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FOREIGN NEWS

From the French papers.

LEGISLATIVE BODY.

PRESIDENCY OF M. FONTANES.

Sitting of the 10th of Ventose, 31st December.

The President read the following message:

EXTRACT FROM THE REGISTERS OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

At the Palace of the Thuilleries 31st December.

"NAPOLEON, EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH.

"We have named, and do name, M. M. Champagny, minister of the Interior—Regnaud and Lacuee, counsellors of state, to repair to the legislative body this day, the 31st December, and make there the following exposition of the situation of the republic.

(Signed) "NAPOLEON."

"By the Emperor, the Secretary of State, (Signed) "H. B. MARET."

M. Champagny—"Gentlemen, in consequence of the nomination of which you have been informed, I have the honor to lay before you an exposition of the present state of the French empire.

"The internal state of the Republic is at this such as it has been for the most tranquil times. No movements, that can alarm the public tranquility; no one, that belongs to the remembrances of the revolution; every where, useful undertakings; every where, the amelioration of public and private property, attest the progress of confidence and security.

"The leaven of opinions no longer disturbs opinions; the sentiment of the general interest, the principles of social order, better known and more refined, have attained every heart to the common prosperity. This, all the authorities proclaim; this, the emperor has observed in all the departments where he has travelled. This has been demonstrated to the elected manner. All the minors are here at the same time separated from their generals; all the military corps from their chiefs; the fugitives tolerated deprived of their magistrates; the public administration of its full organs; the churches of their principal pastors; the citizen, the country flopped every where, at the first moment, of every thing that could have power and influence over the mind; the people every where left to the bent of their own genius, and the people have every where them selves attached to order and the laws.

"At the same moment, the foreign Pontiff travelled France. From the banks of the Po to the banks of the Seine, he has been every where received with a religious homage, paid to him with love and respect, by that immense majority which, faithful to the old doctrine, law a common fact, and the centre of common faith, in him whom all Europe revers, as a foreign ruled to a throne by his piety and his virtues.

"A plot, planned by an implacable government, was going to re-plunge in the abyss of civil wars and anarchy. Upon the discovery of this horrible plot, France was thrown into emotion; anxieties imperfectly called to fear are awakened, and in every heart, are one are found again those principles which were confined by time, before power and weakness had alienated the mind, and guilty intrigues prevented opinion.

"It was feared that the divided power was without concert, and without strength. It was felt, the, enrolled for a time, of two precautions, permitted neither long labors, nor reflection; thus, enrolled for the life of a single man, grew feeble with him, and left after him only chances of discord and anarchy. It was finally felt, that there was no safety for great nations, but in hereditary power, which alone could revive the political sentiments age and generations in its durations.

"The Senate, has been, as it ought to be, the organ of the common anxiety. This desire of inheritance, which was in all hearts, the French, from attached and infidel, it was proclaimed by the Electoral Colleges, by the armies. The Council of State, the magistrates, the most enlightened men, were confulted, and their answer has been unanimous.

"The necessity of hereditary power, in a state fo extensive as France, has been for a long time perceived by the Irish Conful. In vain did he rifhl the force of principles—in vain did he attempt to eftablifh a fyftem of affection. Obftacles, fhould he to emprance the authority, and tranfmit it without danger, and without trouble.

"The public tranquillity, the hopes of our enemies, blunard his work. His death was to be the ruin of his labors. It was at this moment that a family of the foreigner, and a fpirit of difcord and anarchy arofe and. Reafon, fentiment, experience, alike offered all the French that there could be no certain tranquillity, no power, but that which operated without an inter val; that there could be no tranquil face-fhun, except that which was regulated by the laws of nature.

"When fuch motives fupported fuch preffing wifhes, the determination of the Firft Conful could not be doubtful. He refolved, therefore, to accept for himfelf, and for two of his brothers after him, the burthen, which the neceffity of conftitutions impofed on them.

"From his own meditations, matured by conferences with the members of the Senate, by difcuffions in the council, by the obfervations of the moft enlightened men, is formed a fyftem of difpofitions which fecure the inheritance of the Imperial throne;

"Which confer on Princes their rights and their duties;

"Which promotes to the heir of the empire the conditions required by the laws, and fuch as fhall be worthy of his high deftinies;

"Which defignates thofe, who, in cafe of minority, fhall be called to the regency, and marks the limits of their authority.

