# National Intelligencer.

## & WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

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THE *National Intelligencer* will henceforth be conducted by SAMUEL H. SMITH, and JOSEPH GALES, Jun. and printed at the Office of the *former*, to whom subscribers and correspondents are requested still to address themselves.

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### DOCUMENTS

*ACCOMPANYING THE MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.*

*(Continued.)*

*Extract of a letter from Mr. Pinkney to the Secretary of State of the U. States, dated*

LONDON, *June* 5, 1808.

"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th of April, by Mr. Bethune, together with the printed and other copies of papers mentioned in it.

"I am to have an interview with Mr. Canning in a few days (which he will agree to consider extra-official) in the course of which I intend to press by every argument in my power the propriety of their abandoning immediately their orders in council, and proposing in America (the only becoming course, as you very properly suggest) reparation for the outrage on the Chesapeake. I shall, for obvious reasons, do this informally, as my own act.

Your unanswerable reply to Mr. Erskine's letter of the 23d February, has left nothing to be urged against the orders in council upon the score of right; but there may be room to hope that the effect, which your reply can hardly have failed to produce upon ministers, as well by its tone as by its reasoning, will, if followed up, become, under actual circumstances, decisive. The discussion, which Mr. Rose's preliminary in the affair of the Chesapeake has undergone, gives encouragement to an expectation that the government will not now be backward to relinquish it, and to renew their overture of satisfaction in a way more consistent with reason and more likely to produce a just and honorable result.

"You may be assured that I will not commit our government by any thing I shall do or say, that, & if I can not make things better than they are I will not make them worse.

"My view of the course, which our honor and our interests have required and still require, is as you know, in precise conformity with that of the President; but if it were otherwise, I should make this view, and not my own, the rule on my conduct.

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*Extracts of a letter from Mr. Pinkney to Mr. Madison.*

LONDON, *August* 4, 1808.

"The St. Michael arrived at Falmouth on Thursday the 14th of last month, after a passage of eight days from L'Orient. Captain Kenyon delivered to me, on Wednesday the 20th (upon my arrival in town from Brighton, where I had been for a short time on account of my health) your letter of the 30th of April, and your private letter of the 1st of May, together with newspapers, printed copies of the embargo act and its supplements, and of papers laid before Congress at their last session. Mr. Hall brought me a letter from gen. Armstrong of the 26th of June (of which I send an extract) and Mr. Upson brought me a private letter from him, with the following postscript of the first of July: "An order has been received from Bayonne, to condemn eight other of our ships."

"On Friday the 22d of July, I had an interview with Mr. Canning, and renewed my efforts to obtain a revocation of the British orders of January and November, 1807, and of the other orders dependant upon them. I have already informed you, in my private letter of the 29th of June, that on the morning of its date, I had a long conversation with Mr. Canning, which had rendered it somewhat probable that the object mentioned in your letter of the 30th of April (of which I had received a duplicate by the packet) would be accomplished, if I should authorise the expectation which that letter suggests; but that some days must elapse before I could speak with any thing like certainty on the subject: and I have mentioned in another private letter (of the 10th July) that it was understood between Mr. Canning and myself that another interview should take place soon after the prorogation of parliament. In effect, however, Mr. Canning was not prepared to see me again until the 22d of July, after I had been recalled to London by the arrival of the St. Michael, and had, in consequence, reminded him of our arrangement by a private note.

In the interview of the 29th of June, I soon found it necessary to throw out an intimation, that the power vested in the President, by Congress, to suspend the embargo act and its supplements, would be exercised, as regarded Great Britain, if their orders were repealed, as regarded the U. S. To have urged the revocation, upon the mere ground of strict right, or of general policy, and there to have left the subject, when I was authorised to place it upon grounds infinitely stronger, would have been, as it appeared to me, to stop short of my duty. Your letters to Mr. Erskine, (which Mr. Canning has read and considered) had exhausted the first of these grounds, and endless discussions here, in every variety of form, in and out of Parliament, had exhausted the second. There was, besides, no objection, of any force, to my availing myself, without delay, of the powerful inducements, which the intimation in question was likely to furnish to G. Britain, to abandon her late system; and it seemed to be certain that, by delaying to present these inducements to Mr. Canning's consideration, I should not only lose much time, but finally give to my conduct a disingenuous air, which, while it must be foreign to the views and sentiments of the President, could hardly fail to make a very unfavorable impression on the minds of Mr. Canning and his colleagues. I thought, moreover, that, if I should reserve the suggestion for a late stage of our discussions, it would be made to wear the appearance of a concession reluctantly extorted, rather than what it was, the spontaneous result of the characteristic frankness and honorable policy of our government.

