

# MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, A P R I L 23, 1801.

PARIS, February 25.

Halmont, to citizen Devoise, commissary-general of commercial relations, charge d'affaires to the bey of Tunis, on board the brigantine Bons Patriotes, the 15th Nivose, January 5.

AFTER the request you have made of citizen Nobile, for details relative to the army, I permit to you, citizen commissary-general, those that are within my knowledge.

The ships sent from France to Alexandria, and arrived before our departure, were 12 in number, loaded with muskets, and carrying good news.

With respect to the army of Egypt, I can testify to you that it is in good condition, well clothed, well armed, and regularly paid; for a year past they have had no epidemic disease; the last year the plague made but few ravages; we have not lost 150 men of disease.

The port of Alexandria was entirely free, no vessel of the enemy was cruising there; the Turks and English, who were kept there for a long time, had retired from the 15th to the 20th Vendemiaire (11th and 12th October.)

Alexandria is in a respectable state of defence; every day they are at work at the fortifications; more than 100 pieces of cannon are on the batteries. Alexandria is equally well fortified and better than it ever has been. Cairo is also fortifying every day; on all its mountains that surround it, towers have been built, from whence the troops may assist in case of need, and where they are sheltered from sudden attacks; every little fort is supplied with water and provisions. Damietta is also secured from every attack from the enemy. On the side of Upper Egypt we are perfectly quiet, since the treaty of peace concluded between general Kieber and Mourat bey; the latter observes faithfully the conditions of the treaty, and the most perfect understanding subsists between him and general Douzelot, who commands in Upper Egypt.

When we left Alexandria, they expected a descent from the English; if such be their intention, they should be guarded in their measures for they will find men of courage, well disposed to give them a good reception. Our soldiers are so inured to the climate, that they march through the deserts better than the natives. Our cavalry is well mounted, and our artillery is in the best condition. Be assured, citizen commissary, that our troops will be delighted to see the approach of the English; once on shore, and they promise that they will never suffer them to re-embark.

The Heures Union, having on board citizen Tanden and several other passengers, sailed the 27th Brumaire.—She is probably taken.

We met the Nile corvette; she was going to France with officers charged with dispatches.

Such is, citizen commissary, the most recent intelligence from Egypt.

Receive, I request, the assurance of my respect.

(Signed) D'HALMONT.

LONDON, March 3.

## CONVENTION OF THE NORTHERN POWERS.

(From the Stockholm Court Gazette of the 3d Feb.)

Convention for the re-establishment of an armed neutrality, between his majesty the king of Sweden, of the one part, and his majesty the emperor of all the Russias, of the other part, concluded and signed at St. Petersburg, the 4th (16th of December,) 1800, accepted and ratified by his Swedish majesty on the 20th of December, and by his Imperial majesty of all the Russias on the 8th (20th December,) in the same year.

In the name of the most Holy and undivided Trinity.

In order that the freedom of the navigation, and the security of the merchandise of the neutral powers, may be established, and the principles of the laws of nations be fully ascertained, during the continuance of the present maritime war, his majesty the king of Sweden, and his majesty the emperor of all the Russias, actuated by their love of justice, and by a reciprocal desire to promote whatever may be for the public advantage of their respective states, have to that effect determined to give a new sanction to those principles of their neutrality, which are in their nature indissoluble, and to require that they may be respected by all powers interested in their preservation. With this view their majesties have by their declaration of the 15th of August to the northern courts, who are equally concerned in the maintenance of those general regulations anciently recognized, given them to understand how sincerely it is the object of their hearts to restore, in its full independence, the general right of all nations to convey their ships and merchandise freely and without being subject to the control of the powers at war. His Swedish majesty

impacted his wishes and his sentiments to his great allies, and an happy conformity of their mutual interests has induced them to adopt the resolution of re-establishing that system of an armed neutrality which was attended with such advantages during the American war, and to renew its beneficial principles in a convention adapted to the present circumstances. To this end his majesty the king, of Sweden, and his Imperial majesty of all the Russias, have nominated, as their plenipotentiaries, namely his Swedish majesty, baron Curt Von Stedingk, ambassador extraordinary to his Imperial majesty of all the Russias, lieutenant-general, Chamberlain of the queen dowager, colonel of a regiment of infantry, knight, and commander of the order of the sword, and knight of the French order Pour les Merites Militaires; and his Imperial majesty of all the Russias, baron count Theodore Von Koltoplin, his right trusty privy councillor, member of the council principale, minister of the college of foreign affairs, director-general of the posts of the empire, grand chancellor and grand cross of the sovereign order of St. John of Jerusalem, knight of the first class of the orders of St. Andrew, St. Alexander Newsky, and St. Anne, knight of the order of St. Lazarus, of St. Ferdinand and St. Hubert; who, after exchanging their respective full powers, have agreed upon the following articles:

Art. I. His majesty the king of Sweden, and his majesty the emperor of all the Russias, declare that they will strictly prohibit the exportation of contraband merchandise on the part of their subjects with every power whatever, whether at present engaged in war, or which may hereafter be engaged in war.

Art. II. In order to prevent all doubts and misunderstandings as to what shall be considered contraband, his majesty the king of Sweden, and his Imperial majesty of all the Russias, declare, that they will acknowledge the following articles as contraband, namely, cannon, mortars, fire-arms, balls, flints, flint-stones, matches, gun-powder, saltpetre, sulphur, helmets, pikes, swords, hangers, cartridge-boxes, saddles and bridles, with the exception of such a quantity of the above articles as may be necessary for the defence of the ships and their crews; all other articles not herein enumerated, shall not be considered as war or naval stores; they shall not be subject to confiscation but shall pass free and without restraint. It is also hereby agreed, that the present article shall be without prejudice to the particular stipulations of former treaties with the powers at war, by virtue of which, the things above mentioned are allowed or prohibited.

