

more easily acquired and better secured, by a reunion with powerful neighbors, than with strangers of another hemisphere, among whom everything is different, and who, being jealous and despotic Sovereigns, will, sooner or later, treat them as a conquered people, and doubtless much worse than they treated their late countrymen [the Americans] who made those Sovereigns victorious. I shall not urge, to a whole people, that to join with the United States is to secure their own happiness; for, a whole people, when they acquire the right of thinking and acting for themselves, must know their own interest; but I will declare, and I now do formally declare in the name of his Majesty, who has authorized and so commanded me, that all his former subjects in North America, who will not acknowledge, any longer, the supremacy of Great Britain may depend upon his protection and support.

Done on board his Majesty's ship the *Languedoc*, in the harbor of Boston, the 25th day of October, 1778.

ESTAING.¹

BIGREL DE GRANCLOS, Secretary,
appointed by the King, to the squadron
commanded by the Count D'Estaing.

On board the *Languedoc*;
From the Printing office of F. P. Demauge,
Printer to the King and the Fleet.

¹ CHARLES HECTON, Count D'ESTAING, was born at the Chateau of Ruvel, in Auvergne, in 1729. He commenced the military career as Colonel of an infantry regiment; soon became Brigadier; served as such in India under Count Lally and was taken prisoner at the siege of Madras in 1759. He was released on parole which he afterwards broke; was a second time taken and then sent to England where he was thrown into prison at Portsmouth. He finally returned home vowing eternal hatred to everything English. At the peace of 1763 he was promoted to be Lieutenant-General of the navy and to be Vice-Admiral in 1773, when he was sent, with twelve ships of the Line, to aid the cause of American Independence. He made an attack on Savannah in October, 1779, and afterward reduced the islands of St. Vincent and Grenada, and defeated Admiral Byron. He returned to France in 1780, and continued to serve until the peace of 1783, when he was at the head of the combined fleets of France and Spain. In the course of the French revolution he took sides with the movement; was appointed Commandant of the National guard of Versailles, where he connived at the outrages committed at the Palace by the populace on the 5th and 6th of October, 1789, on which occasion he seemed to have lost that daring spirit which he had formerly evinced. He next removed to Paris and enrolled himself as a private in the National guard of that city. He soon became suspected and was thrown into the prison of St. Pelagie. He was afterwards called on to testify against the unfortunate Marie Antoinette, but though the Queen had been his political opponent, he had too high a sense of honor to tell anything but the truth, and spoke only of her heroism and her noble resolution, expressed in his presence, to die with her husband. He was dragged, himself, soon after, before the Revolutionary tribunal and guillotined 28th April, 1794, at the age of 65 years. He met his fate with his characteristic bravery. *Biographie Universelle*; *Alison's History of Europe* (Harpers' ed.), I., 86, 222. — Eu.