

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Selected from Eastern Papers.

fact. Now, to every man, who recollects the history of our government and country in 1814, it is notorious that the desire of peace was the general and prevailing sentiment. This is abundantly proved by the state of the times, the detangement of our finances, the feelings of the people, and most emphatically proved by the employment of the unusual and unparalleled number, of five commissioners to make a Treaty of Peace, Mr. Adams in the last paragraph evidently alludes to the instructions of our own government, which were to make a peace, to ask for nothing, to make what politicians call the *status ante Bellum*, the basis of the Treaty, which was accordingly done. So far as language can be understood, there is an insinuation that in Mr. Adams' private opinion, a more spirited course would be preferable. The public have read the discussions between the British and American commissioners of that period, the composition of which on the part of the Americans, was universally attributed to Mr. Adams, in which, the insolent demands of the British for a surrender of the lakes and a portion of our territory, were hurled in their teeth with indignant scorn. So far then we see nothing incorrect or unpatriotic in the letter. The next and third paragraph of the letter describes the progress of the war and gives the result of the several engagements between our forces and those of the enemy, up to October 1814. The latter part of this paragraph has been italicised by the Jackson presses, on account we presume of what they affect to consider the obnoxious character of its sentiments. But we invite any intelligent and unprejudiced American, to peruse it, and point out a single improper or unworthy sentiment. Some men might object to the style, others might differ in opinion from the writer. Some might place a higher estimate on the defence of Baltimore, and be more affected by the capture of Washington City, than the writer; but the question we wish to try before our fellow citizens, in reference to this subject, is this—are there any sentiments or opinions or statements in this paragraph derogatory to Mr. Adams as an American, as a statesman or high officer of the government? Do they impeach his patriotism or indicate any coldness or indifference to his country? We think there is considerable point and wit in the caricature there drawn of the low, dirty marauding expeditions of Cockburn and Brisbane, who frequently landed on the coast of Virginia, and after stealing negroes and plundering plantations most valiantly, "ran away."

The fourth and fifth paragraphs are evidently the most important parts of the letter, in penning which, the writer has spoken the sentiments of his heart, with his accustomed vigor, warmth, and seriousness. It is here that the whole soul of the Patriot is developed, and every thought and feeling is absorbed in zeal and devotion to his beloved country. We care not whether Mr. A's opinions or theoretical notions on some of these subjects meet the concurrence of all or of a majority of those who read the letter. It is not our purpose at this time to investigate the question, whether our Government about or during the period of the war, erred on the side of parsimony and penuriousness. It is sufficient for us to know that these sentiments were honestly entertained and freely expressed by thousands of as sound heads and pure hearts as America could boast; and these paragraphs bear internal evidence of the painful sensations which the above conviction excited in the bosom of the writer.

In order that it may be fairly seen that we render no more than simple justice to Mr. A, we here reinsert that part of the 4th paragraph, which has been printed in *Italics*—and which has hundreds of times, by the enemies of the President, been detached from the context and printed by itself for the charitable purpose of making the people of the U. S. believe that Mr. Adams, in a *foreign country*, deliberately wrote a studied libel on his own country and Government.

The 4th paragraph is evidently intended to explain to his correspondent, Mr. Harris, the reasons of our misfortunes and reverses. It commences with observing, that, left alone to struggle against the colossal power of Great Britain, without even the cheering sympathy of a single European power and taking into consideration our unprepared state, and the divisions then prevalent among us, what could be expected from the first furies of this unequal contest but disaster and discomfiture &c. It then proceeds;

Divided among ourselves more in passions than interests, with half the nation sold by their prejudices and their ignorance to our enemy, with a feeble and penurious government, with five frigates for a navy, and scarcely five efficient regiments for an army, how can it be expected that we should resist

"the mass of force which that gigantic power has collected to crush us at a blow?"

But mark the residue; he goes on in paragraph 5th thus:—"This too is the moment which he has chosen to break through all the laws of war acknowledged and respected by civilized nations. Under the false pretence of retaliation, Cochrane has formally declared the determination to destroy and lay waste all the towns on the seacoast which may be assailable. The ordinary horrors of war are mildness and mercy in comparison with what British vengeance and malice have denounced upon us. WE MUST GO THOUGH IT ALL—I TRUST IN GOD WE SHALL RISE IN TRIUMPH OVER IT ALL: but the first shock is the most terrible part of the process, and it is that which we are now enduring.

The last paragraph in the letter it will be seen is wholly unimportant. Now we invoke the candor of every high minded American, on reading these two paragraphs to pronounce seriously whether he discovers in them any want of patriotism, any coldness or lukewarmness to the interests of his country? On the contrary, does not the whole soul of the writer appear to be absorbed in the most anxious solicitude for his country. And is there no truth in the affecting picture here sketched of the State of this Union in 1812, 13 and 14?—Was not in some parts of the Union, one half of the citizens sold (politically speaking) by their prejudices to the enemy? Had not the writer of this letter seen a public Resolution from one of the branches of the Legislature of his own State, declaring that it was *unbecoming* & *morally* & *religious* people—to (not fight) but to *REJOICE* at victories gained over our enemy in an *unjust* and *unnecessary war*? Was it too strong a figure of speech to say that such men were *sold* by their prejudices to the enemy? Now if a Boston Stamp Federalist or Hartford Conventionist should denounce and abuse Mr. Adams for writing thus about his countrymen, we should say it was natural—it was to have been expected. But to hear "Democratic Republicans," the supporters & advocates of the *that war*, denouncing a man who utters these melancholy truths in a letter to a friend, appears to us the height of political inconsistency and absurdity.

