# The National Intelligencer,

AND

# WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

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*For the National Intelligencer.*

## No. III.

My preceding remarks have tended to shew that no material or alarming division subsists among the *People* of the United States. Their modes of thinking and of acting have been exhibited as calculated to unite and not divide them; and their various interests appear to furnish the strongest additional ties of union.

If the *People* of the United States are not divided, whence flows that spirit of hostility that rages throughout the union?

The answer to this question will at once remove all difficulty by pointing out the quarter from whence the violence of party spirit issues.

No governments have hitherto been framed so strong, and no nation has hitherto been sufficiently wise, to prevent men of turbulent ambition, or interested motives, from making an attempt to absorb into themselves an undue portion of power.—They have availed themselves, with unsleeping vigilance, of every occasion to deceive the people, where the people have been depositories of power. By false pretensions to patriotism, by indirectly extolling themselves, by directy calumniating their opponents, they have too often triumphed in their designs. When it is further considered that these men are generally wealthy, and that their wealth is for the most part active and circulating, their means of influence are seen to be considerably enlarged.

But no sooner have these men obtained the power they sought, than their ambition, flushed with their easy triumphs over the unsuspicious virtue of the people, has pointed out the path to more elevated prospects. Thus taking one bold step after another, they have pursued their own interests to the total direliction of the interests of the people, of which by the people they were constituted the guardians.

I will not say that in all these cases corrupt motives have led to the acquisition and the abuse of power. For there is a wonderful deception in the exercise of authority. Few men are tyrants in their own opinion. Still, on this account, the tyranny is not the less oppressive. The historian represents Nero to have been a *humane man*, the horror inspired by his name supercedes all necessity of comment upon his character as emperor.

Be the motives, therefore, what they may, our judgment will not suffer us to entertain a doubt of the invariable existence of such a description of men in all times, and under every form of government; but particularly under that form which partakes of the representative character; wherein the people are frequently appealed to, and called upon to exercise the right of suffrage.

Now, the great body of the people may be alarmed either by the actual abuse of power, or by the attempts of influential men, not actually invested with power, to deprive them of their rights. Both these cases appear to exist in the United States. While men in office have extended the limits of their trusts, have broken down the rigid and salutary barriers erected to defend the several departments of the government against mutual invasion, and have without violating the *letter* of the constitution, in effect subverted its *spirit*, which is decidedly republican, by pursuing schemes of policy promotive of monarchic results, by extending our diplomatic relations, by uniting us with foreign nations inimical to the enjoyment of equal rights, by raising useless standing armies, and of consequence imposing heavy burthens; while these measures have been the fruits of official labors, men in private life, of high consideration for talents, have avowed their unequivocal preference of monarchic plans of government over those which are republican, have enforced the necessity of resorting to the use of those means, which under the plausible pretext of imparting energy to the government, have uniformly rendered it despotic, have with arrogant effrontery ridiculed every thing that is republican and have endeavored by unceasing detraction to ruin in the public opinion every individual of republican principles.

Here then is the great cause of alarm. It does not proceed from any extensive, deep rooted *division among* the people; but it proceeds from the well founded conviction of the people that attempts are making that are conducted with vigor and art, to change the nature of their political institutions, to divest them of many of their dearest rights, and in the end to enslave them. For the people of this country are too enlightened not to see the ultimate issue of encroachment after encroachment. Warned by the experience of other nations, they know that real security can only be attained by the unrelaxed assertion of their sentiments, and the unrestrained exercise of their rights. They know that if they slumber, their enemy, ever awake, may aim a deadly blow at their happiness. They know that it is easier to prevent an evil than to overcome it. They know that their strength is invincible if applied early and in the constitutional channel; whereas long accumulated abuses ever produce despotism or convulsion, the evils of both of which are incalculable, the issue uncertain.

But it cannot be inferred from this state of things, that the *people are divided.* The energetic assertion of their rights, the commanding attitude of their remonstrance is the clearest proof of their union. They may differ, they do differ in their opinions of men; but in principle they go together.

