



MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

CERTAIN DOCUMENTS on the SUBJECTS

OF THE

INSURRECTION IN PENNSYLVANIA ;

THE

RENEWAL OF COMMERCE

WITH

ST. DOMINGO ;

AND THE

MISSION TO FRANCE.

5th December, 1799.
Ordered to lie on the table.

[Published by order of the House of Representatives]





MESSAGE.


Gentlemen of the Senate, and

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

I TRANSMIT to Congress, certain documents which have relation to the communications made on Tuesday, on the subject of the Insurrection of Pennsylvania, the renewal of commerce with St. Domingo, and the Mission to the French Republic.

JOHN ADAMS.

*United States, }
December 5th, 1799. }*





R E P O R T.

Letter from the District Judge of Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia, March 11th, 1799.

S I R,

I CANNOT longer omit transmitting to you some documents which are enclosed, shewing that a daring combination and treasonable opposition to the laws of the United States has recently been brought to a crisis in Northampton County, in this District. I had sometime ago issued my warrants against sundry offenders in that county, who had been charged on oath with misdemeanors in entering into unlawful combinations to resist the law commonly called the house, tax law and rendering it unsafe for the officers appointed under that act to perform their duties. The marshal endeavored to execute my warrants, and had proceeded in the business as far as is related in the papers enclosed. The result may be gathered from these papers. But I have directed the marshal to make a more accurate statement, which, with other proofs I dailey expect, I will transmit. I shall proceed when furnished with the necessary testimony to issue warrants against those who took up arms and rescued the prisoners. But I fear the process cannot be executed without a military force : this at least seems to be probable from the opinions given in the enclosed papers, and from the facts therein stated. The same spirit exists in some parts of Montgomery and Bucks counties, though it has not yet arrived to the violent extreme exhibited in Northampton. I shall

issue a number of warrants against offenders in those latter counties forthwith; and if any resistance should there happen, I will duly inform you, that you may lay the information before the President, to whom I pray you to transmit that herein given.

I have the honor to be,

very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

RICHARD PETERS.

Judge of the Pennsylvania district of the United States.

*Colonel Timothy Pickering, }
Secretary of State. }*

Report of the Marshal of the District of Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia, 11th March, 1799.

S I R,

ON the 20th of February last, the Honorable Richard Peters Esquire, issued warrants against sundry persons, residing in the county of Northampton, who had given opposition to the execution of the law of the United States, laying a tax on lands and houses, and a number of subpoenas for witnesses there, and in the county of Montgomery. The writs were put into my hands on the 23d. Of the 26th, I set out, and got to Norristown that night: On the next morning (the 27th) I set out from thence, and on that day served all my subpoenas in Montgomery, and on the 28th got to Emaus in Northampton county. I was informed there that an express had arrived from Philadelphia with dispatches informing them of my business, which created some alarm amongst the people in opposition in Millers-town and its vicinity. A meeting of a troop of horse

was called there of which a Mr. Jarrett, a Justice of the peace was the Captain. Messengers were sent to sundry places for purposes of which I was unacquainted. Next day I proceeded to Nazareth, saw Judge Henry, and Mr. Eyerly, and on Saturday morning the 2d instant, Mr. Eyerly and I rode into Lehigh Township, where I arrested eleven persons, and on the next day took security from them that they would appear at Bethlehem at the public inn on Thursday morning the 7th instant, to march with me to the city of Philadelphia, there to enter into recognizance to appear at the next circuit court to answer &c, five others came in and signed the obligation. This being accomplished, we came to Bethlehem, set out for Macungy Township in company with Colonel Stephen Balliot. We lodged that night at Emaus; next morning the fifth instant, we set out for Millers-town, on our way I stopped at the house of George Seider to serve a subpoena on him as a witness on the part of the United States. His wife came to the door; on being asked for her husband she abused me and the gentlemen with me. He came to the door (with a club in his hand of green oak which seemed to have been procured for the occasion) and called us every abusive name the German language can afford, refusing at the same time the subpoena; I gave it into the hands of a person present, who afterward gave it to him, and rode on. When we got near Millers-town, we observed people assembling from all quarters; in some instances two men riding on one horse. This, from the conduct of Seider, led to a belief that an opposition was intended to be made to the arresting of any of the offenders against the laws of the United States in that place. We left our horses at Mr. Buskirk's (a German clergyman near the town) and walked in. We went first to the house of George Schaffer one of the worst offenders: We were there informed that he had gone the day before to Philadelphia. We then went to the house of Henry Shankweiler, where we found upwards of fifty men (chiefly armed with clubs) prepared

to prevent the execution of the law. Shankweiller was shewn to me; as I advanced towards him he retreated into the midst of the crowd. I however arrested him; he refused to submit to the arrest; the mob swore that before he should be taken, they would *to a man* fight till they died—that he should not submit—he swore he never would—he would die first. I explained to them the consequence of resisting—he swore he did not care if it cost him his life and all his property, even to the destruction of his family—he would not. Upon which Jacob and Daniel Schaffer, brothers of the aforementioned Henry Schaffer, a young man of the name of Schwartz, who tore the cockade from Colonel Balliot's hat, and many others whom I did not know, nor could find any person who would furnish me with their names, rushed on in the most violent torrent of abuse, threatening vengeance particularly against Eyerly and Balliot, calling to each other strike! strike! all desirous that some one might begin the affray. I desired Shankweiller to quiet those people, to keep them off. He desired them not to hurt the marshal; but Eyerly and Balliot, he said were damned rascals. I informed him and his people that those gentlemen were under my protection that I would protect them, and showed some little resolution which seemed to strike terror into them; upon which they gave way and the gentlemen got out of the house. It is my opinion that if one single blow had been struck, the whole of the rascals would have fallen on, and we three should have been killed. Shankweiller however, before I left him, promised to meet me on Thursday morning at Bethlehem, but without a promise of submission. We went from thence to Jeremiah Treelers, lodged there that night. Next morning I hired a constable to go with, and show me the persons of Daniel Harvey, Adam Stephen and Herman Hortman whom I arrested and obtained their promise to meet me on the morning after at Bethlehem. Hortman was insolent, disputed my authority, but submitted. I returned to Trexlers, was there informed that a rescue of the pri-

soners as soon as I had them assembled, was intended. Mr. Eyerly, Mr. Balliot and I returned to Bethlehem, where Judge Henry gave us the same information. I then called a posse comitatus of about 14 men to my aid, in support of the authority of the United States, who attended unarmed: About eleven o'clock in the forenoon of Thursday, two men came into the yard of the public Inn. One had a large duck gun, and the other a rifle. After some conversation with them I disarmed and confined them, concluding that if all the rescuers came in that scattered and unmilitary manner, a good account might be given of them. After some time, up came Shankweiler of Millerstown with William Desh, Jacob Kline and David Schaffer, three of Captain Jarrett's troop of horse. I asked him if he had come to surrender himself to me and submit to the laws of the United States; he impertinently answered no, and kept rather behind the horsemen, I asked him for what purpose he came, he answered to see his partner (meaning his accuser.) I commanded him to submit, he refused in the most positive manner. After some time a person came up informing us that a large body of men, horse and foot, were assembled, armed with guns, swords and pistols at the Lehigh bridge, in a hostile manner; on which information I sent down John Mulhallon Esquire, Major William Barnet, Isaac Hartzell and Christian Rhodt, two of whom were supposed to be in the confidence of the people in arms, to ask of them their object, whether it was a rescue, to warn them of the danger of such an attempt. They went down, spoke with them, and returned with reports unfavourable which were that a rescue was intended, that I must submit to their will and release the prisoners, or the consequences would be such as they would not be answerable for. I absolutely refused, showed them the writs. They then offered to give bail to me to attend the court. I informed them that I was an executive officer only, that I must strictly obey the commands of the writs, that I could not take bail, desired them to go back and state this to their

