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Foreign Intelligence.

Selected from London papers to the 7th June, received by the British packet, from Falmouth.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, May 22.

AMERICAN INTERCOURSE BILL.

Earl *Temple* moved the House to go into a committee, in order to move for leave to bring in a bill to regulate the trade between America and the West Indies.

Some conversation arose on the principle of the bill, between Mr. Rose, Mr. Sec'y Fox and Sir William Curtis, which was put an end to by the Speaker, who observed that by the standing orders of the House the question must be discussed in the committees.

The House having gone into the committee, a considerable discussion took place, in which Mr. Rose, lord Castlereagh, sir C. Price, sir William Curtis and Mr. Jeffrey, opposed the motion for leave to bring in the bill. The grounds of their objections were, that it would tend to injure the British interests in a commercial point of view, by throwing the trade of our colonies into the hands of the Americans; that at such a moment as the present it was dangerous to allow it to pass; that the shipping interest would be materially injured; and that there were numbers of vessel owners, ready to embark in the trade from this country, and to supply the colonies with the necessaries they were in want of, which they could do at nearly as cheap a rate as the Americans, that it behoved the government at least to examine into the truth of these statements, by granting delay for a few days before they proceeded with the bill, in order to examine witnesses to the truth of them, which might be done before a committee above stairs.

On the other side it was contended by Mr. Sec'y Fox, Earl Temple, sir William Young, and Mr. Barham, that the bill would not have those injurious effects imputed to it; that it was a bill merely to give sanction to the order of council upon which the governors of the different colonies had acted for the last 13 years, during which time no objections had been taken; and that it would not affect the shipping interest, because the same opportunity would remain for them to embark in the trade if they thought proper; that they were well convinced not one British ship would be engaged in consequence of the bill.

The resolution was agreed to, the report received, and a bill ordered thereon.

LONDON, May 23.

In addition to the intelligence brought by the mail, of the pacific disposition manifested by his Prussian majesty towards G. Britain, we are happy to state, upon the authority of private information of the first respectability, that there is every probability that the difference between Prussia and Sweden may be amicably adjusted. The king of Prussia has written to the king of Sweden, expressing his regret at the hostile intentions towards Sweden. In answer to this letter, his Swedish majesty stated, that as soon as the Prussian troops evacuated the electorate of Hanover, and the restrictions upon British commerce were taken off, he would discontinue all hostilities against Prussia.

May 24.

Letters were received yesterday from Rotterdam of the 20th inst. stating that the inauguratory proclamation of prince *Louis Bonaparte*, as king of Batavia, had reached Holland, where it excited the utmost consternation. The fate of that devoted country is thus decided.—The remonstrances sent to Paris had of course no effect on the *steeled* ambition of the usurper. It has been rumored that prince Murat, the brother in law of Bonaparte, was to have the sovereignty of Holland. These letters however are decisive on the question.

The following letter proves how much the pressure of the war begins to be felt in the states of Prussia:

LUBECK, May 13.

"The merchants here are very sanguine, that the next mails from England will bring them intelligence, that the blockade will be raised, in consequence of the declaration of Prussia, that it was in no wise her intention to interrupt the intercourse with England. For my part I am of opinion, that it is nevertheless consistent with sound policy to continue the blockade, in order to leave no opening for the export of Prussian produce. The dissatisfaction in that country, particularly in Silesia, where the linen trade is at a complete stand, is general, and in a twelve month would produce every effect that could be wished for. I sincerely hope Administration will not waver in the steps it has adopted, but continue them with firmness and vigour. In Bordeaux the merchants are obliged to resume their exercise as at the height of the revolution. I am much mistaken if a very few months does not bring about great changes there."

The intelligence respecting the retreat or dismissal of count Haugwitz, which was transmitted to us from the post office, we find is thus far incorrect, that the Berlin article of the 13th was not as was stated in the Hamburgh correspondent of the 16th. The letter from Brandenburgh assures us, that British vessels are to meet with a friendly reception at the Prussian ports in the Baltic; but the notification of the 28th of March, with respect to the ports of the north sea, still remains in force. It is not impossible that the court of Berlin might have hoped, by a shew of moderation, to induce the British ministry to relax in the measures of vigour which they have so laudably adopted. But whilst that court continues to act under the dictation and control of the French usurper, we are confident that our ministers will neither relax in their efforts, nor slightly part with the large pledge for the future conduct of Prussia which they have now in their possession.

May 27.

The report of the resignation of count Haugwitz appears to have been totally unfounded. There are however strong symptoms of a disposition in the cabinet of Berlin to make concessions to this country, but we are aware that the exercise of that disposition depends upon the will of the Tyrant, of whose injustice Prussia has become the degraded instrument.

