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MESSAGE

Of the Governor of North-Carolina to the Legislature.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina.

Gentlemen,

I had yesterday the honor of receiving your message, informing me of the meeting of the Legislature, and of your readiness to proceed on business: events on which I offer to you my congratulations.

Satisfied under the conviction, that there is no interesting subject of legislation which will not readily present itself to you, I proceed to a detail of such parts of the executive business as appear to me most important, and which I deem it more particularly my duty immediately to lay before you.

The several matters committed to my direction, through resolutions of the last Assembly, were attended to without delay and with scrupulous exactness.

On the 27th of December last, I wrote to the Secretary of State for the United States, on the subject of the boundary between this State and the Indians; and at the same time wrote our Senators in Congress, requesting their attention to that business, and enclosing to them a copy of the Resolution of the Assembly respecting it. The Secretary in reply, promised that matter should be attended to: I have not however been so fortunate as to learn, that any measures have been taken in regard to it.

I took an early opportunity of writing Mr. Grove, of Congress, and enclosed to him a copy of the Resolution of the Assembly with respect to the procuring portrait paintings of Gen. Washington: from the answer with which that gentleman obligingly favoured me, I found the price of such paintings so much higher than I had expected, that I was led to apprehend they would cost a much larger sum than the General Assembly had probably contemplated; and under that impression, it appeared to me most adviseable to postpone purchasing until their further pleasure should be known. In the letter book herewith laid before your honorable body, you will find the several letters above referred to, together with all other official letters written or received by me since the rise of the last Assembly, with an index annexed.

Pursuant to the resolution of the general Assembly, authorising the appointment of an Agent to manage on the part of this State, with respect to her dispute, as to boundary, with South-Carolina: I applied by letter to Gen. Davie, and have pleasure in informing the Legislature, he accepted that appointment, and has taken on him the discharge of the duties incident to it.

Much labor and time have been employed in searching for and procuring the necessary documents in this regard, with which the Agent has from time to time been furnished, and with which he is now in the State of South Carolina, on that business: The letter-book above mentioned, and to which I would ask leave to refer, will shew the correspondence which has taken place on this head, as well between General Davie and myself, as with the Executive of South Carolina and others.

Since the rise of the last Assembly, I received and herewith lay before you, a resolution of the legislature of the State of Maryland, proposing an amendment to the constitution of the United States by the establishment of an uniform mode for the choice of Electors of President and Vice-President of the United States, and of Representatives to Congress.

I have also received a letter from George Wheeler, of the State of Virginia, containing proposals of contract for supplying this State with the necessary number of musquets: As no provision of this kind has been hitherto made, notwithstanding its acknowledged importance, I the more readily submit Mr. Wheeler's proposal to your consideration.

On the 22d ult. I received from gen. Davie, then on his way to South Carolina, a letter on the subject of the Agency he has undertaken on the part of this State, informing me he will be at this place about the beginning of December: and advising that a confidential committee of the Legislature be appointed, to whom he may at that time disclose the whole of the testimony and documents of which he is possessed, with respect to the boundary line between this State and the State of South Carolina: in order that some measures relative to further proceedings may be then sanctioned by the General Assembly. As this business is highly interesting I would refer to the General's letter, in the hope that the proposed measure may meet the approbation of the legislature, and that the committee will be appointed.

There are other matters and things which it is proper that I should lay before you: I will, however, at present, trespass no longer on your patience, but will make them the subject of a message which I will shortly do myself the honor of forwarding to you: In the mean time I offer to you my respects, and remain,

Your obedient Servant,

B. WILLIAMS.

November 18, 1801.

FROM THE BALTIMORE AMERICAN.

By the Neily, capt. Chase, 14 days from C. Francois, I am informed, that the greatest apprehensions had been entertained at the Cape, in consequence of an insurrection among the blacks, whose avowed intention it was to massacre all the whites without exception. The plot had so far ripened that it was within five hours of its execution, and was prevented principally by the vigilance of general Christopher, in the absence of gen. Toussaint, who was then at St. Marks.

On this occasion the solicitude and unwearied attention of our commercial agent, Mr. Lear, on behalf of the American merchants, were such, and indeed his whole conduct, since he has been there, as to merit and ensure their lasting gratitude.