people in arms, that if they attempted a rescue, it would be punished severely. This they treated with contempt and boasted of their strength. I asked them if they knew the strength and power of the United States, and the danger of resisting the authority thereof; that punishment would most assuredly follow any indignity offered to them. They went off and returned with three of the insurgents who came to demand of me a surrender of the prisoners, but who were too ignorant to inform me of the object they had in view. I informed them of my determination; then the whole body of them marched up immediately, *the horsemen and officers of the infantry with swords drawn; the infantry marched with trailed arms and surrounded the house*, the horse were drawn up in front of the house, and seemed to be without an officer of their own corps to command them. The whole troops seemed to be under the command of a captain Fries of Bucks county. Fries made himself conspicuous on the occasion, he said he was the commanding officer, the oldest captain, he insisted on all the prisoners being set at large. This I refused and continued to refuse notwithstanding their threats, till I was informed that their resentment against judge Henry, Colonel Balliot and Mr. Eyerly was great, that their lives were in danger unless an immediate surrender was made. I then informed the prisoners that I could not resist longer the force against me, but that I dared not give up the prisoners. I desired the prisoners to march with me for Philadelphia, and added that if those people chose to rescue them, they might, and take the consequence. The prisoners of Lehigh Township refused to march, declaring that if I would suffer them to go home for the present they would meet me at Philadelphia, on the Monday and Tuesday next following, and submit to the laws. Previous to this I had entreated certain Jarrett, who was present and armed with pistols to use his influence to prevent their doing a thing so improper and dangerous to themselves. He answered that he could do nothing with them, till he saw all

the prisoners were given up to them. He then said, now I will take away my people, which he did in perfect order. Fries prepared his, returned, and asked for Eyer-man, the Priest, he said he must be given up, that his people would not march without him. I assured him he had been surrendered with the other prisoners, on which assurance he went out, found the Priest and then marched. By this time night was fast approaching. I feared that those ungovernable men might do things in the dark which they would avoid in the light. Therefore agreed for the safety of the gentlemen to give the prisoners up. Upon the whole of my observations I am well satisfied in my own mind, that the laws of the United States cannot be executed by the officers of the government throughout the county of Northampton, without military aid, the people are determined to resist, they calculate largely on their strength in this state and the aid they will have from the neighbouring states, and particularly that of Virginia.

I have the honor,

Sir, to be,

Your most obedient,

Humble servant,

WILLIAM NICHOLS.

Timothy Pickering, Esquire, }
Secretary of State. }

Deposition of Valentine Fuhrer.

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,
 Northampton County.

BEFORE me Joseph Horsfield, Esqr. one of the Justices of the peace, personally appeared Valen-

Valentine Führer, of Bethlehem in the said County, toll-receiver of the bridge across Lehigh, who on his solemn affirmation, duly administered according to law, doth declare and say, that on the seventh day of March, about noon, a number of men unknown to affirmant, came to the bridge gate and told affirmant, that a party of armed men would come soon, that they were much enraged, that they advised him to leave the bridge-gate open, otherwise they would break through—Affirmant on seeing the armed horse and foot men, opened the gate, and left the passage free till evening. Affirmant thinks about 80 horsemen, some armed, some unarmed, passed over the bridge—and about 80 footmen all armed either with guns or clubs, also passed across—That after all the horse and foot had passed the bridge, Mr. Henry Jarrett also crossed. In about 4 or 5 hours all the horse and foot returned without paying any toll, except Mr. Henry Jarrett, who offered to pay for himself and the Red-Coats, which were about 10 or 12 horsemen, and paid three quarters of a dollar to affirmant—And further he saith not.

his
VALENTINE X FUHRER.
mark

*Affirmed before me, on the 9th }
of March, 1799. }*
(L. S.) JOSEPH HORSFIELD.

Deposition of Jacob Eyerly, and Stephen Balliot.

PENNSYLVANIA, }
Northampton County. } *SS*
BEFORE the subscriber, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the said County, on the eighth day of March, A. D. one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine, personally came Jacob Eyerly, Esqr. one of the commissioners of the

direct tax, and Stephen Balliot, Esqr. collector of the revenue, &c. the said Jacob Eyerly having made solemn affirmation according to law, and the said Stephen Balliot having made solemn oath according to law, do depose, declare, and say—that they set out from Bethlehem on the fifth instant, in company with Col. William Nichols, Marshal of the United States for the District of Pennsylvania, who intended to several subpoenas and warrants, issued by the Judge of the district court—that the marshal upon the road to Millerstown, served a subpoena upon a certain George Sider, who when he was called upon, came to the door with a club and called the marshal and these deponents highway robbers, thieves, rascals, and scoundrels, and spoke other very abusive language, and would not receive the copy of the subpoena—that the marshal handed the copy to a certain Daniel Schwartz, who was present with the said Sider; that we rode on from there to Millerstown where the marshal and these deponents entered the house of Henry Shankweiler to serve a warrant upon him—here we found at least fifty men collected in his bar-room, among others the above named George Sider with a club: that upon the arrestation of said Shankweiler, Jacob Schaeffer and David Schaeffer, with others whom the deponents do not know, came in the most violent and threatening manner close up to the deponents, and the marshal, and in a most violent manner threatened to beat and otherwise did abuse the deponents, and declared that if the marshal dared to take off said Shankweiler that they would fight to the last: and further, that said Shankweiler did declare he would not submit; but upon the marshal's representing to him the consequences, he said that whatever Jarrett (meaning Henry Jarrett) did, he would do: that the marshal endeavoured to get a man from the neighbourhood who should know the persons so collected, but could procure nobody else to accompany him; that the people of the neighbourhood consider themselves in imminent danger of their lives by appearing in favour of the go-

vernment; that previous to the return of the deponents with the marshal to Bethlehem, they had received information which induced them to believe there would some attempts be made to rescue the prisoners either at Bethlehem or on the road.

