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MONDAY, AUGUST 16th, 1801. PAID IN ADVANCE.
FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNO.

Agreat revolution in the government of St. Domingo has been effected, subject to the sanction of the French Republic. We have now the pleasure of presenting to our readers the following interesting details. In our next paper we shall publish the new Constitution, whose length has prevented its translation for this day's paper.

TRANSLATED

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.
From the Bulletin Officiel de Saint Domingo.

PROCLAMATION OF THE COLONIAL CONSTITUTION.

Cape-Préville, July 9.

The government announced some days since, in a broad-hill distributed through the town, that the central assembly had fixed on the 7th of this month, as the day on which the Colonial Constitution should be promulgated; and to render this ceremony as splendid as it is impressive, the General himself had ferted the details. In consequence of his orders, the *generals* was busy yesterday at 3 o'clock in the morning through all the sections of the town, and a number of male, intermixed with drums, alternately played their melodious strains with those instruments that war has adopted to proclaim its terrors. At 8 o'clock, the troops of the line and of the national guard met at the *Place d'Armes*, where they appeared in good order, and made a handsome display.

All the civil and military authorities, in their appropriate dresses, attended at the government house; on leaving it, they observed the arrangements prescribed in the band-bill, and marched in the following order to the *Place d'Armes*.

- The commission of Commerce,
- The administration of the Marine,
- The Municipality,
- The tribunal of Commerce,
- The tribunal of Peace,
- The civil tribunal,
- The central Assembly.

The general in chief, accompanied by two generals, and all the military officers, who were attached to no particular corps, but were out of office.

Arrived at the *Place d'Armes*, the civil and military authorities formed a circle to a tribune, which had been raised. In order to give dignity to the scene, and that the promulgation of the constitution should be solemnly and distinctly made.

The concert was immense. The most profound silence reigned, and each one awaited with impatience, the reading of a work, which was to fix the destiny of St. Domingo.

At this moment Gideon Burella, President of the central Assembly, appeared in the tribune and pronounced the announcement of the Constitution by an elegant discourse.

We are afraid of impairing the interest it excited by an abridgment, and therefore present it as it was delivered.

French Colonies, and brave soldiers!

It is long since St. Domingo aspired to the inappreciable happiness of having a local Constitution.

The factions which have succeeded each other in the government of France, in propagating their anarchical principles in this distant island, had silenced the just complaints of its unfortunate inhabitants, had degraded them from the dignity of freemen, had robbed them even of the precious emotions, inspired by sentiments which elevate and enable the soul, and had forced them to receive laws which they neither made, nor consented to.

The French Colonies, and the Constitution of the year 3, (art. 6.) are integral parts of the Republic and are subject to the same Constitutional laws.

Thus by the most terrible fatality the destiny of St. Domingo has been affected with those of France. It is thus that that spirit of party, which has defoliated France, has extended its ramifications, across the equality of the Ocean,

and has made St. Domingo bow under the enormous weight of its corrupt influences. At length, Buonaparte, from the confines of Egypt to the heart of France, in a moment faction vanishes and social order succeeds to the convulsions of anarchy.

The Republic thall the sweets of peace within, and prepare itself to reap its fruits without.

A new Constitution is formed; free from that complexity of powers, which, interfering with each other, are calculated to reduce popular cabals, diversity of opinions, and public calamities.

But this new Constitution, has been made for you, insalubrious inhabitants of a colony far removed from the parent nation! Have your Representatives like those of the other French departments, concurring and participating powers? No! The wisdom, and accompanying virtues which have prevailed at the formation of this constitutional act, have consecrated your rights, and secured your interests.

From this moment justice has declared for you, the powerful and generous nation, which has granted you the participation of which you form a part, has broken the shameful chains which the spirit of party and of anarchy had forged for you.

It has acknowledged the rights which you possess from the laws, and which will not be exposed to those terrible convulsions, those violent convulsions, those political storms which arise from the execution of laws, made without your approbation, and which you, as a nation, have not consented to with your manners, your customs, nor with the climate you inhabit.

Thanks be rendered to those new French Colonists! French Colonies, you have been awakened by the 91st article; the want of laws has at last been felt; you have expressed your wishes to the general who governs this colony; the general who to often has furnished you from the edge of a precipice, and who has so successfully defended you from the attempts of French enemies, and from the influence of every faction. Alas, you could not be deaf to the man, who has devoted his life in binding up the wounds of this suffering colony, and in pouring on them a healing and consoling balm.

That general, entering this extraordinary law, while public affections command your admiration and your gratitude, has risen like a Phoenix from the midst of ashes, and has wholly devoted himself to the defence of your country, of your persons and property.

In the midst of the convulsive throes of anarchy he has had the generosity and the courage to assume the government of an abandoned colony, without any defence that given by nature, and destitute of every means to protect agriculture and commerce.

You know, he has every where upheld the law to be respected, and the Constitution. He has chartered by causing the French flag to be raised on every shore.

He has filled your ports with provisions he has banished your agriculture, he has rebuilt your cities, and disciplined your troops.

He has done all this, and has conserved inveterate and unshaken the ties which bind the bonds of the tenderest fraternity, those bonds which the old colonial system had cruelly broken, and which anarchy, in order to maintain its odious empire, so inhumanly sported with.

The proclamation of the general in chief, who has convoked your representatives, proves to you his desire for your happiness; it announces to you that the period of convulsion is passed. It denounces to you the necessity of forming proper laws, and adopting this constant maxim that laws are conventions established by men, who ought to conform themselves thereto, to regulate the order of society; it discovers to you, that it is with laws as it is with the productions of the earth, that each country has its peculiar manners and its statutes, as it has its peculiar productions.

