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FRANCE.

PARIS, MARCH 2.

A letter from Bourdeaux, of the 20th ult. States that on the 18th ult., the day when the loan for the descent on England was solemnly proclaimed, the following patriotic spectacle was exhibited in that city:

The model of a privateer, completely rigged, and manned by six experienced sailors, was placed on a strong carriage drawn by four superb horses. The wind being very high, the sails filled as if she had floated on the ocean, and exhibited in characters of fire, the following inscription – “*Descent on England.*” (Redaeteur)

MARCH 3.

On the 27th ult. The directory issued a proclamation, addressed to the French, on the subject of the approaching elections, exhorting all French Citizens to attend the primary assemblies, and to be careful in the choice of their Deputies. “The throne has disappeared, and the influence of foreign powers is destroyed. Of this the nation has given a striking proof by the unanimity of it’s sentiments, and efforts for the descent on England. In this enterprise, the nation has rallied at the call of Government, and has but one voice. Citizens: the same unanimity ought to enlighten and unite you in regard of the elections; this is another victory you obtain over the common enemy. Frenchmen, entertain no doubt but that on the first Germinal, without leaving your Cantons, *you can in your own houses triumph over the Royal cohorts and beat the English*, if you join heart and hand; and fulfill in this respect the earnest entreaty of the Directory”

Letters from Cadiz state, that on the 7th of February, the day after the sailing of the Spanish fleet, the English squadron was seen to the westward at break of day. It is supposed that a calm which happened about the same time, prevented the Spanish Admiral from surprising the English, who had by that means an opportunity to escape.

It is confidently asserted that the head quarters of the *Army of England*, now at Rouen, are to be transferred to Paris.

The Pope left Rome on the night of the 19th of February, for Florence. His Ultimate destination is unknown, but it appears that the King of Naples refused him asylum.

The Courier that brought the news of the Popes departure, met cardinal on his flight from Pisa.

We are informed by a letter from Rastadt of the 14th ult. That the Deputies of the Empire have come to the resolution of ceding to France, a moiety of the German dominions, situated on the left banks of the Rhine. The note of the 21st ult, presented to the French Plenipotentiaries on this subject, contains the following passage, “to give the French government the surest pledge of our wish to concede, and in order to accelerate as much as possible the conclusion of peace, the Deputies of the Empire think themselves obliged, (however painful this resolution may be) not to refute making the greatest sacrifices. If therefore the French government would moderate its propositions of peace, as may be justly expected for its equity and justice, and demand only a moiety of the provinces of the Empire situated on the left banks of the Rhine, negotiations might be founded on that basis; and in this case it would be for France to point out the part to be ceded, under such modifications as are indispensable, and by keeping in view as much as possible, the drawing of a military line”

M. de Degelmann is appointed the Emperors Minister Plenipotentiary, to the French Republic.

We learn from Vienna, that the Ottoman Ambassador, in a late extraordinary conference with the Emperors Minister, demanded Succours from his Imperial Majesty against *Paffovan Oglou* ; but he was answered, that the actual state of things prevented the Emperor from complying with the demand.

The Court of Vienna has ordered a reinforcement to be sent to the Imperial troops on the frontiers of Turkey.

MARCH 4.

Letters from Rastadt of the 2ⁿ ult. advise, that the French Plenipotentiaries, in a Note addressed to the Deputies of the Empire, have rejected the offered cession of a part of the German dominions, situated on the left banks of the Rhine, and declared that the French Government invariably persist in the demand, that all the provinces situated on the left side of that river be ceded to France.

The Elector of Bavaria seems rather uneasy, as to the issue of the Congress at Rastadt. He has addressed himself to all the European powers, to claim their guarantee of his dominions, in pursuance of several subsisting treaties, and especially of that of Teschen.

The commotions which later broke out in the countries of Mantua, Milan, Bergamo, Brescia, and other parts of the Cisalpine Republic, have assumed a most alarming appearance. The rigorous measures lately adopted by the Cisalpine Government against the Church Establishment of the country, by proscribing all Ecclesiastical dignities, and seizing on the estates of the Clergy, are the chief cause of the discontent of the people.

