Eastern Shore General Advertiser.

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DOCUMENTS,

Accompanying the Presidents message,

(CONTINUED.)

LORD WELLESLEY TO MR. PINKNEY.

Apsley House, July 22d, 1810.

(Private.)

SIR,—I think it may be difficult to enter upon the subject of your last note, (respecting the diplomatic rank of our minister in America) in any official form.

But I have no difficulty in assuring you, that it is my intention immediately to recommend the appointment of an envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary, from the king to the U. States.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect and esteem,

Sir, your most obt. humble servant,

(Signed) WELLESLEY.

Wm. Pinkney, Esq. &c. &c. &c.

MR. PINKNEY TO MR. SMITH.

London, Aug. 14th, 1810.

SIR—As Lord Wellesley still withheld his long expected answer to my note of the 30th of April, respecting the British blockades anterior to the Berlin decree, and his written overture in the case of the Chesapeake, I sent him on the 8th instant a letter, of which a copy is enclosed. No importunity had before been spared, which it became me to use.

I need not trouble you with comments on the obvious unwillingness of this government to touch the first mentioned subject, or any thing connected with its principles and practice respecting blockades, or with the system of the orders in council. Justice and policy both invite it to give the declaration, which I have required; and certainly nothing has been omitted, on my part, to induce it to take that course. I fear, however, that the declaration will be declined; unless, indeed, lord Wellesley should continue to evade my application, by returning no answer to it—a new practice, I think, which, little to be commended as it is, must I presume, if persisted in here, be reciprocated in America.

It is truly surprising, that, in the case of the Chesapeake, there should be the same backwardness. I can conjecture no motive for this hesitation to propose, in writing, terms arranged in conference between lord Wellesley and myself, in an affair which it is the manifest interest of England to settle as soon as possible. It was now almost six weeks since lord Wellesley last assured me (as he had before more than once assured me), that he would put me in possession of his formal overture in this case *immediately*. He knows that you have been made officially acquainted with that assurance; for I thought it advisable to submit to his perusal, before it was transmitted, (for the purpose principally of avoiding misunderstandings) my short letter to you, of the 6th of last month, which states, that, "in the business of the Chesapeake, he will write to me in a few days," and further, that in that business, "I do not expect any difficulty."

There can be no misconception as to the *terms* to be offered; for besides that they were stated with great precision, in the conference alluded to, in my letter to you, of the 6th ultimo, as well as in general antecedent interviews, I wrote lord Wellesley, the day after that conference, a *private* note of which a copy is transmitted, enclosing a memorandum in pencil of the terms which (exclusive of any further mark of displeasure to admiral Berkeley, very decidedly discouraged by lord Wellesley) "had been spoken of in our different conversations as fit to be proposed." I do not find, that I retained any copy of the memorandum in pencil; but the terms (agreeing in substance with those to which I informed you, in my letter of the 13th June last, lord Wellesley had no objection,) were to this effect.

1. The overture to contain such a recital, or statement, as is found in Mr. Erskine's letter to you of the 17th of April, 1809, of the prompt disavowal, by his Britannic majesty, of the unauthorised act of his naval officer, whose recal, as a mark of the king's displeasure, from a highly important and honorable command, immediately ensued.

2. To offer, *without any reservation*, the restoration of the men *to the ship from which they were forcibly taken.*

3. To offer, *without any reservation*, and *as a part of the terms of the international adjustment*, a suitable pecuniary provision for the families of the persons slain in the attack, and for the wounded survivors.

It was, moreover, understood, that the paper, proffering these terms, would not contain the allusions, which have heretofore occasioned embarrassment; that the whole affair would be made to take the most friendly character; and that I should be at liberty to express, in my reply to the overture, if I thought fit, the expectation of my government as to the further punishment of admiral Berkeley.

I ought to add, that, in all my conversations with lord Wellesley, on the case of the Chesapeake, he has shown, not only a disposition, but a wish to accommodate it, and that I am therefore the more astonished at the delay which has taken place.

In a few days, I intend to renew my efforts to bring this matter to a conclusion, and to obtain an answer of some sort to my letter of the 30th of April. I am sufficiently inclined to present a strong paper upon subjects, but, in the actual posture of affairs, and in the absence of such instructions from you, as would countenance such a step, I think it my duty to forbear a little longer.

