NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER,

AND

WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

Vol. IV. WASHINGTON CITY, PRINTED BY SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. No. DXVI.

Five Dolls. Per ann. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10th, 1804. Paid in advance.

LONDON, Nov. 22.

His Britannic Majesty's Speech to both Houses of Parliament.

About three o'clock, his Majesty proceeded, in his usual state, to the House of Lords, to open the session, and being seated on the Throne, a Message was dispatched to the House of Commons, to intimate his Majesty's presence in the House of Peers, and to require their immediate attendance at the bar of that House. The Commons being come, his Majesty made the following most gracious speech:

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"Since I last met you in Parliament it has been my chief object to carry into effect those measures which your wisdom had adopted for the defence of the United Kingdom, and for the vigorous prosecution of the war. In these preparations I have been seconded by the voluntary exertions of all ranks of my people, in a manner that has if possible, strengthened their claims to my confidence and affection: they have proved that the menaces of the enemy have only served to rouse their native and hereditary spirit; and that all other considerations are lost in a general disposition to make those efforts and sacrifices which the honor and safety of the kingdom demand at this important and critical conjuncture.

"Though my attention has principally been directed to the great object of internal security, no opportunity has been lost of making an impression on the foreign possessions of the enemy. The islands of St. Lucia, of Tobago, of St. Piere and Miquelon, and the Settlements of Demerara and Essequibo, have surrendered to the British arms. In the conduct of the operations, by which those valuable acquisitions have been made, the utmost promptitude and zeal have been displayed by the officers employed on those services, and by my forces acting under their command, by sea and land.

"In Ireland, the leaders, and several inferior agents, in the late traitorous and atrocious conspiracy, have been brought to justice: and the public tranquility has experienced no further interruption. I indulge the hope that such of my deluded subjects as have swerved from their allegiance are now convinced of their error; and that having compared the advantages they derive from the protection of a free constitution with the condition of those countries which are under the dominion of the French Government, they will cordially and zealously concur in resisting any attempt that may be made against the security and independence of my United Kingdom.

"*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

"I have a perfect reliance on your public spirit for making such provisions as may be necessary for the service of the year. The progressive improvement of the revenue cannot fail to encourage you to persevere in the system which has been adopted, of defraying the expences of the war, with as little addition as possible to the public debt, and to the permanent burthens of the state.

"I lament the heavy pressure, which, under the present circumstances, must unavoidably be experienced by my people; but I am persuaded that they will meet it with the good sense and fortitude which so eminently distinguish their character under the conviction of the indispensable importance of upholding the dignity, and of providing effectually for the safety of the Empire.

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"I have concluded a Convention with the King of Sweden, for the purpose of adjusting all the differences which have arisen on the subject of the eleventh article of the treaty of 1661. I have directed that a copy of this Convention should be laid before you; and you will, I trust, be of opinion that the arrangement, whilst it upholds our maritime rights, is founded on those principles of reciprocal advantage which are best calculated to maintain and improve the good understanding which happily subsists between two countries.

"In the prosecution of the contest in which we are engaged, it shall be, as it has ever been, my first object to execute as becomes me, the great trust committed to my charge. Embarked with my brave and loyal people in one common cause, it is my fixed determination, if the occasion should arise, to share their exertions and their dangers in the defence of our constitution, our religion, our laws and independence. To the activity and valor of my fleets and armies, to the zeal and unconquerable spirit of my faithful subjects, I confide the honor of my crown, and all those valuable interests which are involved in the issue of this momentous contest.

"Actuated by these sentiments, and humbly imploring the blessings of divine Providence, I look forward with a firm conviction, that if, contrary to all just expectation, the enemy should elude the vigilance of my numerous fleets and cruisers, and attempt to execute their presumptuous threats of invading our coasts, the consequences will be to them discomfiture, confusion, and disgrace; and that our's will not only be the glory of surmounting present difficulties, and repelling immediate danger, but the solid and permanent advantage of fixing the safety and independence of the kingdom on the basis of acknowledged strength, the result of its own tried energy and resources."

GALLIC FRATERNITY.

HAMBURGH, November 4.

