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FROM THE TRENTON TRUE AMERICAN.

The following extract of a letter from an American in France to his friend in this city, dated Paris, 19th February, 1810, contains much interesting information, and many correct observations. ☞ The writer belongs to the party called Federal.

"You will probably be a little surprised to receive a letter from me, dated at this place. I intended to write to you from England, but was so vexed and disappointed, on my arrival there, to find all my plans of business completely frustrated, by the baseness and treachery of that government, in refusing to ratify Mr. Erskine's negociations, that I had neither patience nor spirits to write to any of my friends. My views in coming to Europe were altogether commercial. I intended to reside several years in England for that purpose, presuming, when I left America, that the arrangement made by our government with the British minister would certainly produce a final settlement of all our differences with that country. Being deceived in this expectation, and seeing no prospect of a renewal of the commercial intercourse between the two countries, I concluded to pass over to the continent, as there was, at that time, some expectation of an accommodation with France.

You may readily conceive that the circumstances under which I found myself in England, gave me no very favorable opinion of the government of that country—perhaps indeed they may have had a tendency to bias my mind against the people. I confess I never had a very high idea of the purity of the British government; but I really thought, before I left America, that they were seriously disposed to do us justice. I soon, however, changed my opinion, and I had not been long in the country before I was firmly persuaded, that they never intended to acknowledge or respect our rights on the ocean, if they could possibly help it—that the orders in council were originally directed solely against our commerce and not against France:—and they would persist in them as long as they found the administration of our government assailed by so strong a party as to render it impossible for them to preserve in any firm and decided measures. I was convinced that the disavowal was not really because Mr. Erskine had violated his instruction (for I think no one can seriously believe that tale,) but that he had yielded to the utmost latitude of them, at a time when the opposition to the administration had become as formidable as to compel the government itself, without the stipulations entered into by him, to open the intercourse. The more I saw of England, and conversed with men of information there, the more I was persuaded of the determination of the ministry to adhere to their system. I therefore looked for no favorable result from Mr. Jackson's embassy. The great merchants of London and Liverpool, unconnected with the American trade, have always a great influence with the ministry, and they were reaping a golden harvest from the smuggling trade to Holland, Denmark, and other ports to the north, in consequence of the operation of the orders in council on our commerce with the continent. Hence they were clamorous against any concessions, as they called them, to America, that is against allowing us any trade whatever unless through England. With these men, therefore, together with all the West India traders and the East India Company, Mr. Canning's ministry was very popular, while the great body of American shippers, manufacturers, and, in fact, the people at large, considered it in the most detestable light—but this part of the nation have not the least influence with the government.

Events that have since taken place on the continent have tended very much to dampen the ardor of the smuggling gentry in England. The peace with Austria and with Sweden, and the unsuccessful and disgraceful termination of the expedition to the Scheldt, have given the emperor an opportunity to carry into effect the continental system in every part of the north. In consequence of which, a vast amount of English property, smuggled into the different northern ports, has been seized, and no doubt many of the speculators in licenses and forged American papers have burnt their fingers most sadly. It is deeply to be lamented, that many of our merchants, who have made shipments regularly and fairly direct from America, have suffered for the conduct of some Americans, who, lost to all sense of national honor and character, have prostituted our flag to a disgraceful traffic with forged papers between England and the continent. These unprincipled men deserve no commiseration—they have brought the American character into contempt all over Europe; and have been the cause or at least a well founded pretext of all the seizures of American property that have taken place on the continent. These seizures, together with the new arrangements made in Holland, and the entire conquest of Spain and Portugal, an event rapidly approaching, will give a final blow to the commercial as well as the political relations of England with the continent. Under these circumstances, I have no doubt the British government will make a merit of necessity, and repeal their orders in council with a view of securing, as their last and only hope, a trade with us. Indeed, I should not be greatly surprised, should a complete change in the British cabinet take place, which appears probable from the last accounts from that country, and such men as Lord Grenville come into office, that they may make peace with France.