The intimation once made, a complete developement of its natural consequences, if properly acted upon, followed of course; and, taking advantage of the latitude, afforded by the informal nature of a mere conversation, I endeavored to make that developement as strong an appeal as, consistently with truth and honor, I could, (and there was no necessity to do more) to the justice and the prudence of this government.

It was not possible, however, that Mr. Canning could require to be assisted by my explanations. It was plain, upon their own principles, that they could not equitably persevere in their orders in council, upon the foundation of an imputed acquiescence on our part in French invasions of our neutral rights, when it was become, (if it was not always) apparent, that this imputation was completely, and in all respects, an error; when it was manifest that these orders, by letting loose upon our rights a more destructive & offensive persecution than it was in the power of France to maintain, interposed between us & France, furnished answers to our remonstrances against her decrees and pretexts for those decrees, and stood in the way of that very resistance which Great Britain affected to inculcate as a duty, at the moment when she was taking the most effectual measures to embarrass and confound it; and when it was also manifest that a revocation of those orders would, if not attended or followed by a revocation of the decrees of France, place us at issue with that power, and result in a precise opposition by the United States to such parts of her anti-commercial edicts as it became us to repel.

In a prudential view my explanations seemed still less to be required. Nothing could be more clear than that, if Great Britain revoked her orders, and entitled herself to a suspension of the embargo, her object, (if it were any thing short of the establishment and practical support of an exclusive dominion over the seas) must, in some mode or other, be accomplished, whether France followed her example or not. In the first case the avowed purpose of the British orders would be fulfilled, and commerce would resume its accustomed prosperity and expansion. In the last the just resistance of the U. States, (more efficacious than that of the British orders) to French irregularities and aggressions would be left to its fair operation, (and it was impossible to mistake the consequences) while the commercial intercourse between the United States and Great Britain being revived, would open the way for a return to good understanding, and, in the end, for an adjustment of all their differences.

On the 29th of July I met Mr. Canning again, and was soon apprized that our discussions, if continued at all, must take a new form.

As there is now no reason for detaining the St. Michael, she will be dispatched immediately for L'Orient."

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*Mr. Pinkney to Mr. Madison.*

(Extract.)

LONDON, *September 6th*, 1808.

I have an opportunity of writing by Mr. Bethune, who leaves town tomorrow for Falmouth, to embark for the United States in the British packet, and I cannot omit to take advantage of it, although I have still nothing conclusive to communicate.

The Hope arrived off Falmouth, and landed Mr. Atwater, on the 16th of last month, and immediately proceeded on her voyage to Havre, with a fair wind. Mr. Atwater arrived in London on the 20th, in the evening, and delivered your letter of the 18th of July.

My public letter of the 4th August, will have apprized you of the footing on which my different interviews with Mr. Canning left the subject of the British orders in council, and my private letter of the 2d of that month will have made you acquainted with my intention to present, in an official note, what I had ineffectually suggested in conference.

To such a course there could not, even in the first instance, have been any other objection than that it was calculated to lead to discussion rather than to adjustment; but, whatever might be its tendency, it is certain, that I could have no inducement to resort to it, until it was indicated by Mr. Canning as indispensable, nor any motive to decline it afterwards.

At our last interview, and not before, it was unexpectedly found that it was in that mode only that I could obtain a knowledge of the light in which this government thought fit to view the overture I had been directed to make to it; and I determined in consequence to lay before it in writing the intentions of the President, with the same frankness which had characterized my verbal communications.