Our city has been for these two last days in great confusion and embarrassment, from which it is not likely that it will be able to extricate itself without considerable sacrifices. What has been long foreseen and foretold by all who have paid any attention to political matters, is at length come to pass. The French having entirely stripped Hanover of every thing that it was possible for them to get at, and having certainly set out upon the principle of maintaining the army of Hanover at the expence of other people, no matter of whom, finding now that no more is to be got in that quarter, have applied to the Hanse Towns, as being the nearest, the weakest and most able to furnish them with money. They have accordingly, made a formal demand of a very large sum (it is said, of four millions of dollars,) in the shape of a loan, for which they offer to mortgage the Duchy of Lauenburg. The French minister, Citizen Reinhard has also presented a long inculpatory memoir to the Senate, wherein he complains, that people are here employed to recruit for England, and has named several persons as being engaged in this recruiting; that a ship on board of which some hundred persons are going as settlers to America, is really destined for England, and the said settlers are English recruits, and many other complaints of a similar nature, and equally founded in justice and truth. Lastnight the Senate was assembled, and again this morning, as were also the aldermen and council of 60; but nothing was decided, and therefore, nothing can be positively known, the Senators, &c. being bound to disclose no part of the deliberations, till after a decision has taken place. All that is known is, that the proposals above-mentioned were deliberated on, and as is generally believed, rejected provisionally. To morrow is a general meeting of the citizens, when it will be decided what is to be done. It is most probable that the city will be forced to comply rather than expose itself to military execution. Gen. Berthier, who has been here on this business for this few days past, was upon change the day before yesterday, and endeavored to persuade the merchants to come into this measure. They represented to him that it was not possible in the present state of things, for them to agree to such a step; that he knew, as well as they could tell him, that their trade was at a total stand, &c. To all this, it seems, he could find no better answer than to say "*Il faut faire que' chose pour le Grand Nation.*"

The English minister, Sir George Rumbold, is said to have advised the rejection of the proposals. In the mean time, a thousand reports, all equally false, are spread and devoured with an avidity which is astonishing even to an Englishman. Now we are told, that 10,000 French troops are on their march, and will be here the day after to morrow; that the French have seized a large number of waggons coming from Lubeck, with English goods, and many other news of this nature. Some think we shall have a Prussian garrison, or a Danish one, to protect us; but considering the conduct of all parties to this time, it does not seem probable that Prussia, in particular, having delayed its interference so long, should now come forward, when it is, perhaps, too late. It is here pretty generally believed that Russia will soon declare war against France; but here again the same fatality, which has accompanied till this time all the measures of the Continent, extends its destructive influence.

In a short time all the ports of Russia will be shut up by the ice, and the fleet, consequently rendered useless. In the mean time, whether Russia declares war or not, it is very generally apprehended, and that upon very good grounds, that as soon as the Russian fleets actually are blockaded up, the French will without delay, occupy all the ports of the Baltic sea, at least those of Mecklenburg and Holstein: the inhabitants of both which countries are by no means easy under their present prospects.

The news from Hanover is indeed of a nature not very tranquilizing for those who see themselves exposed to share the same fate. Besides, the robberies and exactions on a grand scale, the profits of which mostly go to enrich Generals, Commissaries, &c. of the great nation (the Commissary General Michaud has amassed already upwards of two millions of livres,) the inhabitants are exposed to a thousand vexations. which are never heard of except individually and by chance; for example, several French officers have married young women in Hanover, who have since discovered that their new husbands have wives and children in France. A few days ago, a party of 100 French soldiers suddenly surrounded a house, where a company was dancing, to celebrate a wedding or some other festival, and some of them entering the assembly room, went up to a Hanoverian officer, who was dancing, and without saying the why or the wherefore, put a pistol to his head, and blew out his brains, because, as they said afterwards, they believed that he was employed to recruit for England; an accusation, which, it seems, was totally groundless. Under a similar pretext of looking for English recruiting officers, they lately came to a public house on the territory of Hamburgh, where, not finding the master and mistress, and it being denied by the son that any such persons were there, they, without more ado, shot him dead on the spot.

Subject of Invasion—Continued.

LONDON, Nov. 16.

