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From the French Papers.

PARIS, May 26.

LEGISLATIVE BODY.

PRESIDENCY OF C. RENAUD LASOURS,

Sitting of May 23.

The Counsellors of State Emery, Berlier, and Najac were introduced. The first spoke as follows: "The view of the negociation which has been submitted to you, has enabled you to appreciate the sincerity of the wishes which the Government has never ceased to express for the maintenance of peace. The First Consul has made, for the preservation of this inestimable blessing, every sacrifice that appeared to him consistent with the Majesty of the Great Nation, of which he is the chief. Lord Whitworth carried with him the hope of an accommodation, but the passions which agitate the British Cabinet have extinguished the last gleam of hope, and the Cabinet has shewn itself insensible to the voice of reason, and deaf to the cry of humanity.—France, therefore, will not make war, but she will accept and support it with the energy which she has already displayed. The English Administration has caused French ships, passengers, and other citizens on board them, to be seized, without a previous declaration of war. They have ordered the execution of this act of perfidy, unheard of in the annals of polished nations, even before the French Ambassador had quitted English ground. The effects of the Proclamation of the King of England, have caused astonishment and dismay among his subjects, and excited astonishment and fury among the French. It is then true that England has made war upon us. In this new crisis Government will not be wanting to the nation, and the nation will not be wanting to the Government. The aggression has commenced on the part of England. The reprisals ought to follow immediately.

The Orator then communicated the following decree:—

Art. I. It is prescribed to every Commander of the squadrons or Naval Divisions of the Republic, Captains of ships and other vessels of war, to attack all those of the King of England, as well as ships belonging to his subjects, to seize them, and bring them into the ports of the Republic.

II. Commissions shall be delivered to the owners of French privateers who shall require it, and who may be in a situation to obtain them, conforming in regard to said privateers to the existing laws and regulations.

III. All the English enrolled in the militia between the age of eighteen and sixty, or who hold commissions from his Britannic Majesty, now in France, shall be immediately constituted prisoners of war, to answer for the same to the Republic who may have been detained and made prisoners by the vessels or subjects of his Britannic Majesty before the declaration of war.

IV. The Ministers are charged each as far as concerned with the execution of the present Decree, which shall be inserted in the Bulletin of Laws.

The First Consul,
(Signed) BONAPARTE.
By the First Consul.
The Secretary of State,
(Signed) H. B. MARET.

The President answered, "Citizens Counsellors of State, the French people are too great, too confident in their strength, in the energy and wisdom of their Government, and in the genius of the Chief of the Republic, to entertain the least fear from the war to which they are challenged. France will know how to repel it with the manly vigour of a warlike nation. The Legislative Body will always give the examples of firmness, with which the dignity and justice of our cause inspire it. Citizens Counsellors of State, be our organ to Government; assure it, that we shall be always ready to second it in every measure in which our assistance shall be required."

The Legislator Devismes spoke after the President.—"The cry of indignation and vengeance, which the conduct of an ambitious and proud Government has excited, shall resound through all France. The Powers of the Continent will second that generous impulse, which has been produced among us by an act of perfidy, that forms a striking contrast with the religious execution of our engagements. This odious infraction of a treaty, broken almost as soon as it was signed, will not remain unpunished; a treaty in which the interests of the two rivals were wisely balanced, and in which humanity was delighted to behold the solemn and real pledge of the peace of the world.—Yes, I swear by the honour of a people as brave as loyal, the blood which is going to be shed, will fall upon the aggressor; and that nation which does not suffer an equal, shall descend from a rank for which nature never intended it.—Proud of the numerous squadrons; of their fleets, which serve them for ramparts; of their gold, of which they exaggerate the power, the English have said in their hearts, 'the land belongs to him who is master of the sea.' This maxim, of which a great example has already proved the falsehood, a nation which has shewn that nothing is impossible to it, will refute.