I have now the honor to transmit a copy of the note, which in conformity with that determination, I delivered, in person to Mr. Canning, on the 26th of last month, a few days after its date. To this note, no answer has yet been returned; but it is to be presumed, that it will not be much longer withheld.

You will perceive that some time had elapsed, after I had sent off my dispatches by the St. Michael, (the 8th August) before my note was presented. The truth is, that I had employed a part of that time in framing a note of great length, which, when nearly completed, I thought it prudent to abandon, in favor of one that held out fewer invitations to unprofitable discussions, which, although, I would not shun them if pressed upon me, I did not suppose it proper that I should seek.

I believe, too, that a little delay on my part, would be far from being disadvantageous. There would still be sufficient time for obtaining a final answer to my proposal, in season for the meeting of Congress; and as the temper of the government, so far as it had been tried, had not appeared to be favorable to my purpose, I believe that I should act in the spirit of my instructions, and consult the honor of my government, by avoiding, under such circumstances, the appearance of urgency and precipitation.

Upon the terms, or general plan of my note, it is not, I hope, necessary to remark. You will discover that it was prepared under a persuasion, that whatever might be its effect, it was infinitely better to make it as conciliatory as, without a sacrifice of principle or national dignity, was possible.

The topics, to be embraced by it, were such as did not demand, but rather forbade, minute exposition. While it was difficult to urge, in their full force, without seeming to aim at exciting a disposition unfriendly to the object of my instructions, all the considerations which justified the U. States in remonstrating against the British orders. It was yet more difficult, without a degree of harshness, scarcely suited to the occasion, and without, also, the hazard of indiscretion, to display, in detail, the signal injustice and impolicy of persevering in them, after what I had proposed. This could be done, and had been done in conversation; but it did not, upon trial, appear to be equally practicable in the more formal and measured proceeding, which I was now called upon to adopt.

I considered, besides, that an overture, so highly advantageous to Great Britain, which the United States were not bound to make by any obligations of equity, although it was wise to make it, did not require, with any view to the character of my country, or even to the success of the overture itself, to be again recommended by an anxious repetition of arguments already fully understood.

As soon as my note was prepared, I called at the foreign office, to arrange an interview with Mr. Canning, for the purpose of enabling me to accompany the delivery of it, with a communication, which I deemed important, as well as of affording him an opportunity of asking and receiving such explanations as he might desire. The interview took place on the 26th of August.

It had occurred to me, that it would be proper, (and could not be injurious) to read to Mr. Canning, from your letter to me, of the 18th July, a brief summary of the instructions under which I was acting. This had not been requested; but it could not be unacceptable; and it was, besides, well calculated to do justice to the liberal sentiments by which my instructions had been dictated, as well as to give weight to my efforts in the execution of them.

I was led, by the reading of these passages, (without having originally intended it) into a more extensive explanation, than I had before attempted, of the influence which the proposal of my government would have, in truth, as well as in the judgment of the world, upon the supposed justice of their new system, as it affected the United States. To that explanation, with the particulars of which I will not, and, indeed, for want of time, cannot, at present, trouble you, I added a concise recapitulation of some of the prudential considerations, which had been so often pressed before, and there I left the subject."

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[Here follows Mr. Pinkney's letter to Mr. Canning, and Mr. Canning's reply as inserted in the National Intelligencer of the 11th inst.]

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*Mr. Canning to Mr. Pinkney.*

The undersigned, his majesty's principal Secretary of State for foreign affairs, has received his majesty's command to acquaint Mr. Pinkney that his majesty has judged it expedient to establish the most rigorous blockade of the port of Copenhagen, and of all the other ports on the island of Zealand. Mr. Pinkney is therefore requested to apprize the American consuls and merchants residing in England, that the entrances of all the ports abovementioned are, and must be considered as being in a state of blockade, and that from this time all the measures authorised by the law of nations, and the respective treaties between his majesty and the different neutral powers will be adopted and executed with respect to all vessels attempting to violate the said blockade after this notice.

The undersigned requests Mr. Pinkney to accept the assurances of his high consideration.

GEORGE CANNING.

*Foreign Office, May* 4, 1808.

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*Col. LEAR'S LETTERS*

*Of the 28th and 31st March*, 1808.

