

# THE NEWPORT MERCURY.

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[N<sup>o</sup> 1661.]

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## FRANCE. NATIONAL CONVENTION, October 26.

A Quaker, settled at Dunkirk, claimed the justice of the National Convention in favor of English women, married to Americans and inhabitants of Nantucket, settled in France. "It is a general principle agreed on by all Nations," said the Quaker, "that a wife should follow the lot of fate of her husband; and if you do not respect this principle, you will afflict your best friends and most faithful allies, who only came to settle amongst you, because you invited them to encrease your national industry, by pursuing the whale fishery." On the motion of Buzès, the Convention decreed, that the Wives of Americans and Colonists of Nantucket, settled in France, were not comprehended in that law, which orders the seizure of all foreigners born subjects of the countries with which the Republic is at war.

November 2.

A decree formerly passed on the requisition of Dismont, by which contractors for the army were to be allowed the difference between assigns and specie; was repeated with loud applause.

On the report of the Committee of Colonies and Marine it was decreed, that incorrigible beggars and persons sentenced to transportation by the criminal tribunals, shall be sent to Fort Dauphin, in the Island of Madagascar, which is to be called, in future, the Fort of the Laws.

Citizens of the department of Nièvre came to present the fruits of their researches in that department. They delivered 17 trunks filled with gold, silver, money, and plate. These of their citizens carried crosses of silver; a fourth a sun of gold, surmounted with the cap of liberty; and a fifth a ducal crown of silver gilt. The crown was ordered to be trodden under foot by the Militaires, a ceremony which was performed amidst shouts of Vive la Republique, and the whole ordered to the mint.

Barre, in the name of the Committee of Public Safety, proposed an amendment of the law for fixing the highest price of provisions. He explained the evasions practiced by the farmers, who seek only to encrease their fortunes; and by the merchants and money men, whose avarice co-operates with Pitt, in endeavouring to raise the price of labour; and said, that the law for fixing the highest price of provisions, had hitherto benefited the rich only, who availed themselves of it to buy whatever came to market, and so prevented the poor from supplying their daily wants. He concluded with pointing out the advantages that must arise from the new commission of provisions, which would soon empty the great magazines and restore a free circulation. His amendments were adopted.

Decreed that every town, both in the interior or on frontiers, that shall favour the entrance of rebels or foreign enemies, or shall not resist to the utmost, shall be demolished, and the property of the inhabitants confiscated.

Chauze observed, that the prostitute Du Barry enjoyed immense property belonging to the nation, which the Sardanapalus Louis XV. had expended on her as the price of her debaucheries. He demanded that all her effects should be confiscated to the Republic.

Moyle Bayle said, that this woman would in a few days be brought before the Revolutionary Tribunal.

November 4.

Bairre read the correspondence which mentions, that several English vessels having approached Montreuil, one went to pieces on the banks of the Abbey of Athis, the crew of which were made prisoners, except 20 men who were drowned; that six frigates are returned from their cruise, and have brought to Brest the English frigate the Thames of 24 guns, and six ships of the same nation, and destined for the combined power. On board the frigates were found papers, which prove, that the English thought to have taken Dunkirk, Calais, and St. Omer, this campaign, and intended to reserve Paris for the ensuing year. Barre added, that the English Captain having demanded to be liberated on his parole, Jean Bon St. Andre, with all the dignity of a representative of a free people, replied to him "Were we to imitate your General Howe, you would have no favour to expect from us; but a free people is too generous to imitate him—go without fear!"

November 7.

The Popular Society of Mennepy, in the District of Corbenil, offered all the Ornaments of their Church, and declared that they did not want any more. They wished that the Parsonage-house should be sold; and that the Church should be converted into a place of Assembly for the Popular Society, in which the busts of Marat and Lepelletier should be substituted, for the statues of St. Peter and St. Dennis. The Convention passed to the order of the day, on this report.

A deputation from the Popular Society of Versailles was admitted to the bar.—The members composing this deputation, were dressed in pontifical robes. They informed the Convention, that the Bishop of the Department of Seine and Oise, was dead. "Will you Legislators, suffer his Bishopric to be filled? Will you who have destroyed a Throne, preserve the Canopy—will you cherish the crozier? The Citizen and the Legislator, should acknowledge no other Worship, but of Liberty—no other Altars but those of the Republic—no other Priests but Magistrates.—Legislators! I imitate the Jews—descend from the mountain, break the golden calf to pieces, and let the Ark of the Constitution be the only Idol of the French."—Ordered to be inserted in the Bulletin.

## CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE PRINCE OF SAXE COBOURG AND GENERAL JOURDAN.

Letter from General Jourdan, General in Chief of the army of the North and Ardennes, to General Cobourg, dated October 30.

"I am fully informed, that it has been reported in the Army which you command, that all the French who may fall into the hands of your Soldiers are to be massacred. I also know that this act of barbarity and cruelty, of which History furnishes no example, has been committed upon some disarmed Citizens, who were made prisoners in the rencontre which lately took place in the village of Montigny. I write for an explanation of the manner, in which you mean to carry on the War; until the present moment, we have respected the unfortunate, who have fallen into our hands; we have given them meat and drink, when they had occasion for them; they have even been furnished with money, to procure themselves such things as were necessary for them. This conduct on our part ought to make us hope for the same from you; however we are convinced of the contrary. To complete our horror, our prisoners are obliged to serve in the Legion of the Emigrants; in those paracidal Troops whose very name fills us with horror. I will add no more, General; and wait with impatience your answer; that I may regulate my future conduct by it.

ANSWER.

Head Quarters, Prussia, Nov. 1, 1793.

"Although you say, that you are perfectly informed of that which you have advanced in your Letter, there is not the least foundation for the imputation. So far from ordering the massacre of all the French, whom the chance of War has made fall into our hands, there is a standing order to treat them with humanity and kindness, from the moment they were prisoners. However rash and unbecoming may be your manner of judging of our conduct, and of acquainting us of it, we have not waited for your remonstrance; far less for your example, to learn what we owe to prisoners and the unfortunate. In spite of the rigid and positive orders which have been given to our leaders on this head, it is possible, that in the heat of battle, they may have given place to those sentiments of revenge and indignation, which the last atrocities committed in France have produced in their minds.—However, a very recent example proves, that your imputation, affirmed so positively, is entirely void of foundation. The day before yesterday we took 2000 prisoners, at Marchiennes. They are all alive, and under the sacred protection of the Laws of War, and our Loyalty.

"We have, in all, about 25,000 French Prisoners in our possession; they are paid for in paper, which would not produce the half of their pay, but in silver they are well fed; we will give them up when exchanged. We have not kept them near a year after the term in which, by the most solemn Articles and agreements, they were to have been exchanged.—We do not oblige them, to serve in the Emigrant Legions; if they are admitted into them, it is by a voluntary enlistment, in which we use no influence, as we have before us a striking and odious example of the injustice and danger of pressing Soldiers into the service.

"Above all, Sir, learn to know us, and particularly how you ought to write to a generous enemy. The bravery of the General of an Army, ought not to consist in the terms of a letter. However, I am too much above such proceedings, and such language, to be offended at it.

"I wrote, some time ago, to the Commander in Chief of the French Army, to request him to inform me, if the Lieutenant Colonel, of the Regiment of Cobourg's Dragoons, who was wounded and taken prisoner on the 16th of October, was yet alive, where he was, or if he was dead of his wounds. Such information is never refused; in all similar cases, I have given and received it; but on this occasion, I could get no answer. I again repeat to you, Sir, the same demand.

(Signed) "PRINCE COBOURG."

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 1. The following Address was presented a few days ago, to the different branches of the Legislature of the United States, by a Committee appointed by the Yearly Meeting of New-England, for that purpose.

To the President, Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

From the yearly meeting of the people called Quakers, for New England, held on Rhode-Island from the 13th of the 6th month, to the 15th of the same inclusive, 1793.

BEING through divine favour met in this our Annual Assembly, to inspect into the state of our own religious society in its various branches, and generally to promote, as we are enabled through divine assistance, the cause of truth and righteousness in the Earth. We have been led humbly to acknowledge the abundant condescension and mercy of the Almighty Ruler of the Universe, towards the inhabitants of this country, in that he hath been pleased hitherto, to preserve, to great a part of them from the immediate calamities of war; under a renewed sense, whereof, ardent desires have been raised in our minds to him, the preserver of men, that he would be pleased more extensively to cause his holy influence, to spread over the minds of all those who are placed as rulers in our land; that he would endow them with the spirit of wisdom, and true judgment; and engage them to walk humbly before him, and uprightly before the people.

