Translated for the National Intelligencer, from the Moniteur of Louisiana.

NEW ORLEANS, 21st Dec. 1803.

The work is at length consummated—Louisiana changes her government for the last time; and the flag of the United States has throughout this city every where replaced that of the French republic.

The following account of the three last days, will complete the history of these events, which make an epoch, destined to be one of the most memorable in the history of America.

On Sunday last, the 13th of this month, the colonial prefect, commissioner of the French government, was invited, once more to assist in the divine service of a form of worship, about to cease to be *national* in this country, from the nature of the government under which the people were about to pass. The religious ceremonies were celebrated with the greatest pomp: the colonial prefect, accompanied by the municipal body, by French officers, with those of the militia, and many other respectable persons, entered the church through a line of grenadiers, and there received mass, with the honors due to the representatives of of the French republic.

The lines

Domine, salvam fac rempublicam;
Domine, salvos fac Consules:

Once more resounded through the church; where they have been regularly sung, on festivals and Sabbaths, from the first taking possession the country by France.

At two o'clock in the afternoon, were seen passing along the banks of the river, the commissioners of the United States, Mr. Claiborne and General Wilkinson, preceded by a fine detachment of volunteers of the Mississippi Territory, on horse back. They proceeded immediately to citizen Louffat's, and their arrival was announced by the discharge of 19 cannon.

Citizen Louffat received them in his saloon, in the midst of a numerous company; when, after resting a few moments, he led them to his cabinet, where they remained in conference for more than an hour.

They had no sooner left him than it became public, that on the next day, Tuesday, at 11 o'clock in the morning, Louisiana would be given up to the United States.

Meanwhile, the American commissioners retired at three o'clock to their camp, and from that moment no doubt remained of preparations being made for their taking possession.

On Wednesday we were most agreeably surprised by the display of a body of fine cavalry, traversing the city from one end to another, and ending their way towards the camp. It was citizen Louffat, who thus attended, was on his way to visit the commissioners of the United States; he was preceded by the major, and adjutant major of the militia, in French uniform, at his side was the *Commandant de la Place*, the colonel of the militia, an aid-de-camp, and the secretary of the commission; in the midst of which, his superb dress, his noble horse, the richness of its harness, of blue velvet embroidered with silver, distinguished him from every other.

He was followed by a number of the young officers of militia, French founders and inhabitants of the city. This retinue, amounting to about sixty men, offered a spectacle truly brilliant, and it was a matter of universal surprise, how, on so short a notice, had been collected a body of cavalry so numerous, so excellent, and so well equipped. But what is impossible to a chief beloved by the Louisianians—In half an hour afterwards the municipality followed in carriages; multitudes assembled, and the road for half a league, was completely covered. Their reception at camp was a-la-militaire, and accompanied with every honor.

On their entering the marque of the officers, the cannons were fired to salute the French commissioners, music succeeded, and played the air, dearest to Frenchmen, namely, Buonaparte's march. The colonial prefect, presented the members of the municipal body, and afterwards the officers and principal citizens, to the American commissioners, conversed with them, and after making the tour of the camp, retired in the same order that he came. The night following the precautions of the police were increased, and the guards and patroles doubled, the colonial prefect went himself to reconnoiter the different posts, and rode through the interior of the city.

At length that day dawned, which was to usher in a new era for the people of Mississippi.

Citizen Louffat, commissioner of the French republic, proceeded to the city Hotel on foot, at the head of the municipal body of the officers attached to his mission, a great number of militia officers, and distinguished inhabitants of the city and surrounding country, and of the citizens of his nation. He was saluted as he passed by the republican brig L'Argo.

The weather was exceedingly fine, and the temperature mild as that of April. In about an hour the troops of the United States presented themselves, where they were met in milatary form at the gates, and after receiving the orders of the colonial prefect, were introduced into the city.

They displayed in the square, having the American commissioners at their head, and being commanded by one of them, General Wilkinson. He formed them in the line of battle, opposite the front of the city Hotel, the armed militia and the French company under capt. Bangand, were arrayed on the opposite side. A detached company, at a little distance, was stationed near the national flag.

The American commissioners, ascending to the hall, were met on the grand stair case by the assistant of the mayor the chief of the battalion *Commandant de la Place*, the first adjutant major of the militia, and the secretary of the commission, who were placed there to receive them. The commissioner of the French republic, himself, with the municipal body, received them in the audience hall; he was seated in an elevated chair, Mr. Claiborne at his right, and Gen. Wilkinson on his left in other chairs, the secretary of the French commission standing before them on the right, and the secretary of the American commission on the left.

The commissioners of the United States presented to the commissioner of the French republic, their full powers, which were immediately read by the secretary of commission, Wadsworth, and repeated by the secretary of commission, Dangerot.