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(Fifth copy.)

ALGIERS, *March 28th*, 1808.

SIR,

I have the honor to enclose triplicate of my respects to you of the 4th of January, and duplicate of that of the 9th inst. and the schedule of my account with the U. S. Since forwarding the first of these I have heard nothing respecting the U. S. excepting by a letter from Mr. Montgomery, our consul in Alicant, that an embargo had been laid on all vessels in the ports of the U. S.

It is with regret I have to inform you that our affairs here wear a different aspect from what they did when I had last the honor of writing to you. On the 16th inst. the Dey sent me a message by my drogerman that I should pay immediately sixteen thousand dollars for eight of the subjects of this regency, said to have been destroyed on board the American schooner Mary Ann, captured some time since by one of his frigates, as mentioned in my former letters. I returned for answer that I had not yet received any authentic advice of this business, and could therefore say nothing about it. The Dey then sent me word that he would wait the arrival of the courier from Alicante, by which I might receive some information. But on the 24th (the courier not having yet arrived) the drogerman informed me that the Dey had sent for him and ordered him to tell me that if I did not pay the money before night I should be sent to prison in chains.

I ordered him to return immediately to the Dey, and say, that I could not pay the money without the order of my government, as it was an affair out of the usual course of our business here, and that I was ready to meet the event. He brought me word that the Dey would see me next day at noon on the subject. He accordingly sent for me at noon on the 25th. When I entered the palace I met Mr. Ulrick the Danish consul, who was descending from an audience of the Dey. He was seized by a Chaux, who carried him through the streets in the most indignant manner, to the slave prison, where he was loaded with an enormous chain, the reason assigned for which was, that he had been called upon for his biennial presents which he declared he could not make without having time given him, as the vessel containing it, and annuities for the regency, had been taken by the English.

On meeting the Dey he demanded from me immediate payment for the prisoners before mentioned, together with an additional two thousand dollars for the boy said to have been carried in the schooner to Naples. I told him with firmness that I could not pay it without the orders of my government, as it was an extraordinary case; and requested time to write and receive an answer; but was answered, that if it was not paid immediately, I knew what the consequence would be; I replied, that let the consequence be what it might, I should not pay it. I was then ordered to leave his presence. On descending to the area of the palace, where the Danish consul had been seized, I expected the same compliment which he had met with, and was *prepared* for it, but finding no one to molest me, I left the palace and returned to my own house, where I supposed the orders would be sent to have me arrested; but the day passed without my hearing any thing more of the matter. In the evening I met the French and Swedish consuls, (the others being at the gardens) and we agreed to send for the other consuls the following morning, to concert measures for the liberation of the Dane. At noon we met at the Danish consul's house, with our respective drogermen, and proceeded to the palace, where we had an audience with the Dey, who, after some conversation, agreed to release the Danish consul from his chains, at the intercession made for him. From thence we went to the marine, where the consul had been sent to work with the other slaves carrying a chain of forty-weight, to receive and conduct him to his house. While we were with the Dey on the business before mentioned, he asked me, in presence of the consuls, if I did not intend to pay the money. I answered him as I had done the day before; to which he made the same reply; and I remained in daily expectation of experiencing the effects of this refusal; which is dictated by a sense of duty and a conviction that the honor of my country demands such conduct from me. I make no comments on the unpleasantness of my situation, my government and my country will consider it, and do what is right respecting it.

As it is very likely that the cruizers which are now fitting out will have orders to capture American vessels, I have written to our consul in Alicant by this opportunity, which is unexpected and the only one likely to occur soon, to convey notice to all the consuls of the United States in this sea, to guard our merchant vessels against the evil which may occur. A copy of my letter to him I have now the honor to enclose. In consequence of the barbarous outrage which has been committed on the Danish consul, and threatened to be put in execution against me, the consuls have been brought to reflect on their precarious situation here; and I trust that in a few days there will be a compact entered into among us, that we will use our best endeavors to enforce that article which exists in all the treaties between this regency and christian powers, securing the person and family of the consul from violence and outrage, in consequence of any thing he may do in the exercise of his official functions. And I hope