

SUPPLEMENT TO THE MADRAS COURIER.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1807.

RUSSIAN MANIFESTO.

"The events which have spread over Europe the horrors of bloodshed and devastation from an insatiable thirst of conquest and aggrandisement in the present tyrant Government of France, are manifest to the whole world. Our endeavours to set bounds to this evil, and to preserve the tranquillity and integrity of Powers in alliance with us by pacific measures, all proved ineffectual. The perfidy with which the common enemy violates the sanctity of treaties and the rights of nations, threatening Europe with universal devastation, incited us at last to take up arms in support of neighbouring kingdoms. The friends of despotism that beset the Austrian Empire, obliged that Monarchy to conclude a disadvantageous Peace on terms dictated by the ambition of the conqueror, and the dire necessity of circumstances. After this, Prussia, vainly attempting to check the mischief by the establishment of a general and solid peace, through the means of negotiation, notwithstanding all her sacrifices for the sake of preserving an alliance with France, notwithstanding all her compliances with the demands of this common enemy, could not long remain exempt from the calamities of war. Lulled into a state of delusive security by the prospect of a peace which she vainly hoped to enjoy, and the mistaken confidence she reposed in a treacherous ally, she was suddenly plunged into the very abyss of ruin. The armies of Napoleon, falling on the Prussian troops, before they had been able to unite, defeated them, made an easy conquest of the defenceless capital, and seized the greater part of the provinces of that Kingdom.

"In such a situation of affairs, seeing the neighbouring Power, which divided the western borders of our empire from France, destitute of all further means of defence, it became indispensably necessary for us to advance our armies, under the command of Field-Marshal Count Kaminski, for the defence of our territories, menaced on that side with an hostile invasion; and, having implored the protection of the Almighty, who ever espouses the cause of the just, we ordered every effort to be made for the defeat of this dangerous assailant, who, in the proclamations he has published, carries his audacity so far as openly to threaten, that he will extend his triumph even over our dominions.

"At the commencement of this inevitable war the whole burden of which, after the total overthrow of our allies, devolves upon our country, we consider it our first duty, to redouble our unceasing efforts for the preservation of the tranquillity and integrity of our empire; by augmenting and collecting the armed force of a faithful, brave, and magnanimous people, entrusted to our administration by Almighty Providence. The miseries which have so rapidly overtaken the neighbouring powers, evince the pressing necessity of recourse to unusual means, to great and vigorous measures, which can only be carried into effect by a zealous attachment to our country, by a manly firmness of spirit, and a true sense of national honor. A people really inspired and actuated by sentiments of that description, arming in a body, may raise an unsurmountable rampart against every hostile attack, however formidable. Neglect in providing for their internal security, by such general armaments, during the present contest with France, in opposition to her system of plunder and rapine, has been attended with the most pernicious consequences in the downfall of Prussia. It contributed to hasten in the downfall of Prussia. Their fate was determined by the loss of a few battles; after which the enemy meeting no obstacles, and finding no opposition from an unarmed populace, suddenly forced his way through the interior provinces, spread devastation and terror by his rapid and violent depredations, destroyed the scattered remains of a routed army, and effected a total overthrow of their empire. The bravery, which their unexampled firmness, for the course of a century past, has gained over every foreign foe, to the remotest corners of the earth, the trophies still existing in various parts of these realms which have been extended by their achievements, and the recollection of the glory they have thus acquired, affords us the strongest ground to hope that on the present occasion, under the dispensations of Providence, whose blessings attend the arms of the just, all the machinations of our enemies may be confounded, and that the only traces they leave behind them upon our soil will be their own graves.

"The immense tract of country upon which these armies must act occasioning many difficulties in the way of their speedy and mutual co-

operation for the defence of an extensive frontier, the evident danger which would arise in case (which God forbid should ever be the case) the enemy might penetrate into the interior of our empire, compel us to adopt the most efficacious measures to avert it, by the establishment of a general temporary armament or militia, which may be ready in all quarters at a moment's notice, to support the regular troops, and able to oppose to the enemy at every step the invincible force of the true sons of their country, united for the preservation of their most valuable enjoyments.

"In such arduous circumstances we refer with the fullest confidence to the distinguished order of the hereditary nobility of our empire, by whose faithful services in the field of battle, and extensive sacrifices both of life and property, Russia has been elevated to her present greatness, to that order which by examples of heroism has on all occasions animated and assisted the subordinate members of the empire to participate in the salvation, defence, and glory of our country.

