

It is democratic, inasmuch as it is not founded in property; as the body of persons eligible to the great national offices are drawn, by the process of filtration, from the great mass of the people; it is also democratic, inasmuch as it explodes the idea of arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, and establishes the trial by jury.

It is aristocratic, because the people have no direct influence; because they do not immediately appoint their representatives; because the government has the initiation of the laws; because the decision upon those laws is to be secret; and because there is a body of men elected for life.

It is monarchical, because the chief power of the state is, in fact, intrusted to one man who is not responsible.

The people of France were allowed only three days to give their opinion on the constitution. It has been very universally acceded to. How long it will last it would be folly to predict. It is certainly very energetic. But as long as the supreme executive has the initiation or origination of all laws, the idea of France being a free representative government, is ridiculous in the extreme.

Our envoys have arrived at Lisbon, and are proceeding to Paris.

The archduke on the Rhine has taken Manheim, and forced the French to retire.

In Italy also the Austrians are successful. The important fortress of Coni has at length capitulated, and the French have fallen back as far as Nice.

Peace seems yet at a distance.

The readers of the N. York Gazette, of yesterday morning were exclusively informed, that the 54 with which the gallant commodore Truxton had an engagement, was called the Vengeance, and had arrived at Curacao, entirely dismasted, with the loss of 100 men killed and 60 wounded.

We are this day enabled to give further interesting particulars of this almost unparalleled action, from the mouth of Mr. James Howe, who was on board the Vengeance, before, during, and some days after the conflict.

Mr. Howe, who is sensible and intelligent, informs us, that the Vengeance mounted on her gun-deck 32 long 13's, including 2 that were used as stern chasers; on her quarter 12 36 pound brass carronades, with 4 long 12's, and on her fore-castle 6 long 12's; that she had on board 400 men, including 80 passengers, who all assisted during the engagement; besides 36 American seamen, who were taken out of the prison at Guadaloupe to work on board this ship some weeks before she sailed, and who nobly refused to fight, and said they considered themselves as prisoners of war, and rather than act offensively against their country, or any nation at peace with them, they would die by the sword! They were then ordered below, where they remained till the firing ceased, as will appear by the subjoined certificate from the captain of the Vengeance; of which we have obtained a translation from the original now in the hands of Mr. Howe. A similar certificate was given to each of the prisoners, agreeably to promise, on condition that they would exert themselves in getting the wreck into port, which they effected on the 5th day after the engagement.

The Vengeance had 186 bullet holes in her hull above water, some of the balls having gone through and through. Most of the passengers were killed, and from three to five of the wounded died each day before she reached port, one of whom was the sailing master.

Capt. Pitot is said to be an old and brave commander, having lost a hand, &c. in former battles. In the present one he had his trumpet knocked out of his hand by the same ball which took off the arm of a lieutenant who was standing near him.

It was the number of passengers, with upwards of a million of dollars on board, that made the Vengeance unwilling to come to action. She had been out only 36 hours from Guadaloupe, and was bound to Brest.

The particulars of the chase, &c. from Mr. Howe, correspond exactly with those of commodore Truxton, to the secretary of the navy.

TRANSLATION.

I, the undersigned, *captain de Vaisseau*, commanding the frigate Vengeance, belonging to the French republic, at present in the harbour of Curacao, certify, to all whom it may concern; that James Howe, an American seaman, embarked on board the said frigate, at Port Liberty, as a passenger; by order of the agents of the consuls at Guadaloupe—and that he continued on board from the 8th Pluiviose to this day.—I also certify, that in consequence of a just demand made by the said James Howe to me not to serve in case of an engagement, he was put below during the combat which this frigate had from the 12th to the 13th of the present month; that he remained there throughout the whole of it; and that after the action, he wrought with all possible zeal and activity in repairing the damages which this frigate sustained.

In consequence of the services which he rendered on this occasion, I owe him the justice to request every officer commanding French ships of war, or privateers, not to give, nor suffer to be given, to the said James Howe, any hindrance or molestation on his return from this port to the United States; but on the contrary to render him every assistance in their power, unless he should be found on board a vessel armed against France. In testimony whereof I have signed these presents on board the Vengeance, Curacao, the 20th Pluiviose, eighth year, &c.

