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SONNET, *written at the close of* EVE.

'TIS eve, 'tis solemn eve! Still, pensive Thought
Sits in his robe of twilight sadly gay,
Musing o'er shadows by his dark eye caught,
The dimm'd and dying majesty of day!
Lorn murmurs tremble thro' the mournful trees,
Mute Philomel her leafy couch has found;
And melancholy's music in the breeze
Whispers a note of soothing sadness round.
And now, as night her darker mantle draws,
The groves more low and deeply sullen wave;
Save when, as solemn comes a dreary pause,
'Tis still less all; the stillness of the grave!
The grave! Ah, yet her absence I deplore,
Whose morn, and day, and eve, are now no more!

J. H. L. HUNT.

Philadelphia, July 5.

Extract of a letter from an American gentleman resident at Havre, to his friend in this city, dated the 20th of May, 1802.

"Things in this country are going strangely—all back again to the old system.—Priests lead the *van*—and the order of the day is the institution of a legion d'honneur, as it is styled, which is something like the old order of St. Louis. Those who are to compose it are to bear titles for *life*, though not *hereditary*, and to receive certain annual salaries. It is intended to be a recompense to those who have exerted themselves during the revolution, and every one who has gained a sabre of honor is a member. There are, however, different grades and different salaries; and, you will, no doubt, agree with me, that if it is not nobility, it is the ladder to it.

"Bonaparte is to be named First Consul for *life*; to be *nominated by the people*, viz. A paper or book is to be opened in every department, and all those who are of opinion that such a step will be for the good of the country to sign *yes*, and the others *no*—as if *any man dare say No*.

"Report says a conspiracy was lately formed against him by fifteen generals, who are at present under arrest—Massena and Augereau are among the number. Duroc, his aid-de-camp, is said to have discovered it, and informed him that he was to be assassinated in descending the stairs of the Thuilleries when going to the review. He was at the head of the stair case when Duroc told him this, but he bade him give his arm, descend immediately, and beware to betray the least symptom of fear or suspicion. It is said the conspirators, unadvised of his descending so soon, forbore the attack, but waited for his return. He took, however, another stair-case—such is the story, as report tells it,—and *supposed to be true*.

"For my part I do not calculate on the present posture of affairs being of long duration.—God knows, however, how it may end."

PHILADELPHIA, July 5.

LATEST FROM FRANCE.

Captain M'Kowen, of the ship Mars, arrived here on Saturday, in 39 days from Havre de Grace, politely furnished the Editor of the Philadelphia Gazette with a Havre paper of the 20th of May, from which we have translated the following interesting article:

Sitting of the Legislative Body.
May 17, 1802.

The counsellors of state, Bruix, Desolles, and Dupuis, were introduced.

Bruix mounted the tribune: "We are going," said he, "again to take possession of several of our colonies: It is of the first moment that we should remove the fears of the planters.

"It is known to you in what manner the *illusions of liberty and equality* have been propagated in those remote countries, where the striking difference between the civilized and the uncivilized man, the difference of climate, colors, and habits, and principally the security of European families, imperiously required a great inequality in the civil and political state of individuals.

"It is also known, what has been the fatal consequence of these innovations, so eagerly pursued by zealots, most of whom were doubtless, actuated by the honorable intention of promoting the cause of humanity, and who, while endeavoring to render the inhabitants of the colonies indiscriminately equal in rights, have only rendered them equally unhappy.

"Slavery, then," added the orator, "must be maintained in such of our colonies, as have constantly flourished under that *regime*; in others, let us hasten to substitute for *delusive and seducing theories*, an healing system, the combination of which must be adapted to circumstances, variant of themselves, and confided to the wisdom of the government."

Bruix then read the following *projet* of a law:

Art. I. In the colonies restored to France conformably to the treaty of Amiens, SLAVERY *shall be maintained* agreeably to the laws and regulations existing prior to the year 1789.

Art. II. It shall be the same in the other French colonies beyond the Cape of Good Hope.

Art. III. The traffic in slaves and their importation into the said colonies, shall be conducted agreeably to the regulations existing prior to the year 1789.