Seals have been put, by order of General Berthier, upon the Vatican, and the papers of the Court of Rome. A chest of iron has been discovered, which contained important correspondences, and the greatest part of them have been brought to the Directory by General Berthiers brother.

Letters from Bale state, that the government of Berne has committed hostilities upon a French village, in the department of Mont Terrible. Orders have been given by the Directory, to repel the aggressors.

An embargo has been laid upon all the vessels in the port of Antwerp. A similar measure is to be adopted with respect to rhole in the Scheldt, the Dyle, and a canal of Brussels. It is said that all those vessels are to be sent to Dunkirk to be equipped there for transports. The proprietors are to receive an indemnification.

An embargo has also been laid upon all the privateers which have returned into port, or were in readiness to put to sea.

It is reported that the tri-colored flag has been hoisted on the towers of Malta. This news stands in need of confirmation.

The tree of liberty has been planted with the usual ceremonies at Bienne, in Switzerland.

The compensation demanded by General Hairy, for the wounded, and the widows and children of the soldiers killed in consequence of the resistance, made to our troops at the Fort of the Rhine, amounts, it is said to 600,000 livres.

MARCH 5.

We learn by a letter from Zurich, of the 25th ult. That the Council General has come to a resolution, that the inhabitants of that city shall choose a fourth, and a country people three fourths of the members of the General assembly. When this resolution was communicated to the Deputies of the country people, they adjourned their sittings to the 21st ult. For that is not yet known, whether or not they are satisfied with this decision.

“The public Decree of the Sovereign Council of Soleure of the 28th ult. Relative to the changes to be made in the form of Government, contains the following article; We will defend to the last man against any enemy whatever, the precious jewel of liberty and independence which our ancestors obtained at the price of their blood: as it behoves the free Swiss people, we will never secede from the Helvetic Confederacy, but on the contrary, religiously perform every duty imposed on us by subsisting Treaties and Alliances”.

The corvette, La Charette, arrived at Rochefort, from Ceyenne, on the 24th of February. It brings intelligence, that the ex-deputy Murinai is dead, and that Barthelemi is very much indisposed in the Hospital at Ceyenne.

An Opera in two acts, called the French in England, was to have been performed some days ago at the Theatre de la Republique, but Buonaparte having observed to the Directory, that it was unworthy of the French nation to display any boasting in an expedition which was so vigorously undertaken, and that as the British government might at length be awake to the dangers with which it was threatened, it was imprudent to irritate the arrogance which prevented it from accepting peace upon reasonable terms; an order was accordingly given to suspend the performance of the piece.

The Diligence of Caen was robbed a few days ago, within half a league of that town, by a dozen armed banditti, of 50,000 livres in specie.

Letters from the Hague State, that the project of new Batavian constitution is finished, and will be submitted to public consideration in a few days.

The Imperial troops took possession of the Baravian fortress of Burghausen on the same day that the French troops the fort of the Rhine opposite to Mentz. It is thus that the secret articles of the Treaty of Campo Formio are gradually made public.

The following is a summary of a very long message with respect to Rome sent by the Directory to the Council of five hundred, on the 3^d inst.

“The march on the French Army, observes the Directory, experienced no obstacle from the Pope’s troops, and the inhabitants of the country were kept in order by the prudent Proclamations which were published.