The memorable proofs of patriotism and of loyalty displayed in ancient and modern times by the Nobility of Russia, and their well-known readiness on every occasion, to obey the summons of their Sovereign, and to meet with spirit every toil, and every danger for the service of the empire, convince us how cordially, zealously, and efficaciously, it will co-operate with us for the speedy and successful completion of such a provisional armament or militia, as is indispensably required, and now ordained for public security, according to the regulations annexed hereto.

"We are likewise well assured that our faithful corporations, and every class of citizens, as well as the crown peasants, and free boors through the country, will unite their efforts to bear the common burden of this important public duty for the defence of our holy faith, and for individual preservation.

"May the servants of the Church of God offer up in concert with ourselves, and all our faithful subjects, the most fervent prayers towards the Supreme Disposer of Events, that he may shed his divine favor on our efforts to avert the common danger, to vanquish, and exterminate the foe, and to restore the blessings of peace and tranquillity in the heart of our empire.

"The formation of the national troops or militia to exist only during the time of public danger, is to be carried into effect on the following plan:—

[Here follows: The incorporation of the provisional troops or militia, The levy and equipment of the militia, and of The regulation of the militia.]

"When, by the blessing of the Almighty, our efforts, in conjunction with those of our faithful subjects, for the defence of our country, and the defeat of its haughty enemies, shall have been crowned with wisdom, for success, and the danger with which we are now threatened shall pass away, then with hearts full of gratitude towards the Providence that protects us, these our troops shall lay down their arms and return to their homes and families, saved by their courage, there to enjoy the fruits of peace so gloriously acquired. We likewise solemnly pledge our Imperial word, and impose upon ourselves the sacred obligation, as the representative of a grateful country, to bestow graces and favours, and to reward with honor and those marks of distinction due to eminent merit and services, all the true-borne sons of Russia, who, on the present occasion, may display their zeal by acts of personal courage, by the sacrifices of their property, or by other deeds essentially conducive to the public good. The names of all such champions in their country's service will be celebrated with just admiration by posterity, and enrolled in the annals of immortal fame.

(Signed) ALEXANDER.

Peterburgh, Nov. 30, 1806.

(Here follows a specification of the numbers to be supplied by the different Governments of the seven Districts. The whole number is 612,000 men, and the Governments or Provinces not enumerated for supplying men, are to supply contributions of provisions, arms, ammunition, &c.)

AMERICA—21st Feb. 1807.

The following Memoir and Documents were submitted to the House of Representatives by the President.

(TRANSLATION.)

Note of the Minister Plenipotentiary of France, to the Secretary of State.

The undersigned, Minister plenipotentiary of his imperial and royal majesty, to his excellency

the president of the United States of America, has the honor to remind the Secretary of State, that at the beginning of last year and during the session of congress, Mr. Chevalle, attorney in fact of the heirs of Mr. de Beaumarchais, took various steps with the Secretary of the treasury to obtain a liquidation of the debt contracted by the United States, with the said Mr. de Beaumarchais.

At the request of the attorney in fact to whom the treasury opposed a receipt of Mr. de Beaumarchais, in order to place to the debit of his heirs a million of livres tournois, 1806, to the Secretary of the treasury, an official note, which left no doubt of the destination of the million in dispute, the employment of which, agreeably to the orders of the king was consigned to a special and secret service, and consequently, which could not have any connexion with the transactions, bargain, supplies, and generally with any mercantile operations which Mr. de Beaumarchais might have been concerned in with the government of the United States of America.

This note, or rather this official declaration of the minister plenipotentiary of France, ought to have removed the only obstacle which was opposed to the entire liquidation with the heirs of Mr. de Beaumarchais, because the justice of their claim is demonstrated to conviction, and they were far from expecting that the secretary of the treasury would still retain doubts upon the legitimacy of their credit.

The heirs of Mr. de Beaumarchais now confide their interests to the protection of the French government as well as to the justice of the federal government; and the undersigned, in declaring to the secretary of state, that this affair, on being examined in France with the most scrupulous attention, has presented to the judgement of the most enlightened and impartial men nothing but an incontrovertible conclusion in favor of the heirs of Mr. de Beaumarchais, will add, that it is no longer to Mr. Chevalle, it is no longer to a mere attorney in fact, that the said heirs have recourse to obtain a justice too long refused; but to the French government itself, which calls with confidence and through the organs of its minister plenipotentiary, the attention of the secretary of state to interests no less sacred than the cause which produced them.