Art. IV. Notwithstanding all anterior laws, the *regime* of the colonies shall be subject for the period of ten years, to the regulations of the government.

The discussion of this projet was appointed for the 20th May.

Paris, May 8.

Gen. Menou is arrived at Paris, and has been presented to the First Consul, who gave him the most distinguished reception.

General Menou said to him—"Consul, in presenting myself before you, the grief of having seen your fairest conquest lost, is renewed."

"The fate of battles," replied the First Consul, "is uncertain. You have done all that could, after the unfortunate day of the 30th, be expected from a man of experience and talent. Your long resistance at Alexandria contributed to the good issue of the preliminaries of London. Your good and wise administration has merited the esteem of all men who appreciate its influence upon the public prosperity."

"I know very well what has passed in your army. Your misfortunes have been great without doubt, but they have not lost you any of my esteem; and I shall be eager to testify it openly, in order that no clamour may be raised against your conduct."

Addresses from all parts to government against exclusive privileges demonstrate that the freedom to trade is now the universal wish; a wish that is not founded upon the mercantile speculations of some individuals, but upon the interests of the majority, which must give to it the character of a general will, the basis of all the laws of a free state. The government has solemnly recognised these principles, in excepting the coral fishery on the coast of Africa from the exclusive privilege which localities indispensibly required should be granted to a company, for the commerce of grain in Barbary.

A new memorial from the council and commerce of Bourdeaux inveighs against the exclusive right enjoyed formerly at the ports of l'Orient and Toulon, of receiving vessels, arriving from India, which might unload their cargoes there, deposit them in magazines, and sell them there whilst that privilege was forbidden to all the other ports. It is demonstrated in this memorial in an evident manner, that the suppression of this abusive privilege injures neither the interests of commerce in general, nor those of the proprietors of the rich produce of India, nor even those of the two hitherto privileged ports, to which the same facilities remain as are possessed by all commercial places, of carrying on the India trade, or any other, if they think it more lucrative.

"Commerce," say the authors of the memorial, "cannot be active, if it be checked in its career; it cannot prosper, if it be vexed with useless expences; checks produce discouragement; discouragement destroys industry. To simplify the necessary forms, to do away all unjust distinctions; to leave to all the citizens an equal liberty to explore the domain of national industry; this is all that commerce desires, and what it expects with confidence from the enlightened justice of the government."

The municipality of Amsterdam have decreed, that the tree of liberty placed before the town-house, shall be taken away as soon as they have received officially the news of the exchange of the ratification of the definitive treaty.

There is a rumour in circulation that the title will be changed from that of Chief Consul of the French republic to that of *Consul of the Gauls*.

The legislative body, though they had only three days before sanctioned the declaration of Damarq's, that *the moment was not arrived*, declared through the organ of their President, as soon as they received the *Senatus Consultum*, that they perfectly approved the *reward* proposed to be conferred upon Bonaparte.

TRIBUNATE.

21st Floreal, (11th May.)

The message of the Consuls to the Conservative Senate, and the different official papers relating thereto, being presented to the Tribunate: Simeon, after a long speech, praising the moderation of Bonaparte, and the propriety of the government in putting the question constitutionally to the people, *Whether Bonaparte shall be First Consul for Life?* moved, that "a message should be sent to the government, returning thanks for the constitutional manner in which they had performed the will of the Tribunate."—Adopted.

Chabot moved, that the registers should be immediately opened for the members of that body to inscribe their votes.—Adopted.

Paris, May 13.—The Prefect of the Department of the Seine gave public notice, that on the 13th day of May the registers should be open to receive the votes of the citizens of that department.

On the 14th May, similar resolutions are to be opened at Paris, with the clerks of the tribunals of appeal, of criminal matters, and of commerce, at the offices of 12 mayors, 12 justices of peace, and 113 public notaries of Paris.