“The Roman people who had not participated in the crimes of their tyrants, and who detested their outrages, exacted justice of its own Government. While General Berthier remained in his camp without the walls of Rome, the people of themselves proclaimed the act of their Sovereignty, resumed the Legislative and Executive Powers, and organized a free Government. Five Consuls were invested with the powers formerly exercised by the Assembly of State. The act of the Sovereignty of the Roman people, dated the 15th of February, 1798, was proclaimed in the capitol, signed by all the citizens who could write, and received with universal acclamations of the people. General Berthier, invited by a deputation of Roman citizens to enter the city, repaired to the capitol, where he delivered a suitable speech. He afterwards returned to his camp. This great and sublime revolution was effected with the utmost tranquility. A dispatch, dated the 20th of February, states, that the Municipality and the civic guard have been organized. The latter took the oath of fidelity to the new Republic. On the 20th, all the churches resounded with a *Te Deum* in honour of the restoration of Liberty, and 14 Cardinals joined in that Hymn in the Cathedral of St. Peter. The Pope left Rome on the 20th, and was allowed a guard to attend him. Every attention was paid to his old age. The Tree of Liberty has been planted in all the Communes of the territory of the Church, and monuments are to be raised in the public squares to the memory of Basswell and Duphot. A solemn festival is to be celebrated at the desire of the Roman people, which is to be dedicated to the glory of the French Republic, and is to be held in

the Roman Forum, under the triumphal arches of the Emperors Titus and Seprimus Severns. Finally, the new Government of Rome has appointed an Ambassador, who is on his way to Paris to thank the French Republic for her protection”

General Berthier published the following Proclamation on entering Rome:

“The Roman people are restored to their rights of Sovereignty by proclaiming their independence, by assuming the Government of Ancient Rome, and by constituting the Roman Republic. The General in Chief of the French Army in Italy declares, in the name of the French Republic, that he acknowledges the independent Roman republic, and that it is under the special protection of the French arms. The General in Chief also acknowledges, the name of the French Republic, the provisional Government chosen by the Roman people. All temporal authorities proceeding from the Pope are therefore suppressed, and shall exercise no functions whatever. The General in Chief shall make every disposition necessary to secure the independence of the Roman people, and to perfect the orginzation of their Government, in order that their new laws may be found on the basis of Liberty and Equality. He will adopt every measure calculated to promote the happiness of the Romans. The French General Cervoni is charged with the direction of the Police, and providing for the security of the City of Rome, and also with the installation of the new Government. The Roman Republic acknowledged by the French Republic, comprehends all the territory which remained under the temporal authority of the Pope after the Treaty of Campo Forinio”. “Alex Berthier”

When the people of Rome came out to meet General Berthier, they presented him with a crown of olive, but in accepting it he said, “that it belonged to General Bounaparte, whose illustrious actions had prepared the liberty of Rome”.

MARCH 6.

The office of military police established at Paris is suppressed, and the superintendance of the military in this commune is to be entrusted for the future to the commandant of the metropolis.

A letter from St. Maloes, dated 6 Ventose, states, that 50 gun boats, each capable of carrying a 24 pounder and 100 men, are building at that port. Five hundred of the same kind are to be prepared for the descent on England. Besides these boats, and other forces which are assembling at Brest, each port is to furnish a quantity of transports proportioned to the number of its shipping.

A Letter from Genoa of the 8th ult. states, that *Ciaffere*, the chief of the insurgents in Corsica, has been taken prisoner, in a bloody engagement between the French troops and the rebels.

We are informed by a letter from Milan of the 22d ult. that the utmost animosity prevails between the Cisalpine Directory, and the Legislative Body, the result of which will probably bring on an important political crisis for the new Republic.

Citizen Mangaud, French Charge of Affaires with the Helvetit Body, has subscribed 2000 livres a year out of his annual allowance during the war.

The following letter has been received in town, dated Cadiz, the 25th Pluvisoise, (13th February,) "the Spanish fleet, after a fruitless chace of the English squadron, has just returned to port on the 7th day from its sailing, with the same number of ships" (*Redaeteur*)

MARCH 7.

On the 4th inst. Bills were posted up in the streets, inviting all Catholics to repair to the church of Notre Dame, for the purpose of electing a Metropolitan Bishop, or a kind of head for the Gallican church. A meeting was accordingly held there, and bishop Gregoire was, it is said, about to be elected pontiff, when the Police dispersed the Assembly.

Letters from Cadiz of the 15 of Feb. state that the Spanish fleet has returned into port. Admiral Massarede was very much indisposed, and had been twice bled.

