

(Documents continued.)

LETTERS FROM MR. BARLOW TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE. (No. 1.)

Extract of a letter from Mr. Barlow to the Secretary of State, dated PARIS, Sept. 29, 1811.

I seize the first occasion to announce to you my arrival, though I have very little else to announce.

I landed at Cherbourg the 8th of this month and arrived at Paris the 19th.

The emperor has been residing for some time at Compeigne, and it unluckily happened that he set out thence for the coast and for Holland the day of my arrival here.

The duke of Bassano, minister for foreign relations, came the next day to Paris for two days only, when he was to follow the emperor to join him in Holland.

Gen. Terreau, and others who called on me the morning after I reached Paris, assured me that the duke was desirous of seeing me as soon as possible and with as little ceremony.

On the 21st I made my first visit to him, which of course had no other object than that of delivering my credentials. I expressed my regret at the emperor's absence, & the consequent delay of such business, as was rendered particularly urgent by the necessity of sending home the frigate and by the approaching session of congress, as well as by the distressed situation of those American citizens who were waiting the result of decisions which might be hastened by the expositions which I was charged to make on the part of the President of the U. States.

He said the emperor had foreseen the urgency of the case and had charged him to remedy the evil so far as could be done by dispensing with my presentation to his majesty until his return; and that I might immediately proceed to business as if I had been presented.

He said the most flattering things from the emperor relative to my appointment. He observed that his majesty had expected my arrival with some solicitude for several months and was disposed to do every thing that I could reasonably ask to maintain a good intelligence between the two countries.

The duke then proposed a second interview for the next day, which he said he hoped would be long and leisurely, that we might go over the whole range of business that was likely to come into discussion between us, declaring that he should be justified by the emperor in delaying his journey one day for that purpose only, and that he had no other business to detain him in the capital.

I accepted the invitation and was with him two hours the next day.

I explained to him with as much precision as possible the sentiments of the President on the most pressing objects of my mission, and threw in such observations as seemed to arise out of what I conceived to be the true interest of France.

He heard me with patience and apparent solicitude, endeavoured to explain away some of the evils of which we complain, and expressed a strong desire to remove the rest.

He said that many of the ideas I suggested were new to him and were very important; that he should lay them before the emperor with fidelity, and in a manner calculated to produce the most favorable impression, desired me to reduce them to writing to be presented in a more solemn form, and endeavoured to convince me that he doubted not our being able, on the return of the emperor, to remove all obstacles to a most perfect harmony between the two countries.

(No. 2.)

Extract of a letter from Mr. Barlow to the Secretary of State, dated PARIS, Oct. 29, 1811.

The emperor stays in the north much longer than was expected. Having been assured by the minister that he would return by the 15th of Oct. and that during his tour he would make no stay in any one place, I concluded, as I had the honor to state to you before, not to follow him.

The frigate Constitution did not return from Holland until about the time that the emperor was to have reached Fontainebleau, and during the last fourteen days the public has been in constant expectation of his arrival.

As the minister of Foreign Relations and indeed most of the other ministers are with him, it has not been in my power to bring forward to advantage any propositions on the great objects of my mission. For I was convinced, for reasons mentioned in my first dispatch, that these objects can be treated to the best advantage in presence, when frequent conversations can be mingled with formal and official notes.

influenced by personal motives, which it becomes my business to develop. This gentleman entertained considerable animosity against one of the owners of the Peggy Stewart, from the strong opposition he had occasioned in a late election, in which Mr. H. was a candidate; and smarting with recent recollection of this circumstance, he availed himself of the present business to gratify his pique. For this purpose the honorable offer made by myself and partner to abandon the tea to the disposal of the committee, was kept from the people, our letters, which ought to have been read, was sedulously suppressed; and every pains taken by Mr. H. to foment the irritation already excited. The people collected together from all parts of the country, unacquainted with our conduct in the business, having their minds strongly-incensed against the Tea Duty, and willing to evince their detestation against that impost on the first occasion that presented itself, were in a state of tumult and exasperation only to be conceived by those who have witnessed great popular commotions. In such a state of feeling as they then were, myself and partner were called up before them; not to explain our conduct, not to point out to them the fair and honorable manner in which we had comported ourselves, but to sign *perforce* the acknowledgment which Mr. H. to suit his own sinister views, had drawn up and put into our hands. It was in vain for us to inform the people that the tea was ordered before they had prohibited it; that we had volunteered at the arrival of the vessel to abandon it to the committee; it was in vain to tell them that my partner and myself had resisted entering the vessel, and had refused to pay the duties; reason and truth and justice are alike unheeded in the transports of popular delusion, and we had this only alternative, to sign the paper, or abide by the consequences.