Again—was not our nation in a most wretched state of unpreparedness for war?—Had not the navy that right arm of national defence, been almost totally neglected? History answers this question; the wisdom and experience of our politicians hastened to retrace their steps, but not until our gallant tars had plucked up drowning honor by the locks from old Ocean, and the Star Spangled Banner had waved over the wooden walls of old England?

Again—we ask, was not our government most unfortunately and penitiously tardy in filling the ranks of the army? How many brave men were sacrificed and perished from their inadequacy to contend against superior numbers. When the war commenced, our then Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Gallatin, came forward and recommended an efficient system of taxation, to maintain the credit of the government and to enable it to carry on the war with vigor. But our members of Congress refused for a long time to lay taxes, for fear of injuring their popularity. Was not this being penurious with a vengeance? Does not every man know that had our army of 25,000 men only been raised, officered and equiped in time, that we should have swept the British from Canada, in a single campaign? But penuriousness, inefficiency and a low thirst for popularity prevailed, and we were doomed to witness the *proclamation* victories of our Hulls and our Smyths.

Smarting under a keen sensibility to the wrongs inflicted on his beloved country, galled and wounded by a clear perception of the policy of adopting half way measures, Mr. Adams freely unbosoms himself to a confidential friend in a *private letter*—written without the least design or that of publicity, and which an accidental circumstance has disclosed to the world.—But his friends have no reason to be ashamed of a single sentiment contained in it. Amidst all the disasters and reverses that seemed at one time to overwhelm us, Mr. Adams maintained an erect and buoyant spirit, and cherished the most confident reliance on the energy, fortitude and patriotism of his countrymen. I TRUST IN GOD, says he, WE SHALL RISE AND TRIUMPH OVER IT ALL.

His declarations were prophetic! The cause of his country did triumph! And it remains for intelligent and high minded Americans to decide, whether in bailing with joy and gratitude the honorable termination of our difficulties, they will condemn the man who sincerely deprecated the weakness and inefficiency that produced our misfortunes, and whose feelings, opinions and wishes, all impelled him to urge the adoption of measures, which in a much shorter time, and with far less suffering would have insured the same honorable result.

New York, April 25.—By the fast sailing packet ship William Thompson from Liverpool, whence she sailed on the 17th March, we have received our London files to the 16th. From the extracts which we make from the *Observer* of the 16th, it will be seen that the question, of war or peace in Europe, is no longer doubtful—but that Russia has issued her declaration against Turkey.

Sunday March 16.—On Tuesday night the Russian Ambassador received despatches from his Court, containing the Emperor's declaration of war against Turkey, and which was immediately communicated by his Excellency to the Duke of Wellington and to the Earl of Dudley, who sent intelligence of the event to his Majesty. The Emperor justifies the Declaration of War on the ground of Turkey having violated the Treaty of Ackerman and upon that of her having excited the Persians to their recent hostilities. To these are added, the closing of the Bosphorus against the trade of Odessa.

It is supposed that the Russians have already crossed the Pruth, though the French papers pretend to believe that they will not cross it until the 12th proximo.—In the meantime, the Turks are once more resorting to a system of evasion and procrastination. The Reis Efendi has declared his regret and sorrow at the publication of the Manifesto, and protests that some of the most effective passages in it are positive forgeries, whilst others have been misinterpreted by the Allies. The Greeks have put forth a Manifesto, in which they lay claim to a Northern line of demarcation, almost the same with what we pointed out months ago.

New York, April 28.—The fast sailing ship Hamilton, Capt. Bunker arrived early yesterday morning from Liverpool, having sailed on the 26th ultimo. Capt. B. has obligingly favored us with papers to that date inclusive, with corresponding dates from London.

The Russian declaration of war had not yet reached England, or was not yet published. The advices from Odessa were to the 28th of February. They state that warlike preparations were continued, but nothing is said of the movement of troops.

In the House of Commons, March 24th, it was stated by the Minister, that the Government had no knowledge of any change in the relationship between the Allied Powers—nor of any deviation from the treaty of July, by either of the Powers.

Despatches from Lisbon, to March 16th, state that the place was in a great ferment. Don Miguel had dissolved the Portuguese Chambers. The Queen, it was said, had sent to Spain for troops. The British commander had remonstrated against the conduct of Don Miguel. Several nobles and public characters had left the city, to escape his cruelty. The presence of the British troops in Lisbon, and the fleet, the Tagus, were believed to be the obstacles to the design of Don Miguel of immediately declaring himself King.