It is not impossible, that lord Wellesley's backwardness, to close the case of the Chesapeake, with me, may arise from a desire, that it should be adjusted in America, through the new minister. If this were so, however, he could have no inducement to conceal it from me, since he is aware that I have always entertained the same desire. When I see him I will advert to this, I am not yet able to say, positively, who the new minister will be. Lord and some others are spoken of. Lord Wellesley has given me no other written information, on the subject, than is contained in his letter of the 22d ultimo, already communicated to you. His verbal information has been to the same effect, with this addition, that he retained his opinion, (mentioned in my unofficial letter to you of the 4th of January last,) that the minister to America ought to be a man of rank. As far as may be prudent, I shall not fail to do all that is in my power to expedite the appointment.

The letter from general Armstrong, to which my letter, of the 8th instant, to Lord Wellesley alludes, is dated the 24th of July; and expresses his wish, that the declaration of the British government, concerning the blockades, may be obtained and forwarded without delay.——I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) WM. PINKNEY.

The Hon. Robert Smith, &c. &c. &c.

Mr Pinkney to Mr. Smith.

London, August 18, 1810.

SIR—I enclose the Times newspaper of this morning, containing a copy of a French decree of the 5th inst. and of a letter, of the same date, from the French minister for foreign affairs to general Armstrong. The last is a most important paper; of which, I hope to receive, without delay, an official communication.——I have the honor to be, &c,

(Signed) WM. PINKNEY.

Hon. Robert Smith, &c. &c &c.

Mr. Pinkney to Mr. Smith.

London, August 21, 1810

SIR—I have just received a communication from general Armstrong, dated the 6th inst. announcing the absolute revocation of the Berlin and Milan decrees; and have, in consequence, sent a note to lord Wellesley, requesting to see him, Lord Wellesley is out of town, but will, it is said, return to-night or to-morrow morning.

General Armstrong has not transmitted any copy of the official notice, mentioned in his letter; but, I presume, it is the same with that published in the Moniteur of the 9th, of which I am in possession, and with which the quotation, in general Armstrong's letter agrees.

I do not know, whether his construction of that document will be thought here to be liable to any objections. I think it impossible, however, that, upon any interpretation of it, this government can hesitate to repeal its orders in council.

A copy of general Armstrong's letter to me is enclosed.—I have the honor to be, &c

(Signed(WM. PINKNEY.

Hon. Robert Smith, &c. &c. &c.

Copy of Gen. Armstrong's letter to Mr. Pinkney.

Paris, August 6th, 1810.

SIR—I have the honor to inform you, that his majesty, the emperor and king, has been pleased to revoke his decrees of Berlin and Milan. Of this interesting fact, I had this morning a written and official notice, in the following words, viz: "Je suis autorise a vous declarer, monsieur, que les decrets de Berlin et de Milan sont revoques, et, qu'a dater du 1 er Novembre, ils cesseront d'avoir leur effect."*

Sincerely hoping, that you may be able to turn this circumstance to some useful account, I forward it per triplicate, and am, sir, with very great respect, your most obedient and very humble servant.

(Signed) JOHN ARMSTRONG.

H. E. Wm. Pinkney,

*Translation.—" I am authorised to declare to you, sir, that the decrees of Berlin and Milan are revoked, and, that after the first of November they will cease to have effect.

Gen. Armstrong to J. Pinkney.

Paris, Aust 7th, 1810.

SIR—I hazarded a line two yesterday, by the way of Morlaix, merely to inform you, that the imperial decrees of Berlin and Milan were at last given. I now send you, by a more direct conveyance, a copy of the Duke of Cadore's let to me of the 5th instant; and am, sir,

With very great respect, &c.

(Signed) JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Wm. Pinkney Esq. &c. &c.

Extract of a letter from J. Pinkney to Mr. Smith

" London, Friday 4th Aug. 1810

" I transmit a copy my answer, formed upon your recent instructions, to lord Wellesley's notification the blockade of Corfu. Is it not worth reflection whether an attempt to blockade an entire sea like the Adriatic, should not be proted against, whatever may be the force employed in closing the passage to it."

(COPY

From Mr. Pinkney to lord Wellesley.

Great Cumberland Place Aug. 21, 1810.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to receive your official note of the 14 instant, communicating the resolution of the British government to establish a blocke of the canal of Corfu, and shall not fail to transmit a copy of it, with as little delay as possible, to the secretary of state of the United States.