Art. III. And whereas it is resolved, that whatever, by virtue of the foregoing article, can be deemed contraband, shall be excluded from the commerce of neutral nations; in like manner, his majesty the king of Sweden, and his Imperial majesty of all the Russias, will and determine, that all other merchandise shall be and remain free; and in order that the general principles of the laws of nature, of which the freedom of trade and navigation, as well as the rights of neutral nations, are the immediate consequence, may be placed under a competent and sure safeguard, they have resolved no longer to delay that *voluntary explanation*, from which they have hitherto been restrained by motives of their separate and temporary interests. With this view they have hereby determined—

1. That every ship may freely navigate from one harbour to another, and on the coasts of the belligerent nations.

2. That the effects, which belong to the subjects of the belligerent powers in neutral ships, with the exception of contraband goods, shall be free.

3. That in order to determine what shall be considered as a blockaded harbour, such denomination shall be admitted to apply only where the disposition and number of the ships of the power by which it is invested, shall be such as to render it apparently hazardous to enter, and that every ship which shall go into a blockaded harbour, that is evidently so blockaded, violates the present convention, as much as if the commander of the blockade had previously advised it of the state of the harbour, and it had nevertheless endeavoured by force or artifice to obtain admission.

4. That with regard to neutral ships, except those which, for just reasons, and upon evident grounds, shall be detained, sentence shall be pronounced without delay, the proceedings against them shall be uniform, prompt and lawful. Over and above the indemnity to which they shall be entitled for the damage they shall have sustained, complete satisfaction shall be given for the insult committed against the flag of their majesties.

5. That the declaration of the officer who shall command the ship of war, or ships of war, of the king or emperor, which shall be conveying one or more merchant ships, that the convoy has no contraband goods on board, shall be sufficient; and that

no search of his ship, or the other ships of the convoy, shall be permitted. And the better to insure respect to those principles, and the stipulations founded on them, which their disinterested wishes to preserve the imprescriptible rights of neutral nations have suggested, the high contracting parties, to prove their sincerity and justice, will give the strictest orders to their captains, as well of their ships of war, as of their merchant ships, to load no part of their ships, or secretly to have on board, any articles which, by virtue of this present convention, may be considered as contraband; and for the more complete carrying into execution this command, they will respectively take care to give directions to their courts of admiralty to publish it whenever they shall think it necessary, and to this end the regulation which shall contain this prohibition, under the several penalties, shall be printed at the end of the present act, that no one may plead ignorance.

Art. IV. In order to place the commerce of their subjects upon the most legal and permanent basis, his majesty, the king of Sweden, and his majesty, the emperor of all the Russias, have deemed it expedient to equip a number of ships of war and frigates, which shall be charged to see that the object obtained, and the squadrons of each power shall take those stations, and protect those convoys, which their commerce and their navigation may require, and which shall be conformable to the course of trade of each nation.

Art. V. To provide against all inconveniencies which may arise from any nation abusing the privilege of their flag, it is established as a regulation not to be departed from, that every transport, be it whose it may, belonging to the country whose flag it bears, shall have on board a captain, and the half of the crew composed of the subjects of that country; and the passport shall be drawn up in due and regular form. Every transport which shall not observe these regulations, or shall violate the command printed at the end of this present convention, shall forfeit all right to the protection of the contracting parties, and the government to which it may belong shall alone be responsible for all the loss, damage, or inconvenience it may sustain.

Art. VI. Should it nevertheless happen that the merchant ship of one of the powers should find itself in a situation where the ships of war of that nation are not stationed, and where they cannot have the protection of their own convoys, in such case the commandant of the ship of war of the other power, if it shall be required, shall duly and faithfully afford such assistance as may be necessary. The ships of war and frigates of other nations shall afford protection and assistance to the merchant vessels of the other, provided, in the mean-time, that the vessel requiring such assistance shall not have violated the principles of the neutrality, by having carried on any illicit commerce.

Art. VII. This convention shall have no retrospective operation, and consequently it shall have no references to any differences that existed previous to its conclusion. Its application shall only be to future acts of violence and aggression, and it shall form the basis of a system for the protection of all the neutral nations of Europe, whose rights may hereafter be denied or violated.

Art. VIII. Should it, notwithstanding all the possible care of the two powers, and notwithstanding the observance of the most perfect neutrality on their sides, so happen that the merchant ships of his majesty the king of Sweden, or of his Imperial majesty of all the Russias, should be insulted, plundered, or taken by the ships of war or privateers of one or the other of the belligerent powers, the minister of the injured party shall forthwith represent the same to the government whose ship of war or privateer shall have committed such act of violence; he shall reclaim such captured vessel, demand due satisfaction, and by no means lose sight of the insult offered to the flag. The ministers of the other contracting power shall also enforce the complaint in the most energetic and determined manner possible, and they shall generally and uniformly act in concert together. Should their just complaint meet with no redress, or should be postponed from time to time, then shall their majesties have recourse to reprisals against such power as shall have refused to do justice; and that they shall endeavour, by every possible means, to give effect to such reprisals.

Art. IX. Should it happen that one or the other of the two powers, or both, on account of, or from dislike to, the present convention, or any circumstance connected with it, should be disquieted, molested, or attacked; in such case it is agreed, that the two powers shall make it a common cause, mutually to defend each other; and they shall reciprocally employ every exertion to obtain full and complete satisfaction, as well for the insult done to their flags, as for the injury sustained by their subjects.