*WASHINGTON CITY.*

*MONDAY, DECEMBER 22.*

We this morning, at 3 o'clock, published in a *Supplement*, the following important Official Document, which now appears in regular course, for the benefit of our distant subscribers.

*A multilated Copy of the Convention with France having appeared, the Editor of the NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER, with permission, publishes the following*

OFFICIAL COPY.

CONVENTION

BETWEEN THE

*FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The Premier Consul of the French Republic in the name of the people of France and the President of the United States of America, equally desirous to terminate the differences which have arisen between the two States, have respectively appointed their plenipotentiaries and given them full powers to treat upon those differences and to terminate the same; that is to say, the Premier Consul of the French Republic, in the name of the people of France, has appointed for their Plenipotentiaries of the said republic, the Citizens Joseph Bonaparte, ex-Ambassador at Rome and Counsellor of State; Charles Pierre Claret Fleurieu, member of the National Institute, and of the Board of Longitude, of France, and Counsellor of State, President of the Section of the Marine; and Pierre Louis Roederer, Member of the National Institute of France, and Counsellor of State, President of the Section of the Interior; and the President of the United States of America, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate of the said States, has appointed for their Plenipotentiaries, Oliver Ellsworth, Chief Justice of the United States, William Richardson Davie, late Governor of the State of North Carolina, and William Vans Murray, Minister resident of the United States at the Hague; who, after having exchanged their full powers, and after full and mature discussion of the respective interests, have agreed on the following articles.

ARTICLE I.

There shall be a firm, inviolable, and universal peace, and a true and sincere friendship between the French Republic and the United States of America, and between their respective countries, territories, cities, towns and people, without exception of persons or places.

ARTICLE II.

The Ministers Plenipotentiary of the two parties not being able to agree at present respecting the treaty of alliance of 6th February 1778, the treaty of amity and commerce of the same date, and the convention of 14th of November 1788, and upon the indemnities mutually due or claimed; the parties will negociate further on these subjects at a convenient time, and until they may have agreed upon these points, the said treaties and conventions shall have no operation, and the relations of the two countries shall be regulated as follows.

ARTICLE III.

The public ships which have been taken on one part and the other, or which may be taken before the exchange of ratifications, shall be restored.

ARTICLE IV.

Property captured, and not yet definitively condemned, or which may be captured before the exchange of ratifications (contrary and goods destined to an enemy's port except) shall be mutually restored on the following proofs of ownership: viz. The proof on both sides with respect to merchant ships, whether armed or unarmed, shall be a passport in the form following:

"*To all who shall see these presents,*

GREETING:

It is hereby made known that leave and permission has been given to

master and commander of the ship called of the town of burthen tons, or thereabouts, lying at present in the port, and bound for and laden with after that his ship has been visited and before sailing, he shall make oath before the officers who have the jurisdiction of maritime affairs, that the said ship belongs to one or more of the subjects of the act whereof shall be put at the end of these presents, as likewise that he will keep, and cause to be kept by his crew on board, the marine ordinances and regulations, and enter in the proper office a bill, signed and witnessed, containing the names and surnames, the places of birth & abode of the crew of his ship, and all who shall embark on board her whom he shall not take on board without the knowledge and permission of the officers of the marine, and in every port or place where he shall enter with his ship he shall shew this present leave to the officers and judges of the marine, and shall give a faithful account to them of what passed and was done during his voyage; and he shall carry the colours, arms and ensigns of the French Republic or the United States during his voyage. In witness whereof we have signed these presents, & put the seal of our chancery, and caused the same to be countersigned by at the day of anno Domini"

And this passport will be sufficient without any other paper, any ordinance to the contrary notwithstanding; which passport shall not be deemed requisite to have been renewed or recalled, whatever number of voyages the said ship may have made, unless the shall have returned home within the space of a year. Proof with respect to the cargo shall be certificates, containing the several marks of the merchandise, the place whence the ship sailed and whither she is bound, so that the forbidden and contraband goods may be distinguished by the certificates; which certificates shall be made out by the officers of the place whence the ship sailed, in the accustomed form of the country. And if such passport or certificates, or both shall have been lost, or the vessel, or cargo taken by force, their deficiency may be supplied by such other proofs of ownership, as are admissible by the general usage of the nations. Proof with respect to other than merchant ships, shall be the commission they bear.

