

IV. This Convention, when the same shall have been ratified by His Majesty and by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof, and the respective ratifications duly exchanged, shall be binding and obligatory upon His Majesty and the said United States.

In faith whereof, We the undersigned Plenipotentiaries of His Britannic Majesty, and of the United States of America, by virtue of our respective full powers, have signed the present Convention, and have caused the seals of our arms to be affixed thereto. Done at London, the 5th day of January, 1802.

HAWKESBURY, (L. S.)
RUFUS KING, (L. S.)

*Correspondance between Mr. De Busy, Com-
missionary of a Grand Master of Malta,
elected the 9th February, and the G-
vernour of Malta. (Published in the
Moniteur.)*

*Letter of the Commander De Busy, to the
English Minister at Malta.*

" MONSIEUR,

" I had the honour of explaining to your Excellency this morning the object of the mission which his most eminent Highness, the Grand Master of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, has charged me to fulfil at Malta.

" To this explanation your Excellency replied, that you had no orders to evacuate the island of Malta with the English garrison; and you gave me to understand, that the Grand Master would do well not to repair thither.

" After reflecting on this answer of your Excellency, I have thought not only that it was unsatisfactory as your Excellency might suppose, but that it required farther explanation.

" As the answer of your Excellency seems to contain a refusal to surrender the Island of Malta to the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, agreeably to the 10th article of the Treaty of Amiens, and as such a violation of this Treaty of Peace may be attended with the most important consequences, and I may even say consequences fatal to the repose of Europe, I cannot rest satisfied with the verbal answer, which your Excellency was pleased to give me, and I should be wanting to the confidence of the Grand Master, as well as to the duty and dignity of that character which he has invested me, if I did not invite you, Sir, the Minister Plenipotentiary, to explain openly, and in an authentic manner, the motives of a refusal so unexpected.

" I therefore have the honour to remind your Excellency, that agreeably to the fourth paragraph

of the 10th article of the Treaty of Amiens, the forces of his Britannic Majesty were to evacuate the island and its dependencies in the course of three months after the ratification, or sooner if possible.

" This period has long ago expired. The Treaty adds, ' That island shall be delivered up to the Order in the state in which it is, provided the Grand Master, or Commissioners fully authorised according to the statutes of the Order, shall be in the said island to take possession of it, and that the forces to be furnished by his Sicilian Majesty shall have arrived.'

" These forces arrived long ago: Nothing then remained to be fulfilled but one condition, namely, the presence of the Grand Master, and his Commissioners, to take possession. I have the honour of observing to your Excellency that this condition has been fulfilled by the circumstance of my arrival in the island. His Emiment Highness, the Grand Master, has deigned to give me the quality of his Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to come in his name, " to treat of, negotiate, terminate, accomplish, and concert, with the English and French Ministers Plenipotentiary, as well as with the present English Government of the island, on all the articles relating to the return of the religion of Malta, and particularly on that the object of which is the disembarkation, and entrance of religion into the island, as well as the surrender of the place, &c." Such are the terms of the full powers of which I am the bearer, and of which I have the honour of sending your Excellency a copy.

" According to the tenour of these full powers, and the accomplishment of the different conditions stipulated by the Treaty of Amiens, for the delivery of the island to the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, I formally demand of your Excellency, the execution of the 4th paragraph of the 10th Article of the said treaty, and I beg you to give me on this head a precise answer.

" I beg your Excellency to accept the assurance of my high esteem. (Signed) " BUSY."

*Answer of the Minister of England to the
Commander Busy.*

" SIR, MALTA, March 2, 1803.

" I have received the letter which your Excellency did me the honour to write to me yesterday, in which you express your dissatisfaction with my verbal communication, on the object of your mission, and in which you require me to give in writing my reasons for refusing to surrender the Government of these islands, on the arrival of his eminence the Grand Master of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem.

" In answer I request permission to observe, that as some of the powers invited according to the terms of the 10th Article of the Treaty of