

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1808.

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ANNAPOLIS, THURSDAY, March 31, 1808.

NEW-YORK, March 21.

LATE FROM ENGLAND.

YESTERDAY the ship Caledonia, captain Henderson, arrived at this port in 28 days from Liverpool; also the ship Robert Burns, capt. Waite, in the same place, in 28 days passage. The editors of the New-York Gazette have received London papers to the 17th of Feb. inclusive—7 days later than received. The papers are filled with important debates in parliament relative to America, a sketch of which follows. It will be seen, that the king of Holland has shut his ports, and recommends the immediate fitting out of privateers.

The Decree of Louis, king of Holland, is dated the 28th at Utrecht.—It enacts, that all the ports in Holland shall be shut against all ships, whatever be their denomination, except to armed ships of his allies; ships of his allies or neutral powers who may enter his ports in distress, shall have no communication with the interior, shall be subjected to quarantine, and under the most severe superintendance, and shall be compelled to put to sea as soon as the weather permits.

The Globe of the 17th, announces the arrival of the Gottenburg mails, bringing an account of a body of Russian troops having marched to Sweden. That Russia is determined to force Sweden into the confederacy against England.

The Rochefort Squadron had been seen at sea, and ship on fire amongst them, supposed to be one they had captured and destroyed, to prevent information. The French official Journal contains the declaration of his Prussian majesty against England; in which he withdraws his minister from the British court, and announces all connexion with her until peace shall be restored between her and France.

A Russian Squadron of 15 ships have put into Trieste. Nine other sail of Russians are blockaded in the Tagus, badly manned and victualled.

Another grand dignity of the French empire, under the title of governor gen. of the departments beyond the Alps, has been created. His residence is to be at Genoa.

In the house of commons, on the 15th Feb. on the second reading of the bill upon the orders of council, a call was made for papers relating to the negotiations with America, that the house might have time to consider them previous to the passage of the bill.

The chancellor of the exchequer, stated, that he felt great anxiety to have the bill read a second time, but that the public might be apprised of the real nature of the intended measure.—He said there had been an opinion expressed in the house, that the negotiation with America was naturally connected with the orders of council; but he was extremely desirous, if possible, to prevent any discussion as to that negotiation with America, and wished to have the second reading of the bill fixed for to-morrow.

Mr. Tierney thought there were various reasons why the reading should be postponed until the papers could be before the house. He said every neutral ship now arriving in this country was obliged to give bonds in a manner not sanctioned by parliament. Sir Arthur Pigot was of the same opinion.—“not for the purpose he said of delaying the progress of the bill, but of getting possession of all necessary information before they discussed a bill so extremely novel, and so very important—it was a measure which went to produce a new code of maritime laws—a new mode of legislation in this country, which affected the tribunal of all other nations.”

Mr. Whitebread, on the same side, suggested the propriety of withdrawing the present bill, and of introducing a new one.—He said “it was a question which materially involved the fate of this country as to a war with America—it was therefore indispensably necessary to be acquainted with all the papers before they entered upon such a momentous question, the more especially when he believed these orders were so little understood by those who issued them, that they were not able to answer the questions put to them by the merchants, who felt themselves interested in them.”

The chancellor in reply said, that the papers wished for were voluminous, and could not probably be produced in time for Thursday's discussion.

Upon the question for discharging the order of the day, the house divided.—And for the second reading the next day, 118—for discharging it, 81—majority 37.

In the house of Lords, the same day, the orders of council being under consideration,

Lord Erskine observed, that he was amazed to hear noble lords talk of the necessity or policy of the measures under discussion—did they shelter themselves under the principle of retaliation? if so the house had

long since been authorized that this measure of our government outstripped that of the enemy—it could not be defended on the principle of policy. The French decree, he said, as far as it affected America, had, he maintained, been satisfactorily cleared up to the minister then in France; and was deemed so even by the president of the U. States—hence he concluded, that America was no party in the decree of the French emperor. This he said was evident also from her subsequent conduct; when aware even of our orders in council here, she ordered a general embargo. Much had been said of the right of retaliation, on which these orders were founded; no body denied the right to resort to such a system, when the conduct of the belligerents justified its necessity—but even that law has its limitations, it should not overstep the nature of the evil which it went to redress; yet, in these orders, all limitation was lost sight of, and convenience alone regulated the extent.—It would seem that if the French emperor declared the moon in a state of blockade, Great-Britain would have a meeting of the board of longitude, and our most celebrated astronomers, to retortiate by a prohibition on the satellites of Jupiter; when he commanded a cessation of the Lunar motion of her conjunctions and opposites, they would retort by a declaration that the whole planetary system should stop still—(a loud laugh from the ministerial bench)—he really conceived, notwithstanding the manner in which the complaint was received, that the cases were in a degree similar: in as much as he believed Buonaparte had as much efficacy over the moon as he had in his declaration of placing the British Isles in a state of blockade.

Lord King observed, that there was no proof that America had acquiesced in the provisions of the French decree—she had disclaimed any disposition, and yet ministers had treated America with the same severity as if she had acquiesced.