Let not, then, the turbulence of ambition build its lofty battlements upon the conviction that the people, by being divided, may be subdued. Terrible will such a conviction, carried into practise, prove to its assertor. It may be at once a monument of his folly and his crime.

TIMOLEON.

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**The following is copied from a Hagerstown, (Maryland) paper, of the 6th November.**

*Extract of a letter from* John Langdon, *Esq. Senator in Congress from New-Hampshire, to* Samuel Ringgold, *Esq. of this county.*

"*Portsmouth, October* 19, 1800.

"DEAR SIR,

"Your agreeable favor of the 4th instant has this moment come to hand; I am greatly rejoiced to see Gentlemen of property and influence coming forward at this eventful moment, in the common cause of our country; I have no doubt we shall yet be saved.

"I am now packing my baggage, shall set out in the stage to morrow morning for the city of Washington; hope to be in Baltimore the begining of next month—this prevents my answering your letter so fully as I could wish, having only one moment to spare.

"In the conversation held between Mr. *Adams*, Mr. *Taylor*, and myself, Mr. Adams certainly expressed himsef as (faras my memory serves me) in the very words mentioned in you letter, viz. That he hoped or expected to see the day when Mr. Taylor and his friend Mr. Giles would be convinced, *that the people of America would not be happy without an hereditary Chief Magistrate and Senate—Or at least during life.*"

"Believe me sincerely
"Your obedient servant,
"JOHN LANGDON.

"Samuel Ringgold, Esq.
"Hager's Town, Maryland."

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## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

### LONDON, October 3.

It is with much concern we announce that the intelligence we gave two days ago of a pestilential disease having broken out in Spain is confirmed.

We are grieved in being obliged to announce also, that there are some fears of a similar disease being on board a packet just arrived at Falmouth, with a mail from Jamaica. The letters, &c. are to be fumigated before sending to London.

### October 1.

The preliminaries of peace signed at Paris, which we published in our yesterday's paper, present a subject of difficult discussion. We do not find in them those absurd and mad pretensions which some of our contemporaries thought proper a few days ago, on the authority of their, no doubt, well accredited correspondents, to ascribe to the French government, while at the same time we do not see much of that moderation which can entitle the chief consul to credit for the sincerity of his pacific intentions. The trreaty of Campo Formio is generally laid down as the basis of negociation.—The leading article in this treaty was the cession to France of all the territory on the left bank of the Rhine, formerly belonging to the Emperor, and other princes, in consideration of Venice, with its terra-firma, being annexed to the States of the House of Austria. It was provided, however, by the secret articles, that some of the fortresses on the right bank, such as Kehl, Ehrenbreitstein, &c. should be garrisoned by the troops of the Republic. The conditions held forth in the present preliminaries are so far more favourable to Austria, as they stipulate that these places of strength, instead of being retained by France, shall be razed; and the integrity of the Germanic body is violated to less extent, as, instead of throwing the arch-bishopric of Saltzburg with part of Bavaria, into the scale of indemnities, a make weight is to be found in Italy, equal in importance to what would have been derived from these quarters. Little doubt can be entertained that the States of Venice are no inadequate equivalent for Austrian Flanders; that is to say, upon a fair exchange. The revenues arising out of the Low Countries never were sufficient to defray the expense of maintaining them while they were held of Austria; and though they were a powerful barrier against France, for the western states of the empire, they rather diminished than added to the strength of the hereditary dominions. Venice, on the other hand, from its position, perfects the unity of the Imperial territory, and constitutes Austria a naval power. But it ought to be considered that here there was no fair exchange. There was only a compensation for a loss, and in order that the compensation should be equal to the loss, it required to be double the amount of it.—France, in extending her boundary to the Rhine, acquired a new tract of country. In adjusting the political balance, therefore, France should have given up something she possessed before; whereas, in granting Venice to the Emperor, (which, by the bye, she had no right to grant, and he had no right to take) she merely gave a compensation for what she took from him, without bringing her own acquisition into the account, which between rival powers ought always to be considered in adjusting their mutual interests.

