

From the Natchez Chronicle of Oct. 1.

WEST-FLORIDA.

We yesterday received by express, from our correspondent in West-Florida, the following highly interesting communications, which we lose no time in laying before our readers:

*Head Quarters, Fort of Baton-Rouge,
September 24, 1810.*

SIR.—In obedience to the order of the convention bearing date the 22d inst. I directed maj. Johnson to assemble such of the cavalry as might be ready at hand, and march immediately for the Fort of Baton Rouge; I then proceeded for Springfield, where I found 44 of the grenadier company, commanded by col. Ballenger, waiting the orders of the convention; at 1 o'clock in the morning of the 23d, we joined maj. Johnson, and capt. Griffith, with 21 of the Bayou Sara cavalry, and five or six other patriotic gentlemen joined us on our march: at 4 o'clock the same morning, we made the attack. My orders were, not to fire till we received a shot from the garrison, and cry out in French & English, 'ground your arms and you shall not be hurt.' This order was strictly attended to by the volunteers, till we received a discharge of musketry from the guard house where the governor was, which was briskly returned by the volunteers; we received no damage on our part; of the governor's troops, lieut. Louis Grand Pre was mortally wounded; lieut. J. B. Metzegnes, commandant of artillery, was also wounded, one private was killed, and four badly wounded; we took 21 prisoners, among whom is col. Delassus, the rest of the garrison escaped by flight. The magazines, stores, &c. found in the garrison have been reported to you by Jas. Nelson, esq. who was appointed for that purpose.

The various and complicated duties devolving on me from the pressing circumstances of the moment, forbid a more minute detail.

The firmness and moderation of the volunteers who made the attack was fully equal to the best disciplined troops. While companies are daily flocking to our standard, and the harmony and patriotism prevailing in the garrison must be highly gratifying to every friend of his country.—Accept for yourself and your body, assurances of my high esteem and regard.

(Signed) PHILEMON THOMAS,
Commander in chief of the fort of Baton Rouge and its dependencies.

The hon. JOHN RHEA,
President of the convention of W. Florida.
Certified to be a true copy of the original in my office.

(Signed) ANDREW STEELE, sec.

By the Representatives of the people of West-Florida,
A DECLARATION.

It is known to the world with how much fidelity the good people of this territory have professed and maintained allegiance to their legitimate sovereign, while any hope remained of receiving from him protection for their property and lives. Without making any unnecessary innovation in the established principles of the government, we had voluntarily adopted certain regulations in concert with our first magistrate, for the express purpose of preserving this territory,

and shewing our attachment to the government which had heretofore protected us. This compact, which was entered into with good faith on our part, will forever remain an honorable testimony of our upright intentions and inviolable fidelity to our king and parent country, while so much as a shadow of legitimate authority remained to be exercised over us. We sought only a speedy remedy for such evils as seemed to endanger our existence and prosperity, and were encouraged by our governor with solemn promises of assistance & co-operation. But those measures which were intended for our preservation, he has endeavored to pervert into an engine of destruction by encouraging in the most perfidious manner, the violation of ordinances sanctioned & established by himself as the law of the land.

Being thus left without any hope of protection from the mother country, by being betrayed by a magistrate whose duty it was to have provided for the safety & tranquility of the people and government committed to his charge, and exposed to all the evils of a state of anarchy, which we have so long endeavored to avert; it becomes our duty to provide for our own security as free and independent state, absolved from all allegiance to a government which no longer protects us.

We, therefore, the representatives aforesaid, appealing to the supreme ruler of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do solemnly publish and declare the several districts composing this territory of West-Florida to be a **FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATE**, and that they have a right to institute for themselves such form of government as they may think conducive to their safety and happiness—to form treaties—to establish commerce—to provide for their common defence, and do all acts which may of right be done by a sovereign and independent nation. At the same time declaring all acts within the said territory of West-Florida after this date by any tribunal or authorities, not deriving their power from the people agreeable to the provisions of this convention to be null and void—and calling upon all foreign nations to respect this our declaration, acknowledging our independence, and giving us such aid as may be consistent with the laws and usages of nations.

This declaration made in convention, at the town of Baton Rouge, on the 26th day of September, in the year of our Lord, 1810.—We the representatives in the name, and on behalf of our constituents, do hereby solemnly pledge ourselves to support with our lives and fortunes.

(Signed) John H. Johnson,
John Miller
John W. Leonard,
William Barrow,
Phillip Hicky,
John Morgan,
Edmund Hawes,
Thomas Lilley,
William Spiller,
John Rhea, President.
By order of the convention,
Andrew Steele, sec.

POSTSCRIPT.

Just as our paper was going to press we were informed by a gentleman direct from the town of Washington, that his excellency David Holmes, governor of this territory, had received intelligence by an ex-

press, that col. James Gallier, of Washington county, with a party of forty or fifty men had taken possession of the garrison and Spanish settlement on the Mobile. We give this as we received it—we cannot vouch for its authenticity.

Nat. Chronicle.

THE LOAN.

It will be recollect by our readers that at the late session of congress, in order to supply the deficiency in the sum annually appropriated for the payment of public debt, the president of the United States was by law empowered to borrow a sum not exceeding the principal of the public debt which will be reimbursed according to law during the present year, at a rate of interest not exceeding six per cent. The law also authorized the bank of the United States to lend the said sum or any part thereof; because it was known that from that institution the money could be obtained with greater facility, and at lower interest for so short a time as will elapse before its reimbursement, than from individuals. In pursuance of those provisions, about 3 months ago, a loan was obtained from the bank of the United States for the sum of three millions seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, at six per cent—the money to be reimbursed on the 31st December, 1811. If the charter of the bank of the United States shall not be renewed or continued, the money loaned is to be reimbursed to the bank within three months after notice given by them.

Nat. Int.

It is with pleasure we inform the public that there is erecting in Marietta, a Steam Mill, under the superintendance of William Green, and from his mechanical knowledge united with the counsel and assistance of some of the first rate artists and mechanics in the United States, we have reason to expect it will not be inferior, if not superior to any piece of mechanism of the kind in the United States. It is to consist of a Steam Engine, of the force of twenty horses, on Evans's new principle, with two pair of five feet Burr Mill Stones, with elevators; and all other machinery necessary to erect a complete Merchant Mill, which will be in operation in time to receive the next crop of wheat (for which a liberal price will be given in Cash)—to which will be attached an extensive Distillery and a Woollen manufactory, on the best improved plan, leaving sufficient power to turn an extensive Cotton manufactory. This laudable undertaking, is by Benj. I. Gilman, Esq. and others, who have formed themselves into a Company for the purpose.

Marietta paper.

Domestic Manufacture.—There has been made in the town of Medville, Pa. this year between 7 and 800 gallons of currant wine, little inferior in flavor, body & appearance to the best sherry. The average cost of this wine will not exceed 30 cents per gallon.

There is a dispatch from Mr. Pinkney for the U. States government by the Magdalen from Liverpool, and some letters of the 17th and 19th Aug. from London, which state that Mr. J. Q. Adams, our minister at Russia, had been some time in a bad state of health, and signified his intention of returning home.

Aurora.