When the French government raises its voice in favour of the unfortunate heirs of Mr. de Beaumarchais, the undersigned thinks it useless to recall to view the nature and the importance of the services, which their author rendered to the cause of independence. It would be to turn the mind back towards a period equally glorious for the nations, but that France always generous, knows how to forget, because the United States remember it.

After the ministerial declaration respecting the employment of the million, a declaration, which doubtless (and as a consequence of those mutual sentiments of respect and confidence, which government ought to have for communications of this nature) would have been sufficient for the secretary of the treasury, if his power had not been so limited; it is the duty of the undersigned agreeably to the forms and repeated instructions, which he has received in this respect, to address himself directly and in the name of his government on that of the United States, and to request from the secretary of state, that at length justice should be done to the claim of the heirs of Mr. de Beaumarchais; a claim which the French government would not have honoured with its support, if it were not founded upon the immutable principles of reason and of right.

The undersigned seizes with eagerness this occasion of offering to the secretary of state the homage of his high consideration.

(Signed) TURREAU.

Washington 14th Jan. 1807.
Faithfully translated,
JACOB WAGNER,
Chief clerk, Department of state.

(TRANSLATION.)

Claim of Mr. Beaumarchais, to a million against the United States, as payment for supplies which furnished them.

Objession of the Treasury of the United States.

"It was afterwards discovered that only two millions out of the three granted as a gratuitous gift, before the treaty of February, 1788, had been thus received by the United States; and to an application made to count de Vergennes in 1786, for the purpose of ascertaining when, and to whom, the other million had been paid, an answer was returned that the said million was paid on the 10th day of June, 1776; but a copy of the receipt was refused, and the minister did not think proper to disclose the name of the person, who had received the money. On a subse-

quent application made to the French government, the minister of the foreign relations gave it as the result of his inquiries, that M. de Beaumarchais was the person to whom the said million had been advanced, and accordingly furnished the minister of the United States with a copy of M. de Beaumarchais's receipt for the same.

No doubt remains, that the advance of a million, made by the French government, on the 10th June 1776, for the use of the United States, and the payment of one million on the same day, by Mr. Beaumarchais, were but one and the same transaction.

Answer.—Before answering the objections of the treasury of the United States, it is of importance correctly to state the question which forms the subject of the present claim, because by this means all suppositions foreign to it will be avoided.

Did M. Beaumarchais receive from the government of France a million on account of his supplies to the U. States? This is the question.

The identity of the date given by M. de Vergennes, and of the receipt of M. de Beaumarchais, communicated by Mr. Boucher, has until now been the cause of a delay of justice on the part of the treasury of the United States, to the heirs of Mr. de Beaumarchais; and of the prejudices which the treasury has conceived against this claim.

In M. de Beaumarchais, we are to perceive and recognize two characters; one, the secret agent of the French government; and the other furnisher of supplies to the United States.

As a secret agent of the government of France, he received a million on the 10th June, 1776. In the same year M. de Vergennes, who had caused it to be given to him, and who had imposed upon him the obligation of rendering an account to the king, who approved of it and gave a discharge to M. de Beaumarchais. If M. Boucher, in communicating this receipt, had intimated at the same time, that in the same time, that in the same file, and annexed to the receipt itself, were the account rendered to the king, and the approbation in the margin signed by the king himself, certainly the treasury would not have pretended a right to charge to the account of supplies by M. de Beaumarchais a million for which he had accounted, and from which he had been discharged by the authority which had given it to him.

As a furnisher of supplies to the United States, he did not receive the said million, and consequently he is a creditor of the United States for this sum until it is paid to him. Among the nine millions given as a free gift by the king, three were fixed by the convention of 1788, as having been before 1778. Of these three, the United States had only the use of two; and it is of that which is wanting that they require an account from M. de Beaumarchais.

Although the nine millions in question have been formerly acknowledged, to have been received by the convention of 25th February, 1785, signed by the American commissioners and ratified by congress, and although this public act discharges M. de Beaumarchais from all accountability; nevertheless the government of France, in order to fulfil the claims of justice, as well as the desire of the United States to know what has become of this million, causes its minister plenipotentiary to declare:

1st. That the French government has always remained a stranger to all the mercantile transactions of M. de Beaumarchais, with the United States.