Dispatches were yesterday received at the Admiralty from admiral Cornwallis, off Ushant, by which it appears, that so far from the enemy being at sea, they have not yet made any attempt to come out. Their preparations in that quarter are in such forwardness, that it may be presumed, if they really intend to put to sea, that they are now only watching for a favorable moment to slip out. Our fleet off Brest has withstood the violent gales which have of late prevailed, and continues to maintain that vigilant position, which, we trust, will effectually obstruct the designs of the enemy, in whatever way he may wish to employ the principal remains of the naval power of France.

November 25.

On the subject of the threatened invasion, we are still without any thing new to offer our readers. The public mind continues to be distracted with the same variety of conjectural speculation, and the same want of real information as heretofore. The time now draws very near, which the politicians of this country have long fixed on for the great attempt, and if some of them are to be relied on, we shall soon be relieved from all further suspence. The latter end of November, or the beginning of December, has often been said to be the period, beyond which the First Consul is determined not to defer the sailing of the expedition. Indeed the weather is now as favorable as he can reasonably expect. Our fleets are blown off the French coast, the nights are long and dark, and the same wind which compels our ships to leave the enemy's shores, will blow his armament to ours. The long wished for opportunity is at length arrived and we soon shall see what great events it is destined to produce.

The naval force of the enemy in the harbour of Brest, including the ships in the inner road, is said to amount to 19 sail of different descriptions, not more than nine or ten of which, we believe, are of the line, besides which there are several transports, about 70 gun boats, and a number of what are called canoniers, carrying two guns, and calculated for the conveyance of about 100 men each. They are stated to be all full of troops; and the number embarked and encamped in the neighborhood, are computed at no less than 120,000 men. These statements in all possibility greatly exaggerate the facts, but be this as it may, there is no doubt of Brest being the point in which the greatest exertions of the enemy have been made.

There are building at Bologne floating batteries to carry 90 guns each, and three very large cables have been conveyed for these vessels from Dunkirk.—The cables are 27 inches thick, and weigh above seven tons each.

BOLOGNE, Nov. 7.

Ministry of Marine—Extract from General Orders of the National Flotilla under the command of Admiral Bruix, Bologne Nov. 2.

The four days that the flotilla were out of harbour, gave an idea of their force when moored in a line. The enemy's vessels were afraid to approach within cannon shot; they kept constantly at the distance of one or two leagues, without accepting the offer of battle which we made to them while at anchor. The effect of the movement made by the flotilla was to engage the attention of the English squadron at Bologne, while several divisions of gun boats or sloops were coming from the North and South to join us; our vessels gained also in this sortie in regard to the celerity of their nautical manœuvres; they acquire a habit of proceeding with speed and without confusion, from the port to the bay, and from the bay to the port.

The Chief of the general Staff of the National Flotilla.

(Signed) LAFOND.

Miscellaneous Paragraphs.

LONDON, Nov. 28.

Four ships of the line have been ordered to proceed with all possible dispatch, to join lord Nelson's squadron off Toulon. It is believed, that the French, while they keep threatening our our own coasts, actually meditate another expedition to Egypt. If they should set out, it is to be hoped they will not be fortunate enough as on the last occasion, to reach that country, without our fleet being able to fall in with them on the passage.

Some dispatches from the First Consul to general Rochambeau, who commands the remnant of the French force in St. Domingo, has been lately intercepted by one of our cruisers. In these dispatches Bonaparte is said to have informed gen. Rochambeau that the French treasury was quite inadequate to 'to furnish him with any further pecuniary supplies,' and that he must therefore endeavor to provide for his army in the colony it was appointed to defend.

The mode of raising such provision was pointed out to the general; and the advice contained in the dispatch was, that in order to prevent 'noisy complaints,' or 'troublesome claims,' at a future period, to any property he might think it necessary to appropriate, he should take care to have the proprietors, '*set aside*,' that is, *murdered*! The atrocities of former tyrants, fade before this Master Monster.

Much has been said in the papers for several days, of misunderstandings existing between the British and American governments, respecting the interpretation of certain articles of the treaty of 1794. That explanations on the subject have taken place we know, but confidently state, that no misunderstanding whatever is likely to take place on the subject.—No two countries in the world, at this moment, feel a more natural inclination to remain at peace with each other than Great-Britain and America. In regard to the revision of the above treaty, which is now on foot we trust we shall very shortly be enabled to give the most satisfactory information—*Packet.*

The following is a translation of a *pasquinade* pasted on the base of the *Statue of Victory*, on Bonaparte's having complied with the laughable petitions of his satellites, not to embark his sacred person for the *Invasion* of England.