That yesterday, the seventh day of March, the marshal having collected about eighteen of the prisoners in a quiet and peaceable manner, at the house of Abraham Levering, tavern-keeper, in the town of Bethlehem, during the morning of the said day, a number of men, partly horsemen and foot, collected at the said house; that at first a few that came within reach, were disarmed, but the prisoners who had been arrested in and about Millerstown, in Macungy township, came up to the said house, in company with a number of horsemen, armed with pistols and swords; that in a short time after, a number of other horsemen, well armed, partly in uniform: about half an hour after came up also to the said house two parties of men on foot, all armed, upon the whole we suppose the amount of numbers were about or between eighty and one hundred; that there were various and numerous threats made, that if the prisoners were not released they would proceed to violence—and further, that your deponents are fully assured that the laws of the United States cannot be executed under the present circumstances, as it is every day becoming more and more dangerous throughout all that part of the county of Northampton, called Macungy and upper Milford, and several other places—and further saith not.

JACOB EYERLY.
STEPHEN BALLIOT.

*Affirmed by the said Jacob Eyerly, and
sworn by said Stephen Balliot, and
subscribed before me,
WILL. HENRY.*

By the President of the United States of America,

A P R O C L A M A T I O N.

WHEREAS combinations to defeat the execution of the laws for the valuation of lands and dwelling houses, within the United States, have existed in the counties of Northampton, Montgomery and Bucks, in the State of Pennsylvania, and have proceeded in a manner subversive of the just authority of the government, by misrepresentations to render the laws odious, by deterring the public officers of the United States to forbear the execution of their functions, and by openly threatening their lives : And whereas the endeavours of the well affected citizens, as well as the executive officers, to conciliate a compliance with those laws, have failed of success, and certain persons in the county of Northampton aforesaid, have been hardy enough to perpetrate certain acts, which I am advised amount to treason, being overt acts of levying war against the United States ; the said persons exceeding one hundred in number, and armed and arrayed in a warlike manner, having on the seventh day of this present month of March, proceeded to the house of Abraham Lovering, in the town of Bethlehem, and there compelled William Nichols, marshal of the United States in and for the district of Pennsylvania, to desist from the execution of certain legal process in his hands to be executed, and having compelled him to discharge and set at liberty, certain persons whom he had arrested by virtue of criminal process duly issued, for offences against the United States, and having impeded and prevented the commissioner and the assessors, appointed in conformity with the laws aforesaid, in the county of Northampton aforesaid, by threats and personal injury, from executing the said laws, avowing as the motives of these illegal and treasonable proceedings an intention to prevent by force of arms the execution of the said laws, and to withstand by open violence the lawful au-

thority of the government of the United States : and whereas by the constitution and laws of the United States, I am authorized, whenever the laws of the United States shall be opposed, or the execution thereof obstructed, in any State, by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceeding, or by the powers vested in the marshals, to call forth military force to suppress such combinations, and to cause the laws to be duly executed : and whereas it is in my judgment necessary to call forth military force, in order to suppress the combinations aforesaid, and to cause the laws aforesaid to be duly executed : and I have accordingly determined so to do, under the solemn conviction that the essential interests of the United States demand it : Wherefore I John Adams, President of the United States, do hereby command all persons being insurgents as aforesaid, and all others whom it may concern, on or before Monday next, being the eighteenth day of this present month, to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes, and I do moreover warn all persons whomsoever, against aiding, abetting, or comforting the perpetrators of the aforesaid treasonable acts ; and I do require all officers and others, good and faithful citizens, according to their respective duties and the laws of the land, to exert their utmost endeavours to prevent and suppress such dangerous and unlawful proceeding:.

IN TESTIMONY whereof, I have caused the
(L.S.) Seal of the United States of America to be affixed to these presents, and signed the same with my hand :

DONE at the City of Philadelphia, the twelfth day of March, in the Year of our Lord one seven hundred and ninety nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the twenty-third.

JOHN ADAMS.

By the President,
TIMOTHY PICKERING, *Secretary of State.*

Letter from the Secretary of War to the Governor of Pennsylvania.

War Department, 20th March 1799.

S I R,

To suppress the insurrection now existing in the counties of Northampton, Bucks, and Montgomery in the state of Pennsylvania, in opposition to the laws of the United States, the President has thought it necessary to employ a military force, to be composed in part of such of the militia of Pennsylvania, whose situation, and state of preparation will enable them to march with promptitude. The corps of militia first desired on this occasion are the Troops of Cavalry belonging to this City, and one Troop from each of the Counties of Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Montgomery and Lancaster. These Troops I have the honour to request your Excellency will order, to hold themselves in readiness to march on or before the 28th instant under the command of Brigadier General Macpherson.

I have the honour to be

with great respect

Sir, your obedient servant

JAMES M. HENRY.

(Signed)

His Excellency, }
Governor Mifflin. }

Instructions to General Macpherson

War-Department, 21st March, 1799.

S I R,

IN pursuance of the President's Proclamation bearing date the 21st day of this month, it has become indispensable to determine upon and put in motion the military force proper to be employed for suppressing the insurrection in the counties of Northampton, Montgomery and Bucks in this state.

You will therefore be pleased to form a detachment;

from the volunteers, who have associated in the state of Pennsylvania, and been accepted by the President, as a part of the provisional army, to consist of the two volunteer companies of cavalry of the city of Philadelphia, to which you will add, two or more of the troops of militia cavalry of the same city now under orders to hold themselves in readiness to march, so as to compose a body of two hundred and forty horse, including non-commissioned officers, and proceed with the detachment without delay, to the theatre of insurrection.

You will forthwith make returns of such articles, as may yet be wanted for this detachment, that the necessary orders may be given for their delivery.

A paymaster for the volunteers and militia that may be employed, ought to be appointed: You will please to name one, who will be advanced a sum, on account, equal to one month's pay, for the companies, now called into service.

You will cause correct muster and pay-rolls, for the volunteers and militia called into actual service, in the usual forms, to be made out, with the view of rendering the settlement of the accounts for their services prompt and easy.

The Quarter-Master of the detachment, who will be appointed by the Quarter Master-General, will receive in advance from the Quarter Master-General, a sum on account, which may be conceived adequate to the expenditure, that may be incurred, in this particular department.

Rations will be furnished by the contractor for supplying the same to the military within the state of Pennsylvania. It is presumed he will employ a proper agent or agents, and execute your orders with precision respecting provisions.

Doctor Joseph Strong, will attend the expedition, in quality of surgeon, furnished with a competent supply of medicines and instruments.

As one object of the expedition is to assist the marshal of the district to make prisoners of and hold amenable to

justice, persons who have either resisted the service of legal process, or been concerned in rescuing from him, those who were in his lawful custody, or for whom he may have process on other charges, and to conduct the prisoners to Philadelphia; You will perceive the propriety of applying your cavalry, in the manner best calculated, consistently with the safety of the detachment, to secure as many of the offenders, at the same moment, as possible.

You will inform the Quarter Master-General, and the contractor of the precise time, you design to put the detachment in motion, and make them acquainted with whatever it may be necessary for them to know previously, in order to insure as much as possible, no failure in your operations, from the want of means, in either of their departments.

The marshal of the district of Pennsylvania will move with, and give you the names of the offenders, their descriptions, and respective places of abode, who are to be made prisoners under criminal process. You will be particularly careful, that the most criminal of the ringleaders, be attended to, and in preference secured; and to prevent by the most pointed orders, any insult to the inhabitants or unnecessary rigour toward the prisoners taken.