In the mean time I take the liberty, in pursuance of the sentiments the President, heretofore signified to me, to observe to your Lordship that, as a blocke essentially implies a force on the spot for the purpose, and as the notification required in the case must be a warning to neutral traders of the fact that a blockade exists, the communications which your lordship has made to me, derive its title to the acknowledgements of the United States, from the supposition that it was meant as a friendly admonition, which though imposing of itself no legal restraint on neutrals, nor inducing any penal consequences, might usefully influence the course of their mercantile adventures. In this sense the communication will be received by the President, as a mark of that friendly attention which ought in all cases to be reciprocally maintained, and in this sense the President will be the more disposed to regard the communication, as a different one would contradict the definition of a blockade, and of the requisite notification thereof, contained in the orders of the British government to commodore Hood and the judges of the vice admiralty courts as communicated to the American government by Mr. Merry, on the 12th of April 1806.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) WM. PINKNEY.

The most noble the Mequis Wellesley, &c &c

NAVY AGENT AT LEGHORN.

DOCUMENTS

Accompanying the Secretary of the Navy's Rport.

A.

The Secretary of the Navy to Gen. John Stricker Baltimore.

December 16. 1805.

" You will purchase on the best terms in your power, bills on Leghorn to the amount of $30,000, and remit them to Messrs. Degen, Purviance and Co. with directions to pass them at maturity to the credit of the Navy Department of the United States. Purchase them at sight or not exceding 60 days. We will pay for them at 60 or 90 days from the day of purchase."

Signed R. SMITH.

The Secretary of the Navy to Messrs. Degen, Purviace and Co. Leghorn.

December 16, 1805.

" I have this day directed general Stricker, of Baltimore, to purchase and remit to you, on account of this department, bills to the amount of $30,000 which at maturity you will pass to the credit of this department, for the use of our squadron in the Mediterranean."

Signed R. SMITH.

The Secretary of the Navy to General John Striker, Baltimore.

February 5, 1806.

" I have this day directed you a remittance of $30,000, for the purpose of paying for the bils on Leghorn, directed to be purchased by my letter to you of the 16th December last.

Signed R SMITH.

B.

The Accountant of the Navy to the Secretary of the Navy.

December 27, 1810.

SIR—In pursuance of the resolution of the House of Representatives of the U. S. calling for certain explanations relative to the accounts of Degen, Purviance & Co. I have to inform you, that, according to the established principles in the adjustment of public accounts no debit or credit can be made or admitted without a sufficient voucher; that consequently it is the invariable practice, when bills of exchange are purchased and remitted to foreign agents, to credit the agents making the purchase, by an account raised under the heads of bills of exchange; which account remains debited until the agents acknowledge the receipt of the remittances: which was the course pursued in the case of Degen, Purviance and Co. The agents who purchased the bills were credited, and as no accounts or acknowledgements were received from Degen, Purviance & Co. subsequent to August, 1805, no charge for the bills was made against them; and as the pursers and other officers returned from the Mediterranean, their accounts were adjusted, and they debited on the books of the office to Degen, Purviance and Co. for the supplies acknowledged to be received; and hence a balance appeared in their favor on the 30th of June, 1808: and being requested by the comptroller, in pursuance to a resolution of Congress, to exhibit a statement of balances to that time, the statement No. 1, (which was merely a copy of the account as it stood upon the books of this office) was made up and transmitted to the treasury with the general accounts of the quarter ending on that day, at which time I had not the least suspicion that the house of Degen, Purviance and Co. were in arrears to the public, or that there was any question as to their solvency; nor had I any information calculated to excite any suspicion until I received a letter from the comptroller, dated the 11th March, 1809, (a copy of which you have enclosed, No. 1) which called my immediate attention to the subject of the account, and induced me to cause an investigation, which necessarily brought to my recollection their not having transmitted any accounts subsequent to August, 1805, nor acknowledged the receipt of any of the bills. Anxious, however, to avoid every thing like delay in furnishing such a statement as would enable the comptroller to institute a suit, and believing it possible they might have acknowledged the bills to general Stricker, the agent who remitted them, although they had not done so to this office, I immediately wrote him a letter, (a copy of which you have here with, No. 2) and the next mail brought an answer covering the acknowledgement; and the statement No. 2 was that day exhibited to the accounting officers of the treasury. I was aware, however, at the time, that they would be entitled to further credits. Presuming it might be material to the public interest that an account should be forwarded by Mr. Coles, then on the eve of departure for France, I hastened the statement, knowing it would only remain for the agents to shew by legal means what expenditures made on account of the navy had not been credited. Herewith you will also receive an account of the purchase of the bills, amounting to 256,000 dollars, made out in the form requested.

