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MISCELLANEOUS.

FRENCH LEGISLATIVE BODY.

From the German Observer, published at Bremen.

Paris, Feb. 6.

After the report which M. Laine, a lawyer from Bordeaux, a member of the legislative body, made upon the papers relative to the negotiations for peace, which were laid before them on the 28th Dec. last, M. Beignonard Dijon made a very remarkable speech, of which the following is the substance. After a pretty long peroration, in which he highly praises the emperor for calling the legislative body together, and communitating the account of his proceeding, he observes, that this high proof of confidence can be justly returned only by telling his majesty the plain truth.—He proceeds thus:

"We are incapable, gentlemen, of shewing you one cheering spot in the picture of distress which we unfold to you. An army blasted by the storms of the north was replaced by another, the troops composing which were torn from their parental soil, from the arts and from trade. This army was destined to drench with its blood Leipzig's fatal plains.

"We must confess, gentlemen, the victorious enemy having advanced to the Rhine, offered to our august monarch a peace, which a hero accustomed to so many splendid triumphs, could not but find extraordinary. But if at this time, when the unhappy state of France was not wholly decided, a noble and generous pride prescribed the rejection of such a peace, it would however no longer be prudent to persist in this rejection, now that the enemy has invaded the proper territory of France.

"Were the question merely to deliberate on degrading conditions, his majesty would have needed nothing more than to lay before his people the project of peace offered by the enemy, but they do not seem to desire to degrade but to repress us in our ancient frontiers and to stop the ebullitions of that ambitious activity, which for these twenty years has been so highly detrimental to all the nations of Europe. Such proposals did not seem to offend the honour of the nation, as they prove that the enemy fear and respect us. It is not they who desire to set limits to our power, but a whole world in arms reclaims the common rights of all nations.

"The Pyrenees, the Alps and the Rhine, inclose an immense territory, which contains provinces that did not always and originally belong to the dominion of the three fleurs-de-lis, and yet the former royal crown of France shone above all other diadems in glory and majesty."

Here the president interrupted the speaker, with the words "what you say is contrary to the constitution." Reinourd answered, "here is nothing contrary to the constitution but your presence," and continued—

"The protectorship of the confederation of the Rhine has ceased to be a title of honour, since the people of this confederation declared the protectorship dishonourable to them. No right of conquest was here exercised, but only the title of an alliance advantageous to the Germans. It becomes, his majesty's dignity to leave these people to their fate, who are hastening to put themselves under the yoke of Austria. As for Brabant (probably Holland) which the allies desire to retain according to the basis of the peace of Luneville, it seems to us that France may readily give up those provinces hard to be maintained where the English spirit almost exclusively prevails; and to which the trade with England is so absolutely necessary, that these countries, since we have governed them, are sunk into poverty and misery. Have we not seen the noble families of Holland

fly from their native soil as if contagious diseases reigned there, and carry the wealth and industry of the country to the enemy? Courage is doubtless necessary to preach truth to the heart of our monarch—but must we not rather risk his displeasure than abuse his confidence—rather endanger our lives than the welfare of the people, whom we represent?—Nothing must deceive us; our sufferings were at the height; our country is threatened on all its frontiers, trade is annihilated, agriculture languishes, industry is checked, every Frenchman has suffered in his fortune, or his family wounds difficult to be cured. For these five years the peasant has not enjoyed the fruits of his labours, he can scarcely subsist, and the produce of his labour serves but to enrich the treasury, which is annually drained for the supply of an army continually wasted and famished. The conscription has become a hateful scourge to all France, because this measure is incessantly renewed.

"Since two years, the youth are carried on thrice in the year. A cruel, useless war, periodically devours the youth, torn from education, agriculture, commerce and the arts. Are the tears of mothers, the sweat of the people, among the regalia of kings? It is time nations should again breathe freely. It is time that the thrones of kings should be consolidated, and people should cease to reproach France with desiring to throw into all the countries in the world the firebrands of destruction. Our august monarch, who partakes in the zeal that animates us, and is ardently desirous to insure the happiness of his people, is alone worthy to begin this great work. Military ambition and thirst of conquest may mislead a great heart; but the genius of a true hero, who despises a glory purchased with blood and repose of nations, finds his true greatness in the public welfare which is his work. The monarchs of France have ever prided themselves on owing their crown to God, the people, and their sword, because peace, good morals, and strength, are next to freedom, the firmest pillars of empires."

The answer of Napoleon to the address of the legislative body was as follows.

"I have prohibited the printing of your address; it is seditious.—Eleven twelfths of the legislative body consist of good citizens. I know and respect them. The other twelfth contains rebels and bad citizens, & your committee is among the number. (This committee consisted Messrs. Laine, Rainourd, Calloia, Mayne, le Bryant, and Flanquerge.) Laine is a traitor who corresponds with the Prince Regent through the medium of Deszeze; I know it, and have proofs, the other four are seditious persons. This twelfth consists of men who wish for anarchy, and are like the Girondists. Whither did such conduct lead Veraguand and the other chiefs? To the scaffold! At this moment, when we have to drive the enemy from our frontiers it is not the time to desire changes in the constitution.