It appears very clear to me that England has nothing now to expect from a continuance of the war, but additional disgrace, and an accumulation of her already overwhelming debt. Already taxes in England are carried to the utmost pitch of invention, and the only resource to pay the interest of the debt, is a new loan every year. The consequence of which is, that provisions are nearly doubled in price and labor increased in proportion, within the last eight years—the never failing result of multiplied and burthensome taxes on all classes of society. While on the other hand, the demand for the manufactures of the country, the real source of its wealth, have greatly diminished within the last few years.—England is a manufacturing country more than any thing else. Her commerce, that is, that part of it most beneficial to the nation at large, is only subordinate to her manufactures. Her agriculture is carried to almost as great perfection as the limits of the country will admit of, whatever English writers may say about it. The people of England are therefore obliged to exchange the productions of their art for those of the soil of other countries. If other countries will not buy their manufactures, will not make this exchange, as is the case with the continent of Europe, at present the very vitals of the British nation must suffer. It appears to me that if the emperor can carry into complete effect and continue his continental system. England will be compelled to make peace or sink. Her commerce with America may keep her awhile over water, in a struggling and feeble state—but in the course of a few years, the weight of her own burthens will precipitate her to the bottom. It is in vain to talk of her vast and powerful navy. It can do nothing towards the introduction of her manufactures into countries that will not buy them.

It has indeed destroyed the foreign commerce of the continent: but the continent by no means depends upon foreign commerce, as England does.—Provisions are cheap all over the continent—the necessaries of life are at home, they are not to be sought for in an enemy's country. Foreign trade would unquestionably be of great advantage to the continental nations, and indeed the want of it has produced a considerable injury to the manufactures; but they can exist without it, and continue the war, which England certainly cannot do.

In France grain is so abundant that at the last harvest there was estimated to be, at least, three crops on hand. In consequence of which the emperor gave permission for a free export of it, and also of wine and brandy direct to England, where, owing to the failure of their last crop and the non-intercourse with America, grain has been enormously high. The English have been literally fed by their enemies all winter, for which they have been obliged to pay in solid gold, as France would take none of their haberdashery in return.

I perceive I have been led into a long politico-mercantile discussion, which I fear you will find rather tedious—besides my observations may have occurred to you a thousand times before. Yet I confess I view things, on this side of the Atlantic, in a very different manner from what I did in America. Feeling completely exempt from all party prejudices, which at home it is almost impossible entirely to discard, I think I can now judge of the conduct, views and resources of both France and England with perfect impartiality, and consequently with more correctness.

I candidly own I was greatly disappointed in the boasted power and resources of England. A very short residence there was enough to convince me that they were very much over-rated among us. I now really consider England as rapidly declining. She has no statesmen, no generals, & the foulest corruption pervades every department of the government, and influences the conduct of every individual connected with it. Her resources depend upon those very means which engender poison in her bosom—exhorbitant taxation, and a paper credit. This state of things cannot last. Confidence will one day begin to fail, and then down falls the government. The great body of the people will say, like the ass in the fable, we can carry no more than our load, what have we to fear from an enemy?

I have now been in this city upwards of three months, having come by the way of Holland, where I spent six weeks. My future movements depend upon the situation of our affairs with this country. If they should be settled, and a free trade be opened, of which indeed I have now very little expectation, I propose fixing myself for a year or two in one of the seaports for the purpose of commerce. If, however, there be no prospect of an adjustment by the 1st of May, I shall make the best of my way home to America, *which after all, is by far the best and most happy country I know of any where.*"

I have by no means found Europe, as far as I have seen it, to possess so many charms as foreigners would make us believe in America. In the two great capitols, London and Paris, there are certainlyly many objects of an interesting nature to *look at*: but it is principally the charms of novelty that recommend them. This soon passes away, and one seeks in vain for that solid happiness, that domestic comfort and ease, which prevails all over America, and which are unquestionably the result of that increasing prosperity which flows from a rich and extensive country, a state of peace, and a mild and free government.

In the fine arts, in literature and science, and in public institutions of learning, we are still greatly behind Europe: but in all the domestic and useful arts of life, we are as far before her. The public institutions here are all on the most extensive and liberal plan. One may read in all the public libraries, attend lectures on any subject of literature and science, or visit any of the galleries or museums of pictures or statutes, gratis, very different from London, where every thing of the kind is in the first place very limited, and, in the next, upon the most narrow, contracted and avaricious plan.

