

MARYLAND GAZETTE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1804.

Maryland Gazette.

ANNAPOLIS, THURSDAY, October 11, 1804.

WASHINGTON CITY, October 5.
The following letter, communicated to the Secretary of State, is published at the request of the Marquis de Casa Yrujo.

SIR,

HAVING been absent from Philadelphia for these 18 days past, and travelled far into a part of Virginia, where I had no opportunity to see the newspapers from the northward, it is but to-day on my return to Washington I have been apprised of a publication highly injurious to my character, which under the garb of sworn evidence, has been made by certain W. Jackson, of Philadelphia, in the paper of which he is the editor, called the Political Register. Had the said evidence appeared isolated, with no other weight but the name of the editor and the circumstances of his deposition, I would have treated his malicious attack with the silence of contempt, as all facts therein related, *even when true*, would not have violated the laws of this country nor the duties of my station; but a letter from the President of the United States to Jackson having been circulated along with his evidence, this circumstance alone, though the President does not express his opinion on the subject, stamps this affair with a degree of importance it would have been otherwise divested of. For this reason, and for the respect I owe to the President of the United States, to this government and to myself, I have thought proper in thus addressing you to enter into the explanation of this transaction, innocent in itself, consonant with the laws of the country, proper in my station, and which cannot be figured even by the artifice of insidious malignity in a country where the liberty of the press prevails, must be a shield of defence, as it is an instrument of attack. This is consonant with justice and equal with the principle of equal rights, it is then to establish a defence by the press against the attacks made through the medium of the press. This principle of self defence is as inherent to political states, as it is to individuals, and when an offence is thus made against a sovereign which cannot be brought into a court of justice, it is not only the duty, but also it is the duty, of the representative of the sovereign or nation to repel the attack with the weapons which are made use of for his injury. Were the foreign ministers to be deprived of this privilege, enjoyed by every individual who breathes the air of the United States, they would be reduced to the condition of distinguished slaves in the very bosom of the land of liberty. For sometime past the Philadelphia newspapers had published paragraphs and circulated comments about the existing enmity between the king of Spain and the United States, mutilating facts, altering circumstances and drawing false conclusions highly contrary to the character of justice and generosity, so often and so magnanimously proved by the king my master; I myself pointed out as the author of some letters from Madrid, although I never knew of them in the newspapers, and with the same injustice, in a previous paragraph against the president was since directed to me; thus the public mind was poisoned by incorrect accounts and obnoxious conclusions; in such circumstances I believed then, and I believe it was not only my right but also my duty to combat the torrent of impositions as contrary to truth and interest of my country. Being very well acquainted with the great influence of public opinion in a popular government as is that of the United States, my just intention of bringing the subjects of discussion under a forcible point of view, which had been generally concealed, and presenting them to the public under new aspects, and apprehending that the persons who had previously espoused a party on the subject would refuse to insert in their papers my intended publication, I thought that Mr. Jackson and others would not perhaps have the reluctance I anticipated in the former. I requested him to publish for me, and having acceded to my request, after a long conversation about the news of the day, and Mr. Jackson having called for his passports (my apprehensions of the rash step) and the detriment which would arise from a war between two nations invited to reciprocal interests to the preservation of the peace, I told him he could do more good to his country by advocating peace, than by the warlike principles he was proclaiming in his paper. I waited a while upon this topic, and finished by pointing forward the only object of our meeting, and that if so disposed, I could give to him for his explanation, explanations, and elucidations which could be favourable to the cause of peace, and

that for his trouble he would have the acknowledgment that would be proper; those were my only words upon this head in all the course of our conversation, in this offer I had in view but the just compensation which is due to an editor of a newspaper, full of advertisements as Mr. Jackson's, for the room that my intended essays would have occupied in his Gazette, or a reward for his labour, if he was to take upon himself to couch my ideas in a more correct language than I could do it myself. Surely the honour of a man who is in the habit of retailing the space of his paper by lines should not be hurt at a just compensation which was offered, when it was questioned of occupying some columns of it, and Mr. Jackson is less excusable in the perversion of my meaning (converting under oath a mere surmise of his into the affirmation of a fact) as I repeatedly told him, "Sir, this is not a diplomatic intrigue, it is a plain case, and if there was any thing dishonourable in it, I would be the last man to propose it, and you would be the last man to whom it would be proposed by me." Why Mr. Jackson has omitted in his affidavit these expressions of mine, so illustrative of my true meaning, is better known to himself, but if he is a man of honour I defy him to deny them; and leave to your consideration, sir, if it had been my intention to persuade a person to an improper conduct, I would have been so awkward as to bring the sentiments of the most scrupulous honour before his eyes; it is then evident that Mr. Jackson has perverted the meaning of the compensation offered, and this is the more ridiculous as the only thing which in my opinion was contemplated by me, was the mechanical part of his office, that is the printing of my publications; it could be apprehended that a foreign minister would risk an intrigue to bribe directly or indirectly a high officer of a crown, depository of the secrets of state and director of its measures, but to bribe Mr. Jackson, the editor of a newspaper whose sheets are scarcely to be seen across the waters of the Schuylkill and the Delaware, without a place in the government, without personal influence, to bribe him for the typographical publication of ideas, which were not his own, by their nature perfectly harmless and legal, is a conjecture only to be suggested by a wicked heart or a miserable head. I repeat that the only apprehended refusal of the editors who had espoused a side of the question contrary to my ideas, determined me to call on the said W. Jackson; but although I consider him a man of some talents, he is highly deceived if he supposes I could mistake his pen for the key to the temple of Janus.

