

The English government having determined to make war on us, the first method cannot and ought not to be made use of.—It would be not only impossible to obtain a credit to the end of our operations, but it would be attended with great expence, from the low state of exchange occasioned by the war. The only resource then remaining, would be to furnish orders on the national treasury: but if these should enjoy the credit which they merit, there is reason to believe, that the Americans would still prefer them for assignments of the debt of the United States. So that it is very probable, that this means of managing the matter in America, the best the Republic is at present capable of devising, is that on which the executive council may with greatest safety rely, unless the United States would wish to render themselves hostile towards the Republic, which, from every appearance is unlikely to be the case. But it is proper we should provide for every contingency, the omission of which might cause Citizen Genet embarrassment; therefore, the minister of public contributions proposes to the provisory executive council the following

D E C I S I O N.

The national treasury will furnish Citizen Genet with a declaration in writing, authorizing him to employ agreeably to the orders of the ministers of the interior, of war, of the marine, and foreign affairs, the sums he shall receive from the government of the United States, on account of the debt due to France, or the complete balance thereof, as well principal as interest, in conformity to the instructions given to Citizen Genet, on that subject.

The national treasury will authorize the Citizen Genet to furnish or cause to be furnished upon his banker, bills of exchange drawn at two months sight, to the amount of the sums requisite for the payment of subsistence, warlike stores, and other expences of those ministers. The said bills of exchange should be employed to make up the said payments only in case Citizen Genet should not be able to do so, either in whole or in part, with the funds arising from the American debt, which he is charged to negotiate.

And in fine, in order to induce the United States to make this reimbursement, in case they should not be able to effect it, either in whole or in part, with specie, the Citizen Genet is authorized to accept it from the American government in such state notes, bearing interest, as shall be received at par, by the persons to whom Citizen Genet may have payments to make on account of the Republic. The orders which Citizen Genet shall furnish on the treasury of the United States, in exchange for specie or state notes, shall carry in their faces the declaration of the department for which they shall have been employed: the Treasurer of the United States, after discharging their amount, shall send them to the French treasury, where they will be received as so much ready money, in discharge of the debt of the United States, and as expenditures in part of the sums allowed by the National Convention to the three departments designated in the orders.—The bills of exchange on the national treasury, shall in the same manner bear the stamp of the ministerial department, for the expence of which they have been furnished, and shall be charged by the national treasury, on account of the sum allowed by the National Convention to the said department.

The Citizen Genet shall transmit to each minister proper statements, supported with vouchers, as well of the use made of the funds agreeably to his orders, as of the manner in which he shall have procured them.

In case the Citizen Genet shall have received from the American government, bills or state securities in reimbursement of the debt of the United States, which he could not pass without some sacrifice; the loss, in that case, shall be considered as part of the expences of purchase, transportation, or payments, confided to him.

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