This article shall take effect from the date of the signature of the present convention. And if from the date of the said signature, any property shall be condemned contrary to the intent of the said convention, before the knowledge of this stipulation shall have reached it, the property so condemned shall without delay be restored or paid for.

ARTICLE V.

The debts contracted by one of the two nations with individuals of the other, or by the individuals of one with the individuals of the other, shall be paid, or the payment may be prosecuted in the same manner as if there had been no misunderstanding between the two states. But this clause shall not extend to indemnities claimed on account of captures or confiscations.

ARTICLE VI.

Commerce between the parties shall be free. The vessels of the two nations and their privateers, as well as their prises, shall be treated in the respective ports as those of the nation the most favored; and, in general the two parties shall treat in the ports of each other, in regard to commerce and navigation, the privileges of the most favored nation.

ARTICLE VII.

The citizens and inhabitants of the United States, shall be at liberty to dispose by testament, donation, or otherwise, of their goods, moveable and immoveable, holden in the territory of the French Republic, in Europe, and the citizens of the French Republic shall have the same liberty with regard to goods, moveable and immoveable holden in the territory of the United States, in favor of such persons as they shall think proper. The citizens and inhabitants of either of the two countries, who shall be heirs of goods, moveable or immoveable, in the other, shall be able to succeed *ab intestato*, without being obliged to obtain letters of naturalization, and without having the effect of this provision controlled or impeached under any pretext whatever; and the said heirs, whether such by particular title, or *ab intestato* shall be exempt from every duty whatever in both countries. It is agreed that this article shall in no manner derogate from the laws which either state may now have in force, or hereafter may enacts, to prevent emigration; and also that in case the laws of either of the two states should restrain strangers from the exercise of the rights of property with respect to real estate such real estate may be sold, or otherwise disposed of, to citizens or inhabitants of the country where it may be, and the other nation shall be at liberty to enact similar laws.

ARTICLE VIII.

To favor commerce on both sides, it is agreed, that, in case a war should break out between the two nations, which God forbid, the term of six months after the declaration of war shall be allowed to the merchants, and other citizens and inhabitants respectively on one side and the other, during which time they shall be at liberty to withdraw themselves with their effects and movables, which they shall be at liberty to carry, send away or sell, as they shall think proper, without any molestation, nor shall their effects, much less their persons be seized, during such term of six months; on the contrary, passports which shall be valid for a time necessary for their return, shall be given to them for their vessels and the effects which they shall be willing to take away with them; and the said passports shall be a safe conduct against all insults and prizes which privateers may attempt against their persons and effects. And in any thing be taken from them, or any injury done to them or their effects by one of the parties, their citizens or inhabitants, within the term above prescribed, full satisfaction shall be made to them on that account.

ARTICLE IX.

Neither the debts due from individuals of one nation to individuals of the other, nor shares, nor monies, which they may have in public funds, or in the public or private banks, shall ever, in any case, even the of national difference, be sequestered or confiscated.

ARTICLE X.

It shall be free for the two contracting parties to appoint commercial agents for the protection of trade, to reside in France and the United States. Either party may except such places as may be thought proper. Before any agent shall exercise his functions, he shall be accepted in the usual forms by the party to whom he is sent; but after he shall have been accepted and furnished with his exequatur, he shall enjoy the rights and prerogatives of the similar agents of the most favored nations.

ARTICLE XI.

The citizens of the French Republic shall pay in the ports, havens, roads, countries, islands, cities and towns of the United States, no other, nor greater duties on navigation than those which the most favored ports, of what name soever called, than those which the nations most favored are, or shall be obliged to pay; and they shall enjoy all the rights, liberties, privileges, immunities and exemptions in trade, navigation and commerce, whether in going from one port in the said states to another, or going from one port in the said states to any part of the world, which the said nations do or shall enjoy. And the citizens of the United States shall reciprocally enjoy in the territories of the French Republic in Europe, the same privileges and immunities, as well for their property and persons, as for what concerns trade, navigation and commerce.

ARTICLE XII.