Citizen Louffat briefly announced the object in French, and at his order, citizen Dangerot afterwards read the *treaty of cession* of Louisiana, with the powers of which the first consul Buonaparte, had invested citizen Louffat, in the name of the French people, that he might execute the same, according to the process verbal of the exchange of ratifications, which were to precede this execution. These readings over, citizen Louffat rose and said—"That from this moment he gave to the commissioners of the United States possession of the country and dependencies of Louisiana, conformably to the articles 1, 2, 4 and 5 of the treaty and to the conventions of the 10th Floreal, year 11th (30th April) in order, that according to this treaty the sovereignty and property of Louisiana, should pass to the United States, under the same clauses and conditions with which it had been ceded by Spain to France, in virtue of the treaty concluded at St. Ildefonso the 6th Vendemiare, year 9, (Oct. 1, 1800) which had received its execution by the French having taken possession of this colony."

After these words, citizen Louffat took the keys of the forts of New Orleans and presented them to Mr. Claiborne; he then continued thus—"I here declare that in virtue of the powers, with which I am vested, and of the mission with which I am charged by the first consul, that all citizens and inhabitants of Louisiana, who shall remain under the government of the United States, are from this instant relaxed from their oaths of fidelity to the French republic." Citizen Louffat, then rose and changed seats with Mr. Claiborne. The secretaries of commissions then read the process verbal of this ceremony, the one in the French, the other in the English language; they were then on both sides signed and sealed and reciprocally exchanged, and the sitting ended. The citizens went to the principal balcony of the hotel. At their appearance the flag of the French republic was lowered, and at the same time that of the United States raised, when they met at equal height, they remained till at a signal of the firing of cannon on the square, the forts commenced a discharge, which was repeated by all the batteries; at this moment the American colour was raised and the French flag taken down.

Citizen Louffat then descended from the city hotel with Mr. Claiborne and general Wilkinson. They placed themselves in front of the line formed by the militia, when citizen Louffat spoke as follows:

"Militia of New Orleans and Louisiana! You have given proofs of the greatest zeal, and of a filial devotion to the French standard, during the short time it has appeared on your banks. I shall make this known to France and her government. In their name I return you thanks. Behold the commissioners of the United States, to whom I transfer the command over you. Obey them henceforth as the representatives of your legitimate sovereign."

This concise harrangue being finished, citizen Louffat placed himself along side of the standard of the republic. Immediately the drum beat, and the *company of French citizens* put themselves in motion—the weather was uncommonly favorable for this ceremony; the croud was great; the windows and balconies presented to view the most beautiful women of Louisiana—the French, Spanish and American plumes rose here and there as in tufts, from the midst of the various groupes. A large number of Americans collected at a short distance from the city hotel, throwing their hats in the air and huzzaing. But, in general, the greatest silence and order reigned throughout the multitude. A thousand persons have observed and repeated that, during the remainder of the day, at the sight of the French flag, beheld on high, and then disappearing, sorrow and emotion were depicted in almost every countenance, and tears flowed from almost every eye. This emotion was redoubled when the company of French citizens carried off, with slow steps, this beloved emblem of our national alliance. It would be difficult for the spectator ever to forget this moment, on the affecting spectacle.—Fifty different Frenchmen, brought to this country, by different views, destinies and chances, the one unknown to the other, surrounding the standard of their country, finding themselves all brothers, render to it,—from the spontaneous and abundant emotions of their hearts, a homage of affection, devotion and respect!——Their manners and habits had neither resemblance or military uniformity; but from their positions, their motions, their distance, and their steps, it was easy to see that many of them had marched with the *brave*, and had been courted among the distinguished *defenders of their country*. As this company passed before the American lines, they presented their arms to the beat of the drum, displayed their colours, and saluted it with their cannon; and while it could be perceived weeping eyes remained fixed upon it. It was at the house of the commissioner of the republic, and into his hands that the company deposited the flag for whose protection it had been organised. On leaving the ranks to receive it, citizen Louffat thus spoke:

"French Citizens!—I shall render an account to our government of the patriotic sentiments with which you have fulfilled at the distance of 2,500 leagues a religious duty to this standard. I shall require from your commander a list of your names, and shall transmit them to the minister of marine and the colonies, and you may rest assured that they will be placed under the eyes of the first consul." Scarcely had the French commissioner entered his dwelling, when the officers of the militia waited upon him with the following address:

"We have desired to render to you, and, through you, to the French republic, this new homage; while we still wear (pointing to their cockades) this emblem of the transient union which has subsisted between us, and of the attachment we shall always feel for it."

The scene was very affecting.