Our prayers are heard! no adverse fate
On seas shall toss our mighty elf,
Since, to protect the Gallic State,
He deigns, great Soul—to save HIMSELF!

In Chancery, Feb. 1, 1804.

ORDERED that the sale made by John Hewitt trustee for the sale of the real estate of Gerrard T. Conner, shall be ratified and confirmed unless cause to the contrary be shewn on or before the third day of April next, provided a copy of this order be inserted in the National Intelligencer before the first day of March next.

The report states that a tract of land in Montgomery county called Elizabeth, containing 178 acres was sold for 601 dollars.

Test SAMUEL HARVEY HOWARD,
Reg. Cur. Can.

Feb. 8—w3t

CONGRESS.

House of Representatives.

TUESDAY, Jan. 17, 1804.

Debate on Mr. Rodney's motion for the extinguishment of the Balances reported to be due by several states.

(*Continued.*)

Mr. THATCHER was decidedly opposed to the extinguishment of these balances due from the debtor states; and as the state which he had the honor to represent, was deeply interested in this question, he should attempt a reply to what had been advanced in support of the resolution; and should briefly state his reasons for voting in the negative.

These balances, said Mr. T. were found due upon a settlement of the demands of the respective states for services and supplies, during our revolutionary war. Although Congress, no doubt, equalized the burthen as much as possible, during the revolution, it was found, at the close of the war, that the states had contributed to the common defence in very unequal proportions. It was well known that the New-England states, in particular, had furnished more than their respective quotas of men and money. From a sense of this inequality, congress submitted the debts due from, and to the several states, to a board of commissioners who, for several years, investigated the subject with the most minute and laborious attention. During this time, each state had an opportunity to present, and to substantiate its claims; and the report of the commissioners has been repeatedly sanctioned by congress. Although, as the gentleman from Delaware has said, the state which he represents was not heard before the commissioners by its special agents, this was the case of all the states.

It is impossible said Mr. T. as the gentleman from New-Jersey has observed, to examine the ground upon which this report was formed. From the loss of documents, the lapse of time, and the vast extent of the subject, this is certainly impracticable. It is not even proposed by the mover of the resolution. The gentleman from Delaware has not arraigned the motives of the commissioners, but he conceives that upon a just settlement, the state he represents could not have been found so much in arrears; although he calls upon us to expunge the sums reported against the debtor states, he is willing that those reported to be due to the creditor states should be paid. Sir, said Mr. T. I conceive that the debts and credits must stand upon precisely the same ground. They both resulted from one settlement, and it is impossible to separate them. Upon what ground can we pay the creditor states, if we admit that nothing is due from the debtor? He conceived that expunging these balances, as contemplated by the resolution, upon the ground of a partial or unjust settlement, would most clearly imply that the sums awarded to the creditor states are not due. This, of itself, would render it unjust and impolitic to extinguish the balances due from the debtor states.

Another argument in favor of the resolution is, that the debtor states cannot be compelled to pay these balances. If that be correct, where is the injury to the debtor states which has been exhibited in such lively colors? If the states cannot be compelled to pay these debts, how can they so materially reduce the value of real estates? How can they hang in terror over their heads? It is even said that it is dangerous to suffer these debts to remain. No evils have yet resulted to the United States, said Mr. T. from this source, nor could he perceive that any were to be apprehended. He knew there was in this House a majority of about 30 members, who represented debtor states, besides, those from states formed out of debtor states; but he had too firm a reliance upon their sense of justice to suppose, that because gentlemen were the majority, they would vote themselves out of debt. Surely said Mr. T. when gentlemen reflect that these sums are due for those exertions which atchieved the Independence of America, they will acknowledge the justice of the claim. The state of New York, (the largest debtor state) has already paid a part of its debt, under a law of Congress authorising that state to apply the sums expended upon fortifications, to the reduction of these balances. Shall we relinquish