"People should follow the example of Alsace, Franche Compe and Vosges. The inhabitants apply to me for arms and officers, and I have sent them some adjutants. You are not the representatives of the nation, but the deputies of the departments. I called you around me to obtain support from you, not because I want for courage, but because I hoped that the legislative body would increase my courage. Instead of this it has deceived me. Instead of the good I expected from it, it has done mischief; a small mischief indeed, because it could not do a greater.—You seek in your address to separate the sovereign from the nation. I alone am the true representative of the people, and which of you would choose to take on himself this burden? The throne is but a piece of wood covered with velvet. I, alone am the true representative of the people. If I would follow you I should give up to the enemy more than he himself requires.—In three months you will have peace, or I will be annihilated. But now energy is necessary; I will go after the enemy

and beat them. The moment when Huhinguen is bombarded, and Belfort attacked, is not the proper one to complain of the constitution of the empire, and the abuse of the executive power. The legislative body is but a part of the state, and cannot be compared even with the senate and the council of state. I am at the head of the nation, because you approve the constitution as it is. Should France require another constitution which I did not like, I should then say look for another sovereign. The enemy is much more incensed against me than against France—but shall I for this reason allow myself to tear the empire in pieces? Yes, I make pretensions because I have courage, and I am proud because I have done such great things for France.

"Your address is unworthy of me, and of the legislative body; I will one day have it printed, to put the legislative body to the blush. Return to your homes, and be assured that even if I should be wrong it is not your business publicly to reproach me for it.—For the rest, France wants me more than I want France."

From the Connecticut Spectator.

ATTACK ON PETTIPAUGE. By the politeness of sundry gentlemen, we have been favoured with an official account of the circumstances which occurred at the time the British landed and burnt the shipping at Pettipauge. We are happy to have it in our power to lay before the public a correct statement of this affair. Various accounts respecting the transactions, have been published, & some have been replete with infamy. We sincerely hope that those who have given publicity to former accounts, will give the following a place in their respective papers. By complying with this request, they will sensibly oblige the inhabitants of this unfortunate village, and the lovers of truth.

WE the undersigners, inhabitants of Pettipauge-Point, and the vicinity, having heard of many incorrect assertions from individuals, and several wrong statements published in news papers respecting the unfortunate affair that happened at this place, on the 8th day of last April; take this opportunity of making a fair and candid statement of the circumstances which took place at that time, from our personal knowledge, and from the best information we have been able to obtain.

Before 11 o'clock, on the evening of the 7th April, six British boats were discovered coming into the mouth of Connecticut River, by the keeper of the light-house, who immediately gave notice to the inhabitants of Saybrook Point, or Platform, which is about one mile above the light-house. By 12 o'clock, a considerable number of the enemy were seen in the old Fort at Saybrook Point; where it appears they found nothing, neither met with opposition. They soon went on board their boats and proceeded up the river for Pettipauge Point, which is near six miles above the said fort. But by reason of a strong northerly wind and a great freshet running down, they did not arrive at Pettipauge Point, until about 4 o'clock on Friday morning. The inhabitants had no knowledge that the enemy were in the river, not more than 30 minutes before they were landed and had possession of the Point; and several of the inhabitants had no information that the enemy were near until some of the vessels were on fire; there was not time after the alarm was given, to get the women & children off from the Point before the enemy were landed & amongst us, & commenced the burning & destroying vessels on the stocks, and on the water. Picket-guards searched houses & stores, for arms, ammunition, taking all they could find. After finding that a sufficient force could not be collected in time to save the property from destruction, some of the inhabitants, whose buildings were much exposed to the fire went back to the Point to save their buildings from the general conflagration with the vessels. Mr. Richard Powers, whose house had just taken

fire from a vessel burning on the stocks, made inquiry of the commander whether he might endeavor to save his house? His request was granted by the officer. Captain Timothy Starkey, jr. asked the officer, if he should spare the houses and stores from the flames? His answer was, that he did not know what might happen. We do not know of any others who conversed with the officer on the subject. At about ten o'clock, they called in their guards and proceeded down the river with a brig, a schooner, and two sloops; but the wind shifting at that time, from the N. E. to the S. E. they set fire to all but the schooner and anchored her about a mile and a quarter below Pettipauge Point, where they lay till dark, and then set fire to her and departed down the river. We have heard that it has been stated, by some individuals that the inhabitants of Pettipauge point, made an agreement or compromise with the enemy not to resist if they would spare their houses and other buildings. No such agreement we believe was ever made; neither was it heard of by the inhabitants of Pettipauge Point, until some time after the affair happened. And we think every such assertion ought to be treated with contempt.

The force of the enemy consisted of two launches, each carrying 9 or 12 pound carronades and about 50 or 60 men each, and 4 barges which it is supposed had about 25 men each. They were completely fitted for an expedition in every respect. They were furnished with torches, combustibles, &c. to set fire instantly.

Pettipauge Point contains about 30 families, and is about 35 rods wide, with a road running through the centre, east and west, bounded eastwardly on Connecticut river; north and south by large coves.—The vessels destroyed were lying at the wharves at the east end of the Point, and in the river near it, and in the north and south Coves.

Ebenr. Hayden, 2d. Horace Hayden. Joseph Hill, Augustus Jones, jr. Richard Powers, Philip Tocker, jr. Timo'y Starkey, jr. Rich. Hayden, 2d. Saml. M. Hayden, Etham Bushnell, Judea Pratt, John G. Hayden, Asahel Pratt.

Saybrook, May 11, 1814.

PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE.

From the Commercial Advertiser.

Troy, Friday Evening, May 20.

The news this day from the west is, that the British landed 3000 men at Oswego last Monday, the 16th instant, and were marching for the Falls, to take or destroy the provisions, military stores, &c. deposited there. Hence, it was supposed they would go to Sodus Bay, where is a large quantity of flour, whiskey, &c. 35 miles west of Oswego.—Thence, it was feared by the inhabitants, they would direct their course for the mouth of Genessee River, to destroy the public property there. At all these places, our informant adds, there is not sufficient force to oppose them, nor any troops of consequence. The militia were collecting, but would probably be too late to prevent the mischief meditated by the British.

The British are actually employed building armed vessels on Lake Huron, intended for service on Lake Erie.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.

Oswego, May 7.

Early in the morning of the day before yesterday, Sir James made his appearance of this Harbor with seven large vessels and several gun boats. In the afternoon, they came too in a line close in with the town. Their squadron consisted of four heavy ships (two new ones fitted out this spring, one 64, two decker), and three brigs, mounting in all upwards of 200 guns, with (as we afterwards ascertained near 2000 troops on board, exclusive of sea men and marines. With this powerful armament, they found this important place of deposit in its usual state of defence:—One old 12 pounder, crack'd so as to be almost unfit for service, mounted a little in advance of the fort, and a nine on the walls; something short of 300 regulars under Col. Mitchell in the garrison, and a few militia, neither organized nor armed; not a public

musket to be found in the place.—Nor gun boat, nor torpedo, nor proclamation had we. It was in vain that we invoked the aid & turned our eyes towards the broad shoulders of "Old Atlas," for safety—he was far away. Shortly after the vessels had taken their stations, the gun boats opened their fire on the fort, which was promptly answered from our one gun battery.—The ships likewise threw several shot and shells into the town, some of which weighed 67 lbs. After considerable cannonading, and about the time a number of their boats appeared to be making towards shore with troops, a squall came up, and the shipping hauled off, leaving us to pass a night of dismal apprehension and alarm. It was probably well known to the enemy, that this had been a place of immense deposit for public property during the war, and the channel through which all the cannon and naval stores must pass for our new vessels at Sackett's Harbor; and we were confident they would renew the attack next day.—Nor did they disappoint us.

At day-light on Friday morning, they were again discovered making towards the harbor, and in the course of the forenoon took the position they occupied on Thursday, or perhaps a little nearer in shore, and soon commenced a tremendous firing of round and grape shot on the fort and adjacent heights. At about one o'clock Gen. Drummond and Sir James L. Yeo with two divisions effected a landing, and immediately carried the place with the bayonet. Col. Mitchell, with his little force, after having done every thing which could be effected by valor and good conduct retired up the river; & about half past one the enemy were in quiet possession of the fort and village. Our loss was, as near as I can ascertain, 9 killed, about 20 wounded, and 25 made prisoners. The loss of the British is supposed to have been something more. The citizens were taken to the fort, and held as security for the conduct of our militia during their visit, at which time they took the liberty to break open our houses, and stores, and plunder and destroy every thing left in them. In short, a scene ensued similar to the one acted by our troops at Little York last spring. The public property taken was of trifling amount; it had gone on to Sackett's Harbor generally as fast as it arrived. Seven large pieces of ordnance, one small schooner, and a few boats loaded with naval stores, fell into their hands.

The important object effected by the enemy in this incursion, is their cutting off the channel of transportation through this place for Sackett's Harbor; which, if done effectually will completely frustrate all hopes of making a campaign against Upper Canada this season. About 30 heavy pieces of cannon for the new ship, are now at the portage, 12 miles above this; and the British boats are watching the coast between this & S. Harbor. Their fleet is probably not far from S. Harbor, which is the only place now unobscured on our waters. This is the actual state of affairs at present in this quarter; and this is the style in which we have commenced taking Canada for the third campaign!

\* Wilkinson has been sometimes humorously called "Old Atlas" since the publication of a ludicrous puff on him by an officer, after the affair of La Cole.

A great Purchase.—We understand that governor Tompkins has purchased a large track of land on Staten Island, which he contemplates enclosing for an immense sheep-fold, for the purpose of improving the breed of merino sheep. Perhaps there is no situation in the U. S. so favorable for this purpose. The land is very high, interspersed with pleasant valleys. His line commences in the rear of the quarantine ground, and takes in all the mountains which are seen from this city. It is calculated that it will cost \$100,000 to build a stone wall round the land. This great work with other improvements, are to be commenced immediately. We wish the Gov. success in his laudable and noble enterprise. N. Y. Gaz.