2d. That the million given on the 10th of June, 1776, to the said Sieur de Beaumarchais was for a secret political service, of which the king reserved to himself the knowledge.

3d. That the account of the employment of the said million was presented at the close of 1776 to the king, and approved by him.

4th. That M. de Beaumarchais has been discharged from it by his Majesty himself.

5th. And lastly, that the said million was not given on account of his supplies. This declaration confirms those which have been made on divers occasions by M. de Vergennes and M. Gerard, as well as to the American ministers in France as to congress, that the French government has remained a stranger to the mercantile operations of M. de Beaumarchais, and that he became a creditor to the United States at the same time that he became a debtor of the king for the articles that he had permission to take from his arsenals, and which became his own property.

M. de Vergennes, in ordering a refusal to tell to whom the said million was given, and in causing it to be declared in 1786, that it was inconvenient to tell, proves equally that it was a secret, and that the said million was not given on account of the supplies of M. de Beaumarchais. For to suppose the contrary, would be to think that this minister wished a million more to be paid by the United States to M. de Beaumarchais than was due to him. This opinion would shock whomsoever that was acquainted with the probity of M. de Vergennes.

Objection.—"It is urged in behalf of the claimant, that it is now in proof that the money was

advanced for secret services of a political nature. That argument could not be by the officers of the treasury, be taken into consideration; because they were bound to require positive proof of the application of the money in order to credit M. Beaumarchais for the expenditure.

Answer.—When the treasury debited the account of M. de Beaumarchais with the said million, it had not the declaration of the government of France, that the said million, had been employed in a political secret service, and had not been given on account of supplies. Now this circumstance is known, it may balance the account. It can be no more disputed that the king, who gave the 9 millions had the power of employing one of them towards the views and to the advantage of the cause which he supported, than his ministers can be required to disclose the object of the service in which it was employed; because it is a secret which they ought to keep, and which M. de Vergennes declared it inconvenient to communicate even ten years afterwards.

The secretary of the treasury is so well persuaded of it, that he says in his report, it may be observed, that the declaration of the French government should be taken in its strictly literal sense.

After an opinion thus expressed, and which manifests the respect and attention we owe to the declarations of a government, it is justly believed he would not have hesitated to strike the balance of M. de Beaumarchais's account, without comprising in it the said million, if he had not found himself bound by the premature opinion of his predecessors, and by the limitation of his powers.

Objection.—"Nor would it be extraordinary that advances made in 1776 in order to enable an individual to furnish warlike supplies to the United States, should have been considered by the French Government as an expense for a secret political service.

Answer.—Did the government of France keep it as a secret from the United States, that it had given permission to M. Beaumarchais to obtain cannon, muskets, &c. from the Magazines of the king? No.

Why, therefore, would it have been made a secret of this million, if it had been given for the same articles.

Can it be supposed that the king gave a million to pay himself?

It will not be disputed, that at the epoch of the treaty of 1778, which united the two powers, there no longer remained any secret about M. de Beaumarchais having before this time furnished cannon, muskets, &c. taken from the magazines of the king. The arms of France engraved upon these pieces published the secret.

The convention of 1785, openly avowed, that three millions, gratuitously given by the king, had been given before the treaty of 1778.

Thus the destination of the million given on the 10th June, 1776, must be looked upon as very extraordinary, and as a secret, and it cannot with justice, be debited to M. de Beaumarchais, on account of his supplies.

Objection.—"It is further objected, that M. Beaumarchais, having fairly accounted to his own government, and to their satisfaction, for the application of this million, must be considered as discharged from any accountability to the United States.

Answer.—Is it correct to say, that an accountability is not due to a third party not named in the deed or obligation?

If this principle cannot be brought into doubt, M. de Beaumarchais; or rather the government of France says, M. de Beaumarchais has received from me a million, for which he is to account to me; he has rendered this account to me, I have approved it, and I have given him a discharge.

The transcript of this receipt will demonstrate to conviction, the truth as well as the justice of what has been advanced.

Copy of the Receipt.
"I have received from M. du Veasier appreciable to the orders which have been given to him by the count de Vergennes, on the 5th current, the sum of a million, of which I will render an account to my said Sieur de Vergennes.

At Paris the 10th June, 1776.

(Signed) Caron de Beaumarchais.