At three o'clock the company seated themselves at the table of the colonial prefect, who gave a dinner to the commissioners of the United States, followed by a tea party in the evening. The festival was splendid. On the dinner table were ninety two covers; and there were from four to five hundred guests at supper. The main table accommodated sixty, the remainder were distributed at small tables arranged under the other galleries; with which all external communication was cut off; while within glittered the American, Spanish and French colours, which, intermingled, and falling in large folds, formed the most elegant drapery round the walls. The decorations of the great table consisted of *plateaux*, embelished with beautiful paintings, and surmounted with temples, pavillions, and pillars. The polite attention and significant allusion, indicated by raising the American colours over every other decoration, escaped the observation of no one. It was also noticed that nearly all the American families of the city were invited to the entertainment. A number of civil and military officers, accompanied the commissioners of the United States. The Spanish civil and military officers surrounded the commissioners of his Catholic Majesty; and the rest of the company was composed of French, and principally Louisianians.—The toasts commenced after the first course and continued till the end of the repast, which was prolonged by the firing that followed them. They were given in the following order:—*The United States and Jefferson*, in Maderia. *Charles the 4th and Spain*, in Malaga and Canary; *The French Republic and Buonaparte*, in Red and White Champagne. Each of these toasts was announced by sixty three discharges of artilery; of which twenty one were fired from the fort; twenty one from the French battery before the prefecture; and twentyone from the French brig L'Argo. After these toasts, given by citizen Louffat, the Spanish and American commissioners gave the *French commissioner and his family*; and the French commissioners then gave, *to the friendship and indissoluble union of the three powers whose commissioners are present*. Additional discharges were heard, and others repeated on the colonial prefect announcing as the last toast, TO THE ETERNAL HAPPINESS OF LOUISIANA! Acclamations, transports, and huzzas accompanied each of these toasts. The assembly at tea was but an increased and uninterrupted continuation of the company at dinner. Tea was served at seven, and English country dances immediately commenced, continued, alternately with French country dances, until 9 o'clock in the morning, except during the interval of supper, which was served up at 2 in the morning. Eight card tables detained part of the company till a much later hour. No fire occurred to disturb the harmony of the festival, although there was the most magnificent illumination. The assembly was more numerous and protracted than we have before witnessed. It was as brilliant, in society and dress, as any preceding: and only differed from them in being opened and terminated with less gaiety, and in being marked by a slight tint of melancholy. But in the animation of the dance, play and conversation, the night was devoted to pleasure.

Citizen Louffat, after the giving up of Louisiana, received the same day, during the festival, and again on the ensuing day, multiplied testimonies of the regret felt on his leaving the conntry. He shewed himself much affected by and it was easily seen that he reciprocated them.

Late Foreign Intelligence.

NEW YORK, January 30.

Captain Main, from whom we have received French journals to the 23d of November, informs us, that every transaction in France was kept a most profound secret; nothing was known there about the real intention of the first consul. Some predicted that an attempt to invade England would never be made; others were sanguine both in the belief that the attempt would be made, and that it would prove successful. Commerce was, as might be expected, very much at a stand. Brandy, and other articles of exportation, however, had taken a considerable rise, in consequence of the numerous arrivals in the ports of France of neutral vessels.

Captain Main brings dispatches to government from the American consul at Bordeaux.

PARIS, November 13,

Twenty men are alternately taken from each company of the regiments of the line composing the camp at Bologne, and embarked on board the flat bottomed boats, to learn how to handle the oars and cannon; which they executed with great alacrity and precision.

Extract of a letter from Bolonge, dated November 9.

One hundred vessels, each carrying 24 pounders, present themselves in the road daily. The number of vessels of all sizes that are to serve in the expedition against England is computed at five thousand. Never has Bologne exhibited a more lively appearance than at present. The circulation of cash is greater than in any other port of the republic. A great number of generals are here.

The barrack in which the first consul lodges is placed on a very elevated eminence, commanding an extensive view of the shores and harbour; the barrack of rear admiral Bruix is at its right. The coasts are lined with cannon and mortars. All these mortars are cast on a new plan; they weigh 8000 lbs. and reach to the distance of three kilometres.

Every day encreases the mass of the forces by the successive arrival of the flotillas. The first consul is pressing all the works with an inconceivable activity.

November 14.

Madame Le Clerc is married to Prince Borghese. The nuptials have been celebrated at Morfontaine.

November 15.

On the 11th inst. was launched at Havre, in the presence of the minister of marine, the pinnance built for the first consul. The minister afterwards reviewed the conscript workmen, visited minutely the workshops, magazines, timber yards, the vessels in armanent, and the flotilla ready to put to sea.

A convoy of four gun boats, twelve flat-bottomed boats, two pinnances and eleven transports, which sailed from Havre on the 7th November, arrived safe at Bologne the next day.