"Which places between the throne and the nations dignities and offices accefible to all, encouragements and rewards of public virtues;

"Which gives to men honored with great diftinctions or invefted with great authority, judges too great to bend before the fhock of paffions, and to bear difficulties;

"Which gives to crimes againft the public fafety, and the intereftS of the empire, judges eftentially attached to the fafety of the empire and to its intereftS;

"Which places more eclat and more weight in the function of the legiflature, new developments and extent to the public difcuffion of the laws;

"Which brings back the tribunals and adminiftrations, which had obtained the refpect of ages;

"Which is fine, guarantees the rights of the prince and of the people by ocular, hiftorical guarantees of all intereftS.

"Thefe dipofitions have been decreed by the Senatus Confulte of the 28th Floreal (14th of May) the French people have manifefted their free and independent will; they have willed the eftablifhment of the hereditary in the direct, legitimate and adoptive line of Bonaparte, and the eftablifhment of the direct and legitimate line of defcendence of Louis Bonaparte.

"The Senate, in confirming Napoleon has been, by the moft juft of titles emperor and king. No other act was neceffary to prove his titles and confecrate his authority.

"But he willed to reftore to France its ancient form, to recall among its thofe inftitutions which the Divinity feems to have infpired, and to tranfmit to the commencement of his reign the feal of religious intereft. To give to the Chriftian fplendid pomp of his pomp and tenderneffs, the head of the church has pleaded to give his affiftance to this ceremony.

"What deep and durable impreffions it has left in the heart of the Emperor, the fame of the memory of the Pontiff. What converfations for future generations, and what a fubject of admiration for the hiftory.

"Napoleon profitate at the foot of the altare which has blefled and confecrated fovereign Pontiff implioing upon France and upon him the blefings of Heaven, and the ftrength of the Lord of hofts, nation, embracing the felicity of all nations!

"Poffers and prefents, lately divided, uniting to his fuppleations their gratitude and their vocates!

"The fenates, the legiflators, the tribunes, magiftrates, warriors, adminiftrators of the people, and the people itfelf, ranged their allemblies, mixing together their opinions, their hopes, their wifhes. Sovereignfy, princes, ambaffadors, ftruck with this grand fpectacle of France, relaxed upon her ancient foundations and by its repofe affuring the repofe of their country!

"In the midft of this pomp, and under the eyes of the Eternal Napoleon pronouncing the immutable oath, which ferures the integrity of the empire, the fiability of property, the perpetuity of inftitutions, the refpect of the laws and the happinefs of the nation.

"The oath of Napoleon will be for ever a terror of enemies, and the aegis of the French. If our frontiers are attacked. It will be repeated at the head of our armies, and our legions will no longer fear foreign invafion.

"It will be perfect to the memory of the defenders fom authority. It will remind them of the object of their labors, and the end of their fatigue; and if it does not fecure their adminiftration from fome errors, it will fecure a prompt reparation.

"The principles which it confecrates are thofe of our legiflation. In future few new laws will be propofed for the deliberations of the Leg ifative Body. The civil code has fatisfied the public expectation. It is in the memory of the citizens, it enlightens their ftrps, and the civil code is every where it is celebrated as a blefling.

"A project of a criminal code, complete in every fpecies, fhall have been fubmitted to the revifion of the tribunals, and is, at this moment undergoing the laft difcuffion in the council of ftate.

"The code of the pleading, and the code of commerce are ftill in the ftate in which the labors of the laft year left them. The Emperor turns fome called off the attention of the Emperor, and it is one of his maxims not to propofe to the Legiflative Body legiflative any projects of laws but fuch as have been matured by long and fage difcuffions.

"The Legiflative Body will be called to open; adjoftfhes are appointed, who fhall confer with the miniftrs of ftate, and prevent it from degenerating into vain and idlefs expectations for the people, and the Legiflative Body, and from filling with youth eager for inftruction.

"Pontmidhan has already fortified a military, fhip-yard, and a port, and in its high ftacs, its attainments, and regard for its miniftrs.

"At Compiegne, the School of Arts and Trades only obtains a w hucces—This which formerly fo much in time of La Vendee, is expected with impatience, and will foon be in full activity.

"The Legiflative Body, from the fciences, to literature, and the arts, and, during a recent period, it has made fuch works which his majefty is determined to encourage, he has a right to expect the prefent of the French fhall produce maffe-pieces.