These registers are to be open for 7 days, from 10 in the morning till 4 in the afternoon—The question is as before stated—*Shall Bonaparte be first Consul for life?*

London, May 17.—An appeal upon the important question, "Whether *Napoleon Bonaparte* shall be Consul for life," is to be submitted to the people; but their decision is required with the utmost speed—No time is left for deliberation. In three weeks an answer is to be returned by the people of France, upon one of the most important questions that can come before a nation.—Why has France endured the agonizing throes and throbs of a ten years Revolution? The increase of her military fame and Continental possessions, was the effect, but not the motive, of the Revolution. Nor had the Revolution for its object the *mere* removal of the reigning Dynasty. The great object was the destruction of that despotic power, which pressed with such weight upon the people, and the establishment of a government founded upon popular principles.—Where are we to look for them? The Chief Magistrate is originally appointed for ten years; a man of gigantic genius and talents is elected to it; he dazzles France by the splendour of his atchievements, and acquires immense popularity—he seizes the favorable moment, and gets himself established in his office for life!!!

The transition from creating an office for life, and making it hereditary is by no means difficult. We shall not at all be surprised at a proposition for preserving the *Chief Consulship* in the family of *Bonaparte*.—Of the *Second* and *Third Consuls* we have forbarne to speak; the *Julio et Caesare Consulibus* may be applied to *them* with as much justice as it was to CÆSAR's colleague. Upon the whole we consider this measure as impolitic on the part of *Bonaparte*, and dangerous to the real interests of liberty, and of the people.

LONDON, May 17.

Yesterday we received French journals of the 12th and 13th inst. it appears from these, that the decree proposing to elect Bonaparte Chief Consul for life, had been readily adopted by the councils, & means were taken to obtain the sense of the people upon it, which there can be little doubt will be equally favorable to the ambitious wishes of the Chief Consul.—As we remarked on Saturday, but *one step more*, remains to be taken, which is, to settle a new Dynasty in the family of Bonaparte. The re-establishment of the Catholic religion, or at least the manner in which it has been re-established, seems to have occasioned a great degree of discontent. The Jacobins are strongly averse to the measure, and the Catholics dislike the encroachments which have been made on the ancient power of the Pope.—These discontents begin already to shew themselves. It is stated in some private letters, that an attempt was made a few days ago, on the life of the Chief Consul, while he attended the parade; and several of the generals, who have expressed themselves too freely with respect to the growing ambition of Bonaparte, have been ordered to reside a considerable distance from Paris. The Chief Consul, for the further security of his person, means to create a new corps to be called the *Sacred legion*, composed of picked and distinguished men. All the private accounts from the French capital certainly concur in stating, that a storm is gathering, which must perhaps very speedily burst.

The French funds have again fallen back to 57.

An order of council, it is said, has actually been given, for prohibiting the importation of any article of French growth or manufacture, except such as have already been ordered and shipped for this country. This order is in consequence of the prohibition of the French government of English manufactures; and we have little doubt will lead to some commercial arrangements which may be beneficial to this country.

The subscription for the erection of a statue in honour of Mr. Pitt, we have no doubt will extend over the whole country. Every one who is capable of revering talents and admiring worth, will be anxious to express their approbation of the man who has saved the country, and its honor and prosperity.

London, May 22.

The Paris papers of Sunday, which we received this morning, do not contain any news of much importance. The French government is said to be very much occupied in making commercial arrangements, and in examining the different memorials that have been laid before them upon the subject of commerce.

The correspondence between France, Austria, Russia and Prussia, is at present extremely active.

The French funds remain steady, 57 1-10th.

HISTORY
OF THE
Last Session of Congress.

[CONTINUED]

The House then went into a committee of the whole on the message of the President.

Discriminating duties.

Gen. S. Smith observed, that among other objects to which the President had attracted the attention of the house, was our commercial situation. We were informed that the United States were at peace with all nations; which had also taken place among the powers of Europe. It became Congress to direct its attention to the consequences that that might proceed from such a state of things; and particularly to the injuries that might attach to our carrying trade. It was known that under the British treaty, Great-Britain, going perhaps beyond its meaning, had imposed heavy countervailing duties on our goods, and that certain acts of France had the same effects, whereby many of our most valuable exports would cease to be carried in our own bottoms. Early under the present government it had been deemed wise to lay discriminating duties, which had tended greatly to assist our carrying trade and extend the capitals of our merchants. The unfair regulations of foreign nations seemed now to require a different mode of counteraction, from that found in the discriminating duties, which, under the British treaty, were made the basis of these injurious regulations. However wise the imposition may have then been, sound policy might now require its removal.