It is not impossible that Ferrara & Mantua might be the equivalent meant in the preliminaries to be set against the Archbishopric of Salxbourg—which, by giving the emperor the strong line of the Mincio for a bounday, would have rounded his territory, and established for him a strong footing in Italy.

Still, however, France would gain more upon the whole than Austria, because, tho' Austria might have an equivalent for her loss she would have no compensation for the aggrandisement of her rival.

Considering the interests of the emperor as combined with those of England, the allies would lose in a duplicate proportion. Venice was no object of dread either to the one or the other. When united with Austria, it adds but little, if any thing at all, to the weight of England in the political scale of Europe: whereas France, at all times the rival of this country as well as of Austria, by the cession of Belgium, obtains not only a great addition to her internal strength, but becomes the master of an extended line of coast, threatening to our insular security. Even the navy of England, invincible as it is, may be eluded by a force collected on any part of a coast stretching from Bayonne to the Weser.

Whether under all the circumstances of the case, it be prudent on the part of the cabinet of Vienna to refuse to ratify the preliminaries of peace which have been already signed, is a very different question. The laws of necessity are far removed from the calculations of cost and reflecting policy. When an appeal is made to arms, the statesman is superceded in his office, and the fate of a battle often decides in a day what all the skill of diplomacy could not have brought to issue in a month. The position of the Austrian army is at this moment so extremely critical, that many people regard it as little less than madness for the emperor to stake his very existence upon the event of a battle, which if unsuccessful, throws him entirely at the mercy of his enemies, after forfeiting all claims upon their generosity: and which, if successful (which there is rational ground to hope), will not put him in a situation to enforce higher demands upon France, than those which France is willing at this moment to satisfy.

With respect to the conduct and views of the Chief Consul, we must confess, that to us they appear to be directed neither by wisdom nor moderation. It is as much the interest of France as of the other powers to have peace. The prospect of conquest is dazzling; the enjoyment of peace is sweet; and can he imagine, though the fortune of war may now be in his power for the moment, to impose farther terms upon his adversary, and to incircle France with new acquired provinces, that any peace, not founded upon justice, and which does not satisfy the fair claim of the different powers of Europe, can last? He ought maturely to weigh the maxim of Carnot, that in no case it is good policy to reduce an enemy to despair. Its reactions are often dreadful!

In the preliminaries little is said respecting Italy. Whether it was meant that the king of Sardinia should be restored we know not. It is probable that the fate of the states of Italy was to be reserved as a subject of negociation. Even the ambition of Buonaparte, could not look for dominion beyond the Alps. Had he come forward, however with an avowal of his intentions to restore the dethroned Sovereign of Piedmont, he certainly would have given stronger vouchers for his moderation than any he has yet produced.

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### RIOT AT NOTTINGHAM

*Extract of a letter dated Sept.* 1.

"In consequence of the advance in the price of wheat, (which has arisen not from any actual scarcity, but the late rain preventing the farmers from bringing their grain to market,) a rash and misguided mob collected together last night, and began their depredations by assailing the windows of the principal bakers, breaking open their doors, and absolutely stealing all the bread and flour they could find. The mob commenced their depredations about 8 o'clock; and the present worthy Chief Magistrate, conceiving they would not proceed to extremities, forbore to call out the soldiery until eleven, by which time the whole town was in alarm, and serious injury had been sustained by the bakers, to whom no blame can be attributed. At length the soldiers arrived from the barracks, headed by the Mayor, and immediately the rioters dispersed; but it was only to resume their depredations in another quarter of the town. They proceeded to the banks of the river Trent, where they found several barges laden with wheat, many sacks of which they seized and divided among the women and children, who took home their booty in every direction. They afterwards assailed one of the ware-houses, the property of a baker, where a quantity of fine flour was deposited; this they scattered about, and a considerable portion of it was absolutely trampled under foot. The dragoons by this time made their appearance, and hostility again subsided. Some of the ringleaders were taken into custody, but afterwards rescued by the mob. The town is now in a state of confusion—the market-place crowded with rioters, whom the presence of the soldiery only overawes. The magistrates, actuated by the most humane motives, are doing every thing in their power to quell the disturbances.—The volun-