By Mr. George Atwood, passenger in the schooner Nelly, capt. Chase, arrived yesterday from Cape Francois, the Editor of the American was politely favoured with the following Journal of Events, which transpired in the Island of St. Domingo, and which, without loss of time, he procured to be

Translated for the American.

RECITAL

Of events which took place in the Northern parts of St. Domingo, between the 29th Vendimaire, to the 16th Brumaire, 10th year of the French Republic, one and indivisible—(4th November, 1801.

After having caused the proclamation of the constitution of the colony, having published the laws for the regulation of the public functionaries, civil and military, having organized the tribunals and a part of the municipal administration, I quitted the Cape the 9th Vendemaire, to appoint, in person, conformable to the laws, the tribunals of appeal and cassation—the most profound calm reigned over the North; every thing was tranquil, and the greatest security pervaded every part of the colony.

After having visited the various quarters which lay in my route, without remarking any where the least symptoms of disorder—I repaired to St. Marks the 14th Vendemaire, to instal the tribunal of appeal, and immediately after, I went to Port Republican, to institute that of cassation.

These duties finished, I visited the quarter of Leogane, where I enjoyed the satisfaction of remarking the sensible progress that had been made in Agriculture. From Leogane I returned to St. Mark's, to celebrate the marriage of the Divisionary General Dessalines, and of many other military officers, to whom in the name of the government I had for a long time made this promise.

On my arrival at St. Mark's, I acquitted myself of my promise.—This feast was to have been of several days duration; but reflecting, that I had important duties incumbent on me, and that the law directed that I should institute the tribunal of appeal at St. Domingo, I prepared myself for the journey, after having acquainted general Dessalines that I left my wife to represent me, and do the honors of the feast.

At this moment I received a letter of invitation from the commune of Verrattes, to assist at the dedication of the Parocheal Church, lately rebuilt—In conformity to the promise which I had previously made, I set off the 30th Vendemaire, at 4 o'clock in the morning, accompanied by the general of division Dessalines.

On my arrival at Verrattes in the morning, and not finding the minister as yet arrived, I embraced the opportunity of this half day's delay to visit the progress of cultivation, which I found in the best order—the improvements I remarked, entitle gen. Dessalines to the highest eulogy, whom I felicitated upon the care he had taken to effect so much good.

On our return we found the minister occupied in preparations for the ceremony; all the cultivators of the Canton assisted at this ceremony and after mass.—Fully convinced of the exactitude with which general Dessalines had executed my orders, and of the progress of cultivation; I pointed out some new instructions for another mission relative also to agriculture, and we were on the point of departing for St. Marc, from whence I was to have instantly repaired to Port Republican, and from thence to Santo Domingo, to erect the Tribunal of Appeal.

At this moment general Dessalines takes me aside to communicate to me a letter he had just received from Gonaives. At the same time a letter to my address is also handed me, which both acquainted me of an insurrection having arisen to the northwatd. We immediately upon this repaired to the Petite Rivierre, giving orders, for the 4th demi-brigade, to march with the greatest expedition from St. Marc to Gonaives.

Arrived at Gonaives the 2d Brumaire, we learned that the Chef de Brigade Vernet had departed thence for Plaisance, with the 7th demi-brigade and a detachment of the Battalion of Gonaives, to whom a number of well intentioned citizens with some members of the civil authority, joined themselves for the relief of that place. At the approach of the commandant Vernet, after having committed several disorders in the village of Plaisance, having assassinated several inhabitants, the rebels fled, crying out—"'Tis general Moyse who is for *us*, 'tis he who is our chief, 'tis he who sustains us."

I passed the night at the plantation Cocheral; about one o'clock in the morning of the 8th Brumaire, two companies of my guides arrived; at the break of day I was at Gonaives, to give my last instructions to Dessalines—I immediately afterwards set off for the Canton of L'Ouverture.

The same day general Dessalines, at the head of the first battalion of the 4th demi-brigade, marched to Plaisance, having orders to visit all the revolted quarters of the north.

On my arrival at the village, Bourg L'Ouverture, I found the military commandant Claude Martin, at the head of the troops of the line, and of the national guard: his zeal deserves the greatest praise and I am fully satisfied with the dispositions he has taken. Both in the village and the environs, the greatest concord and order reigns; every thing is calm, and the works of cultivation have not been a moment interrupted; they had just heard the news of the capture of the village of Marmelade by the rebels.

