation on the part of this government, or to any indisposition to forego secondary interests, for the preservation of peace. Knowing it to be my duty, and believing it to be your wish, as well as that of the great body of the people, to avoid, by all reasonable concessions, any participation in the contentions of Europe, the powers vested in our envoys were commensurate with a liberal and pacific policy, and that high confidence which might justly be reposed in the patriotism, abilities and integrity of the characters to whom the negotiation was committed.—After a careful review of the whole subject, with the aid of all the information I have received, I can discern nothing, which could have injured or contributed to success, that has been omitted on my part—and nothing further which can be attempted, consistently with maxims for which our country has contended, at every hazard, and which constitute the basis of our national sovereignty.

Under these circumstances, I cannot forbear to reiterate the recommendations which have been formerly made, and to exhort you to adopt with promptitude, decision and unanimity, such measures as the ample resources of the country afford, for the protection of our commercial and sea-faring citizens; for the defence of any exposed portions of our territory; for replenishing our arsenals, establishing foundries and military manufactures; and to provide such efficient revenue, as will be necessary to defray extraordinary expenses, and supply the deficiencies which may be occasioned by depredations on our commerce.

The present state of things, is so essentially different from that, in which instructions were given to collectors to restrain vessels of the United States from sailing in an armed condition, that the principle on which those orders were issued, has ceased to exist. I therefore deem it proper to inform congress, that I no longer conceive myself justifiable in continuing them, unless in particular cases, where there may be a reasonable ground of suspicion, that such vessels are intended to be employed contrary to law.

In all your proceedings, it will be important to manifest a zeal, vigour and concert in defence of the national rights, proportioned to the danger with which they are threatened.

JOHN ADAMS.

United States, March 19, 1798.