# NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER,

AND

# WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

*Vol. III.* WASHINGTON CITY, PRINTED BY SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. *No. CCCCLIX.*

*Five Dolls. Per ann.* FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th, 1803. *Paid in advance*

*For the National Intelligencer.*

## *Purchase of Louisiana.*

*Is there good reason for considering the Executive uninformed of the true interests of the country?*

If ever there has been an administration in this country fully competent to the discharge of public duty, it is the present. No derogation is intended from the integrity and talents of the Washington administration; but with all the respect merited by that administration, it is but justice to say that with regard to foreign relations, the present combines higher talents. Washington was a good and great man; but his warmest eulogists do not ascribe to him an intimate knowledge of the external relations of the country, or of the manner in which foreign intercourse should be conducted. It is well understood that this is a peculiar science, and that to excel in it requires both experience and uncommon powers of mind. However strong the native energies of his understanding, it is no reproach to say that, wanting experience, which he had no opportunity of acquiring, he could not be so well qualified as an individual who to the powers of mind requisite for such duties adds a knowledge derived from the long discharge of diplomatic functions. Such are the qualifications of our present chief magistrate: And so sensible was general Washington himself of his competency to these duties that he called him to their discharge, and devolved upon him the first office in his gift. To the discharge of these duties he was called from that country with which the late negociations were carried on. We know that he fully enjoyed the confidence of the court of Versailles; it is, therefore, fair to infer that he became intimately acquainted with the prevailing politics of the French cabinet. A great change, it is true, has since that period, taken place in the aspect of those politics. Still in many respects they have remained unaltered during all the vicissitudes of the revolution; and in none more than in the maxims that govern their foreign relations. Of those changes, which have occurred, no one has probably been a more attentive observer. From these considerations, it may be affirmed that with respect to our foreign relations, and particularly with France, no man is more qualified to conduct them with success.

According to the distribution of duties, it devolves on the Secretary of State to be the organ of foreign correspondence. All measures relating to foreign nations come therefore under his cognizance. He is so far the *special* adviser of the President. Both are considered as responsible for them. The outlines are agreed upon by both. The Secretary is entirely responsible for all the subordinate duties attached to their execution. And on the faithful and enlightened discharge of these often depends the success of negociations. This Secretary is Mr. Madison. Need I draw his character. Is there a citizen among us whose character is better understood, whose talents are more universally allowed, or whose virtues are more undoubted? Party malice, with all its malignity, has scarcely dared to whisper reproach against him. Of the ability of such an administration there can be no question. That they are well informed of the interests of the country admits not of doubt.

These facts do not prove the purchase of Louisiana a wise measure. But they are presumptive proof, until it shall be otherwise shewn, that it is such.

FRANKLIN.

*(To be continued.)*

TO be rented on moderate terms, either separately or together. Three two story brick dwelling HOUSES, in the city of Washington, on north E Street, between 9th and 10th streets west. They are well calculated for private families; and the whole taken together, will answer extremely well for the accommodation of boarders, on a large and excellent plan.

Also a large frame building back of the above. Persons wishing to rent, will make early application to

T. H. GILLISS
At the Navy Office.

August 27. wtN1.

WAS committed to the goal of Baltimore county as a run away, on the 3d inst a negro man by the name of GEORGE FAIRFAX—he is about 17 years of age, 5 feet 5 inches high, dark complection, bow legged, has a scar over his right eye, and has lost two of his upper foreteeth; he has on a country made cotton shirt and nankeen trowsers—he says he belongs to Mr. Priestly Wright, living in Westmoreland county Virginia, near Cole Carter's mill. If his owner does not release him he will be sold for his goal fees, according to law.

*James Wilson, Sheriff.*

September 12. 12wtf

The following PAPER has been published by the British Government, and sent, by its direction to every parish in the kingdom.

## CIRCULAR.

*To the Officiating Ministers of the several Parishes in England and Wales.*

It having been thought necessary, that at this momentous crisis, his majesty's subjects, in every part of the kingdom, and of every rank and degree, should be fully apprized of the danger, with which their property and their lives, their liberties, and their religion are threatened, in order that their energy may be called forth, and that, under God's Providence the safety of the realm may thereby be provided for, and its ancient honor maintained. It having been also thought, that THE CHURCH is the most safe, regular, and certain channel of circulation, as well as the best suited to the importance of the subject. It appears advisable to adopt that mode of communication, more especially as, in the execution of this great national purpose, such material aid may be expected from the wisdom and zeal of the Clergy.—In consequence whereof you will herewith receive certain copies of a printed paper, intituled, "Important Considerations for the People of this Kingdom." It is requested, that you will be pleased to cause part of them to be deposited in the pews, and part to be distributed in the aisles, amongst the poor, on the Sunday following the day on which you shall receive them. There are also inclosed certain copies calculated for posting; one of which is intended to be placed on the church door, and another in some such public part of the parish, as you may deem best fitted for making it known among the parishioners.

## IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THIS KINGDOM.

At a moment when we are entering on a scene deeply interesting, not only to this nation, but to the whole civilized world; at a moment, when we all, without distinction of rank or degree, are called upon to rally round, and to range ourselves beneath the banners of that Sovereign, under whose long, mild, and fostering reign, the far greater part of us, capable of bearing arms have been born and reared up to manhood; at a moment, when we are, by his truly royal and paternal example, incited to make every sacrifice and every exertion in a war, the event of which is to decide, whether we are still to enjoy, and to bequeath to our children, the possessions, the comforts, the liberties, and the national honors, handed down to us from generation to generation, by our gallant forefathers; or whether we are, at once, to fall from this favored and honorable station, and to become the miserable crouching slaves, the hewers of wood and the drawers of water, of those very Frenchmen, whom the valour of our fleets and armies has hitherto taught us to despise; at such a moment, it behoves us, calmly and without dismay, to examine our situation, to consider what are the grounds of the awful contest in which we are engaged; what are the wishes, the designs, and the pretensions of our enemies; what would be the consequences, if those enemies were to triumph over us; what are our means, and what ought to be our motives, not only for frustrating their malicious intentions, but for inflicting just and memorable chastisement on their insolent and guilty heads.

The grounds of the war are, by no means, as our enemies pretend, to be fought for in a desire entertained by his majesty to keep the island of Malta, contrary to the Treaty of Peace, or to leave unfulfilled any other part of his sacred engagements. They are to be fought for in the ambition of the First Consul of France, and in his implacable hatred of Britain, because, in the power and valour of Britain alone, he finds a check to that ambition, which aims at nothing short of the conquest of the world. His majesty, ever anxious to procure for his people prosperity and ease, eagerly seized the first opportunity that offered itself for the restoration of peace; but not without remembering at the same time that their safety, for which it was his peculiar duty to provide, was not to be sacrificed to any other consideration. This peace he concluded with the most sincere desire, that it might be durable, and the conduct of France would be such as to authorise him to execute, with scrupulous punctuality, every one of the stipulations of the treaty. But scarcely was that compact concluded, when the First Consul, at the very time that his majesty was surrendering to France and Holland, the great and numerous conquests he had made from them during the war, began a new sort of hostility upon the weak and defenceless states on the continent of Europe: Piedmont, a country equal to all Scotland, was added to France: Holland, which had, at the making of the peace, been recognized as an independent nation, became, more than ever, the object of French rapacity and despotism; was compelled to furnish ships and stores for French expeditions, and to feed and clothe French armies; the only use of which was to keep her in a state of slavish subjection, and to render her shores an object of serious alarm and real danger to Great Britain; Switzerland was invaded by a French army, which compelled the people of that once free and happy country, to submit to a government framed at Paris, the members of which government were chiefly composed of men, who had betrayed the liberties of their country, and who were nominated by the Consul himself. Notwithstanding, however, all these and several other acts of aggression and tyranny, some of which were highly injurious to Great Britain, and were shameful violations of the treaty of peace, still his majesty earnestly endeavored to avoid a recurrence to arms; but the Consul, emboldened by our forbearance, and imputing to a dread of his power, that which he ought to have imputed solely to our desire to live at peace, manifested his perfidious intentions, again to take possession of Egypt, whence we had driven him in disgrace; again to open a road to our possessions in India, there to destroy one of the principal sources of our wealth and our greatness.

Not contented with thus preparing for our destruction from without, endeavoring to cut off our intercourse with the rest of the world, shutting, as far as he was able, all the ports of other countries against us; gradually destroying our navigation, commerce and trade; hemming us up in our own island, and exposing our manufacturers, artizans, and labourers, to the danger of starving for want of employment; not contented with these malignant endeavours, and seeming to regard us as already within his grasp, he audaciously interfered in the management of our domestic concerns; required us to violate our laws by banishing those subjects of the French Monarch, who had fled hither for shelter from his unjust and tyrannical government; demanded of us the suppression of the Liberty of Speech and of the Press, and, in a word, clearly demonstrated his resolution not to leave us a moment's tranquility, until we had surrendered our constitution, until we had laid all our liberties at his feet, and until, like the Dutch, the Italians, and the Swiss, we had submitted to be governed by decrees sent us from France.