The English, who are served admirably every where, because there are every where men to be bought over to their interest, have also spies at Cadiz. Notwithstanding the secret manner and the dispatch with which the Spanish fleet went out of port, Lord St. Vincent had intelligence of the business at Lisbon before it sailed from Cadiz. His Lordship only took 12 hours to get his squadron ready for sea. A courier was instantly dispatched to Cadiz with the intelligence, and the Port Admiral sent off a light vessel with the news to Admiral Massarede, who hastened back with his fleet to Cadiz before the two English Admirals could effect a junction.

It is reported that a courier extraordinary has brought intelligence to the Directory that the Deputation of the Empire has at length acceded to the propositions made by the French Plenipotentiaries, and acknowledged the right bank of the Rhine for the boundary of the Republic.

An order has been issued to apprehend and bring before the Commissioner of Police any person who may attempt to come in or go out of Paris at the different barriers armed with a firelock.

A Letter from Mantua of the 17th ult. informs us that the French troops in garrison of that fortress; having received no pay for five months, assembled and declared to the Governor, that unless the arrears due to them were paid without any further delay, they would return to France to receive their pay, and abandon the defense of the fortress. General Miollis, in this critical situation, adopted the unconstitutional plan to raise 400,000 livres by means of a forced loan, to satisfy the demands of the troops, which sum was soon after repaid to the lenders by the Cisalpine Directory.

RASTADT, Feb. 26

The Duke of Wirtemberg has summoned the Imperial towns of Ulm, Esslingen, and Rothwell in Swabia, to submit to his Government. This measure is doubtless the consequence of some of the secret articles of the Peace concluded between him and the French Republic. The people of Ulm have contended to the proposed union with Wirtemberg; but the magistrates, the Merchants, and the principle Proprietors are against it. The towns of Esslingen and Rothwell have unanimously refused to comply with this demand. In consequence of this unexpected affair, the three united towns have sent Deputies to Congress. On their arrival they had a conference at Baron Albin's, with the French Ministers, the Imperial Commissioner, and M. Mandelslothe, Deputy of the Duke of Wirtemberg. Nothing resulted from this meeting. The Deputies of the Imperial States advised the Envoys of the three summoned towns to be firm, and resist every violation of their independence. One of these Envoys is gone to Paris, the other two have returned home.

STRASBURGH, (4th Ventosi,) Feb. 22

We learn that French troops, which were assembled in great number in the Porentrui as far as Bienne, have for these two days past made retrograde movements towards the Upper Rhine, and no doubts are entertained, but that a good understanding will be established between France and Switzerland.

It appears from the last accounts from Berne, as well as from other Cantons, the Swiss Governments really intend to substitute democracy in the stead of aristocracy, and to remain in peace with France, but that the Swiss Nation at large is firmly determined to defend its independence, and vigorously to oppose any foreign invasion. The contingents of troops are on their march on all sides to join the army, which covers the frontiers of Berne, under the orders of General Erlach; and it is observed, that the Cantons, which were the first to vote, of their own accord, a change in their form of Government, are not the last to send their battalions. Yet the Canton of Lucerne distinguishes itself above all the others. This Canton has just addressed the following spirited Declaration to Citizen Mengaud; "Lucerne has, in unison with the rest of Switzerland, constantly wished for peace and still does so. If the Directory had to prefer any complaints against the ancient Government of Switzerland, this motive can no longer authorize it to commence hostilities. If therefore one Canton were attacked, all Switzerland would be so, would take up arms, and engage in a national war; for now every inhabitant would combat for his country, for his liberty, for his personal safety, and his property, which he would feel threatened with a hostile attack. France would by this conduct alienate from her all Europe. She might in this struggle obtain some military glory, which she is not in want of; but as to honour, she could derive none. She would have to dread a coalition of the public opinion, which might become more dangerous for her than the coalition of the cabinets of Europe she has vanquished. France might render Switzerland unfortunate for several generations, and in the end she would earn nothing but disgrace, losses and dangers in her own dominions, as well as in those of the Batavian and Cisalpine Republics.