Portsmouth, March 22.—The conduct of Don Miguel in Portugal has caused more stir in our naval departments, than the belief that the Russian army had crossed the Pruth did.

It does not appear that any extraordinary exertion are making in England for the embarkation of troops or for increasing the naval force in the Mediterranean. It is said that 15,000 French troops are to embark from Marseilles. Austria is said to be marching a large force towards Hungary—and Prussia is raising 65,000 new troops.

The St. Petersburg Journal of March 4, announces that war has been recommended with Persia, the latter power having refused to ratify the provisions of the treaty.

VIZZNA, Feb. 28.—The letters from Corfu also state, that Fabvier has been obliged to raise the siege of Scio, and that at the mediation of M. de Rigny, he has concluded a convention, by which he has permission to retire.

Count Capo d'Istria has arrived at Eginn, and one of the first acts of his power, as President, has been to order the execution of several pirates, duly convicted. As he has not brought any considerable sums of money to Greece, it is to be presumed that by such measures he will soon lose his popularity with his countrymen, among whom piracy has been organized as a lucrative profession, in the exercise of which the pirates themselves have not shamed to take part.—Augsburg Gazette.

MEXICO.—We have private information before us from Mexico, as late as 23d ultimo, It is of a more favorable nature than the preceding advices. The City and State of Vera Cruz are described as perfectly quiet; and it is denied that any serious disorder or menacing disposition appears in any part of the country. The

important measure of expelling the Spanish was accomplished without bloodshed. Strangers and natives both regarded the Government as stronger for the recent attempt against the Administration. The gallant defence of the Mexican vessel the Guerrero, had created a lively feeling throughout the Mexican States, and excited, generally, the desire to improve and increase the naval force. The Government was disposed to make every effort to that effect. A resolution was introduced by Congress to give pensions to the wounded and the relatives of the killed on board of the Guerrero, and to reward the unharmed survivors. The citizens of Vera Cruz had subscribed an amount sufficient to be presented to the Government; and subscription lists were circulated in every town of the Union, in order to raise money for sending the squadron to sea; completely equipped. It was confidently believed that from half a million to a million of dollars would be obtained in that way.

COLOMBIA.—We have the Bogota paper, *Gaceta de Colombia*, down to the 2d ultimo. It was supposed that the Congress of Ocana would be in full action about the first week of the present month. That body comprised a strong force for the Federal system. The politicians expected a war with Peru. The paper of the 21 March contains a long decree of Bolivar, the preamble to which states, that his presence was indispensable in the Departments of Maturin, Venezuela, Orinoco and Sulia, for the purpose of repelling external invasion, and restoring domestic tranquillity and administrative order. In setting out, he declares, that he means to retain both the regular and extraordinary powers with which the Executive Chief had been invested. It is not easy, at this distance, to ascertain the designs of the several parties in Colombia.—Nat. Gaz.

REDBIRD Dead. Died in prison, at Prairie du Chien, on the night of the 16th February last, Wau-nig scotsch hawk or the Redbird, a Winnebago chief of note. His free wilderness spirit could not bear the confinement of a narrow prison house, nor could his body be supported by the provisions usually dealt out on such occasions, they being so unlike those which he had gathered, in his native forests. He was buried the next morning in presence of his fellow prisoners.

This was the chief who killed and scalped Gagoier, and who was sided in the bloody adventure by the miserably looking Wekaw, or the Sun, who scalped at the same time an infant, and mangled it in a savage style. He it is who, together with his companion in guilt, voluntarily surrendered himself last summer, at the Portage of the Fox and Ouisconsin river, and who was afterwards delivered over by Major Whistler, to whom he gave himself up, to General Atkinson, who conveyed him and others to Prairie du Chien, to await the penalties of the law. From that never Redbird has escaped.

This was an extraordinary man. In form and appearance he had few equals, white or red; and in the grace of action, of face, and of spirit, he was not surpassed. His character too, had, during his whole life, and up to the period of his bloody adventure, been marked by all that was kind, and friendly, and faithful. His hospitality to the whites and to Indians, notorious; and his means were ample. He was rich in traps and spears, in wampum and all that constitute the wealth of the hunter. He was highly distinguished and beloved in all the regions of the Northwest.

But all this distinction was swallowed up and lost in one fell resolve—one act of guilt. But he rose, if not to innocence and life, yet high in the general admiration and sympathy, in the voluntary surrender which he made of himself, and in the manner of the act. No individual act was ever more imposing than was that act of self-devotion. His white dress, of beautiful deer skin, fitting his elegantly proportioned frame, as if to show the perfection and beauty of its finish; his war pipe, made fast to his breast, as if to indicate the attachment of his heart to the Indian's glory; his white flag—the emblem of peace—in one hand; and his calumet, or pipe of peace, in the other; and the long line of warriors, attending the self-devoted victim; and, to crown all, his death song.

All this was highly impressive; but it was overmatched by the calm, though commanding spirit, that gave grace and firmness to his steps, and spirit and life to his eye, and majesty to every movement of the man, and grandeur to the ceremony. As he entered the portal of death, stepping firmly up, he said by a manner forcible as language, "I give away myself—my life."