Lord Grenville, in his speech, asked, was it not more natural to expect that ministers would defend their system of policy by a full discussion of its merits and necessity; that at last there would be an end to that eternal circle of arguing present questions from past transactions? With that feeling he entered on the discussion, believing in his soul, that on the Revocation or Non-Revocation of these orders depended the ultimate existence of the country. He continued in a most animated appeal to the house to interpose between the country and its destruction—to re-tread its steps, as the path through which it moved led quickly to the grave.—He warned them against the renewal of a system of taxation, either directly or indirectly upon American trade; and conjured them to seize the opportunity afforded them, by the pre-eminence of France in this rivalry of injustice of erasing from the records of the country, and of obliterating from the minds of the people, the least intimation of acting upon a system of policy rashly introduced, and wantonly pursued, calculated for no other purpose than to involve the nation in an unjust war.

The lord chancellor took a view of the various objections made to the orders of council, which he contended were not violations, either of the public law of nations or the municipal law of the country—they were founded, he said, on the most paramount of all rights—that of self preservation—he considered it inconsistent with his majesty's late ministers to raise objections against a system of conduct which they were the first to institute, and which every man must admit was called for by the violent and unjustifiable decree of the French government.

On the question that the papers furnished to the house on the subject of the regulations respecting the trade of neutrals with France, the house divided—contents—30—proxies 18—48—noncontents 61—proxies 45—106. Maj. 58.

BALTIMORE, March 24.

Extract of a letter received by a gentleman in this city, from his correspondent in Washington, dated March 21, 1808.

“Mr. Rose's mission is terminated without effect. He this day had his audience of leave with the president, and in a few days he will return to the Statira. The only object of his embassy was, as we are told, reparation for the attack of the Chesapeake; but as Mr. Rose was positively ordered to demand as a preliminary, the revocation of the proclamation, not a step has been taken in the negotiation, not an intimation has been given of the nature or extent of the atonements. This government when about entering into the negotiation with the best imaginable dispositions to accept any reasonable terms as satisfactory, was, it seems, abruptly stopped at the threshold, and told that an apology must first be made for an aggression to which his Britannic majesty's honour cannot submit, namely, the president's proclamation. But it is said, and among the best informed believed, that our government will not find it necessary to resort to war.”

An English brig arrived in Hampton Roads last Thursday, with dispatches from England, which she put on board the Statira frigate, and sailed again in two hours.

WASHINGTON CITY, March 25.

On Tuesday the president laid before both houses of congress the following important message. The documents are so very voluminous that a considerable portion of them yet remain unread, although three entire days have been devoted to the perusal. A part of them, connected with the others, being confidential, the doors have been kept closed. To-morrow, it is supposed, the reading will be brought to a close. In the mean-time the senate have ordered 500 copies of the papers relative to the Chesapeake to be printed, and the house have directed 5,000 copies of all the papers to be published as read.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

At the opening of the present session, I informed the legislature, that the measures which had been taken with the government of Great-Britain, for the settlement of our neutral and national rights, and of the conditions of commercial intercourse with that nation, had resulted in articles of a treaty, which could not be acceded to on our part; that instructions had consequently been sent to our ministers there, to resume the negotiations, and to endeavour to obtain certain alterations, and that this was interrupted by the transaction which took place between the frigates Leopard and Chesapeake. The call on that government for reparation of this wrong produced, as congress has been already informed, the mission of a special minister to this country, and the occasion is now arrived, when the public interest permits and requires, that the whole of these proceedings should be made known to you.

I therefore now communicate the instructions given to our ministers resident at London, and his communications to that government, on the subject of the Chesapeake, with the correspondence which has taken place here between the secretary of state and Mr. Rose, the special minister charged with the adjustment of that difference; the instructions to our ministers for the formation of a treaty; their correspondence with the British commissioners, and with their own government on that subject; the treaty itself and written declaration of the British commissioners accompanying it; and the instructions given by us for resuming the negotiation, with the proceedings and correspondence subsequent thereto. To these I have added a letter lately addressed to the secretary of state from one of our late ministers, which, though not strictly written in an official character, I think it my duty to communicate, in order that his views of the proposed treaty and of its several articles, may be fairly presented and understood.

Although I have heretofore, and from time to time, made such communications to congress, as to keep them possessed of a general and just view of the proceedings and dispositions of the government of France towards this country, yet in our present critical situation, when we find that no conduct on our part, however impartial and friendly, has been sufficient to insure, from either belligerent, a just respect for our rights, I am desirous that nothing shall be omitted on my part, which may add to your information on this subject, or contribute to the correctness of the views which should be formed. The papers, which for these reasons I now lay before you, embrace all the communications, official or verbal, from the French government, respecting the general relations between the two countries, which have been transmitted through our minister there, or through any other accredited channel, since the last session of congress; to which time all information of the same kind had, from time to time, been given them. Some of these papers have already been transmitted to congress; but it is thought better to offer them again in order that the chain of communications, of which they make a part, may be presented unbroken.

When, on the 26th of February, I communicated to both houses the letter of gen. Armstrong to M. Champagny, I desired it might not be published, because of the tendency of that practice to restrain injuriously the freedom of our foreign correspondence. But perceiving that this caution, proceeding purely from a regard to the public good, has furnished occasion for disseminating unfounded suspicions and insinuations, I am induced to believe that the good which will now result from its publication, by confirming the confidence and union of our fellow-citizens, will more than countervail the ordinary objection to such publications. It is my wish therefore that it may be now published.

TH: JEFFERSON.

March 22, 1808.

Mr. Fox's "History of the reign of the Stuarts," has been at length sold for a sum of 4500l. It will only make a single volume in quarto, and the price is not to exceed a certain sum, to be limited by the executors of the author.

A general fast was ordered by the king's proclamation, to be observed throughout England and Ireland on the 17th, and in Scotland on the 18th of Feb.