It shall be lawful for the citizens of either country to sail with their ships and merchandise (contraband goods always excepted) from any port whatever to any port of the enemy of the other, and to sail and trade with their ships and merchandise, with perfect security and liberty, from places belonging to those who are enemies of both, or of either party, without any opposition or disturbance whatsoever, and to pass not only directly from the places and ports of the enemy aforementioned, to neutral ports and places, but also from one place belonging to an enemy, to another place belonging to an enemy, whether they be under the jurisdiction of the same power, or under several; unless such ports or places shall be actually blockaded, besieged, or invested.

And whereas it frequently happens, that vessels sail for a port or place belonging to an enemy, without knowing that the same is either besieged, blockaded, or invested, it is agreed that every vessel, so circumstanced, may be turned away from such port or place, but the shall not be detained, nor any part of her cargo, if not contraband, be confiscated, unless, after notice of such blockade or investment, she shall again attempt to enter; but the shall be permitted to go to any other port or place the shall think proper. Nor shall any vessel of either, that may have entered into such port or place before the same was actually besieged, blockaded, or invested by the other, be restrained from quitting that place with her cargo, nor if found therein after the reduction and surrender of such place, shall such vessel or her cargo be liable to confiscation, but they shall be restored to the owners thereof.

ARTICLE XIII.

In order to regulate what shall be deemed contraband of war, there shall be comprised under that denomination gunpowder, saltpetre, petards, match, ball, bombs, grenades, carcasses, pikes, halberts, swords, belts, pistols, holsters, cavalry faddles and furniture, cannon, mortars, their carriages and beds, and generally all kinds of arms, ammunition of war, and instruments fit for the use of troops: all the above articles, whenever they are destined to the port of an enemy, are hereby declared to be contraband, and just objects of confiscation; but the vessel in which they are laden and the residue of the cargo shall be confidered free, and not in any manner affected by the prohibited goods, whether belonging to the same, or a different owner.

ARTICLE XIV.

It is hereby stipulated that free ships shall give a freedom to goods, and that every thing shall be deemed to be free and exempt which shall be found on board the ships belonging to the citizens of either of the contracting parties, although the whole lading, or any part thereof, should appertain to the enemies of either, contraband goods being always excepted. It is also agreed, in like manner, that the same liberty be extended to persons who are on board a free ship; with this effect, that although they be enemies to either party, they are not to be taken out of that free ship, unless they are soldiers and in actual service of the enemy.

ARTICLE XV.

On the contrary, it is agreed, that whatever shall be found to be laden by the citizens of either party on any ship belonging to enemies of the other, or to their citizens, shall be confiscated without distinction of goods, contraband or not contraband, in the same manner as if it belonged to the enemy, except such goods and merchandizes as were put on board such ship before the declaration of war, or even after such declaration, if so be it were done without knowledge of such declaration; so that the goods of the citizens of either party, whether they be of the nature of such as are prohibited, or otherwise, which, as is aforesaid, were put on board any ship belonging to an enemy before the war, or after the declaration of the same without the knowledge of it, shall no ways be liable to confiscation, but shall well and truly be restored without delay to the proprietors demanding the same; but so as that if the said merchandizes be contraband, it shall not be any ways lawful to carry them afterwards to any ports belonging to the enemy.

The two contracting parties agree, that the term of two months being passed after the declaration of war, their respective citizens, from whatever part of the world they come, shall not plead the ignorance mentioned in this article.

ARTICLE XVI.

The merchants ships belonging to the citizens of either of the contracting parties, which shall be bound to a port of the enemy of one of the parties, and concerning whose lading there are articles of their cargo, there shall be just grounds of suspicion, shall be obliged to exhibit, as well upon the high seas as in the ports or roads, not only their passports, but likewise their certificates, showing that other articles are bona fide the quality of those which are specified to be contraband in the thirteenth article of the present convention.

ARTICLE XVII.

And that captures on light suspicions may be avoided and injuries thence arising prevented, it is agreed, that when one party shall be engaged in war, and the other party be neuter, the ships of the neutral party shall be furnished with passports similar to that described in the fourth article, that it may appear thereby that the ships really belong to the citizens of the neutral party; they shall be valid for any number of voyages, but shall be renewed every year, that is, if the ship happens to return home in the space of a year. If the ships are laden, they shall be provided not only with the passports above mentioned, but also with certificates similar to those described in the same article, so that it may be known whether they carry any contraband goods. No other paper shall be required, any usage or ordinance to the contrary notwithstanding.