Eternal hatred to the nation that would aspire to dominion over every other! I say further—evil to the nation that should succeed in the attempt! It would find, in its greatness, the principle of its dissolution. Convinced of this truth, France herself has set bounds to her successes, and her enemies have obtained more from her moderation, than they had a right to expect from their triumphs. But, if there were a nation for which fortune reserved the dangerous advantage of supremacy, with which of the two would it be most likely to continue?—Is it with a nation which is desirous of purchasing, at any price, a colossal greatness, has no other basis for it except a fragile credit, or rather with one which is rich in all the means of prosperity, has also the peculiar genius for turning them to advantage, with a nation in whose bosoms are fomented the destructive seeds of trouble always ready to break out; or, rather, of one whole administration, wise and strong enough to rally all spirits, inspire all hearts, and direct every wish to one object; of a nation, whose fortune and valour are attached to an element which is the emblem of inconstancy, or rather of one whose courage knows no obstacles, and seems to think it play to arrive at glory by unusual ways.—Frenchmen, you have fought ten years for your liberty, and you have cemented it by prodigies. Your single independence is now the question. A proud Cabinet, in attacking you, menaces the independence of the whole world. Assuredly the war which you are going to maintain, is no less necessary, honorable, and just, than the preceding one and the issue of it will be such as your invincible courage promises, guided by a hero who has made a compact with victory.

I hear it said, that Rome and Carthage are going a second time to decide, by fate of arms, the destinies of mankind. How incorrect is this simile, in which some superficial minds indulge! Rome only combated for herself; but it is the cause of all nations that you are going to defend. Every pretence of war was greedily seized by the Roman Senate, to whom all equilibrium was insupportable; and your government, inspired with moderation, has exhausted, for the maintenance of peace, every means that the dignity of the nation could allow. Rome finally destroyed her rival, because she wished to enslave the world; you, on the contrary, who look to a more noble glory, you only desire to put a curb on ambition, which is the more culpable as it does not respect the most sacred obligations, and faithful to the principles of a wise and generous policy you shewed, desire that there should always be a counterpoise to your power, and object of emulation for your virtue. I move, that the Legislative body shall form itself into a secret committee, to hear the report of its commission, which it has charged to present to it the plan of an address to government."

The Tribunes were cleared at half past five; the secret committee rose, after having appointed a deputation of twenty-five members, to congratulate the First Consul upon the wisdom and firmness which he has displayed upon the present important occasion. The next sitting was fixed for Wednesday last.

TRIBUNATE.

SITTING OF THE *9th* PRIARIAL, (MAY 23.)

In the name of a special committee Darau made a report on the official pieces of the negociation with England.

When the first cry of war was heard, every one cast his eyes around him, and beheld Europe in full possession of peace.

The allies of France alone had cause to complain. The Batavian Republic still expected the restitution of the Cape of Good Hope, Turkey that of Egypt, and France demanded the evacuation of Malta, and the acknowledgment of its independence.

It is not, however, among us that the first cry of war is raised. It issued from the bosom of a nation which has given rise to such well founded complaints.

We learnt that there were negociations without knowing that new interests remained to be regulated and we have just seen that the issue is an insulting provocation.

We must then enter into a severe examination of the complaints of France and England, follow the conduct of the negociation, and observe what will be the result of war to both nations.

Here the orator referred to the early part of the revolution. He represented France as attacked by foreigners, who threatened to invade it; those same foreigners promised their support to a family which had long governed France, while they carefully remained at a distance from that country, from which places were taken in their name, exciting refugees, who marched in their train, and abandoned them after their defeat. In the midst of this disproportioned struggle, the French armies were commanded by generals enemies of the revolution, and every thing seemed to predict approaching destruction and total defeat. If any one had raised his voice in the midst of these different circumstances—if he had said to you, do not despair of your preservation, of your liberty, there are still great men in those obscure ranks, they will conduct your armies to victory—they will recover the limits of your territory, you will recover your prosperity within, and you will command peace to Europe combined against you. Certainly, if any one had presumed to hold such language, would he not have been treated like a madman? Yet I have only stated what is the history of yourselves.

Our enemies soon perceived that the calculations of hatred are always false, and that it is always folly for foreigners to interfere in our civil discords. It therefore no longer became a question of disputing with the French people, the right of fixing its destinies, and of forcing it to descend from the first rank among nations. The events which succeeded with astonishing rapidity, loudly called for a man capable of ruling, and assuring to France the result of its long and glorious efforts. That man appeared, glory named him, and the voice of the French people is ever obedient to the call of glory. Called to the supreme magistracy, his first thought was to put a period to his military glory, and to pacify Europe. The orator adverted to the overtures which were made by Bonaparte for the re-establishment of peace between France and England. He cited the answer of the cabinet of London, in which after having expressed that Europe would see with pleasure the ruins of the French government restored to the hands of the family, who so long procured peace within, and respect from abroad, his Britannic majesty avowed, that he attached to that event alone; the possibility of a solid and durable pacification.

Though in this note, continued the orator, an attempt was made to apologize for the war, rather than to afford the means of terminating it; the first consul proposed preliminaries, they were rejected, and no negociation could be opened. The battle of Marengo was an answer to every thing, and subsequent events have proved how sincere were the dispositions manifested at a later period in the cabinet of London. Since then the English ministers, in the correspondence relative to the armistice, exhausted all those means which proved the desire of renewing war, rather than of putting a period to its ravages. The battle of Hohenlenden again operated as an answer to every thing. The treaty of Luneville was concluded, and one cannot too much applaud the prudence of him who directed the negociations, and that spirit of conciliation which overcame so many obstacles, and produced such happy results.

Let us proceed to the periods which followed the treaty of Amiens. It represents the British government tolerating the disgusting injuries of miserable writers, and the scandalous libels of a few shameless men, reeking from assassinations, and authorizing, with a sort of affectation, some refugees to wear, insultingly, marks of distinction which did not exist, and throwing them on our shores with defamatory libels, pretended commissions, and machines of destruction.

Those who gave such commissions, said he, were not the ancient ministers of the gospel worthy of that sacred character, they are rebels who wish to prevent peace from entering into their consciences, and who, after having invoked the authority of their chief in revolt, disregarded him when he commands submission.

The reporter referred to the complaint alledged by England, and shewed the injustice of them. If we may believe, said he, these domineering Islanders, you can no longer establish peace among your neighbours; consummate an exchange without England claiming the right of having a guarantee which she now requires, only because she thinks you are not in a condition to resist her. Thus she traces around you the narrow circle of Popthus, but Popthus was a Roman, and the king did not command a million of brave men: but if this impudence, excess of impudence and pride is extraordinary, what is still more so, is the moderation, the excess of moderation which contrast with it in the whole course of the negociations—a moderation which is the result of calmness and force. Tribunes let us imitate it.

In a note of the Britannic minister, the king of England complains of offensive allegations contained in the report of col. Sebastiani. This report is but a necessary reparation, and such as the French army had a right to expect from the disgusting calumnies, the low injuries, and the outrageous accusations contained in the work of an English officer, and of which the reception of Col. Sebastiani in Egypt is an answer.

England complains of the part we have taken in the differences of Switzerland. Certainly Switzerland has dearly paid for the advantage of protecting herself. Civil war was kindled in her bosom, the blood of her citizens flowed; every benefit of the reign of the law was disregarded. What was the result of that mediation against which they rail? That of stopping the effusion of blood, restoring repose to the citizens, and giving to that country a fit constitution for which it sighed, and which alone could protect it.

England argues against our increase of territory; it is not more exact in advancing that France is now in a different state of possession from that which existed at the period of the negociations at Amiens; at least they must include in the comparative picture the conquests she has renounced.

Let us now examine the complaints of France, and let us disdain to occupy ourselves with those injuries which miserable writers are allowed to commit, which Great Britain has tolerated without regard to the respect due to friendly nations.

Ask Mr. Dundas on what titles the power of England in India is founded, he will answer, it is true, we have received some concessions from the sovereigns who have governed that country for nine ages. As the reward for that benefit we have carried war into their states; we have dispossessed them by supposing a correspondence which did not exist.—But at length we will say to Europe that we now keep by the force of arms that country which we have made by the force of arms.

Without doubt the English will soon enjoy a spectacle capable of flattering their pride.—They will see the son of a nabob, complaining to them of an unjust dispossession, and claiming a less rigorous captivity—this will recall to them the glorious time of the Roman republic, when vanquished Princes proclaimed before the Senate, by the organ of the *Juris Consultes*, in the unhappy estates invaded by the Roman Proconsuls.

And who will be the judges of this important cause? The government of India. Who will be the accusers? The government of India. Who will reap the fruit of the punishment inflicted on the guilty? The government of India. But however odious these usurpations are, they are not less profitable. They do not less change in any sensible manner the state of the possessions in England, and this should have interdicted the cabinet of London from such allegations against France.

To the peace, so full of danger, let us oppose the supposition of a state of war. The articles which commerce brings us from India and America will arrive with difficulty, and their prices will rise; but if those articles which are called articles of luxury shall become more scarce, those of the first necessity, particularly bread, will double its price in England. Our commerce may be interrupted, but that of our enemies will have fewer channels. We may preserve or resume positions which may facilitate attack or defence. The powers of the continent who have signed or guaranteed the treaty of Amiens will doubtless not approve of the infraction. They cannot blame the pretensions of France, since they demand nothing; they cannot see without inquietude the system of dominion of an usurping power. The continent will at last, we dare believe, avoid kindling a general war, to favor the ambition of England. What will be the attitude of the two belligerent powers? The one will send her vessels to hover over our coasts, without daring to land. In this respect your security is perfect. They do not conceive the possibility of an enterprize. If at the moment I am speaking, you should be informed that the English had effected a landing on our shores, which of you would not wish that they should penetrate the continent, to be more certain of their destruction?

Compare the impression which would be made as the news of the arrival of a French army in England, the passage to which is doubtless more difficult; but the effect of which would be more terrible. We have the power of conquering the states which England possesses on the continent, and if we set foot on this island, the English power is overthrown. She can only slightly wound us, we may pierce her to the heart.

An army of 40,0000 men, well disciplined, is ready to rush on the territory of a rival nation, and that government which has such a small number of land forces, will be obliged to send a great part of its population to the coasts to oppose our landing. The pressing already excites murmurs. The militia will complete the discontent. The stay of a large army on their coasts, will necessarily be very expensive to our enemies, whilst it will not occasion any increase of expenditure on our part. Finally it is possible France may finish this war in a day, and it is impossible to say for how many years France may be obliged to demand peace."

He concluded by reading the following project:—

"The Tribunate, by virtue of the right given to it by the twenty-ninth article of the third title of the constitution, after having considered the negociation which has taken place between the republic and England:

"Convinced that government has done all the honor of the French nation could admit of to secure peace:

"That however the British cabinet during this negociation permitted unusual forms, false allegations, unjust demands, and even hostile acts:

"That the peace to be allowed by France must be purchased by the infraction of a solemn treaty—by an injury towards its allies:

"Decrees that the following wish should be conveyed to the Tribunate in body.

"The Tribunate declares its wish that there should be instantly taken the most energetic measures, in order to force respect to the faith of treaties, and the dignity of the French nation."

The Tribunate ordered the report to be printed.

Riouffe also made a long speech, and concluded with the following motion:

"In testimony of this unalterable union of the first authorities of the republic, I move that the Tribunate should go in a body to the First Consul, to thank him for his moderation and magnanimity, and declare to him the readiness of the Tribunate to support him with all their energy and power against a nation without faith, that violates treaties."—[*Reiterated and prolonged applauses of several instants.*]

The proposition of Riouffe was adopted unanimously, as was also the project of Darau; and the president was ordered to wait upon the First Consul to know when he would be pleased to receive the Tribunate.—The sitting then rose.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, *June 3.*

MOTION FOR CENSURING MINISTERS.

Mr. COURTNEY agreed with the hon. member who had said that this was an occasion on which all should unite with regard to party views. All the spirit of the country should be unanimously exerted against the ambitious designs of France. At the same that he recommended this unanimity, he could not help observing that the hon. gentleman (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) had exerted all his ingenuity and abilities to unite all parties, and he now found that the party who had supported the peace, and that which had opposed, were equally hostile to him. He should advert to circumstances, which may serve to explain his conduct. In making the peace, he may have fallen into a mistake which he might defend by saying, "Novitas Regnime talia cogit:" but having discovered the error in this peace, had now broken it, in order to set every thing right again. For this he had the authority of a great and learned statesman; that statesman was—Hippocrates