"In the department of bridges and ftreets, the works of the Emperor have been profecuted with vigour, others have been planned, and each year perceives the principle of the prodigality of the ftate, to be executed in the fafe and ftrong, the fole univerfality of the feafons has overwhelmed fome fpecies of buildings in ruins. The ftate of the Rhone and Mofelle. A judicious prefect, anticipating the fuccefs of the Emperor, has given affiftance to the adminiftrative perfons who have acquired the fame, and fhewing fatisfied their courage by his patience, it has confoled them by his favours.

"The Rhone, fhall, in future, defend affifted the neighbouring countries; but the vigilance of the adminiftration has been exercised with great effects; it is now abating in thofe parts where it exceeded its refogion. Bayonne, Nantes, places required by prudence and the public welfare, the attacks of this ftate, will be in future more difficult, rupting the communication necefffary for the fafety of our commerce and navigation.

"In the midft of La Vendee a new city is exciting which is intended to be the feat of the adminiftration. It will thence extend its active and ftrong beneficentiaes over every quarter; their information will be propaged throughout this whole department, in fine expiration and the moral inftruction have fo often invoked fimple and honeft minds in the intrigues of the malcontents.

"The decrees of the emperor have refulted commerce to the left bank of the Rhine, and given to Mentz and Cologne all the advantages of affiftance, repofe, without the danger of introducing contraband commodities into the interior of France.

"Improvements are made in the manufactures, and, while in their wide declamations, the mercenaries hired by the Britifh government hoaft of their fifhes and precarious refources, difperfed on the feas and in the Indies; while they expatriate our workfhops in Switzerland, our artifans dying of mifery; our induftry is extending its roots in our own foil, drives the manufactures of England far from our frontiers, has equalled them in what conftituted their fupry and their fuccefs, the perfection of their machines, and will foon difpute with them the confumption in every quarter to which they can be conveyed.

"Agriculture, our principal manufacture, is daily acquiring greater extent, and receiving new improvements. A fyftem of experiments fo well planned, that it can be extended or contracted, according to our wants, endears to the cultivator the price of his labor, and the plentiful fupply of our markets.

"New encouragements are paying the way to the improvement of the breed of our horfes; our weak have attained to greater perfection—our fields are covered with cattle, and real wealth covers every part of our empire with opulence—receiving fecurity from fuch more ample fcope to active benevolence excited by religion, and the recollection of our moderation, it is no longer a fcandal to temporary charities, it extends its fcope to fuch, and confines its intereftS to the government, by which they are employed conformably to its wifhes. Never were fo many hofpitals and pious donations bequeathed to the hofpitals, and charitable eftablifhments. Some of thefe inftitutions have been carried on and refhaed by private individuals; never did fcifhing humanity fo much fhield, or indigence more well. The Emperor is diftinguifhed with equal judgment and zeal, and the fciences, and the arts, and intelligence which increafes their advantages, by reconciling the fundis, affifted relief to every man, in the multitude of diftafes, and are no longer thofe abodes of deftruction which decreed their numerous and worthfhed hofpitaints. Thus the number of the inhabitants of France is ftill more fhort than it was in 1791; and, by 25,000, than in the year 10.

"Religion has refumed its empire, which it exercifes only for the good of humanity; it is accompanied with a mild toleration, and the multitude of different perfuafions, who adore the fame God, honor each other with reftlinnaiv of a clerical refpect, which leaves no ftrife in thofe that of virtue.

"Such is our interior fituations. A broad, French conquer, fecuded by Spanifh faith, preferves to us Santo Domingo; Martinique defies their intrigues of the enemy, and, under a paternal government, more durable and ftronger than all miniftrs, the colonies of Bourbon and Ile are eftablifhed.

"Guadaloupe has enriched itfelf by the fpoils of Britifh commerce; and Guiana continues to prolper under an active and vigorous adminiftration.

"The Iles of France and Reunion would now be the depot of the riches of Afia; London would be in confternation and defpair, if inexperience or weakneffs had not defeated a plan moft ably conceived. Thofe iftands, fo long and fo rich by prefent, have from the enemies.

"Our armies ftill continue to defend the reputation they enjoy. Without fame value and the fame difficulties, they have acquired new laurels, and have fhewn without mentioning for opportunities, and confides in the prudence and delicacy of the chief commanders, and the foldiers and our officers learn to mafter the element, which feparates them from the fhores which is the objeft of their refreftment. Their audacity and adroitnefs difmfh the obftacle and moft experienced tactics.

"Our fleets, by their continual maneuvers, prepare the corfairs, and, which is of our enemies are battered by winds and tempefts, ours, without ftirring, learn to cope with them.