The next morning, the 4th Brumaire, at the break of day I went up to Marmelade with two companies of the Gonaives battalion, commanded by citizens Charles and Coco, preceded by my dragoons; I wished to leave the commandant Claude Martin at L'Ouverture, and to make him responsible for the security of his quarter; his answer was he wished to follow me, being assured, that notwithstanding his absence, his quarter would remain perfectly uninterrupted.

We had but a view of the rebels—they came to reconnoiter, but after the first discharge, they fled from before us with the greatest celerity. My orders were to kill none who fell in our hands; but it was difficult to restrain the indignation of my brave comrades, sore with the shame that a conduct so infamous might reflect upon them. Furious, notwithstanding my orders, to bring them to me alive, they wished to exterminate the whole of them.

On the 4th, I entered Marmelade, the rebels flying in every direction, at last betook themselves to the Soufrierre, threatening us with gen. Moyse.

At Marmelade I was apprized of the arrival of Dessalines at Plaisance; he informed that his first care, on his arrival, was to re-establish order, to punish culprits, and to spare none who has embrued their hands in blood: they have all suffered death.

On the same day, I learned that gen. Moyse was at Dondon; the instant after, I was informed that the gen. Sylli had received a letter from him; and, a little time after, I heard of the arrival of gen. Moyse, with a considerable body of troops, at a place called Buri de Pin; at the distance of half a cannon shot from Marmelade.

I ordered him to repair immediately to me and leave his troop where they were encamped; when arrived, I told him, that every thing conspires to demonstrate that you are the author of this revolt, the rebels every where declare, that they act in your name—it is incumbent on your honor to justify yourself, and the first step you ought to take is to occasion every thing again to re-enter into order. If culpable, your grade of general officer shall not protect you—and you shall be more severely punished than another. I then enquired of him how many men he had caused to be punished at Dondon? he answered, none. How many he had arrested? he replied not one. How, cried I, you are the commander of a quarter in the north—you are come from a quarter where the most horrible assassinations have been committed, and you have arrested nobody or punished any one? There are your orders—return to Dondon—cause every guilty person to be arrested and send them to me under a safe escort, that I may myself interrogate them.—Reflecting afterwards upon the terrible suspicions by which I was agitated, I thought I ought not to leave him any means of misrepresenting my intentions, although what I had just ordered him was pretty positive—I sent an express after him with a new order, in which he was enjoined to bring me alive all the guilty he could take, without positively putting one to death. In the place of conforming, he ordered 13 to be shot, sending me only 11.

This same night I received a letter from the gen. of brigade, Henry Christophe, written from the plantation of Madame Tage, to Limbe: he informed me of the measures which he had taken to preserve the town of the Cape, to re-establish order in the neighboring country, and to take up the rebel chiefs—I then gave contrary orders to Dessalines, not to return any more to Limbe, and to join me at Marmelade.

I was till now ignorant that the origin of this revolt was at the Cape, and broke out the 30th Vendemaire. On the evening of the 29th, brigade gen. Henry Christophe, informed of inflammatory discourses held against the public safety, repaired to the carnage, where he found a numerous body of men and women tumultuously assembled, when in attempting to disperse them, one of the men who appeared the most forward, was knocked down and seized. This man (by name Trois Belles) upon being questioned, without much difficulty named, as chief of the company, one Santorge, upon whose immediate capture he affirmed the conspiracy to depend; he also named with him Joan Babtiste, Le Bon, and Bon Homme.

These three men were immediately arrested by the gen. in person, and as fast as these four villains denounced their accomplices, they were immediately secured—above 30 that night were imprisoned; and about midnight a party of 40 men who were assembled in arms, were dispersed and part taken, and almost immediately after, when the troops had retired, another body of the rebels, who had attacked citizen Gabart, chief of the gendarmerie, and killed one of his men, were dispersed—the whole of this was performed with so little noise and confusion, that many citizens were unacquainted next day with the commotion, and the stores were opened as usual; such was the prudence and activity of gen. Christophe.

On the first Brumaire reports from every side confirm the news of the revolt in the quarters of Alcul, Limbe, Port Margot, Mormelade, Plaisance, and Dondon, and the unhappy sufferers who had escaped from the massacre, announce that the cry of these wretches is destruction to the whites.