D. M. PITOT.
Certified by the delegate of the agents of the consuls of the French republic to the windward islands—Curacao, 20th Pluiviose, 8th year, &c.
JOUBERT.

From the New York Daily Advertiser.

Capt. Pitot generously bore testimony to the gallantry of our brave Truxton, though it was not till some days after he had arrived, that it was known that he was his antagonist; and capt. P. frankly acknowledged, that if the action had been continued 10 or 15 minutes longer he would have been obliged to strike.

Le Vengeur had on board 50 or 60 American prisoners. The crew consisted of 600 men, of which 170 were during the action killed and wounded. The governor is said to have animated the crew by his own example, and with 5 or 6 other passengers to have been wounded.—A variety of other circumstances are related, but we cannot answer for their correctness.

Extract of a letter from captain Truxton to the secretary of the navy, dated Port-Royal Harbour, Jamaica, 12th Feb. 1800.

"I arrived here the 8th inst. in company with the Infurgente; capt. Murray, with whom I fell in, the day after I wrote you by lieutenant Shaw.

"Finding it impossible to get a main-mast here, I shall use every dispatch in my power to put the Constellation into a condition to proceed to the United States. I have met a kind and friendly reception from admiral Parker: all the British post captains here have been on board the Constellation, and from seeing our situation, express every sentiment that could be wished by those true Americans who love their country and its honour, better than any thing else.

"I have heard nothing of the French 54 gun ship since the action. It is hard to conjecture whether she sunk, or whether she has got into St. Thomas's or Curacao. If she is still above water, she must be irreparable in the West-Indies. Her loss of men must have been prodigious in an action of five hours, with 600 men on board: my fire was directed principally at her hull.

"Several of my officers have told me that they thought they saw her go down—certain it is, that the ship and her lights disappeared of a sudden, and we ought to have seen her at day light. But I was so employed myself, in preserving our fore-mast and mizen mast, after the main-mast went over the side, that I attended to nothing else."

Extract of a letter from capt. Baker, of the Delaware sloop of war, to the secretary of the navy, dated Curacao, 8th February, 1800.

"On the 6th inst. appeared off this harbour, a French ship of 52 guns, called La Vengeance, and from what I can learn, she left Guadaloupe last Sunday, bound to France, with a great deal of money, &c. on board; and also two French generals, and a number of other officers and passengers: but on Monday evening she was overtaken by an American or British frigate (but generally believed to be the former) and from her shattered condition, she must have had a very severe action, La Vengeance having left standing but her bowsprit, fore and mizen-mast; her fore and mizen shrouds, rattlings, &c. been cut up to, that you could scarce see any of them for stoppers. In short, there appears no place that has escaped a shot: her starboard side has been much hulled, and it is said, she had 140 killed and wounded, and when she parted had 8 feet water in the hold. They say the other vessel was in a similar situation, and in fact, that neither of them had the command of their ships. The French ship is now haled up in the harbour, and will require some months to refit, not having masts, cordage, &c. necessary for that purpose.

"P. S. This moment arrived a schooner from St. Thomas's with an American gentleman on board. They were spoke by a British frigate this morning at 8 o'clock, who informed them that yesterday he spoke commodore Truxton going down to Jamaica, who informed them, that last Monday night he got alongside of a French 50 gun ship, and after a long and severe action, had the misfortune to lose his main-mast, fore and mizen-top mast; the ship became unmanageable, at which time the French ship made her escape, severely wounded.

"Capt. Truxton said, that if he could have kept alongside 15 minutes longer, he would have taken her. This agrees with the French report, for they say they were in such a situation, they could not have defended the ship much longer."

PHILADELPHIA, March 19.

Letters from his excellency Mr. King, in London, dated December 24th, mention, that from accounts there, Denmark had joined the coalition, and Sweden was expected very shortly to follow the example—that a general peace was not expected, but a partial peace, between France and Austria, was not improbable.

From SURINAM.

Extract of a letter from Surinam, dated 3d February, to a merchant in this city.

"Victor Hugues has arrived at Cayenne with troops and ships from France, and it is feared, will have this place in a little time. Of this be assured, that every day since I have been here, all the forts have been firing 40 and 50 rounds morning and evening, in order to practice their men. There are a very few troops here, and not a ship of war, and I am afraid Hugues will have the place."