We are fully persuaded; that there is no solid ground of hope, for preservation from national calamities, without a sincere and careful attention to national justice; that whilst the Government of this country oppress, or violate the undoubted rights of others, or suffer them to be violated by its citizens, with impunity; there can be no just cause to expect, however anxious we may be therefor, that we shall be preserved from the evils, which now overpread those countries, with which we have been most connected with, and whom as it were with common consent, we have iniquitously shared the spoils of Africa.

Whilst the National Legislature suffer their citizens, without restraint, to inflict the misery and wretchedness consequent upon the Slave-Trade upon our unoffending fellow men; and to entail it upon their posterity. We sorrowfully apprehend, that the nation at large, and our rulers in particular, participating in the crime, will draw down the divine displeasure.

We are well acquainted that our brethren and others, in different parts of the continent, have spread this national evil before Congress; but as we apprehend this evil trade, notwithstanding the increase of light and information, and in opposition to the moral sense and judgment of the people in this country, through the allurements of unrighteous gain upon avaricious minds, is rather increasing. We feel our minds impressed with a sense of duty, respectfully to renew the considerations thereof before you, earnestly desiring, that the resolutions of Congress, declaring their right, to restrain the citizens of these States, from carrying on that trade in the channel it is now usually done, may not, through their inattention thereto; rather prove a means of increasing, than abolishing the evil.—And therefore we earnestly solicit you to exert the authority with which you are invested, for the suppression of that unrighteous commerce, seeing that it is "Righteousness which exalteth a Nation."

Signed by order, and on behalf of our aforesaid Meeting, by WILLIAM ROTCH, Junr. Clerk to the Meeting this year.

FEBRUARY 7.

The following Memorial was read in the Hall of Representatives of the United States, a few days ago.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled.

The memorial and petition of the Delegates from the several societies, formed in different parts of the United States, for promoting the abolition of slavery, in Congress assembled at Philadelphia, on the first day of January, 1794.

Respectfully shew,

THAT your memorialists, having been appointed by various societies in different parts of the Union, for the benevolent purpose of endeavouring to alleviate or suppress some of the miseries of their fellow-creatures, deem it their duty to approach the Congress of the United States with a respectful representation of certain evils—the unauthorised acts of a few, but injurious to the interest and reputation of all.

America, dignified by being the first in modern times to assert and defend the equal rights of man, suffers her fame to be tarnished, and her example to be weakened, by a cruel commerce, carried on from some of her ports, for the supply of foreign nations with African slaves.

To enumerate the horrors incident to this inhuman traffic, of which all the worst passions of mankind form the principal materials, would be unnecessary, when we offer to prove its existence.

Nor is it requisite to consume much of your valuable time in the endeavour, to prove it a national injury.

While it exposes the lives and the morals of our countrymen to peculiar danger, it renders all complaints of retaliation unjust; for those who deprive others of their liberty, for the benefit of foreign countries, cannot reasonably complain, if by other foreign nations they are deprived of their own.

True it is, that the captivity of Algiers is not without a tinge, and that the slavery of the West-Indies terminates only with existence; but, in proportion as that which we are accessory is more severe, the duty of desisting from it becomes more urgent.

Your memorialists observe and mention with pleasure, that this venal cruelty is at present confined to a few ports, and a few persons. Hence it, becomes more easy to deprecate a degrading exception from the general dignity of our commerce, and to restore our citizens to their former state, by preferring the spirit of freedom to the delusions of interest.

An additional reason for the legislative interference, now requested, arises from the natural consequence of the facts already suggested.

Foreigners seduced by the example, and believing that they may commit without reproach, what American citizens commit with impunity, avail themselves of our ports to fit out their vessels for the same traffic. Thus we become the accomplices of their offences, and partake of the guilt without the miserable consolation of sharing its profits.

Your memorialists therefore, trusting that a compliance with their request, will not exceed the constitution, at powers of Congress, nor injure the interests or disturb the tranquility of any part of the Union, respectfully pray that a law may be passed, prohibiting the traffic carried on by citizens of the United States for the supply of slaves to foreign nations, and preventing foreigners, from fitting out vessels for the slave trade, in the ports of the United States.

By order of the Convention, JOSEPH BLOOMFIELD, President. JOHN McCUBB, Secy.