Besides the motives of ambition, the desire to domineer over, and to trample upon all the rest of mankind, the First Consul has a reason, peculiar to himself, for wishing to reduce us to a state of poverty, weakness, submission, and silence; which reason will be at once evident, when we consider the origin of his authority, and the nature of his government. Having succeeded, through a long course of perfidious and bloody deeds, in usurping the throne of his lawful Sovereign; having, under the name of *Equality*, established in his own person and family, a governmet the most pompous and expensive, while the people are pining with hunger, and in rags; having, with the word *Liberty*, continually on his lips, erected a despotism the most oppressive, the most capricious, and the most cruel that the Almighty, in his wrath, ever suffered to exist; having by such means, obtained such an end, he feared, that while there remained upon the earth, and especially within a few leagues of France, a people enjoying, under a mild and legitimate Sovereign, all the blessings of freedom;—while there remained such a people, so situated, he dreaded, and not without reason, that their sentiments and their example would, by degrees, penetrate through his forest of bayonets, his myriads of spies, and would, first or last, shake the foundation of his ill-gotten power. He could not, indeed, impute either to our Sovereign or to his subjects, any design, much less any attempt, to disturb him in the exercise of his usurped authority. We never have interfered, nor have we ever shown any desire to interfere in the concerns of the Consul or his Republic: and his majesty, even after all the acts of provocation, all the injuries and insult committed against himself and his people, has now solemnly renewed his declaration, that his object is not to destroy or change any thing in the internal state of other countries, but solely to preserve, in his own dominions, every thing dear to himself and his subjects.

This however, is not sufficient to satisfy the consul of France; it is not sufficient that we abstain, both by actions and by words, from exciting discontent amongst those who have the misfortune to be subjects to his sway; we must not afford them an example, we must not remain free, unless they should learn lessons of Freedom; we must destroy our ancient and venerable monarchy, lest they should sigh for a lawful and merciful king; we must not be happy, lest they should covet happiness; we must not speak, lest our voice should disturb the peace of Bonaparte; we must not breathe, we must cease to exist, because our existence gives umbrage to a man, who, from the walls of Acre, fled, in shame and disgrace, before a handful of Britons.

Such being the grounds of the war, such the wishes and designs, such, the preposterous and insolent pretensions of the enemy, it next behoves us to consider, what will be the consequence to ourselves, what will be our wretched lot, if that enemy should succeed in the invasion and subjugation of our country. Of what the French would, in such case, do here, we may form some judgment, from what they have done in all those countries, where the remissness of the government together with the pusillanimity of the people, have given them the predominance. There is no country, into which they have been able to enter, where their footsteps have not been marked with blood; where they have spared either high or low, rich or poor, sex or age; where terror has not been their forerunner, and where desolation and misery have not marched in their rear. In the long and black catalogue of French cruelties towards the people of other countries, those of the First Consul, and of the generals and soldiers immediately under his command, first present themselves to our attention. In 1796, Bonaparte, at the head of a numerous French army, invaded Italy, declaring to the people, that he came as their friend and their brother, to deliver them from taxes and slavery, and promising them safety for their persons, security for their property, respect for their laws, and reverence for their religion. They listened, they believed; they threw open their gates, they laid down their arms, they received the Gallic serpent to their bosom, and fatal indeed were the effects of their credulity! His reverence for their religion he displayed by giving up all their places of worship to indiscriminate plunder and by defiling them with every species of sacrilege; his respect for their laws was evinced, not only by the abrogation of those laws, but by the arbitrary enforcement of an unconditional submission to the mandates of himself and his generals: the security which he promised to their property was exhibited in enormous contributions, in the seizure of all the public funds, as well as those of every charitable foundation, not excepting schools, hospitals, or any other resource for the support of the poor, the aged, and the helpless; and, as to the persons of the unfortunate people, he provided for their safety by laying the whole country under the severest military execution, by giving up the towns and villages to fire and sword, and by exposing the inhabitants to be pillaged and murdered by his rapacious and inhuman soldiers, whom he authorised and even ordered to shoot every man that attempted to resist them, whatever might be the crimes in which they were engaged.