Here are a vast many places of public amusement, for which the Parisians have a wonderful passion. These are all under the direction of the police, and the greatest order and decorum are observed. The police is much more rigid than it was before the revolution.—It is a terror to the disorderly, but the greatest security to the peaceable and well disposed. Every thing is under its direction. Theatres, gambling houses, girls, the very vices of the people are under the protection of the government, which, seeing it impossible entirely to prevent them in so large a city, wisely adopts measures to rob them of much of their grossness. Hence you see none of those disgusting objects at the theatres here, who crowd upon the entrance and lobbies of a London theatre, and constitute full one half of the female part of the audience. Nor do you here, as in London, meet with swarms of them in the streets, assailing you with the foulest language. I dare say there is quite as much vice here as in London, but infinitely more decent, or at least more private.

The marriage of the emperor is expected to take place about the latter end of March, and no doubt rejoicings will attend it. The princess is said to be very handsome, and to resemble her grand aunt Maria Antoinette. She is little more than nineteen years old.

Some people suppose that this alliance with the house of Austria will have a tendency to weaken if not destroy the good understanding at present existing between France and Russia, and produce a peace between the latter and England. There is no doubt the immediate interests of Russia would lead to such an event; but I suppose she is bound to France by a much stronger motive than that of commercial intercourse with England. The darling object of Russia has always been to extend her dominion into the Turkish empire. They are now at war, and it is not improbable that the emperor Napoleon has promised either to be neutral, or to assist Alexander in this war. The arms of France, united with Russia, would very soon decide the fate of the descendants of Mahomet. Besides Russia can at any time permit the exportation of her native productions to England, who would very gladly pay for them in *guineas*, rather than not have them, which would certainly be more advantageous for Russia, than to exchange them for British manufactures or colonial produce. At any rate this commerce between Russia and England, even should a peace take place between them, would be of trifling advantage to the latter, as nothing coming from England would be permitted to cross the Danish line. It would be no compensation for the loss of the whole trade of Spain and Portugal, the Mediterranean and the coast of Holland, which England never will recover, until she makes peace. As to an alliance with Russia for the purpose of another war with France, I suspect all the continent must at this time be sick of any attempts of that kind, whatever the folly of England might induce her to undertake.

I have just finished reading the new criminal code, which has lately been adopted here, and was much pleased with it. There is nothing in the English or our laws of this kind to be compared to it, for wisdom of plan, and accuracy of detail. Every crime or offence against the peace or property of the community, or of one individual against another, is particularly set forth, and an appropriate punishment designated. The greater excellence of this code, is the regular gradation of punishment proportionate to the offence, which is not to be found in the English, or in our laws. This code is far from being as sanguinary as our laws, but is infinitely more correctional. I think we might very advantageously borrow from it.

The public papers will no doubt afford you particular information of the changes and dispositions recently made in some of the states and kingdoms of the continent. England, I should think, will at last see the absurdity of sacrificing her blood and treasure, for the vain phantom of a balance of power on the continent. She ought to circumscribe her ambition, confine herself to her little island, and mind her work shops.

I send you by this conveyance a paper published here in English, containing the notes on the king of England's late address to parliament. They are said to be written by the emperor himself, and they sertainly bear the marks of his masterly hand. England, it must be confessed, makes but a sorry figure the picture of Europe presented by these notes; yet it cannot be denied that she is pretty correctly drawn.—From the tenor of these notes, I tho't it likely that they would not all be published in the English papers, and consequently not soon reach America.

I will not undertake to inform you of the state of our affairs with this government. It is a great secret, which I cannot reveal for the same reasons that Hotspur's gentle Kate would not reveal one, that is, because I do not know it. I fear, however, there is no prospect of an accommodation, until we either bring England to terms, or go to war with her."

Charleston, Oct. 12.

In the sloop Ambition, capt. Green, which arrived here on Tuesday last, was put by the officer of the British armed brig Rhoda, at New Providence, THOMAS PRICE, a disabled American seaman, who had been impressed out of the brig George of Baltimore, at Jamaica, eight months before; but from the cruel treatment he received there, was rendered unable to do duty, and is now sent here to be taken care of—he has a protection which was not paid any attention to.