May 29.

The abuses committed in the West Indies appear to be of a most extraordinary description. When the proper time shall come for the publication of the Reports made to the Treasury by the commissioners sent out under the act, it will astonish the world that the country should have been so long kept in ignorance of the injuries it was suffering. They discovered that forged bills and receipts for articles never purchased, and drawing bills on government indorsed under forged and fictitious names, were common and notorious.—They found a most base collusion between the officers of government and the merchants and contractors, by which the latter were allowed to charge stores at a much higher rate than they might have been obtained for ready money. In one instance, as was stated by lord Henry Petty, it was discovered, that to cover this iniquity a bribe of 87,000l. had been given; in another, a bribe of 35,000l. Vessels, houses, stores, &c. were usually hired at most extravagant rates, in consequence of fraudulent contracts, where others might have been obtained much cheaper. But worse than either of these iniquities, was the diabolical fraud of suffering the merchants and contractors to furnish his majesty's troops with inferior and bad rum, and other articles at an extravagant rate, by which the lives of the troops were endangered, as well as the country defrauded. And for the purpose of committing these practices, all free competition for the supply of articles was prevented, and every obstacle was put in the way, even of the purchase of bills on the Treasury. They were dated in one Island, and negociated in another; and they were sold at a much more advantageous exchange than that at which the officers debited themselves in their accounts. The whole of this scene will now be developed.

JUNE 3.

The recal of sir George Barlow has been finally decided. His Majesty's warrant under the sign-manuel has been issued for this purpose, agreeably to the restrictive act, of 1793, and the Earl of Lauderdale will, in consequence, immediately proceed to India, to assume the important office of governor general.

American papers have been received to the 22d ult. The Senate has passed the Non-importation Bill, by a majority of 19 to 9; but as this bill is not to be carried into effect before November, and it has been agreed to nominate two plenipotentiaries, Messrs. Monroe and Pinckney, to treat on the pending differences, we are induced to look with some confidence to a speedy accommodation. The wise and temperate spirit of our ministers will of course be directed to arrest the further progress of the dispute between the two countries.

The accounts brought by an American to Dover on Saturday last, we cited yesterday with considerable distrust. Our doubts were well founded. The Moniteur of the 24th ult. has been received, and it does not contain one syllable of the *Expose*, so confidently alluded to. Another American account, through a similar channel, respecting the new Dutch constitution, was in circulation yesterday. We subjoin the particulars, but without pledging ourselves for their authenticity:

"Prince Louis to be constitutional King of Holland; the dignity to be hereditary in the male line, and in failure thereof, his successor is to be appointed by the Emperor of the French, and such successor to be by blood or birth a Batavian citizen. His income is to be 2,000,000 of guilders per annum. All the offices are to be filled by natives of the country, the servants of the Royal Household excepted. The language, the religion, and the laws, are to be retained, so far as they do not militate against the new constitution. The regal office, will, in a great measure, resemble that of the Grand Pensionary, but with powers more extensive as to the appointment of officers in the army, the army, the marine, and the colonies. A legislative body of 38 persons, exclusive of a President. A council of state of 13 persons, without a President, including five members of state. The members of this council to be nominated by the king. The national debt is acknowledged. An advantageous treaty of commerce shall be negociated between France and Holland. There shall be no appeal to the people as to their approbation of the new constitution. It is also said, that the limits of the new monarchy were to be extended to the Weser; and that Shimmelpenninck was to be indemnified for his degradation from the office of Grand Pensionary, by nomination to the Presidency of the Dutch legislative body.

JUNE 4.

We have received American papers to the 6th ult. The anti-British party, which may properly be described as that of Bonaparte, have availed themselves of an unintended calamity. The Leander frigate, on firing to make some American vessels bring to, as the captain was compelled to do in his undoubted right of search, killed an American sailor on board a sloop, which slighting the signal was making for New York harbor. This was a triumph for the malevolent. They paraded the dead body through the streets, they stopped the provisions purchased for the British ships, and sent it to the Alms House. A verdict of *wilful murder* was also found against the captain of the Leander. We entertain strong hopes, however, that this fervor of faction will soon subside. The Leander and Cambrian have since quitted that station, and the President of the U. S. has sanctioned the vote of the Senate, for investing Messrs. Munroe and Pinckney with full powers to settle all the pending differences between the two countries.

AMERICAN INTERCOURSE BILL.

Lord Castlereagh, after stating the expediency and necessity of putting the House into possession of every information respecting the intercourse between our colonies and America, previous to the further discussion upon the American Intercourse Bill, moved an address for a copy of the instruction from the principal Secretary of State, dated Sept. 5, 1804 to the governors of the W. India colonies, relative to the commercial intercourse with America, &c.