Where is then what he so very politely is pleased to term my infamous purpose? is it in the elucidations or explanations proposed? surely not, as he knew very little of them, and even if known they were perfectly innocent. Was it in their tendency? that is impossible, when their object was by his own confession the peace and advantage of our two countries; was it in the attempt of publishing them? it is demonstrated that in such circumstances I have not only the right, but it was even my duty to do it; was it in the tender of the compensation? it is evident there was no more indelicacy in this proceeding than there is in the offer or the present of a fee to a lawyer or to a physician; where is then the offence to Mr. Jackson's honour or to the rights of his country?

If Mr. Jackson has proceeded with a culpable levity and affirming under oath that he had penetrated my infamous purpose when it is evident he had completely mistaken it, he has been not less incorrect in asserting upon oath, that I had mentioned to him to have myself received a letter from New-Orleans, which stated there was a letter at that place in Mr. Jefferson's hand writing, which declared, that if the settlers between the Mississippi and the Rio Perdido would raise the American colours they should be supported.—No, sir, it is not true, although given under oath by Mr. Jackson, that I had received such a letter. I only told him in the way of conversation, and not for any other purpose whatever, that there were in Philadelphia one or two letters from New-Orleans, mentioning the above account. I never informed him I had received one, as in reality this was not the case; that such letter or letters, under the above-mentioned date, have been written from New-Orleans, is a fact known by some people in the city. I myself have seen one of them directed to a very respectable person in Philadelphia, and if authorized by him I would mention his name, but after the president's declaration I am convinced of the falsehood of the assertion, and persuaded that calumnies can be invented and propagated with the same facility in New-Orleans as they are done in Philadelphia.

This, sir, is the history of this transaction, ridiculously magnified by Mr. Jackson who has presented it to the public, with as much solemnity, as if he had discovered the gunpowder plot or the conspiracy of Fiesque and of Bedmar—all the heinous crimes that I wished to make myself possess of in defence, ap-

plying it to my sovereign and to my country; the intended elucidations have since appeared in other papers under the signature of Graviora Manent, and by the perusal of those essays, you may easily judge if their contents are of a nature to bribe Mr. Jackson with any acknowledgments, as he declares in his evidence, or if there is in them to be found a single expression contrary to the respect due to the government or to this country; the use I have made of the liberty of the press cannot be disputed without attacking the constitution, as the law does not consider in its salutary restriction the publisher but the publication, and if this does not infringe the law, it would be a criminal attempt to restrain any person in the United States from the exercise of this sacred right; this is, sir, what was intended to be done and has since been done by me: my means have been just and legal, my object pure and benevolent, and can only give offence but to persons, who, groaning under pique and disappointment, establish their expiring hopes of retrieving their shattered fortunes, on the public calamities of a war, for such persons the doctrine of advocating peace cannot be but high treason.

I would have demanded from this government the punishment of the said Jackson for the offence of converting a mere surmise of his into the affirmation of a fact, and employed under his perverted idea an infamous and defamatory language, had I not anticipated that when the particulars of this letter shall be known to the public I shall be completely avenged by the severity of his feelings.

Although the vindication of my conduct exclusively belongs to my king and government, a favourable opinion of the good people of America is far from being indifferent to me. For this reason and for the degree of interest and importance that the circulation of the president's letter has impressed into this affair, I have thus condescended publicly to notice an incorrect affidavit with unjust and abominable conclusions. With sentiments of high consideration,

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,
EL MARQUIS DE CASA YRUJO.
James Madison, Esqr. Washington, October 2, 1804.

P. S. I have reserved to the last what Mr. Jackson has mistakenly introduced, to imply that I had assumed a contemptuous style, by refusing to term the administration the "government."

On this head I am particularly desirous of vindicating myself, as it is so foreign to my disposition—In truth during the debates of congress in 1798, I learnt the difference between the two terms, and in speaking to Mr. Jackson, I mentioned the administration, and added "not to say government," thereby meaning to distinguish between the administration of the three branches of the legislature which constitute the government—Thus this apparently disrespectful language evinces only the cautious precision of a foreigner.

So many misconstructions, if they had not been given upon oath, I could not have suspected of being accidental.

The Marquis de Casa Yrujo requests those editors who have inserted Mr. Jackson's statement, in justice to him also to insert the above communication.

NEW-YORK, October 5.
EUROPEAN NEWS.

By the ship Fanny, captain Taylor, in 46 days from Glasgow, we have received London papers to the 16th of August.—The following articles comprise the most material part of their contents—

From the London Gazette, August 11.

Downing-street, August 9.

The king has been pleased to cause it to be signified by the right honourable lord Harrowby, his majesty's principal secretary of state for foreign affairs, to the ministers of neutral powers residing at this court, that the necessary measures have been taken, by his majesty's command, for the blockade of the entrance of the ports of Fecamp, St. Valery en Caux, Dieppe, Treport, the Somme, Etaples, Boulogne, Calais, Gravelines, Dunkirk, Newport and Ostend; and that from this time, all the measures authorized by the law of nations, and the respective treaties between his majesty and the different neutral powers will be adopted and executed with respect to all vessels which may attempt to violate the said blockade.

LONDON, August 14.

By accounts received on Saturday, from the squadron under the command of Sir R. Calder, off Rochefort, it appears that the enemy have five sail of the line and two frigates in readiness for sea. They use uncommon exertions in the equipment of the two 74 gun Ships which were lately launched there, and for this purpose have withdrawn the hands from all the small craft. The 100 gun ship which was laid down