It is left intirely to your discretion, to determine upon your place or places of rendezvous, which should be such, as ~~are~~ best calculated, to enable the troops that may be stationary, to defend themselves, in case of attack, and also to aid as effectually as possible your parties of horse, in their transit to and from their points of departure.

You will have observed, that it is designed to give to the volunteer and militia cavalry selected by you, a principal agency in suppressing the existing combinations, against the laws, and of quelling an insurrection and rebellion against the government and rightful authority of their country, at a time when its sovereignty and liberties are threatened, by a powerful, implacable

and insidious nation, who have been accustomed to divide and conquer other nations. It is not doubted therefore, but that they will exhibit an useful example upon this service, of military promptitude, spirit, vigilance, discipline and obedience of orders.

To be prepared for adverse contingencies, it will be proper that you continue the orders for holding themselves in readiness to march, at the shortest notice, to the volunteer companies, and militia, not immediately called into actual service.

To cover the active operations of the volunteer and militia cavalry, a company of infantry under captain Shoemaker and a company of artilleryists under captain Irwin, from Carlisle, Pennsylvania, have been ordered to march and rendezvous at Reading, and a company of artilleryists at Fort Mifflin, intended to rendezvous at the same place is under orders to march at the shortest notice. Two companies of artilleryists, from New-York, and a party of infantry recruits, under Lieutenant Boote, supposed about 30, from Brunswick, New-Jersey, have been ordered to march to Newtown Pennsylvania; these latter troops are on the establishment of the United States; expected to arrive at their first places of rendezvous on or about the 23d instant, and subjected to your orders, to be stationed, where their presence can produce the best effects, and employed in case circumstances should require their actual co-operation with the volunteers and militia.

If rebellion should acquire a strength, demanding further force, you are, using a sound discretion, and keeping economy in view, fully authorized by the President, to call into actual service, the whole, or any part of the volunteer and militia companies, that have been ordered to be held in readiness, in the states of Pennsylvania and New-Jersey.

It is expected, that the detachment of volunteers and militia will be pushed forward as rapidly as the season and roads will permit, to the point or points you may think proper to occupy with the regular troops,

and to which your capturing parties may be instructed to conduct their prisoners.

You are earnestly requested to employ every moment of your time in accomplishing the objects of your command, conformably to these orders, and to keep constantly in mind, that if the offenders against the laws can be suddenly and unexpectedly secured, before they have time to prepare general resistance, it may extinguish the insurrection, without further expense to the United States, or call upon the patriotism or fortitude of our fellow-citizens. That you may have sufficient assistance in your own family to meet the eventual business the service may impose upon you, it is permitted to you to appoint a volunteer Aid-de-Camp, (should you conceive one to be necessary) in addition to the aid allowed you by law, and to draw for him, and his servant, rations and forage.

You will be able to judge accurately upon the spot, when opposition to the laws, and the spirit of revolt and insurrection, is so far suppressed in the disaffected counties, as to admit the whole or part of the volunteers and militia, to return to their homes and civil occupations. This will be ascertained when the inhabitants shall quietly permit the commissioners and assessors of the tax on land and houses, to perform their respective duties, according to law. Until this shall be the state of those counties, it will be proper to continue the military force there, in convenient positions, to produce a perfect submission to the authority of the United States.

I have the honour to be,

With great respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient

Humble servant,

JAMES M'HENRY.

WM. MACPHERSON, Esquire,
Brigadier-General.

RENEWAL OF COMMERCE WITH ST. DOMINGO.

By the PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES
of AMERICA.

A Proclamation.

WHEREAS by an act of the Congress of the United States, passed the ninth day of February last, entitled, "An act further to suspend the commercial intercourse between the United States and France, and the dependencies thereof," it is provided, That at any time after the passing of this act, it shall be lawful for the President of the United States, if he shall deem it expedient and consistent with the interests of the United States, by his order, to remit and discontinue for the time being, the restraints and prohibitions by the said act imposed, either with respect to the French Republic, or to any island, port or place, belonging to the said Republic, with which a commercial intercourse may safely be renewed; and also to revoke such order, whenever in his opinion the interest of the United States shall require: and he is authorized to make proclamation thereof accordingly.

And whereas the arrangements which have been made at St. Domingo for the safety of the commerce of the United States, and for the admission of American vessels into certain ports of that island, do in my opinion, render it expedient and for the interest of the United States to renew a commercial intercourse with such ports.

Therefore, I John Adams, President of the United States, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the above recited act, do hereby remit and discontinue the restraints and prohibitions therein contained, within the limits and under the regulations here following to wit:

1. It shall be lawful for vessels which have departed or may depart from the United States, to enter the ports of Cape Francois, and Port Republicain, formerly called Port-au-Prince, in the said island of St. Domingo, on and after the first day of August next.

2. No vessel shall be cleared for any other port in St. Domingo, than Cape Francois and Port Republicain.

3. It shall be lawful for vessels which shall enter the said ports of Cape Francois and Port Republicain, after the thirty-first day of July next, to depart from thence to any port in said island between Monte Christi on the North, and Petit Goave on the West; provided it be done with the consent of the government of St. Domingo, and pursuant to certificates or passports expressing such consent, signed by the consul-general of the United States, or consul residing at the port of departure.

4. All vessels sailing in contravention of these regulations, will be out of the protection of the United States, and be moreover liable to capture, seizure, and confiscation.

(L. S.) Given under my hand and the seal of the United States, at Philadelphia, the twenty-sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord 1799, and of the Independence of the said States, the twenty-third.

JOHN ADAMS.

By the President,

TIMOTHY PICKERING, Secretary of State.

MISSION TO FRANCE.

Letter from Patrick Henry, Esq. to the Secretary of State.

*Charlotte County, in Virginia,
April 16th, 1799.*

S I R,

YOUR favour of the 25th ult. did not reach me till two days ago. I have been confined for several weeks by a severe indisposition, and am still so sick as to be scarcely able to write this.

My advanced age and increasing debility, compel me to abandon every idea of serving my country, where

the scene of operation is far distant, and her interests call for incessant and long continued exertion. Conscious as I am of my inability to discharge the duties of Envoy, &c. to France, to which, by the commission you send me, I am called, I herewith return it.

I cannot, however, forbear expressing on this occasion, the high sense I entertain of the honor done me by the President and Senate in the appointment:—and I beg of you, sir, to present me to them in terms of the most dutiful regard, assuring them that this mark of their confidence in me, at a crisis so eventful, is a very agreeable and flattering proof of their consideration towards me, and that nothing short of absolute necessity could induce me to withhold my little aid from an administration, whose abilities, patriotism, and virtue deserve the gratitude and reverence of all their fellow-citizens.

With sentiments of very high regard,

and unfeigned esteem,

I am, sir,

Your most obedient,

and very humble servant,

P. HENRY.

*The Honourable T. Pickering, Esq. }
Secretary of State.*

Copy of a letter dated Paris, 11th Fructidor, 6th year, (August 28, 1798) from Mr. Talleyrand, as Minister of Exterior Relations, to Mr. Pichon, Secretary of Legation, Hague.