Earl Temple stated the necessity of passing the bill with all convenient speed, and therefore thought the papers would be the cause of delay.

Mr. Perceval observed that a little delay would not affect the interest of the colonies, as they would (whether the bill passed or not) be in precisely the same situation as they have been for thirteen years past.

After a few observations from Mr. Plumer, Mr. Rose, and Earl Temple, the motion was agreed to.

A Lisbon mail arrived yesterday. It is of the 18th ult. and brings one important article of intelligence. A treaty guaranteeing the neutrality of Portugal, is stated to have been signed on the 19th of April, at Madrid, by the plenipotentiaries of France and Portugal.

JUNE 5.

Dispatches were yesterday received by goverment from Admiral Cochrane. They are dated the 15th of April, and were brought by capt. Collier, who arrived express at the Admiralty. These advices relate to the arrival of General Miranda on the Spanish Main—his capture of the Isle La Marguerita—and his purpose of revolutionizing South America. The admiral writes for instructions how to act on this extraordinary occasion. This is a sufficient answer to the frenchified or democratic papers of New-York, some of which stated that this project was favored and supported by pecuniary supplies from this country. This the want of the instructions applied for by admiral Cochrane sufficiently refutes. It shews that such a plan was not in the contemplation of the late ministry. The dates put the present administration wholly out of the question. The emancipation of South America would, no doubt, be advantageous to this country in two points of view—as opening a market for English manufactures—and as cutting off the resources of our arch enemy, to whom the treasury of Spain is as his own. Whatever may be the resolve of ministers on this subject, Miranda will derive an indirect co-operation from this country, as any Spanish reinforcement which may be sent out will most probably be intercepted by our fleets. Miranda is a strange romantic character, less known to our readers than he happens to be to the writer of this article. He is a native of South America. He had a command in the French army under Dumourier in the campaign in Flanders, in 1792.—He is a man of enterprise and of talents. So assiduous has he been in the cultivation of the latter, that he has surveyed every memorable scene of battle, in the four quarters of the globe, with a classic recital in his hand, in order to ascertain what were the blots made on the defeated side, and what the advantages of the successful party. Such a man is at once calculated and qualified to distinguish himself, as a military and political leader. He hates the Spanish tyranny as exercised in his native country, and we shall not be surprised to learn that this tyranny is laid sprawling at the feet of a man fearless of peril, and daring enough to meet the roughest encounter.

Our private letters from Hamburgh mention as a report current when the mail came away, that Marshal Massena, at the head of his army, had declared himself independent of France, but that the source of the rumour was not known, nor any other particulars stated.

JUNE 6.

We yesterday received letters and papers from Holland of the 2d inst. Louis Bonaparte, the destined sovereign of Batavia, is expected at the Hague by the 12th. He is to bring with him a most imposing retinue, consisting chiefly of military. The Maison du Bois, the former residence of the Stadtholder, is preparing for his reception. He is also to have the Soest Dyke, and some other considerable mansions in that vicinty. He will be received with "curses not loud, but deep."—The Dutch funds have fallen very considerably since the first annunciation of this intelligence. Nothing, however, is left to our quondam ally, but the aukward task of implicit submission.

VIENNA, May 12.

The court has been officially informed, by that of Petersburgh, that orders have been given by the Emperor Alexander, for the evacuation of Cattaro by his troops. All the difficulties between France and Austria being thus removed, we promise ourselves here a speedy & tranquil enjoyment of the peace of Presburgh. An authentic account of the present organization of the Aulic Council of War has been published in this city.

GOTTENBURGH, May 19.

General Dumourier, who has been for some time past in Germany, and lately in Swedish Pomerania, arrived here the day before yesterday, for the purpose of taking his passage in a packet to England.

BATAVIAN REPUBLIC.

Hague, 5th June——His Excellency Mr. R. J. Schimmelpennick has this day reſigned his poſt of Chief Penſionary, in the Special and Extraordinary Aſſembly, by the following letter:

My Lords and High Mightinesses.

Inasmuch as I have found but too juſt reaſon, owing to the delibitated ſtate of my health for ſome time paſt, and particularly the apparent deprivation of my eye-ſight, to withdraw from arduouſneſs of buſineſs, ſtill the conſideration of my duty, and the encouraging hope of being of real benefit to my country, has till now withheld me therefrom, to which the ſituation wherein this country found itſelf during the late renewal of war, which brought the enemy on our fronteirs, rendered this ſtep at that period often leſs proper. At preſent, my lords, theſe weighty reaſons not exiſting any longer, and the conviction that by further ſervices in my preſent ſtate, and the ſituation of public affairs, I could not be more of any real benefit to my country, I have reſolved to leave a poſt for which I conceive myſelf no longer fitted to be of uſe to my fellow-citizens.