After having assured the safety of the Cape, gen. H. Christophe, with detachments from the different demi-brigades and some dragoons of the national guards, proceeds toward Aleul.—Opposite the habitation of Vendreil he encounters the advanced guard of the rebels, who immediately betook themselves to flight in every direction. At the Correfour, of Mont Rouge, he meets with another coming from the Plain du Nord, and another from the road of Alcul, who intended forming a junction to march to the Cape; these were immediately dispersed, end he proceeded to Limbe, where he ordered the cultivators to return to their respective habitations.

At Limbe, finding the insurrection general, he sent for gen. Joseph Flaville, the commandant of the guard, who being interrogated as to the cause of the revolt, answered, that the people had risen in spite of his endeavors to the contrary. He is made responsible for the quiet of the place, and ordered to assemble his dragoons.

At Port Margot a number of the rebels were found in arms, who, being disarmed, their chiefs were announced and shot on the spot—upon which they quietly retired to their labours.

Order being restored to Port Margot, the general returned to Limbe, where, during his absence, the troubles had burst forth afresh. Flaville was sent for, and upon his refusal, was taken and conducted under a guard, to the capital, where every thing remained quiet.

Gen. Moyse, who since the 26 Vendemaire, had been absent, returned the 4 Brumaire; but he only remained four hours, so great was the consternation at his appearance.

But to resume the thread of events. Being at Marmelade myself the 4th. I gave orders to march to the Souffriere, the Riviere Doree, the Fond-Blieu, the Grand Ruvine of Limbe, where the refugees, pressed on all sides, had taken shelter; on my route I was met by several bands of fugitives and ambuscades who fired at me, but they were soon dislodged, and ordered to retire immediately to their usual occupations.

General Dessalines after having visited the mountains, dispersed the rebels and made them retire to their habitations, with orders to keep them constantly employed, informed me of the result of his operations—I appointed him to meet me at Harrecourt for further orders.

Brigade general Christophe, after having performed his tour, established order and reinstated the different posts, repaired also to Herrecourt, to give me an account of his proceedings, and receive my further instructions, after the receiving of which, these two generals returned to their respective appointments.

The unanimous reports of the generals, of the military commanders, the cries of the revolted, the interrogatories of such as were taken up—all concur in condemning general Moyse as the author of this revolt. I ordered him to attend me in person, and after having caused to be read to him these declarations, by the adjutant general Idlinger, I had him arrested the 6th Brumaire; the 10th he was sent to Port de Paix, under the responsibility of brigade gen. Clairvaux, to be detained at Grand Fort, till his process be completed.

Being informed that order was established, and anxious to appease the minds of the inhabitants of the Cape, I entered this town the 13th Brumaire, ordering 40 prisoners to be conducted before me.

Having ordered the armed force to be assembled upon the place d'armes, I ordered 13 of the chief of the rebels to be brought forward, where they immediately suffered death; a number to a great amount of others are in the prisons, awaiting the decision of their fate.

This conspiracy, planned by the most profound perversity, appears to have been directed against the government and the whites, in the northern part of the island; the rebels have sufficiently pointed out the promoter; they were led to believe by him that I had sold the blacks to the whites, and that gen. Moyse alone had refused to sign this pretended contract, but that generals Dessalines and Christophe were active in effecting the sale. The authors of his infamy had caused chains to be made at Limbe, to shew the blacks on the day of the revolt, as a proof of their absurd assertion.

The evil has been great without doubt; the remembrance will be ever rooted in my memory—my heart has been sorely afflicted: but if the hand of the Divinity had not restrained the rage of these monsters, how much more should we have had to bewail.

The blood of innocence shall be avenged, and justice shall be so rigidly executed as to deter the most daring; Providence has granted, that in the Cape but one innocent victim has fallen; not the least disorder has been committed, nor the least pillage exercised, though the seat of the revolt: the zeal of gen. Christophe, seconded by the other military chiefs under his command, has effected this.

Tranquility is now established. The most positive orders have been given that the works of the plantations should be carried on with the greatest vigor; that no inconvenience should accrue to persons or property, and that the smallest attempt upon the public peace be most exemplarily punished; and all my cares and attention shall be directed, to prevent any evil effect upon the public confidence from this fatal event.

Done at Cape Francois the 16th Brumaire, the 10th year of the Republic, one and indivisible, 7th Nov. 1801.

(Signed)

TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE.