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FRENCH CONSPIRACY.

Correſpondence aſcribed to Mr. Drake.
(*Continued.*)

No. VI.

3d January, 1804.

SIR,

The bulletin No. 8 has reached me, and it is with a great deal of pleaſure I have remarked that your correſpondence grows every day more intereſting: I hope you may have received my laſt number with the bill of exchange of 10,000 French livres.

I muſt not leave you unacquainted that an emiſſary of the French government has juſt made enquiries at the poſt office of Raſtadt, concerning a correſpondence ſuppoſed to exiſt between me and ſome malcontents in France; but after the manner in which this emiſſary acquitted himſelf of his commiſſion, it is clear that the French government has not even the ſlighteſt notion of the exiſtence of ours. It was the appearance in almoſt all the departments of a letter from an Engliſhman to Bonaparte which raiſed ſuſpicions that the lettter came from hence. For the reſt, I mention this incident only to quiet you, in caſe you ſhould hear any talk of it where you are.

Should any circumſtance happen which might engage you to quit France, I earneſtly recommend to you to arrange every thing before your departure which may relate to the tranſmitting of the bulletin of your committee; to this effect you would do well to take your meaſures with the friend at Toulouſe, (Straſburg) that thoſe bulletins may paſs directly into your hands at Offenburg, whether he deliver them to yourſelf in that town, or intruſt a ſecure perſon with them, or whether you go yourſelf to fetch them at Kehl; but there is no occaſion to make uſe of him when one can do without his aid.

I have juſt been converſing with a perſon lately arrived from Chalons, (Paris) and I learn from him that the Firſt Conſul grows every day more extravagant; that the reign of terror is rapidly re-eſtabliſhing; that his violent conduct announces that he himſelf is far from being eaſy as to his poſition; and in fine, that every thing which is going forward prognoſtigates an exploſion more or leſs diſtant. It appears evident the Conſul is greatly embarraſſed about the deſcent on England, for while he affects a firm deſire to attempt it, he perceives and dreads the danger of that enterprize without well knowing how he may draw himſelf out of the game and get rid of the kind of engagement he has entered into. I beg you to pay the utmoſt attention to this ſtate of things, which [in the opinion of the well informed perſons I have theſe obſervations from] muſt ſoon or late bring on a deciſive criſis.

I have no knowledge of what is doing in La Vendee. It is not neceſſary for me to repeat to you my opinion, that every partial ſtep, all ſtraggling meaſures, which are not eſſentially united with a general and fixed plan can never produce any thing but evil. I am, however, inclined to look upon all thoſe inſurrections abſolutely ſpontaneous, proceeding ſolely from the oppoſition of the inhabitants to the meaſure of the conſcription.

In one of the articles of your inſtructions it was recommended to you to write twice a week; but not to wear out our means of communicating.' I think it will be more proper to write only when any intereſting matter preſents itſelf.

Believe me with the moſt diſtinguiſhed eſteem, &c.

NOTA MANUS.

4th January.

At the moment I was going to cloſe this letter, I received yours of the 25th December, with a buletin of the ſame date, both equally intereſting for the details they contain.

I again aſſure you in the moſt ſolemn manner, that I have no knowledge of the committee you ſpeak to me of; & according to the account you give me of it, I cannot adviſe you to have the leaſt connection with it, I do not loſe ſight of the notice you gave me about Willot and others.

You have found the juſt proportion of the ingredients for the compoſition of your ink; your letters do not preſent the leaſt traces of diſguiſe.

No. VII.

Munich, 27th January, 1804.

SIR,

I have received more or leſs regularly, the three bulletins No. 10, of the 28th December, No. 12, of the 3d January, and No. 13, of the ſame date.—Your letters of the 4th and 5th January have likewiſe come ſafe to hand, as well as that of the 12th January, marked No. 14. No. 11 has not reached me; from which, however, I draw no other inference than that the copyiſt muſt have made an error, and marked as No. 12, the bulletin which ought to have been marked No. 11. It would be deſirable, however, to verify this ſuppoſition, in order to remove all doubt on the point.

I informed you in my laſt, that the Conſular Government had conceived ſome ſuſpicions reſpecting the exiſtence of a correſpondence between me and the interior of France; it is to this that muſt be attributed the inſertion in the Moniteur, No 115, of the preſent year, of an article in the former note, to ſome pretended news from London, of the 2d of January ſtating the arrival of an extraordinary courier, the day before: this account is entirely falſe. Moreover, it is not the firſt time that the manœuvre, for he had recourſe to it a very little time after my arrival at Munich, as may be ſeen in the Moniteur, No 101, of the firſt of January, 1803. It appears, however, that he only founded his ſuſpicions upon a very vague baſis: he knew that during my ſtay in Italy, I had connections with the interior of France; and he imagines that it is the ſame at preſent, ſo much the more as I am now, of all the Engliſh miniſters, the neareſt to the frontiers. It is eaſy to perceive, however, that at the very moment when the Conſular government wiſhes the public to believe, that there is a communication kept up between me and the diſcontented in the interior of France, it has not acquired the ſlighteſt knowledge which can lead it to ſuſpect that we hold a correſpondence together, for otherwiſe it would not have cut the thread which might have led to further diſcoveries, in publiſhing thoſe articles which might put us on our guard, and induce us, in caſe of neceſſity, to change the channel of our communication, in order to overturn its calculations.

The means it has made uſe of to make ſome diſcoveries in Germany, have not ſucceeded, for I have juſt received poſitive intelligence that the emiſſary of whom I ſpoke to you, was not able to gain the *leaſt* inſight from any part.

You may then be perfectly tranquil with reſpect to this article.

Nevertheleſs, I recommend to you not to write in your letters or bulletins, *the day of the month, or place they are dated from*, in common ink, but with ſympathetic ink; you know the reaſon, without my ſtopping to explain it to you.

I am extremely ſorry to hear of all thoſe partial and unconnected movements of which you ſpeak, and I am perfectly of your opinion, that they can have no other effect than that of inducing the government to redouble its vigilence, and leading it to take ſevere meaſures which may prove fatal to many worthy people, who might have rendered great ſervices had they been better directed.

The fate of the committee ſpoken of in your letter of the 5th, and the exiſtence of which I only knew from yourſelf, will ſerve without doubt to put you on your guard againſt falſe brothers, & ought to make you very circumſpect with regard to thoſe perſons to whom you confide the whole of your ſecret. The grand art of conducting ſuch an operation as you are charged with conſiſts in confiding to every one, exactly what is neceſſary for him to fill the part that you aſſign him, but nothing more.

As to the deſire which your general has expreſſed, (according to the bulletin No. 13,) to have an idea of, the time to riſe, we muſt regulate ourſelves in that reſpect by the advices you ſend of the progreſs of your operations. According to your letter of the 25th December, you propoſe to cauſe a riſing in four departments on a given day; but I doubt whether this meaſure, if ſeparate, will produce much effect; it might indeed cauſe a moment's embarraſſment to the Firſt Conſul; but it appears to me impoſſible that it ſhould ſucceed in the end, if the army of B——is diſpoſeable, or if we have not previouſly made ſure of a good part of his troops.

No. VIII.

February, 14, 1804.

SIR,

Incloſed are the 1200 livres which I announced to you in my laſt (No. 7) of the 29th January. It has been impoſſible for me to get bills of exchange payable at an earlier date, but you may get them diſcounted at a trifling loſs.

Since the date of my No. 7, I have received your No. 15 of the 12th January. The No. 15 of the 30th January, and your letter of the ſame date, both arrived on the 11th inſt. I ſhall now briefly reply to each of theſe letters, inaſmuch as a reply is wanting.

I repeat to you once more, and for the laſt time, that I have no agency in France but yours. As to the correſpondents I may have there, I am perfectly at eaſe on their account, notwithſtanding what you tell me of their being lately arreſted.

I have no correſpondent at Embden: but ſince the copies of your letters are ſent to the preſident, he may if he thinks proper, take care of this object at Bourdeaux (London). I have already ſet your mind at reſt, concerning the attempts of the French emiſſary at the German Poſt offices. He will not ſucceed, but the noiſe this affair has made has alarmed one of my agents in thoſe offices ſo much, that he wiſhes to give up the buſineſs. It is on this account, as well as to have from you clearer and more detailed notions, (than what I find in the bulletins) concerning the ſtate of the interior, the extent of your means and the employ you propoſe making of them, that I wiſh you to depart as quick as you can for Off——, and from thence to come hither:

I have already indicated to you the arrangement neceſſary to be taken for carrying on our correſpondence, in my former letters, particularly in the Nos. 5 and 7. I have now only to requeſt you to endeavor that the bulletins ſhould paſs directly into your hands, from thoſe of the friend at Toulouſe (Straſ.) without going through the poſt office.

I recommend to you to eſtabliſh at leaſt two other channels of communication (one of them muſt be at Mentz,) in order not to be left deſtitute, ſuppoſing (which is poſſible) that that of Toulouſe, (Straſ.) ſhould happen to fail.

The paper upon which you write is excellent for our uſe; and ſince it is impoſſible to find any of the kind in this country, you will do well to lay in a good ſtock of it for yourſelf and me.

The intelligence you gave me concerning the maritime armanents of the Firſt Conſul and their deſtination, appeared to me ſufficiently intereſting to be immediately tranſmitted to Bourdeaux, (London); but you have not ſufficiently explained yourſelf, as to the ſum that the ſtate meſſenger, (Huſſier) aſks for the enterpriſe that he propoſed to you ſome time ſince.

I am extremely hurt at all that ridiculous miſtruſt which from what you ſay, begins to creep into your committee. Do all you can to remove it before you come away; you may declare boldly to your friends from me, and in the moſt ſolemn manner, that I have no knowledge whatever of thoſe circumſtances and events upon which it appears to be grounded. I intreat you likewiſe to ſhew them how impoſſible it will be for me to act efficaciouſly with them, if they give way to their ſuſpicions at every new incident that turns up.

It is not neceſſary to ſend me the receipt of the committee; it will be ſufficient if you bring it with you. I muſt not forget to inform you that you ought, in quitting Chalons (Paris) to take your meaſures ſo as to return thither, ſhould the ſtate of our affairs render it neceſſary to return in the ſequel.

Believe me to remain, with the moſt perfect eſteem, Sir, your very humble ſervant.

NOTA MANUS.

No. IX.

February 25, 1804.

SIR,

Your letter of the 10th reached me on the 21ſt: and that of the 13th is this moment arrived. It is of the higheſt importance that you come hither as quick as poſſible, for I cannot give you further inſtructions without having previouſly cleared up a number of points which can only be diſcuſſed at length in a converſation, beſides my man makes difficulties as to the paſſage of our letters, and it will be requiſite for us to eſtabliſh the mode of communication of which I ſpoke to you in my laſt.

I am informed of all the events which took place on the 16th inſt. And I have no doubt the police will keep an eye on travellers; you muſt conſequently watch for the propitious moment, in order to run no riſk. It is only from you I know the details concerning Georges, &c. I have no other knowledge of his ſchemes than what you, letter furniſhes me with, but if you have means of extricating any of his aſſociates from danger, do not omit doing it. I entreat you to get written and printed immediately, a ſhort addreſs to the army, (officers and ſoldiers) calling on them not to ſuffer Moreau to periſh, their brother in arms, who has ſo often led them to victory, as a victim to the rage and tyranny of the Firſt Conſul. You may obſerve in this addreſs that the merit of Moreau has for a long time dazzled the ſight of the little tyrant, and that the Firſt Conſul, to get rid of his rival, has choſen the moment in which intelligence of the ſurrender of St. Domingo has been received, in order to turn aſide the eyes of the nation from a diſaſter, ariſing only from his bad conduct. You ſhould not loſe a moment in writing this little addreſs, and getting it circulated through all the armies with the greateſt diligence.

I have juſt written a note to your agent at Toulouſe (Straſburgh) to engage him to put your letters for the future, under cover addreſſed to the Abbe Duſreſne; ſhould you write me again before your departure, pray avail yourſelf of that addreſs, but do not make uſe of either of the twelve which I mentioned to you in my letter No. 2.

The emiſſary of whom I ſpoke to you has been promiſed by ſome of the poſt office clerks that they will tranſmit all the advices he can obtain relative to a correſpondence with me, to the following addreſs:

To citizen Dubois, at the military poſt office of the miniſter of war, under cover to citizen Daroche, grocer, rue St. Honore, No. ——

I could have wiſhed that you had not taken the ſtep of which you ſpeak to me with regard to the poſt maſter at K——because it does not appear that he will have it in his power to do us ſervice, ſo long as our correſpondence may continue, as well as he has hitherto done; and I am afraid it was impoſſible to make that opening, in ſpite of all the addreſs and precaution that your agent diſplayed, without letting ſomewhat too much be perceived.

As to the adjutant-general ſpoken of in your letter of the 13th, I ſhall be tempted to commence a correſpondence with him, however, no more than is neceſſary; but the ſum he aſks is not great, and we have means of proving whether his intelligence be good—Endeavor then to ſet this affair a going before your departure.

With regard to your projects of operation, which you ſpeak to me about I ſhall talk to you more at length when we ſee each other; in the mean while you may aſſure your friends that no pains will be ſpared to bring on the ſequel as quickly as circumſtances permit.

Once more I recommend to you to arrange every thing concerning the continuation of our correſpondence before your departure.

Believe me to remain, with the higheſt eſteem ſir, your very humble ſervant.

NOTA MANUS.

No. X.

SIR,

Since the General (I) diſplays ſo much confidence in his men, ſince he conceives the preſent moment to be ſingularly propitious to begin his operations, ſince he is of opinion that if ſuffered to eſcape, circumſtances equally favorable will not again occur, the *friend* [2] here cannot but ſubmit to his deſires, by promiſing him all the aſſiſtance in his power. The *friend* muſt neceſſarily abandon the details of execution to the general who is on the ſpot, and who is more intereſted than any other, in the meaſures being ſo well prepared and combined, that the aim ſhall not miſs. He obſerves nevertheleſs, that it is of the higheſt importance to make ſure of a place upon the frontier of France and Germany, in order that the friend may have a free, quick, active, and ſure communication with the general, for the tranſmiſſion of what may become neceſſary in the ſequel. Huninguen is the beſt ſituated place for this purpoſe, ſo much the more ſo as it is pretty near the field of the principal operations.

It will be neceſſary at leaſt, to eſtabliſh ſome truſty agents at every ſix leagues diſtance, from Betancon to Fribourg, in order to bring and carry news.

It appears to me that the firſt operation ought to be, to ſeize on Blois, [Beſancon] which might ſerve as a fortreſs, and in caſe of misfortune, as a place of defence. In this latter caſe, a part of the inſurgents ought to take poſt upon the Cevenes and the mountains of the ancient Vivarais, where they would be able to maintain themſelves for a long time, provided it be ſo managed that a ſure communication be kept up to receive pecuniary ſuccour, either by Huninguen or Metz, [Baſle] and Swizerland. After becoming maſter of Blois, [Beſancon] and raiſing the neighbouring provinces, not a moment ſhould be loſt in acting in Chaulons, [Paris] itſelf. Every thing ought to be previouſly prepared and diſpoſed to begin operations on the firſt inſtant of the embarraſſment and conſternation of the preſent government, when it learns the movements of the provinces.

Since it appears well proved that a vaſt number of the army, both officers and ſoldiers, are highly diſcontented at the arreſt of Moreau, it is but natural that the general ſhould ſatisfy them in this reſpect, in order to be aſſured of their aid in the critical moment. The general muſt perceive that it is of the higheſt importance for him, and of the laſt neceſſity itſelf, to adopt as a general principle, to profit of the aſſiſtance of any of the diſcontented whatever, and to unite them all at firſt, of whatever party they are, by declaring that the grand end of the inſurrection, being to put an end to that tyranny which preſſes on France and foreign countries, every one who is an enemy to the preſent government will be regarded as a friend by the inſurgents; it is of the firſt importance likewiſe that all the ſteps be taken with the greateſt diſcretion, particularly towards the partiſans of the conſul, in order not to awaken the fears of that great number of perſons who ſtill bear in mind thoſe evils they ſuffered at different periods of the revolution.—The ſyſtem may be announced, in the firſt proclamation by two words—"Liberty and Peace for France and the world." Theſe reflections are ſpecially recommended to the conſideration of the general, ſince an oppoſite conduct could not fail to ſtartle the public in general, and conſequently engage the majority to ſtand by the preſent government, deteſtable as it is, rather than bring on a repetition of revolutionary ſcenes the recollection of which is ſtill freſh in their mind.

The friend ought likewiſe to inform the general that he has received certain information that the arreſt of Moreau has excited a general and viſible diſcontent in Alſace. This general having a great number of partiſans in that country, the diſſention may be turned to our own purpoſes, by acting according to the plan I have juſt laid down.

As to pecuniary ſuccour, the friend would have wiſhed that the general had preſented him with a ſtatement of what will be neceſſary for the firſt movement, as well as for what may become ſo in the ſequel.

The friend ought to inform the general that this town being a commercial one, it is always difficult and frequently impoſſible to find in it bills of exchange upon Paris, particularly at a ſhort date, and the friend is almoſt always obliged to procure them at ſome diſtance from hence, when he is in want. The general then will have the kindneſs to inform the friend immediately how this matter is to be arranged, pointing out to him the ſums which will be neceſſary for him, the periods when they muſt be furniſhed, by what channel they are to be tranſmitted, and if the remittances are to be made in bills of exchange upon Paris or in ſpecie. In the latter caſe, a truſty confidant might be diſpached to the friend, who ſhould be furniſhed with an authority to receive and carry it immediately either to Chalons, [Paris] or to Blois, [Beſancon.] According as it may be moſt wanted in either of theſe places. It ought, however, to be obſerved, that it is not poſſible to collect a large ſum all at once, either in bills, or in ſpecie: it is therefore of the higheſt neceſſity to point out, as exactly as poſſible, theſe periods when the money will be neceſſary, in order to give time to get it. As ſoon as the friend ſhall receive the indication to this effect, he will take ſuch meaſures that the ſums required be depoſited with a perſon who may be depended on, at Offenburg, Stutgard, and ſome other town nearer to the frontier, who will deliver them to the meſſenger ſent by the general, unleſs the general thinks proper to ſtation a perſon in his intereſt, and in whom he places an unlimited confidence, at a fixed poſt in one of theſe towns; (or it would be ſtill better at Friburgh, in the Briſgaw) expreſsly to watch over this part, and which would perhaps be the beſt.

It is ſuppoſed that the general will find ſome funds in the cheſts of the ſtate, which he may ſeize on; but in the