According to these principles, an assembly of the inhabitants have received from you the important task of laying the constitutional foundation of an interior system

for this colony, and faithful to the mother country, the general, who has authorized this assembly, has proclaimed that this system shall be submitted to the sanction of the French government.

Considering the dilance of France, and the wars in which she is now engaged, your representatives should not interpret unfavorably her long silence; but alarmed by your want of laws in this perilous moment, they should diffuse every inequality, and restore every mind.

Acknowledging that the safety of the whole is the supreme law, they have believed in their duty to invite the General who watches over the destinies of St. Domingo, to carry into effect the system which they have laid. It is now that this system is offered to you; your present and future happiness has inefficiently occupied the attention of your deputies; they have made every effort to render it durable. May they not be disappointed?

French colours and brave soldiers! never forget, but imprint it deeply on your minds, that it is time and experience demand that you should not remain stationary. Rally around this family compact which is presented to you; your deputies deposit in your bosoms as the palladium of your civil and political liberty, as the pledge of a fiction for you, and of their devotion to the republic.

Long live the republic, which reform and which protects its colonies!

Thus, gentlemen, when you meet another difficulty in the way of an introduction to the constitution. Although this preliminary discourse appears so interparable from the constitution, of which it is only a development, we wish to impress on you for the satisfaction of our fellow-citizens.

The colony of St. Domingo, within many years without any political system, has developed a human institution, which had not the will and would have been the result of a blind chance.

By combinations the most just, the best formed, and the most energetic, delivered it, nearly at the same time, from its interior and exterior enemies, and successfully extinguished every spark of anarchy; recalled to the bosom of anarchy, and administered it, to inspire the love of labour and of peace to civil war and dissension, security to terror, and to a work, infused its entire submission to the French empire. The revolution had victoriously overthrown a system, which constituted the system by which the island of St. Domingo had been anciently administered.

The different legislative assemblies of France, in its rooms had substituted new laws at different epochs; but as soon as reported, their incoherency and insufficiency were acknowledged even by those who had formed them—and the manner in which they were executed by factious and disorderly men, who interpreted them as best suited their interests, contributed rather to produce than to prevent disorder.

The natural consequences of this order of things has been, to make those laws, which ought to have been received, only with sentiments of respect, regarded as objects of their alarm or contempt. The wise men who have co-operated in the formation of the constitution of the year 8, have with much doubt felt the necessity of forming new systems for the distant colonies, and in its formation, of consulting the manners, the customs, and the wants of the French men who inhabit them, and the circumstances in which at present they are found.

Can it be an easy matter to weigh all these considerations, when their information is so frequently inaccurate or insufficient? Can a difference can they discover the changes of public opinion, and can they know the sufferings of the people, and can they know, could they apply those remedies which are most efficacious and necessary in any time of crisis?

Even if a full experience had not made it an impious duty, the 91st article of the French constitution would authorize the inhabitants of St. Domingo to indicate to the French government, the laws by which they would wish to be governed—and who more propitious moment could we find

for laying the foundations of this important work, than the present, when the ancient edifice is cleared of its ruins—when its intricacies are unfolded—when prejudices are subdued, and when the passions are calmed.

Circumstances so favorable for fixing the destiny of a nation, can occur but seldom in the lapse of many ages; if we neglect this opportunity, another may never be found.

The fundamental causes, which render a local constitution necessary for St. Domingo, besides the interests of the inhabitants, (which are intimately connected with those of the mother country) are added other motives equally powerful.

The full claim of the departments of the colonies to enjoy the advantages of the benefits of legislation, which they are entitled to.

The necessity of introducing new plants, in order to extend and improve agriculture, of reviving commerce and re-establishing manufactures.

The necessity of cementing the union of the dissident Spanish inhabitants with the ancient French inhabitants.

The impossibility of the mother country's succoring or providing for this immense population during the war with the maritime powers.

The necessity of establishing a simple and uniform system for the administration of the finances of the colony, and for correcting the abuses which it contains.

The obligation of satisfying ancient proprietors, as to the safety of their property.

In a word, the importance of maintaining, and consolidating internal peace, of promoting the industry, charged with prosperity, which begins to enjoy after the storms by which it has been torn and distracted, of securing to each individual his rights and his duties, and of extinguishing all disputes and factions, which are the cause of laws which will inspire confidence, and harmonious concording interests.

Such have been the motives which have determined the general in chief, to convolve all talents and wisdom, charged with proposing to the French government, a constitution the best calculated for the colony of St. Domingo. This work, will add another benefit to those we have already received from him.

The few members, of whom this assembly is composed, have declared that while they wished to free their difficulties from all human aid, and justice, they desired to be acquainted with the ideas and opinions of all intelligent men, so that this important work might be the result of the united labors of the whole colony.

If the central assembly has not completely fulfilled the expectations of its constituents, if it has not attained the end designed by the general in chief, it has at least done all that circumstances allowed; at the same time that it has proposed all the changes, which are desirable, and which require much time, for the colony to arrive at its greatest prosperity, that can only be reached by gradual progress. Wealth to be acquired, and industry to be established, in this respect, may imitate nature; who never acts with precipitation, but who gradually though surely matures its beneficent productions.

The assembly will rejoice if its first attempts shall, in any degree, ameliorate the state of its fellow citizens, and if it shall have gained their esteem and indulgence, as well as the approbation of France, although they may not have attained a great perfection.

Every article of the constitution was discussed and determined without passion, without prejudice, without partiality; and that mode of government has been adopted, which they thought was best calculated to preserve our tranquility and to raise us to our ancient splendor. In the two succeeding years, the central Assemblies will make those alterations which time and experience shall show to be necessary.

The central assembly has not the vanity to believe that it has propelled the best possible constitution; but it can assure its fellow citizens, that the most ancient desires have been felt and the greatest exertions made to ensure the greatest tranquility of