

P A P E R S &c.

TRANSLATION.

PHILADELPHIA, May 22, 1793.

2d year of the French Republic.

*The Citizen GENET, Minister Plenipotentiary of the
French Republic, to Mr. JEFFERSON, Secretary of
State of the United States of America.*

Liquidation of the
Debt of the United
States to France.

SIR,

THE executive council of the French Republic has learnt through my predecessor, the Citizen Ternant, the readiness with which the government of the United States of America attended to the facilitation of the purchases which that minister was charged to make in the United States, on account of the French Republic; as also the acquittal of the draughts of the colonies for which imperious circumstances obliged it to provide. The executive council, sir, has charged me to express to the American government, the acknowledgment inspired by all the marks of friendship which it has given on this subject to the French nation; and to prove to it the reciprocity of our sentiments, it has determined to give at once a great movement to the commerce of France with America, in drawing henceforth from the United States the greatest part of the subsistence and stores necessary for the armies, fleets and colonies of the French Republic.

The executive council has entrusted me with the direction of these great and useful operations, and has given me particular powers comprehended in the reports, and in the resolutions now enclosed, in virtue of which I am authorized by the council and by the national treasury of France, to employ the sums of which the United States can effect the payment (towards the debt to France) or those which I can procure on my personal draughts, payable by the national treasury, in purchasing provisions, naval stores, and in fulfilling other particular services, conformably to the orders which have been given to me by the minister of the interior, of war, of the marine, and of foreign affairs.

The government of the United States is too enlightened, not to perceive the immense advantages which will result from this measure to the people of America, and I cannot doubt that, knowing the difficulties which different circumstances might oppose at this moment, to the execution of the pressing commissions which have been given to me, if it should not facilitate to us still the receipt of new sums by anticipation, it will find in its wisdom, and in the reports now enclosed, of the minister of the public contributions of France, measures proper to answer our views, and to satisfy our wants.