(TRANSLATION.)

I SEE with pleasure, citizen, that the intercourse of society has procured you some political conversations with Mr. Murray. I entertain an esteem for that minister. Like all the men at the head of the affairs of the United States, he has received the impressions which the British cabinet has known how to give against us. He thinks the measures of his government just and supports them: but he possesses reason, understanding and a true attachment to his country: he is neither French nor English: he is ingenuously an American. I am not at all surprised that he has appeared to you to wish sincerely for the reconciliation of the two Republics. I will, therefore, cheerfully answer the questions you put to me on different points, which appeared to you not to be well established in his mind.

I do not see between France and the United States any clashing of interests, any cause of jealousy. The Americans wish to be fishermen, sailors, manufacturers, and especially husbandmen. In all these points of view, their success is more at the expense of England than us. Why should we be uneasy about them? They aspire to the consolidation of their national existence, and it is to our purpose that they should succeed. In fact, we should have decided upon very superficial views, to sustain their independence, if the matter was to separate them from England merely to leave them finally insulated among themselves, on an extensive sea-coast, weak, rivalling, and impoverished by each other, and torn by foreign intrigues. We know that Great-Britain would soon have put together, piece by piece, those scattered shreds, and we should have done nothing useful for ourselves, if so miserable a chance of it were not daily rendered more remote.

What, therefore, is the cause of the misunderstanding, which, if France did not manifest herself more wise, would henceforth induce a violent rupture between the two republics? Neither incompatible interests, nor projects of aggrandisement divide them. After all, distrust alone has done the whole. The government of the United States has thought, that France wanted to revolutionize it. France has thought, that the government of the United States wanted to throw itself into the arms of England. It does not require much skill to divine which is the cabinet interested in the two events producing each other, and which invisibly puts in motion all the expedients calculated to make them take effect. Let us open our eyes on both sides. I am disposed to admit that the conduct of the government of the United States may be explained by other causes than those heretofore presumed. But let it on its part understand, that the French government, wounded as it may be, is too wise to entertain the views of disturbance which the other supposes. It concerns a republic, founded on the system of representation, to support and not to weaken similar establishments. The stability of this system abroad is a necessary example at home.—France, in fine, has a double motive, as a nation and as a Republic, not to expose to any hazard the present existence of the United States.—Therefore it never thought of making war against them, nor exciting civil commotions among them: and every contrary supposition is an insult to common sense.

These fundamental principles being established, it is natural to ask by what fatality a good understanding was not long since restored.—It was because irritation being mingled with distrust, neither party yielded to real conciliatory inclinations.—In the United States it was supposed that the French government was temporizing, in order to strike the blow with greater certainty; whence resulted a crowd of measures more and more aggravating.—In France it was supposed that the government of the United States wished only the appear-

ances of a negotiation, whence resulted a certain demand for pledges of good faith.

Let us substitute calmness for passion, confidence for suspicions, and we shall soon agree.—I used my endeavors to enter upon a negotiation in this spirit with Mr. Gerry.—My correspondence with him, until the day of his departure, is a curious monument of advances on my part and of evasions on his.—It is wrong to think that I confined myself to vague protestations.—Among that series of official letters, which will doubtless be published at Philadelphia, I select one of the 30th Prairial, wherein you will see that I make very positive propositions, without any mixture of preliminary conditions. This letter was followed by three notes upon the articles to be discussed, and I intended to complete the others in this manner, if Mr. Gerry had not refused to answer thereto.

When it became necessary to abandon the idea of treating with that envoy, who thought it important only to know how a negotiation might thereafter be resumed, I gave him the most solemn assurances concerning the reception that a new Plenipotentiary would receive. It was far from my thoughts to insinuate that the President should send one from the United States, instead of investing with his powers some one who was in Europe; far less that the envoy should land directly in France instead of announcing it in a neighbouring country.—I wished merely to say that the Executive Directory was so decided for a reconciliation, that all tampering would be superfluous, that an act of confidence in it, would excite its own.—I should be very badly understood, if there should be found in my expressions, a restriction on the nature of the choice, which the President might make.—I wished to encourage Mr. Gerry, by testimonies of regard, that his good intentions merited.—Although I could not dissemble that he wanted decision, at a moment when he might have easily adjusted every thing.—It does not thence follow that I designated him; I will even avow that I think him too

irresolute to be fit to hasten the conclusion of an affair of this kind.—The advantages which I prized in him are common to all Americans, who have not manifested a predilection for England.—Can it be believed that a man who should profess a hatred or contempt of the French Republic, or should manifest himself the advocate of Royalty, can inspire the Directory with a favourable opinion of the dispositions of the government of the United States? I should have disguised the truth, if I had left this matter ambiguous: it is not to wound the independence of that government, to point out to a sincere friend of peace, the shoals he ought to avoid.

As to the mediation of the Batavian republic, and of Spain, I do not know that there is any serious question about it, and it appears to me absolutely useless. The United States might hesitate, in the present state of things, to refer themselves to their impartiality, and besides, I perceive no subject which may not be arranged directly.

I know that the distance which separates France and the United States opens a vast field for incidents, and there have been but too many of them. But the Executive Directory is unshaken in the conduct, which may best obviate them. The excess even of provocations has deadened their effect. The government of the United States surrounds itself with precautions against an imaginary attack. To stretch the hand to deluded friends, is what one republic owes to another, and I cannot doubt that the dignity of that attitude will convince the President of our pacific intentions.

The two governments ought above all to be attentive to indirect attempts to alienate them still more. Their prudence will secure this object, and I shall cite but one example of it. You have told Mr. Murray the truth respecting Dr. Logan. But I perceive, that on all hands it is attempted to produce a belief in America, that we are negotiating with him. On the 7th of this month a very insidious paragraph was inserted in the " *Bién Informé*." It is therein intimated that, guided

by the citizen Thomas Paine, Dr. Logan has made application to the Executive Directory, in the character of secret agent. The doctor has complained bitterly of it to me. He has no need of justifying himself concerning a matter, the falsity of which I know better than any body: but he assured me, that having once only met Thomas Paine, at the house of a third person, he found him so prejudiced against the United States, and so opinionative, with respect to an influence he neither possesses among them nor us, that he abstained from conversing any more with him. Moreover, to cut short all misunderstanding, I engaged Dr. Logan to postpone till another time the experiments he proposes to make on agriculture, and to return home. As to Mr. Hitchborn of Massachusetts, I was even ignorant till now that he was in Europe. A single word will suffice for the rest.

We want nothing but justice on the part of the United States: we ask it: we offer it to their government: it may depend upon the candor of the Executive Directory.

You will not doubt, Citizen, that I approve of the communications which your zeal has caused you to seek with Mr. M. since I enable you to resume them with official elucidations.

&c. &c. &c.

CH. MAU. TALLEYRAND.

Copy of a Letter, dated Paris, le 11 Fructidor, an 6, (August 28, 1798,) from M. Talleyrand, as Minister of Exterior Relations, to M. Pichon, Secretary of Legation, Hague.