On his return from Italy, which he left in a state of beggary and irretrievable ruin, he prepared for the invasion of Egypt, a country which was at peace with France, and against the people, or the government of which, France had no cause of complaint; but the conquest of this country was necessary in order to open a road to the Indian possessions of Great-Britain.—In pursuit of this object, Bonaparte invaded Egypt, where he repeated his promises to respect religion, property, and persons, and where, the more effectually to disguise his purposes, he issued a proclamation, declaring himself and his army to be true Mahometans; and boasting of having made war upon the christians, and destroyed their religion. One of his first deeds after this act of apostacy, was to massacre almost all the inhabitants of the populous city of Alexandria. "The people," says one of his generals, "betake themselves to their prophet, and fill their mosques; but men and women, old and young, and even babes at the breast, ALL are massacred!" Some time after this sanguinary transaction, Bonaparte, having made prisoners of three thousand eight hundred Turks, in the fortress of Jaffa, and wishing to relieve himself from the trouble and expense of guarding and supporting them, ordered them to be marched to an open place, where part of his army fired on them with musquetry and grape shot, stabbing and cutting to death the few who escaped the fire, while he himself looked on, and rejoiced at the horrid scene. Nor were his cruelties while in Egypt, confined to those whom he called his enemies; for finding his hospitals at Jaffa crowded with sick soldiers, and desiring to disencumber himself of them, he ordered one of his physicians to destroy them by poison. The physician refused to obey; but an apothecary was found, willing to perpetrate the deed; opium was mixed with the food; and thus, five hundred and eighty Frenchmen perished by the order of the general, under whose flag they had fought; by the order of that very man, to whose despotic sway, the whole French nation now patiently submits! Let them so submit, but let us not think of such shameful, such degrading submission. Let us recollect, that this impious and ferocious invader was stopped in his career of rapine and blood, by a mere handful of Britons; and was finally induced to desert his troops, and to flee from the land he had invaded, at the approach of that gallant British army, by which Egypt was delivered from the most odious and most destructive of all its plagues. This it is for us to recollect; and so recollecting, shame and disgrace upon our heads, if we do not resist, if we do not overcome, if we do not chastise this rapacious, this bloody minded tyrant, who has now marked out our country for subjugation, our fields for devastation, our houses for pillage; and who in the insolence of his ambition, has held us forth to the world, as a meek, a feeble, and cowardly race, destined to grace his triumphal car, and to augment the number of his slaves.

Not, however, to the deeds of Bonaparte alone, must our recollection be confined. Not only Egypt and Italy, but Holland, Switzerland, and Germany, and, indeed, almost every country in Europe have been the scenes of French rapine, insult, and cruelty. Holland, formerly the seat of freedom, commerce, industry, and affluence, presents at this moment, the sad spectacle of a country divided against itself, torn to pieces by factions, contending, not for the suffrages of the people, but for the favour of France; a country governed by the haughty mandates of a foreign power; awed by foreign arms; holding the remains of its wealth, together with the residue of its military and naval means, in constant readiness to be disposed of in the service of another nation, and that nation its ancient and implacable enemy, and now its inexorable oppressor.—When the French armies entered the territories of Holland, their motto was, "*War to the palace, but peace to the Cottage.*"—They came to deliver the people from their rulers, and from the burthens which those rulers imposed. The Dutch, like the Italians, lent an ear to these artful and perfidious declarations, believing that their cottages would be spared, and careless of the fate of the palace. But, Alas! they soon found, that French rapacity, like the hail and the thunder, fell alike on the thatced roof, and the gilded dome. The palaces once seized on, the cottages soon followed; while all those who were found in the intermediate space, the merchant, the manufacturer, the farmer, and the tradesman, were sunk in one common ruin; happy, if, by the loss of their property, they had the good fortune to preserve their lives. Bonaparte is, indeed, now, not only the sovereign of the country, not only does he exercise the powers of dominion, but he is, as to every practical effect, the master and the owner of all the property, and of all the people in Holland. These miserable beings possess nothing of their own; they can acquire nothing with the hope of enjoying, or bequeathing it; they can make no provision for the weakness of disease, the feebleness of old age, or the helplessness of infancy; they are the mere drudges of a hard-hearted tyrant, who suffers them to live, only while their labours administer to his projects of ambition, and who, when his purposes demand it, puts an end at once to their toils and their existence.

In Switzerland, where high rank and great riches were unknown, where men were nearer upon an equality than in any other country in the world; in a country having no commerce, scarcely