From whom did M. de Beaumarchais receive a million, according to this receipt.

From M. de Vergennes, by the hands of M. Vergier.

To whom did his own receipt, and the will of him who gave him the million, impose upon him the obligation of accounting?

To M. de Vergennes.

Who received this account?

M. de Vergennes.

Who approved of the account, and gave M. de Beaumarchais a discharge?

The king himself, who gave the said million, and who ordered the destination of it.

The candour and the justice of the secretary of the treasury equally oppose, after this exposition of the said receipts, the demand of an account of the said million from M. de Beaumarchais; for if even the account had not been rendered to the

government of France, no power, no person, (unless he was delegated to its rights by a special power) could demand it; for M. de Beaumarchais by his bills, is made a debtor of the government of France; and if it had been otherwise, he might as well have been the debtor of any other power, or of any other person, as of the United States.

If M. de Beaumarchais were paid by the United States, does the secretary of the treasury think, that, possessed of his original receipt, he could prosecute him before any court of justice, and hope to recover the amount contained in the said receipt.

If his opinion should be in the affirmative, what risk would the United States run in paying the Beaumarchais family; because they would be certain of recovering what they paid.

To start a doubt, and yet draw from this doubt a conclusion in your favour, is contrary to justice; and by removing the doubt we remove the consequences.

M. de Beaumarchais by this obligation is accountable only to the government of France. The above observations prove it to a demonstration.

Objection.—"It is evident that if he was rightfully charged by the United States for that sum, it is them and not to the French government that he is accountable. The solemn declaration that the million was a gratuitous gift to the United States, seems inconsistent with the supposition that it was not applied as an aid and subsidy, but given without their knowledge to an individual responsible for its application, not to the government who had received, but to that who gave the subsidy."

Answer.—He has rendered this account. The king has approved it, and he has been discharged from it. The million was given for a political secret service. Why would not the secretary of treasury wish to look upon the definition given by the king, to that one of the nine millions which is missing, as an aid and subsidy, because this definition (which is a secret and always will remain one) can have no other object than to favour the views and to secure advantages to the United States, and may be denominated aid and subsidy.

The present government of France has made all possible research, in order to enlighten its equity and its justice in an affair, which interests a family, whose head employed all the fortune which he ought to have left it, to the support of the American cause; and it is after the most intimate conviction, that this sum is due to M. de Beaumarchais, that it has charged its minister plenipotentiary to declare anew, that the million given on the 10th of June, 1776, to M. de Beaumarchais was employed in a secret service, that an account of it has been rendered to the king, and approved by him, and thus it was not given on account of supplies furnished by the said Beaumarchais to the United States.

(Signed) TURREAU.

Washington, Jan. 14, 1807.

Faithfully translated,
JACOB WAGNER, Chief Clerk Dep. State.

HER MAJESTY'S BIRTH-DAY.

On the 19th day of last May, the Queen completed her 63d year, the celebration of which has always been postponed, on account of its being so very near His Majesty's, and the 18th of the following January has been fixed on for the celebration. The 18th happening on Sunday, the celebration took place yesterday.

The day was observed with much joy, magnificence, and splendour.

As the clock struck one, 62 cannons were discharged in St. James's Park, and the 61 cannons on the Tower wharf, were discharged at the same time.

Soon after nine o'clock, their Majesties and the Princesses, breakfasted together, at the Queen's Palace.

In the course of the morning the Dukes of York, Kent, Cumberland, Sussex, Cambridge, and Gloucester; Princess Charlotte of Wales, the Bishops of Chelmsford and Exeter, &c. attended at the Queen's Palace, to pay their early and private congratulations to Her Majesty, likewise a number of the dignified clergy and others.

A little before two o'clock Her Majesty and the Princesses left their dressing-rooms to proceed to the Grand Council Chamber, to hold a Drawing-room. In an anti-room the Archbishop of Canterbury, and several other Bishops, were waiting to compliment Her Majesty on the happy return of the day. The Archbishop delivered to Her Majesty a suitable oration upon the occasion. Her Majesty and the Princesses then proceeded on their way to the Grand Council Chamber, conducted by Earl Morton, on her right hand, and Col. Desbrow, on her left; followed by the Princesses and a number of attendants. Her Majesty entered about twenty minutes past two o'clock and took her station between the second and third window, leaving her back against a marble slab table. Her Majesty's train was held up by the lady in waiting.