JE vois avec plaisir, Citoyen, que des rapprochemens de société vous aient procuré quelques conversations politiques avec Mr. Murray. Je fais cas de ce Ministre. Il a reçu comme tous les hommes qui sont à la tête des affaires des Etat Unis, les impressions

que le cabinet Britannique a su donner contre nous. — Il croit les mesures de son gouvernement justes, et les soutient; mais il a de la raison, des lumières, un véritable attachement pour son pays : il n'est ni François ni Anglais ; il est franchement Américain. Je ne suis point étonné qu'il vous ait paru désirer sincèrement la réconciliation des deux républiques : je répondrais donc volontiers aux questions que vous me faites sur differens points, que vous ont paru mal établis dans son esprit.

Je ne vois entre la France et les Etats Unis aucun choc d'intérêts, aucun motif de jalousie. Les Américains désirent être pecheurs, navigateurs, manufacturiers, et surtout agriculteurs. Sous tous ces rapports, leur succès sont plus aux dépens de l'Angleterre, qu'aux nôtres. Pourquoi en serions nous inquiets ? Ils aspirent à consolider leur existence nationale, et il nous convient qu'ils y parviennent. Nous nous serions décidés en effet, sur des vues bien superficielles, à soutenir leur indépendance, s'il n'avait été question de les séparer de l'Angleterre, que pour les laisser ensuite isolés entr'eux, sur une longue côte maritime, faibles, rivaux, appauvris l'un par l'autre, et déchirés par des intrigues étrangères. Nous savons que la Grande Bretagne se ferait bientôt rattachée pièce à pièce ces lambeaux épars, et nous n'aurions rien fait d'utile pour nous, si une chance aussi facheuse ne s'éloignait de jour en jour.

Quelle est donc là cause de la mésintelligence qui, si la France ne se montrait la plus sage, amènerait dès ce moment une rupture éclatante entre les deux républiques ? Ce ne sont ni des intérêts incompatibles, ni des projets d'aggrandissement, qui les divisent. En dernière analyse, la défiance seule a tout fait. Le gouvernement des Etats Unis a cru, que la France voulait le révolutionner. La France a cru, que le gouvernement des Etats Unis voulait se jeter dans les bras de l'Angleterre. Il ne faut pas être très habile pour deviner quel est le cabinet intéressé à ce que ces deux evenemens naissent l'un de l'autre, et qui finit jouer in-

visiblement tous les ressorts propres à les faire éclore. — Ouvrons les yeux de part et d'autre. Je suis disposé à admettre que la conduite du gouvernement des Etats Unis puisse s'expliquer par d'autres motifs, que ceux présumés jusqu'ici. Mais qu'il comprenne de son côté que le gouvernement Français, tout blessé qu'il soit, et trop éclairé, pour avoir les vues d'agitation qu'il lui suppose. Il importe à une république fondée sur le système représentatif d'affermir et non d'ébranler les établissemens analogues. La stabilité de ce système chez les autres, est une example nécessaire chez nous-mêmes. La France enfin a, comme puissance et comme république, un double motif de n'exposer à aucun hazard l'existence actuelle des Etats Unis. Aussi n'a-t-elle jamais pensé, ni à leur faire la guerre, ni à y exciter des commotions civiles, et toute supposition contraire, est une au sens commun.

Ces bases posées, il est naturel de demander, par quelle fatalité la bonne intelligence n'a pas été rétablie de bonne heure? C'est que l'irritation s'étant mêlée à la défiance, on n'a pris ni de part ni d'autre des biais véritablement conciliatoires. On a supposé dans les Etats Unis que le gouvernement Français temporisait, pour frapper plus sûrement; delà une foule de mesures de plus en plus aggravantes. On a supposé en France que le gouvernement des Etats Unis ne voulait que les apparences d'une négociation; delà une certaine insistance sur des gages de bonne foi.

Substituons le calme aux passions, la confiance aux soupçons, et bientôt nous serons d'accord. J'ai fait mes efforts pour monter une négociation sur ce ton avec M. Gerry. Ma correspondance avec lui, jusqu'au jour de son départ, est un monument curieux d'avances de ma part, d'évasions de la sienne. C'est une erreur de croire que je me sois tenu à des protestations vagues dans cette série de dépêches qui seront sans doute publiées à Philadelphie, j'en choisis une du 30 Prairial, où vous verrez que je fais des propositions très positives, sans aucun mélange de conditions préalables. Cette let-

tre a été suivie de trois notes sur les articles à discuter, et je comptais épuiser tous les autres de cette manière, si M. Gerry ne s'était refusé à y répondre.

Lorsqu'il a fallu renoncer à traiter avec cet envoyé, qui ne mettait d'importance qu'à savoir comment une négociation se reprendrait plus tard, je lui ai donné les assurances les plus solennelles, sur l'accueil que recevrait un nouveau plenipotentiaire. Il était loin de ma pensée d'insinuer que le Président dût le faire partir des Etats Unis, au lieu d'investir de ces pouvoirs quelqu'un qui fut en Europe ; biens moins encore que l'Envoyé dût débarquer directement en France, au lieu de l'annoncer d'un pays voisin. J'ai voulu dire seulement que le Directoire Executif était tellement prononcé pour la réconciliation, que tout tatonnement était superflu, qu'une acte de confiance envers lui, provoquerait la sienne. Je serais bien mal entendu, si l'on trouvait dans mes expressions, une restriction sur la nature du choix, que pourrait faire le Président. J'ai voulu encourager M. Gerry par les témoignages d'égards que ses bonnes intentions méritaient ; quoique, je ne puisse me dissimuler qu'il a manqué de décision, dans un moment, où il pouvait facilement tout ajuster. Il ne s'en suit pas que je le désigne, j'avouerai même que je le crois trop irrésolu pour être propre à hâter la conclusion d'une affaire de ce genre. Les avantages que j'ai loués en lui, sont commun à tous les Americains qui n'ont point montré de predilection pour l'Angleterre. Peut on croire qu'un homme qui professerait haine ou mépris pour la République Française, ou se montrerait l'avocat de la royauté, puisse inspirer au Directoire une opinion favorable des dispositions du gouvernement des Etats Unis ? J'aurais déguisé la vérité, si j'eusse laissé du louche à cet egard : ce n'est pas blesser l'Independance de ce gouvernement, que de signer l'en ami sincère de la paix, les ecueils qu'il faut éviter.

Quant à la médiation de la République Batave et de l'Espagne je ne sache pas qu'il en soit serieusement question, et elle me parait absolument inutile—Les Etats

Unis pourraient hésiter, dans l'Etat actuel des choses, à s'en rapporter à leur impartialité, et d'ailleurs je ne vois aucun point, qui ne puisse être arrangé directement.

Je sens que la distance qui sépare la France et les Etats Unis laisse un champ vaste aux incidens, et il n'y en a eu déjà que trop—Mais le Directoire Executif est inébranlable dans la conduite, que peut le mieux y obvier—L'Exces même des provocations en a amorti l'effet—Le gouvernement des Etats Unis s'entoure de précautions contre une attaque imaginaire. Tendre la main à des amis abusés, voilà ce qu'une République doit à l'autre, et je ne puis douter que la dignité de cette attitude ne convainque le Président de nos intentions pacifiques.