Orders have been issued at Brussels to prepare there a great quantity of ship bread for the service of the army of England. The construction of oars in the forest of Soigues, goes on with redoubled activity. It is asserted that not less than thirty thousand are to be made.

November 17.

The armament of the doggers and fishing boats that are in the docks at Dunkirk goes on with the greatest activity. Each of these vessels will carry one 24 pounder and four 4 pounders. They will be manned, independently of the land troops, with forty seamen: they will have besides a stable for the transportation of a few horses. Some pinnances of a new construction are also fitting out, and several flat bottomed boats are daily looked for from Holland.

On the 12th of Nov. several merchant vessels that had been detained in the channel for the service of the republic, sailed from Brussels. Those which remain will soon follow.

November 18.

The first consul has just returned from visiting the coast. He arrived this day at St. Cloud, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. He left Bologne on the 17th inst. His return was announced by the discharge of cannon.

The English continue cruizing off Cherbourg, but at two gun shot distance, which places them in a situation from whence it is impossible to observe what passes in the port. The service of the signals is performed with astonishing celerity. In the space of three hours intelligence is communicated from Cherbourg to Fressingue. All the ports, villages and cottages on the shore are full of companies of Horse Chausseurs. Every thing is in readiness for departure.

November 19.

Three divisions of the Flotilla of St. Malo consisting of 18 flat bottomed boats, 3 gun boats, 22 sloops, 40 fishing boats of Newfoundland, and one pinnance, sailed from that port in the night of the 11th to 12th November, steering for Cherbourg.

We learn from Flushing, that a considerable flotilla is to rendezvous in that port, and that 6 ships of war were launched there on the 12th inst. The *chantiers* are in a state of the greatest activity; and the troops under the command of General Monnet are making preparations for some important movement.

November 21

The first consul gave audience yesterday to the constituted authorities. In the evening, he went to the Opera, where he was received with the most unbounded applause.

There are now building in the docks of Dunkirk, boats intended for the transportation of the cavalry; in each boat a stable is to be erected, which will contain from 16 to 20 horses.

The first consul, before his departure from Bologne, went on a raft on which were placed 12 pieces of heavy cannon, so arranged as to be pointed in any direction. The precision and rapidity with which they were discharged, notwithstanding the waves which broke against the pieces, astonished the most experienced engineers. The fire was as well kept up as if it had been on shore, although the cannoneers were up to their knees in water. The object of this exercise was to accustom the conductors of the pieces to this novel manœuvre, that they might acquire the habit of performing, in the water, the many evolutions which they must necessarily perform on the coast of England.

We are informed from Rome, that the harvest has been extremely abundant.

BOULOGNE, November 19.

The day before yesterday, the first consul, after having reviewed the army, ordered the execution of several military evolutions. He spent the whole of yesterday in the port notwithstanding visiting the two divisions of the flotilla that were arriving from Havre, which made port in two tides. The Bologne flotilla is there reinforced by sixty vessels, each carrying 24 pounders.

It has been remarked, as ominous, that in digging here to establish the encampment of the first consul, a military axe has been found appearing to have belonged to the Roman army that invaded England. There have also been found at Embleteuse, in digging the foundation for the tent of the first consul, medals of William the conqueror. It must be acknowledged that these circumstances are at least whimsical and they will appear still more singular, on recollecting that when General Buonaparte visited the ruins of Peluse in Egypt, he there found a Cameo of Julius Cæsar.

The camps of the army resemble a town. The soldiers are at least as comfortable in them as in barracks. General Soult has paid particular attention to that important part of the military administration, which has so much influence upon the health of the troops.

The north winds, which are prevailing with some violence, have driven off the English cruizers to a great distance from Boulogne: the currents are extremely rapid in these ports.

(Moniteur.)

The President and Senate have ratified the Convention between the United States and Spain, of the 11th of August, 1802, laid by the President before the Senate during the last session, and not then definitively acted upon.

This Convention stipulates for the indemnification of those who have sustained losses, damages or injuries in consequence of the *excesses* of individuals of either nation during the late war, contrary to the existing treaty or the laws of nations.

It provides for a board of commissioners to consist of five members, two to be appointed by each government; and the fifth by common consent, or in case of disagreement to be designated by lot.

They are to meet at Madrid; and for the space of eighteen months from the day of their meeting, are authorised to receive the claims provided for by the convention.

By a provision of the convention a reservation is made on behalf of each party of the right to claim at a convenient time indemnification for the excesses of foreign cruisers, agents, consuls and tribunals in their respective territories, which might be imputable to the two governments. This reservation was rendered necessary to save the claims of this description, not found to be embraced in the remedial part of the convention.

The convention only requires the exchange of ratifications at Madrid, to carried immediately into effect. *Nat. In.*