It may be asked, why the other members of the committee should submit to such conduct in Mr. H. It may be answered, that they entertained a high respect for Mr. — the owner of the brig; they were aware that he had committed an error by paying the duties on the tea for the purpose of entering the vessel,* and thus had rendered himself

* The cause of his entering the vessel proceeded from the leaky situation in which she had arrived, and having a number of indented servants on board whom it was necessary to disembark, he was apprehensive that if not entered immediately she would be obliged to return in her leaky condition, and thus the lives of those men inhumanly risked.

highly obnoxious to the people. They knew that his conduct would be censured, and they were willing to lessen his mortification by making us participate in it. In short, he was a worthy and highly respectable person; his wife at that period too in a critical situation, and feeling and delicacy, conspired to influence the committee in screening him as much as possible from public odium.

It may be urged again, why should Mr. H. wish to involve us in the disgrace of Mr. —? when his resentment was personal, and confined to that gentleman. The answer is obvious. Had he have levelled his attack against him alone, his motives would have been too well understood, and his malice would have been evident. It was by being indiscriminate in his persecution, that he could conceal the personality of his motives.

What has been said will, I trust, justify me in the eyes of my fellow-citizens. Little did I think, that after having lived among them for fifty years, after having so long identified my interests with theirs, that I should be reproached by a stripling printer for disaffection to the country. If I have any thing in the world it is to this country I in a great measure owe it; liberty, protection, property and friends; it was the choice of my youth, and has become the asylum of my age; and even at this period of my life I was, and still am, ready to come forward and fight in its defence. Little did I think that I should now be stigmatized with a charge of disaffection to this country, after having contributed my assistance, during the last war, to the asserting of its independence. Though my business preventing me taking the field in person, I came forward by proxy, as the subjoined certificate will shew.* My house was always open to the officers of the army; my table constantly frequented by them; and they ever met with a warm and

* I do hereby certify, That Mr. James Williams, of Annapolis, did persuade and procure a certain Thomas Arnold to enlist himself during the present war, under Captain Jacob Brice of my regiment. This service of said James Williams was done in consequence of a Resolve of the General Assembly of Maryland, exempting those from military duty, who procure one to serve in the Army of the United States; therefore James Williams is exempted accordingly from all militia and military duty whatever. Given at Baltimore, this 2d day of August, 1777. M. GIST, Col. 3 Regt.

hospitable reception. To boast of having exercised the rites of hospitality is grating to my feelings, but justice to myself is paramount to scruples of delicacy.

I have now completed my observations on this subject; but I cannot abandon my pen without a further admonition to the friendly printer of the Republican.—He is a young man, and feels no doubt the honour that must result from having obtained a victory over age. He is ambitious and enterprising; as he comes forward, unbidden, to attack one who had never intermeddled with his concerns, and is personally unacquainted with him. I admire the nobleness of his sentiments, and the chivalry of his character; but it is now time for him to give up the subject; like himself it has become tiresome to the public; and even his immediate patrons, as I have been credibly informed, have become disgusted with his frivolous exertions. With most of them I am well acquainted, and highly respect as fellow-citizens of long standing, and I feel fully conscious that they were far from privy to his pitiful accusations. Indeed I have been informed, that it has met with their marked disapprobation; nor could it well have done otherwise, with those that possess a spark of honour or liberality of sentiment.

Having, I believe, placed the Peggy Stewart and Tea affair in a true and proper point of view, and having no inclination to come before the Public again, I shall now drop the subject—but let it be understood, I fear not to meet any investigation that can be instituted against my character. I am loth to attack, but I am always ready to resist aggressions of every kind—no one shall touch me with impunity.

I have been milder with this base and false Editor of the Maryland Republican, than his own unprovoked attack would justify. I shall discontinue all further remarks upon him—a contest with such a character is by no means advantageous, as a victory over him is attended with no honour—he has nothing to lose.

James Williams.

Annapolis, June 3, 1812.