Les deux gouvernemens doivent surtout s'attendre à des tentatives indirectes pour les aliéner de plus en plus. Leur prudence les en garantira, et je n'en citera qu'un exemple—Vous avez dit à M. M. la vérité au sujet du Docteur Logan—cependant je m'aperçois que de tous côtés on cherche à faire penser en Amérique que nous négocions avec lui. Le 7 de ce mois, un paragraphe très insidieux a été inséré dans le ' Bien informé '—On y fait entendre que guidé par le citoyen Thomas Paine, le Docteur Logan s'est adressé au Directoire Executif, en qualité d'Agent secret—Le Docteur s'en est plaint vivement à moi. Il n'avoit pas besoin de se justifier sur un fait, dont je connais la fausseté mieux que personne ; mais il m'a assuré qu'ayant rencontré une seule fois Th. Paine en maison tierce, il l'avait trouvé tellement prévenu contre les Etats Unis, et préoccupé d'une influence qu'il n'a ni chez eux ni chez nous, qu'il s'était abstenu de converser davantage avec lui. Au surplus, pour couper court à tout malentendu, j'ai engagé le Doct. Logan à remettre à d'autre tems les expériences qu'il propose sur l'agriculture, et à retourner dans ses foyers.—Quant à Mr. Hitchborn du Massachusets, j'ignorois même jusqu'ici qu'il fut en Europe. Un seul mot doit suffir d'ailleurs.

Nous ne voulons que justice de la part des Etats Unis. Nous la demandons. Nous l'offrons à leur gouvernement ; il peut se reposer sur la loyauté du Directoire Exécutif.

Vous ne douterez pas, Citoyen, que je n'approuve les communications que votre zèle vous a fait rechercher avec M. M. puisque je vous mets à même de les reprendre avec des données officielles.

&c. &c.

Ch. Mau. TALDEYRAND.

[This letter was received from Mr. Murray, without the French original.]

Paris the 7th Vendemiaire of the 7th year
of the French Republic, one and indivisible
(September 28, 1798)

The Minister of Exterior Relations,

To Citizen PICHON, Secretary of Legation of the
French Republic, near the Batavian Republic.

I HAVE received successively, citizen, your letters of the (8th and 13th September,) 22d and 27th Fructidor—They give me more and more cause to be pleased with the measure you have adopted, to detail to me your conversations with Mr. Murray—those conversations at first merely friendly, have acquired a consistency, by my sanction, transmitted to you on the 11th Fructidor, (28th August,) I do not regret that you have trusted to Mr. Murray's honour a copy of my letter.—It was intended only for you ; and it contains nothing but what is conformable to the government's intention. I am fully convinced that should explanations once take place with confidence between the two cabinets, irritation would cease, a number of misunderstandings would disappear, and *the ties of friendship would be the more strongly united, as both parties would be made*

sensible what hand had attempted to disunite them. But I do not conceal from you that your letter of the 2d and 3d Vendemiaire, (23d and 24th September,) this moment arrived, surprises me much—what Mr. Murray is still doubtful of, has been very explicitly declared, before even the President's message to Congress of the 3d Messidor, (21st June,) was known in France—I had written it to Mr. Gerry, namely on the 24th Messidor, (12 July,) and 4th Thermidor; (July 22d,) I repeated it to him before he set off.—A whole paragraph of my letter to you of the 11th Fructidor, (28th August,) of which Mr. Murray has a copy, is devoted to developpe still more the fixed determination of the French government.—According to these bases, you were right to assert—that whatever Plenipotentiary the government of the United States might send to France in order to terminate the existing difference between the two countries, he would be undoubtedly received with the respect due to the representative of a free, independent and powerful nation.

I cannot persuade myself, citizen, that the American government need any further declaration from us, to take the resolution, in order to renew the negotiations, to adopt such measures, as would suggest their wish to bring the differences to a peaceable end.—If misunderstandings on both sides have prevented former explanations reaching that end, it is presumable that these misunderstandings being done away nothing henceforth will raise any obstacle to the reciprocal dispositions.—The President's instructions to his envoys at Paris, which I have only been acquainted with, by the copy given to you by Mr. Murray, and by me received the 21st Messidor, (9th July,) announce, if they contain the whole of the American government's intentions, dispositions, which can only add to those the Directory has always entertained; And notwithstanding the posterior acts of that government, notwithstanding the irritating and almost hostile measures which they have adopted, the Directory has shewn that it persisted in the dispositions consigned as well in my correspondence with Mr. Ger-

ry, as in my letter to you of the 11th Fructidor, and which I have herein before repeated in the most explicit manner—carry therefore, citizen, to Mr. Murray these positive expressions to convince him of our sincerity, and request him to transmit them to his government.

I presume, citizen, that this letter will find you at the Hague. If not, I ask, it may be sent back to you at Paris.

Salute and Fraternity,
(Signed) CH. MAU. TALLEYRAND.

[No. 22.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Philadelphia, March 6th, 1799.

S I R,

I ENCLOSE a commission constituting you in conjunction with the chief Justice Ellsworth and Patrick Henry, Esq. of Virginia, Envoys Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary to the French Republic. By the President's direction I enclose for your information copies of his messages to the Senate of 18th and 25th of March, by the latter of which you will see the motives inducing the nomination of a *commission* for the purpose of negotiating with France, instead of resting the business wholly with you.—This will doubtless be agreeable by relieving you from the weight of a sole responsibility in an affair of such magnitude.

It is the President's desire that you by letter to the French minister of foreign relations, inform him “ that
“ Oliver Ellsworth, Chief Justice of the United States,
“ Patrick Henry, late Governor of Virginia, and your-
“ self, are appointed Envoys Extraordinary & Ministers
“ Plenipotentiary of the United States to the French Re-
“ public, with full powers to discuss and settle by a
“ treaty, all controversies between the United States

“ and France :” But, “ that the two former will not
 “ embark for Europe until they shall have received
 “ from the Executive Directory, direct and unequivocal
 “ assurances, signified by their Secretary of foreign
 “ relations, that the Envoys shall be received in
 “ character to an audience of the Directory, and that they
 “ shall enjoy all the prerogatives attached to that character
 “ by the law of nations, and that a minister or ministers
 “ of equal powers shall be appointed and commissioned
 “ to treat with them.”

The answer you shall receive to your letter you will be pleased to transmit to this office.

You will also be pleased to understand it to be the President's opinion, that no more indirect and unofficial communications, written or verbal, should be held with any persons whatever, agents on behalf of France, on the subjects of difference between the United States and the French Republic.—If the French government really desire a settlement of the existing differences, it must take the course above pointed out : unless the executive Directory should prefer sending a Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States.

I have, the honor to be,

very respectfully, sir,

Your obedient servant,

TIMOTHY PICKERING.

William Vans Murray, Esq.
Minister of the United States,
at the Hague. }

(COPY.)