With great respect, I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) THOMAS TURNER.

The Comptroller of the Treasury to the Accountant of the Navy.

March 14, 1809.

SIR—Information having been received that the house of Degen, Purviance and Co. are insolvent, and that they are largely indebted to the United States, you are requested to prepare and forward to this department a particular statement of the claim of the United States against them, in order that it may be finally adjusted, and that measures may be taken to recover the balance as far as it may be practicable.

It is desirable that the documents to substantiate this claim may be forwarded to the minister of the United States at Paris, by the Mentor. It is expected that she will sail in four or five days.—Permit me to hope that if possible, the accounts may be prepared in time to be sent by that vessel. I am, sir, respectfully your obedient servant,

Signed G. DUVAL.

The Accountant of the Navy to General John Stricker.

March 14, 1809.

Sir—Not having received any accounts from Messrs. Degen, Purviance and Co. for their agency transactions subsequent to August, 1805; I am of course without any of their acknowledgements for remittances made them from that period, and as recent information renders it material that an adjustment of their account should take place with all possible dispatch, I have to request that you will forward to this office, without delay, all the acknowledgements you may have from them for remittances made by you since August, 1805. I am greatly apprehensive that they are very largely, *indeed*, in arrears; and the subject excites considerable concern, and I beg your earliest attention to the request contained in this letter.

Very respectfully, I am sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) THOMAS TURNER.

[Accompanying the report are all the documents alluded to in it; but relating principally to the details of mercantile transactions, and therefore not very generally interesting, we have contented ourselves with selecting two or three which appear to us most material.]

(C.)

ACCOUNT of the purchase of sundry Bills of Exchange by John Stricker, navy agent at Baltimore, remitted to Degen, Purviance and Co. navy agents at Leghorn, between the 10th May, 1805, and the 21st February, 1807, amounting to 256,000 dollars. This account is taken from the monthly accounts which were regularly rendered by the agent.

Periods of purchase		Of whom purchased.	Pay whom endorsed.	Pay whom endorsed.	Upon whom drawn.	Amount of Bills.	Sight.	Exchange.	Amount of agent's commission, &c.	Total cost to the United States, including commission and all other charges.
May	10, 1805	Samuel Smith & Buchanan	Hollins, M'Blair & James Purviance	S. Smith & Buchanan	Degen, Purviance & Co	22,222 4 5	60 days	at 90 cts. p pez		20,100
June	14,	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	22,222 4 5	do	do		20,100
August	23,	S. Smith & Buchanan, Hollens & M'Blair	James Purviance	S. Smith & Buchanan, Hollens & M'Blair	Fred Degen & Co.	30,000 Spanish dolls	do	at par		*20,100
December	19,	S. Smith & Buchanan	Hollens & M'Blair & James Purviance	S. Smith & Buchanan	Degen, Purviance & Co.	30,000 do	do	do		30,150
February	6, 1806	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	33,149 3 5	at 90¼ cts.	do		30,215 25
June	16,	James Buchanan	S. Smith & Buchanan	James Buchanan	Ditto	11,049 14 6	do	do	64 96	10,050
	17,	Hollens & M'Blair	Ditto	Hollens & M'Blair	Ditto	3,149 3 5	do	do	50	30,150
July	18,	W. L. & J. Barney	J. S. Horner & Joshua Barney	W. L. & J. Barney	Ditto	6,629 17 0	do	do	150	6,630
September	23,	S. Smith & Buchanan	S. Smith & Buchanan & J. Purviance	Hollens & M'Blair	Ditto	3,149 3 5	30 days	do	30	30,150
February	15,	Ditto	Hollens & M'Blair & J. Purviance.	S. Smith & Buchanan	Ditto	11,111 2 3	60 days	do	150	10,150
	20, 1807	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	22,222 4 6	do	do	150	20,100
	21,	Hollens & M'Blair	S. Smith & Buchanan & J. Purviance	Hollens & M'Blair	Ditto		do	do	100	20,100

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Accountant's Office, Dec. 27, 1810.

THOMAS TURNER.

*This bill was remitted to Frederick Degen & Co. at Naples, but subsequently in the settlements at this office merged into the accounts of Degen, Purviance & Co.