BALTIMORE, March 21.

IMPORTANT.

Arrived yesterday the fast sailing brig Betsey, capt. Hughes, six days from Savanna.

By the above arrival the editors of the Federal Gazette, have received Savanna papers down to the 14th inst. containing the following late and interesting articles:

SAVANNA, March 7.

Yesterday we were favoured by a friend with London papers to the 8th of January, and a Liverpool paper of the 9th, received by the ship Hope, capt. Calahan, 54 days from Liverpool—they contain nothing of moment, except the following interesting correspondence.

LONDON, January 6.

[Published by authority.]

Letters from the minister of foreign affairs in France, and from general Buonaparte, with the answers to them by the right honourable lord Grenville, his majesty's principal secretary of state for foreign affairs.

TRANSLATION.

MY LORD,

I DISPATCH, by order of general Buonaparte, first consul of the French republic, a messenger to London: he is the bearer of a letter from the first consul of the republic to his majesty the king of England. I request you to give the necessary orders that he may be enabled to deliver it directly into your own hands, this step, in itself, announces the importance of its object.

Signed

CH. MAU. TALLEYRAND.

Paris, the 5th Nivose, 8th year of the French republic (December 25, '99)

TRANSLATION.

French republic—sovereignty of the people—liberty—equality.

Buonaparte, first consul of the republic, to his majesty the king of Great Britain and of Ireland

Paris, the 5th Nivose, 8th year of the republic.

CALLED by the wishes of the French nation to occupy the first magistracy of the republic, I think it proper on entering into office, to make a direct communication of it to your majesty.

The war which for eight years has ravaged the four quarters of the world, must it be eternal? Are there no means of coming to an understanding?

How can the two most enlightened nations of Europe, powerful and strong beyond what their safety and independence require, sacrifice to ideas of vain greatness, the benefits of commerce, internal prosperity, and the happiness of families? How is it that they do not feel that peace is of the first necessity, as well as of the first glory?

These sentiments cannot be foreign to the heart of your majesty, who reigns over a free nation, and with the sole view of rendering it happy.

Your majesty will only see in this overture my sincere desire to contribute efficaciously, for the second time, to a general pacification by a step speedy, entirely of confidence, and disengaged from those which, necessary perhaps to disguise the dependence of weak states, prove only in those which are strong the mutual desire of deceiving each other.

France and England, by the abuse of their strength, may still for a long time, for the misfortune of all nations, retard the period of their being exhausted. But I will venture to say it, the fate of all civilized nations is attached to the termination of a war which involves the whole world.

Of your majesty.

(Signed)

BUONAPARTE.

Downing-street, Jan. 4, 1800.

SIR,

I have received and laid before the king the two letters which you have transmitted to me, and his majesty seeing no reason to depart from those forms which have long been established in Europe for transacting business with foreign states, has commanded me to return in his name, the official answer which I send you herewith enclosed.

I have the honour to be,
With high consideration,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed)

GRENVILLE.

To the minister for foreign affairs, &c. at Paris.

NOTE.

The king has given frequent proofs of his sincere desire for the re-establishment of secure and permanent tranquillity in Europe.—He neither is, nor has been engaged in any contest for a vain and false glory. He has had no other view than that of maintaining, against all aggression, the rights and happiness of his subjects.

For these he has contended against an unexpected attack; and for the same objects he is not disposed to contend; nor can he hope that this necessity could be removed by entering, at the present moment, into negotiation with those whom a fresh revolution has so recently placed in the exercise of power in France. Since no real advantage can arise from such negotiation to the great and desirable object of general peace, until it shall distinctly appear that those causes have ceased to operate, which originally produced the war, and by which it has since been protracted, and, in more than one instance renewed.

The same system, to the prevalence of which France justly ascribes all her present miseries, is that which has also involved the rest of Europe in a long and destructive warfare, of a nature long and unknown to the practice of civilized nations.

For the extension of this system, and for the extermination of all established governments, the resources of France have from year to year, and in the midst of the most unparalleled distress, been lavished and exhausted: To this indiscriminate spirit of destruction, the Netherlands, the United Provinces, the Swiss cantons (his majesty's ancient friends and allies) have sufficiently been sacrificed. Germany has been ravaged: Italy, though now rescued from its invaders,