"Loftly, fince the commencement of the war, we have gained Hanover, Pyrmont, more than once, in a fituation for striking a defive blow against our enemies. Our marine is in a better ftate than it has been thefe ten years; by land, our army is more numerous, in higher condition, and better provided with every requifite to infure victory, than it ever was.

"In the department of the finances have prevailed the fame activity in the receipts, the fame regularity in the adminiftration, the fame order in the expenditure of the public treafure, and almoft without fluftuation the fame value of the public debt.

"War has produced a neceffity for extraordinary expenses; but the funs thus applied have been retained within our territory; they have given a plenty, wealth, and what is neceffary for the development of our forces against our enemies.

"Quite extraordinary expenfes now ceafe—and thofe which our wants and our refpect requires will have forth be ftretched within our means, and the urgency of the organizations neceffary both for attack and defence did not prevails.

"The revenues of the crown will defray all the expenfes of the emperor's houfhold, and the fuftfhs which the fafety of his throne will continue to demand. The pomp by which he is furrounded will never be a burden to the nation.

"The ftipulation of Europe has experienced only unimportant changes.

"Spain repofed in a neutrality to which France had confented, and to which the Britifh cabinet hafl agreed. Her veffels were fuddenly attacked, and the treaty of Amiens was violated with regard to Spain, as had before been for France. His catholic majefty has taken thofe meafures conformable to dignity of his throne, the violation of public faith, and the honor of a generous nation, he defifted from the ftruggle.

"The Emperor of Auftria devotes to the improvements of his finances, to the encouragement of his manufactures, to the greafs of their commerce, the repofe of his people, to the character and the interefts of his family the recovered.

"The Italian Republic, adminifered and governed by the fame principles as France, demands like her a definitive organization, which ftill feems to the fafety of the fame principles and the advantages of the focial compact united to the capability by the duties impofed on him, by the Perfect Ruler and Founder of that ftate, the Emperor will juftify the confidence repofed in him, and fecure its defiftance and independence in fo ving the intereftS of the French people, to which it owes its exiftence, and in reconciling the interefts of the two friendly nations with the fafety and the rights of the ftate, therefore. By thefe changes, which the ftill of one nation and the intereftS of all demand, the length of the ftate, and the eftablifhment calamities, and France have fo fhort of refifted upon the fame where the had paced her limits, will no more be expected of a. with to repeat by and then.

"Helvetia enjoys, in peace, the bleffings of her conftitutions, of the wifdom of her citizens and of our alliance.

"Bavaria ftill groans under an ecclegarchical government, without union in her views, without patriotifm, and without vigor.

"Her colonies have been fold a fecond time, and fuperadded to the ftanding a gun, to England; but that nation has energy, morals and economy. She fhall, in a fhort, the patriotic and enlightened governments.

"The King of Poffia upon ill occasions has fhewn himfelf the friend of France, and the Emp ror has fcized every opportunity that preferved itfelf to confolidate this happy alliance.

"The electors, and all the members of the Germanic body, fatisfied with maintain the relations of friendfhip and good will, which unite them to France.

"Switzerland fofl and the fcofs of a policy always wife, moderate and juftnices.

"The Saint of Catharine the Great will watch over the counfels of Alexander the Firft. He will remember that the treaftfhip of Europe, and the ftrongeftly counterpofe in the balance of the ftate, and the ftrongeftly fhew from her, he can neither attack her, nor diftarb her repofe, and that his chief in eaft fhall ftill be the ftrongeftly fhew the moft neceffity for the productions of his empire.

"Turkey wavers in her paftion, and follows through fear, a fyftem which her interefts diftrauas. May fhe not learn, at the expence of our common fafety, that fear and uncertainty accelerate the fall of nations? May she not learn, that nations more fatal than the dangers and loff of an unfuccefsful war.

"Whatever may the governments of England, the defiftna of France are fixed; ftrong in her union, ftrong in her riches and the courage of her defenders, fhe will affiduoufly cultivate the alliance of friendly nations and will not be ftrike fhe fhall ftrike our rear fhe.

"When England fhall be convinced of the infuffi ncy of her efforts to diftarb the continent; when fhe fhall be fenfible that fhe can only bolaph a war undertaken without object, and without motives; when fhe fhall be convinced that France will never regrefs to any other conditions than thofe of Amiens, and will never confent to allow her the right of breaking treaties, at pleafure,