He therefore moved:—

Resolved, That so much of the several acts imposing duties on the tonnage of ships and vessels, and on goods, wares and merchandise, imported into the United States, as impose a discriminating duty of tonnage between foreign vessels and vessels of the United States, and between goods imported into the United States in foreign vessels and vessels of the United States ought to be repealed; such repeal to take effect whenever the President shall be informed that the discriminating duties of foreign nations, so far as they operate to the disadvantage of the commerce of the United States, shall have been abolished.

On the 15th General *Smith's* motion respecting *discriminating duties* recurred.

In its discussion a great diversity of opinion was discovered. Mr. Griswold opposed it, on the ground that it was intended to defeat the object contemplated by it. The acts imposing discriminating duties having long existed with great and good effect to the mercantile interest, he was of the opinion that their removal would be extensively injurious, and peculiarly so to the eastern division of the Union; the more so, as from the consequences likely to ensue from peace, our ships would be thrown out of their ordinary employment. He acknowledged that it was very desirable to secure the carriage of our bulky exports in our own ships; but he could not perceive that this would be the effect of the present measure. For his part he declared his firm belief that our carrying trade would be essentially injured by allowing a free trade whereby English would enter our ports upon the same terms with our own ships.

In support of the resolution it was stated by Messrs. S. Smith and Giles, that in their opinion the system of discriminating duties in the early period of the government was wise, as our own shipping was then unequal to the carrying of our produce, and as it had operated, with almost magical effect, in producing an extension of American shipping beyond the most sanguine expectation. Such had been the effects of this system until the adoption of the British treaty. Under the construction given by England to that instrument, she had, on the basis of our duties, imposed certain countervailing duties, which she contended we had no ulterior right to countervail, whereby a monopoly of the carrying trade would fall into her hands. The only circumstance which had heretofore, since the æra of the treaty, suspended this effect, arose from the higher war insurance and freight paid by English, than was paid by American vessels. This circumstance having ceased on the return of peace, it followed that those nations who carried the cheapest would have the preference. The operation of the English countervailing duties was exemplified in the great article of tobacco; whereon in was stated, that 13s. a hogshead more would be paid on an American ship carrying it to England, than on a British vessel. On this article the usual freight was 35s. The difference, therefore, in favor of British over American shipping amounted to more than one half. The same effect attached to our other articles of export. It was further stated that like preferences of French over American vessels existed under the edicts of France, productive of similar effects. Under these circumstances, it was contended that it became the United States to repel, by any means which should be honorable and effectual, the unjust restraints of foreign nations; and that no expedient appeared so well calculated to accomplish this object, as the effect of a free trade to all the world. Our merchants had capital, and our seamen enterprise, while our own soil afforded us all the materials for building ships. Under such propitious circumstances, no doubt could be entertained of our ability to enter, with effect, the field of open competition. It became, then, a government desirous of protecting the commerce of its citizens, to seize the favorable moment of returning peace, as that most likely to insure that harmony with foreign powers, which should terminate in the mutual adoption of measures of reciprocal benefit.

Notwithstanding, however, these forcible, and, it is believed, irresistible arguments, the measure was opposed by the New England delegation, who ignorantly persisted in the declaration that it would destroy their carrying trade; and, at their instance, it was laid over to the next session. Thus that very plan, conceived in a solicitude for the protection, and a wise foresight of the means of protecting, the carrying trade of the United States, was suspended, perhaps entirely frustrated by those very men whose constituents were the most interested in its adoption.

Impressed with a sense of the importance of the measure the President appears, with laudable promptitude, to have insured, so far as related to the required co-operation of Great-Britain, the means of its adoption. That government, discerning the policy of cultivating friendly commercial relations with this, and awake to the vast superiority of a system of permanent reciprocity between the two nations, to the temporary and evanescent benefits derivable from a treaty which will expire in two years, and not perhaps regardless of the probable measures of France in extending her commercial ties with the United States, has passed an act authorising the king to suspend under certain circumstances the operation of her countervailing duties.