

AMERICAN AND GAZETTE

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October 7, 1746

From the **GENTLEMEN OF THE COMMONS** for **France 1746**.
LETTER writt by **M. D'Argenson, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, by the French Camp at Bouchout in Brabant, to M. Van Hoey, the Dutch Ambassador, dated May 26, 1746.**

HE King has ordered me to write to your excellency concerning the liberation of Prince Edward and his adherents, since the advantage gained over them by the English troops, the 27th of last month. All Europe knows the ties of parentage which subsist between him and prince Edward. Moreover this young prince is endowed with all the qualities which might engage those powers to interest themselves in favour, who claim true courage; and the King of England will too just and impartial a judge of true merit, who so let due upon it even in an enemy. The character of the Britanion in general cannot, likewise, but inspire all Englishmen with the same sentiments of admiration, for a countryman distinguished by his talents and heroic virtues.

all these reasons ought naturally to favour the fate of prince Edward; and at the same time we may expect from the moderation and clemency of the King of England that he will not let those persons to be prosecuted with that utmost rigour, who a time of trouble and confusion, followed the standard which is lately overthrow by the British Arms; under the command of the Duke of Cumberland. Nevertheless, Sir, as in the first motions of a revolution, the most is sometimes carried to a greater height, than in more peaceable times, the King thinks proper as far as in him lies, to prevent the dangerous effects of any too severe measures which his Britannic Majesty might take upon this occasion.

With this just view, Sir, that the King ordered me to let your excellency to write to the English Ministry, and to represent to it, in the strongest manner, the inconveniences which it infallibly result from any violent proceedings against Prince Edward. The rights of Nations and the particular interest which his Majesty takes in respect to that Prince, are motives which will probably make some impression upon the Court of Great Britain; and his Majesty hopes to find none but noble and generous feelings from the King of England and the English Nation, that all those who were formerly concerned in the interest of the House of Stuart, will have reason to extol the clemency and clemency of his Britannic Majesty. It is contrary to all expectations, any attempts should be made, either with respect to the Prince, or to his adherents, or to his friends, any pains should be taken, or to foretell that a life of animosity and fury might prove one dreadful consequence of such rigour; and show many a poor people before the face of the war might fall victims to a violence which could be avoided, and would certainly not do good to anybody. It is more capable than you are to do for them, your country and your love of peace, will suggest to me to say upon this important subject

Your excellency must be sensible, that there is not a moment to be delayed in writing to the ministers of the King of England; and I hope you will do me the favour to communicate to me the answer you receive from them, that I may give an account of it to the King; that he may take such resolutions upon this occasion, as his Majesty shall think suitable to the honour and dignity of his crown. He sincerely wishes that the King of England may give him noble examples of humanity and greatness of soul.

This Letter was preceded in the Daily Gazetteer by the ensuing REMARKS.

THE French Kings, by the indolence and inattention of their neighbours, are at last grown to that height of insolence, as, in imitation of the old Romans, they without their power; to affect dictating to all the powers of Europe; and without the least regard to right or wrong, to equity, or even common sense, take upon themselves to direct those with whom they are at war; how they shall behave to their own subjects, taken in actual rebellion; to put the war between the two Nations, and the operations thereof, on a footing with rebellion; and to threaten a Prince and his people with destruction, who may if they please; and I hope ever will, be their masters, and always look down on Frenchmen with a contempt due to slaves.

I need not tell my reader, that the reasoning in this letter, is as silly as the law of it is false. It is a true French production; and I hope that the inscience contained in it, will lay the foundation of that destruction and misery to themselves, which they threaten others with. What the busy Mr. Van Hoey has to do to interpose in this matter at all, would puzzle a man of common sense to comprehend.

A Nation that once submits to be bullied by another, from that moment loses its reputation; and is gradually falling into contempt and slavery. And here is a text, for which, I dare say, there is not an Englishman, who is not a rebel in his heart, that would not sacrifice his last drop of blood to support the dignity of the crown, and reputation of the people. But is not this the highest question, whether we will his Majesty to be a slave, or whether he shall be commanded to be so by a King of slaves? who reasons without reason, and threatens with a power, who thinks him talking to the Dutch, or little princes round him, who fawn at his feet, and tremble at his arbitrary nod; who make a god of a loghead, and worship a graven image. To such as these a French King may give law; but the minute it is submitted to here, we must date the era of our becoming slaves and

I would not, by these remarks, be understood to sume the limiting his Majesty's clemency, or to inquire my country with any kind of care to render the unhappy more miserable; but should wish them to have to much regard to their own honour and reputation, that if the French do begin the kind of war, and to end it so long as there is a Frenchman living; let their whole name and nation be blotted out of the annals of time; and their infamy be heard of no more. Let us be rooted out of the earth, and the very memory of the race of Bourbon be buried in eternal oblivion.