I therefore have recourse to the privilege granted in art. 41 of the conſtitution, and reſigned by this my appointment, as Grand Penſionary to this aſſembly of your High Mightineſſes.

I leave this poſt with inward convictions to have attempted, as much as depended from me, what tended to the welfare of my fellow citizens. I leave it impreſſed with the moſt grateful acknowledgement for the many proofs of confidence which the aſſembly and my fellow citizens have repoſed in me. I acknowledge for it to all the members of the aſſembly, and through your high mightineſſes to the whole nation my ſincereſt gratitude, with aſſurance that the pleaſing recollection will attend me in this my retreat.

And with this parting from the cloſe connection in which my appointment had placed me to the aſſembly of your high mightineſſes, I pray the Almighty will take under his ſpecial care and protection my country, which will ever be above all dear to me, promote the welfare of its inhabitants, and that your high mightineſſes, both in your perſons and families, may experience her bleſſings.

(Signed)

R. J. SCHIMMELPENNICK.

Counterſigned by C. H. HULTMANN, ſecretary of ſtate.

MEMORIAL.

TO THEIR HIGH MIGHTINESSES, REPRESENTING THE BATAVIAN REPUBLIC.

May it please your High Mightinesses.

The undersigned citizens and inhabitants of the Batavian Republic, real friends to civil liberty, within proper bounds, and ardently attached to the independence of the Batavian nation, filled with deep anxiety for every thing which might endanger their safety, and considering a monarchical government injurious to the prosperity and even existence of this nation, have, after being a long time agitated by various rumours, now learned, that in the *Gazette Nationale*, or *Moniteur Universelle*, No. 108, of the 18th April last, the official paper of France, written and published under the eye of the government of that country, after some preliminary remarks respecting the form of government in this country, it is declared, "that such being the situation of Holland, she must be a gainer by any changes which she must make in her Constitution. If the landholders, the merchants, and the enlightened men, are of opinion that they can have a representation, made by the choice of the people, without distinction of classes or religion, they will create a system much more proper than the present one.—If that be not their opinion, and that they think it necessary to have recourse to a constitutional monarchy, they will do that which will be more advantageous to their country than the preservation of their existing constitution can be. It is their duty to examine their situation, to judge of the circumstances in which they are placed, and to choose between the two systems that which is best suited to them, and most likely to establish, on a solid foundation, the public prosperity and liberty."

The undersigned have been thrown by this paragraph into the utmost anxiety, as they see in it alternatives, one of which would subject them to a form of government, to avoid which, their forefathers contended, during the space of almost a whole century; a form of government which, however adapted to other nations, would have a tendency to diminish all energy and activity in the posterity of those celebrated ancestors, whose names they bear, and who even remained allies of Rome, when almost the whole world was subject to that empire; and the more so, as the system of a republic constitutes, among the true Batavians, one of the first elements of their existence; and no wonder, as the general interest, in the management of the dykes which form that artificial and expensive wall, for continuing the existence of the ground upon which they dwell, renders a republican form of government absolutely necessary; and that that republic should be divided, as it were, again into small republics. For this reason, a republican spirit must prevail in the hearts of all our countrymen, throughout all the different classes of our people, independent of the ancient influence of the citizens, even under the government of the dukes, however modified; upon the appointment of local governments; and no wonder again, as commerce, under the protection of an independent republic, has enabled this small nation to act a part upon the stage of the world, which has rendered us, at times, since we shook off the Spanish yoke, useful and desirable allies to our neighbours, and even sometimes dangerous enemies.

On the eve, perhaps, of being obliged to choose between a monarchical and republican form of government, the undersigned feel the inextinguishable fire of true patriotism too much, to remain silent, with an hesitation, culpable in their eyes at this valuable moment, which, perhaps, may never return. They will not leave your high mightinesses ignorant of the patriotic and republican sentiments which animate their souls. They cannot avoid declaring publicly and solemnly to you, as representatives of the Batavian republic, their hopes, that the state of affairs may be directed in such a manner as to save them from a form of government, which most probably would put a speedy and fatal period to the inhabitable state and even existence of the republic, after it has sustained so many calamities. We hope, and bring the declaration of this our earnest wish, with becoming boldness into the midst of your assembly; for where else can we prefer it, although it may not be drawn up in the usual form, in every particular, for extraordinary measures.

We entertain hopes, that under the influence of Divine Providence, which has often, as it were by a miraculous interference, prevented our country and nation from being thrown into the abyss of ruin, your deliberations may take such a turn, that with the present