SOMETHING NEW.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

ENGLISH COURT OF CHANCERY, AUG. 9.

JOHN KING vs. *JOHN BURR.*

This cause came on to be argued on a demurrer to a bill of discovery filed by the Plaintiff against the Defendant—being desirous to enter into the marriage state, was induced by an advertisement in a public newspaper, to apply to a Mrs. Morris, who offered herself as a general agent between the sexes, by the following advertisement:—

"LADIES—The delicate and restrained condition which custom imposes on females, subjects them to great disadvantages—Mrs. Morris offers to remove them. Ladies or Gentlemen, who have formed predilections, may be assisted in obtaining the objects of their affections—and those who are unengaged may be immediately introduced to suitable persons; but she will not assist applicants in any marriage, if their characters are not irreproachable, and their fortunes considerable and independent. Apply, or address (post paid) at the bow window, next to Margarate Chapell, Margaret street, Cavendish-Square. Ladies, who require it, may be waited upon at their own houses."

At Mrs. Morris's he found every thing that he wished; that lady, willing to undertake the agency, and to secure him a lady of rank, fortune, and fashion, for his companion, on condition that he agreed with her terms, which were 20l. as a retaining fee, and 3000l. on his marriage. On his part it was to be stipulated, that the lady he should lead to the altar, should have rank, and not less than 1500l. per annum. After two or three meetings, these stipulations were agreed upon, and Mrs. Morris received the retainer. The delicacy of this lady would not admit of her introducing the Ladies to the General at her own house, but she had a friend who lived in high life, and was connected with nobility. It might lead to some expence, as her friend, although most respectable, and visited by the first people, was not overburthened with wealth.

It would be necessary for her friend to give routs, balls, and parties, to allow the defendant a fair opportunity of addressing the several ladies, from whom he was to select one as his partner for life. Accordingly, she introduced the defendant to the plaintiff, as the friend she had mentioned to him. The bill set forth that the defendant prevailed on the plaintiff to give several large and expensive parties, to give him an opportunity of being introduced, and making love to a lady of rank, fashion, and fortune; and whatever expence the plaintiff might be at, the defendant promised to reimburse him. The bill averred, that the plaintiff did give balls, routs, and parties, as requested by the defendant; and had incurred the expence of 400l.—that the defendant was introduced to several ladies of rank, fashion, and fortune; and that he did make honorable love to many of them, with the intention of being wedded; that the plaintiff required the defendant to reimburse him for the expences which had been made at his request, but which he refused to pay; that the plaintiff brought this action in the court of King's bench to recover from the defendant 400l. he having broke his promise. To which the defendant pleaded that he had not made any such promise, which defeated the action, as there was no third person present, it being a contract of a delicate, honorable, and secret nature, that it would not admit of a witness. The plaintiff not being able to get redress in a court of law, he filed the present bill of discovery in that court, to which the defendant demurred.

Sir S. ROMILLY rose as counsel for the defendant, in support of the demurrer.

Lord ELDON observed, it would be better to hear the arguments first in support of the bill.

Mr. HART, counsel for the plaintiff, said, he never felt more awkward than he now did in attempting to address his Lordship. He was fearful, from what had been thrown out by his Lordship, that he did not feel there was any equity in the plaintiff's case. It was a bill of discovery, to bring out facts that only were known to the plaintiff. The case was very different from a party filing a bill of discovery to get evidence to prove a breach of promise of marriage—but he was afraid his Lordship considered the bill ought never to have been filed; he would therefore not take up the time of the court.

Lord ELDON. Surely, Mr. Hart, you would not have a court of equity lend itself to such a transaction as this, to assist the plaintiff in giving ostentatious entertainments to females, for the purpose of introducing the defendant to a marriage! He may bring his action in a court of law against this defendant—this General;—and he may sustain it if he can; but he shall have no assistance from me.

Bill dismissed.

PATRIOTIC.—The Republican Union Club of Norfolk, celebrated the *capture* of *Cornwallis* and *his army* at Yorktown, on the 19th ult. at *Lindsay's Gard*—