*The Hague, 5th May, 1799.**Citizen Minister,*

IT is with the greatest pleasure that I hasten to fulfil the instructions, which I have just had the honor to receive from the government of the United States of America, by informing you that the President has appointed Oliver Ellsworth, Chief Justice of the United States, Patrick Henry, late Governor of Virginia, and William Vans Murray, Minister Resident of the United States at the Hague, to be Envoys Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary of the United States to the French Republic, with full powers to discuss and settle by a Treaty, all controversies between the United States and France; but that the two former (Mr. Ellsworth and Mr. Henry) will not embark for Europe until they shall have received from the Executive Directory, direct and unequivocal assurances signified by their Minister of Foreign Relations, that the Envoys shall be received in character to an audience of the Directory, and that they shall enjoy all the prerogatives attached to that character by the Law of Nations, and that a Minister or Ministers of equal powers shall be appointed and Commissioned to Treat with them.

I request you, Citizen Minister, to lay this subject before your government, and as the distance is so great and the obstacles so numerous in an Atlantic voyage, that you will favour me, as speedily as possible, with the answer which is to lead to such happy and important consequences.

Accept, Citizen Minister, the assurances of my perfect and high esteem,

(Signed)

WM. V. MURRAY.

*To the Citizen Talleyrand,
Minister of the Exterior
Relations of the French
Republic, &c. &c.*

PARIS.

The Hague, 7th May 1799.

DEAR SIR,

On the 4th instant late in the evening, I had the honour to receive your No. 22, containing the commission of envoys.

On the fifth I addressed, precisely agreeably to your instructions, as I conceived, the inclosed letter to Mr. Talleyrand, the minister of exterior relations. You will perceive, Sir, that I did not think myself at liberty to go, not only not out of the commas, but beyond them.—In one word alone I deviated, in the word, “Minister” instead of “Secretary” of Foreign Relations.—No direct nor indirect and inofficial communications written or verbal be held by me with the French agents on American affairs.

I accept the appointment which it has pleased the President to cloath me with, under a grateful sense of the high honour conferred upon me, so unexpectedly, by this mark of his confidence.—I may be allowed to say, that though I was deeply sensible of the honour conferred by the first nomination, and shall always I hope retain a most grateful recollection of it; yet Sir, the new modification of that nomination gave me great pleasure, always conceiving as I thought I did, that any negociation with France would be full of anxieties and political perils to the envoys that should be employed by our government, I had no wishes to be engaged in it, and no expectation that I should be: To have a share in it was by me unsought: you will excuse this declaration, because I was instrumental in certain preliminary steps relative to the advances of France, which produced the basis of the appointment.

I sent the original of the inclosed to Mr. Talleyrand by post, another, a copy, to Major Mountflorenc to be handed to him, a third to a Mr. Griffith for Major M. in case the other failed, to be opened by Mr. G. if Major M. should have been out of Paris, and directed Mr. G. to follow the instructions which he would find in the letter to Major M. which were to deliver the inclosed.

to Mr. Talleyrand and take his letter, answer for me,
and to send it to me.

As soon as I have the answer of the Directory, I
shall have the honour of transmitting copies to you Sir,
by different ways.

I am, with the greatest respect
and sincere esteem
dear Sir

faithfully your most obt. servant

WILLIAM V. MURRAY.

The Honourable

Timothy Pickering Esq.
Secretary of State of the
U. States of America.

}

*Paris 23d, Floreal, [12th May, 1799.] 7th. year
of the French Republic, one and indivisible.*

*The Minister of Exterior Relations,
To Mr. William Vans Murray, Minister Resident of the
United States, at the Hague.*

I augur two well, sir, from the eagerness you display
in fulfilling the instructions of your government, not to
hasten to answer the letter I received from you dated
the 15th of this Month.

The Executive Directory being informed of the no-
mination of Mr. Oliver Ellsworth, of Mr. Patrick
Henry and of yourself as Envoys Extraordinary and
Ministers Plenipotentiary of the United States to the
French Republic, to discuss and terminate all differ-
ences which subsist between the two countries, sees with
pleasure, that its perseverance in pacific sentiments has
kept open the way to an approaching reconciliation.
It has a long time ago manifested its intentions with res-
pect to this subject. Be pleased to transmit to your col-
leagues, and accept yourself, the frank and explicit as-
surance that it will receive the Envoys of the United

States, in the official character with which they are invested; that they shall enjoy all the prerogatives which are attached to it by the law of nations, and that one or more ministers shall be duly authorized to treat with them.

It was certainly unnecessary to suffer so many months to elapse for the mere confirmation of what I have already declared to Mr. Gerry, and which after his departure I caused to be declared to you at the Hague. I sincerely regret that your two colleagues await this answer at such a great distance. As to you, sir, whom it will reach in a few days, and who understand so well the value of time, when the restoration of harmony between two Republics, which every thing invites to friendship, is in question, be assured that as soon as you can take in hand the object of your mission, I shall have the honor immediately to send you passports.

Accept, sir, the assurances of my very sincere consideration.

(Signed) CH. MAU. TALLEYRAND.

Paris, le 23e Floreal de l'an 7 de la République Française, une et indivisible.

Le Ministre des Relations Exterieures,

A Monsieur WILLIAM VANS MURRAY, Ministre Resident des Etats Unis à la Haye.

J'augure trop bien, Monsieur, de l'empressement que vous mettez à remplir les instructions de votre gouvernement, pour ne pas me hâter de répondre à la lettre que je reçois de vous sous la date du 16 de ce mois.

Le Directoire Executif informé de la nomination de Mr. Oliver Ellsworth, de Mr Patrick Henry, et de vous même, en qualité d'Envoyés Extraordinaires et de Ministres Plenipotentiaires des Etats Unis près de la République Française, pour discuter et terminer tous les

différens qui subsistent entre les deux pays, voit avec plaisir que sa persévérance dans les sentimens pacifiques ait tenu les voies ouvertes à une conciliation prochaine. Il a manifesté depuis long tems ses intentions à ce sujet. Veuillez transmettre à vos collègues et acceptez vous-même l'assurance franche et explicite, qu'il recevra les envoyés des Etats Unis dans le caractère officiel dont ils sont revêtus, qu'ils jouiront de toutes les prerogatives qui y sont attachées par le droit des gens, et qu'un ou plusieurs Ministres seront dûment autorisés à traiter avec eux.

Il étoit certès superflu de laisser écouler tant de mois pour la simple confirmation de ce que j'avois déjà déclaré à Mr. Gerry, et qu'après son départ je vous ai fait déclarer à la Haye. Je regrette sincèrement que vos deux collègues attendent cette réponse à une si grande distance. Quant à vous, Monsieur, à qui elle parviendra sous peu de jours, et qui sentez si bien le prix du tems, lors qu'il s'agit de rétablir l'harmonie entre deux républiques, que tout invite à l'amitié, croyez qu'aussitôt que vous pourrez vous occuper de l'objet de votre mission, j'aurai l'honneur de vous envoyer immédiatement des passeports.

Agreez, Monsieur, les assurances de ma bien véritable considération.

CH. MAU. TALLEYRAND.

TRUE COPY.

18th May, 1799

W. V. MURRAY.

The Hague.