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AUTHENTIC COPIES
OF THE

PRELIMINARY ARTICLES

OF PEACE:

BETWEEN

HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY

AND

THE MOST CHRISTIAN KING,

HIS MOST CATHOLIC MAJESTY,

AND

THE UNITED STATES OF

A M E R I C A.

Signed at VERSAILLES, the 20th. of January 1783.

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. DEBRETT, (Successor to Mr. ALMON,)
opposite BURLINGTON HOUSE, PICCADILLY.

M O N T R E A L,

Reprinted by FLEURY MESPLET, MDCCLXXXIII.

1783

TRANSLATION
OF THE
PRELIMINARY ARTICLES
OF PEACE,
BETWEEN
His BRITANNIC MAJESTY and the
Most CHRISTIAN KING;
Signed at VERSAILLES the 20th
of JANUARY, 1783.

In the Name of the Most Holy Trinity.

THE KING of GREAT-BRITAIN
and the MOST CHRISTIAN KING,
equally animated with a desire of put-
ting an end to the calamities of a destruc-
tive war, and of re-establishing union
and good understanding between them
as necessary for the good of mankind in
general as for that of their respective
kingdoms, states, and subjects, have
named

named for this purpose, viz. on the part of his Britannic Majesty Mr. Alleyne Fitz-Herbert, Minister Plenipotentiary of his said Majesty the King of Great-Britain; and on the part of his Most Christian Majesty, Charles Gravier, Comte de Vergennes, Counsellor in all his councils, Commander of his Orders, Counsellor of State, Minister and Secretary of State, and of the Commands and Finances of his said Majesty, for the department of Foreign Affairs; who, after having duly communicated to each other their full powers in good form, have agreed on the following Preliminary Articles :

ARTICLE

ARTICLE I.

AS soon as the Preliminaries shall be signed and ratified, sincere friendship shall be re established between his Britannic Majesty and his Most Christian Majesty, their kingdoms, states, and subjects by sea by land, in all parts of the world. Orders shall be sent to the armies and squadrons, as well as to the subjects, of the two powers, to stop all hostilities, and to live in the most perfect union, forgetting what is passed, of which their Sovereigns give them the order and example. And, for the execution of this article, sea-passes shall be given on each side for the ships which shall be dispatched to carry the news of it to the possessions of the said powers.

2. His Majesty the King of Great-Britain shall preserve in full right the Island of Newfoundland, and the adjacent islands, in the same manner as the whole was ceded to him by the thirteenth Article of the Treaty of Utrecht, save the exceptions which shall be stipulated by the fifth Article of the present Treaty.

3. His Most Christian Majesty, in order to prevent quarrels which have hitherto arisen between the two nations of England and France, renounces the right of fishing, which belongs to him by virtue of the said Article of the Treaty of Utrecht, from Cape Bonavista to Cape St. John, situated on the eastern coast
of

of Newfoundland, in about fifty degrees of North Latitude; whereby the French fishery shall commence at the said Cap St. John, shall go round by the North, and, going down the western coast of the Island of Newfoundland, shall have for boundary the place called Cape Raye, situated in 47 degrees 50 min. latitude.

4. The French fishermen shall enjoy the fishery assigned them by the foregoing article, as they have a right to enjoy it by virtue of the Treaty of Utrecht.

5. His Britannic Majesty will cede in full right to his Most Christian Majesty the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon.

6. With regard to the right of fishing in the Gulph of St. Laurence, the French shall continue to enjoy it conformably to the fifth article of the Treaty of Paris.

7. The King of Great-Britain shall restore to France the Island of St. Lucia, and shall cede and guarantee to her that of Tobago.

8. The Most Christian King shall restore to Great Britain the Islands of Grenada and the Grenadines, St. Vincent, Dominica, St. Christopher's, Nevis, and Montserrat; and the fortresses of those Islands conquered by the arms of Great Britain and by those of France, shall be restored in the same condition in which they were when the conquest of them was made, provided that the term of eighteen months, to be computed from the time of the ratification of the definitive treaty, shall be granted to the
 respective

respective subjects of the Crowns of Great Britain and France, who may have settled in the said Islands, and in other places which shall be restored by the definitive treaty, to sell their estates, recover their debts, and to transport their effects and retire without being restrained, on account of their religion, or any other whatever, except in cases of debt or of criminal prosecutions.

9. The King of Great Britain shall cede and guarantee in full right to his Most Christian Majesty the River of Senegal and its dependencies, with the forts of St. Louis, Podc., Galam, Arguin, and Portendu. His Britannic Majesty shall restore, likewise, the Island of Gorée, which shall be given up in the condition in which it was when the British Arms took possession of it.

10. The Most Christian King shall, on his side, guarantee to his Majesty the King of Great Britain the possession of Fort James, and of the River Gambia.

11. In order to prevent all discussions in that part of the world, the two Courts shall agree, either by the definitive treaty, or by a separate act, upon the boundaries to be fixed to their respective possessions. The Gum trade shall be carried on in future as the English and French nations carried it on before the year 1755.

12. In regard to the rest of the coasts of Africa, the subjects of both powers shall continue

tinue to frequent them, according to the custom which has prevailed hitherto.

13. The King of Great Britain shall restore to his Most Christian Majesty all the establishments which belonged to him at the commencement of the present war on the coast of Orixa, and in Bengal, with liberty to surround Chandernagor with a Ditch for draining the waters; and his Britannic Majesty engages to take such measures as may be in his power for securing to the subjects of France in that part of India, as also on the coast of Orixa, Coromandel, and Malabar, a safe, free, and independent trade, such as was carried on by the late French East India Company, whether it be carried on by them as individuals or as a company.

14. Pondicherry, as well as Karical, shall likewise be restored, and guaranteed to France; and his Britannic Majesty shall procure, to serve as a dependency round Pondicherry, the two districts of Valanour and Bahour; and as a dependency round Karical, the four contiguous Magans.

15. France shall again enter into possession of Mahé, and of the Comptoir at Surat; and the French shall carry on commerce in this part of India conformably to the principles laid down in the thirteenth articles of this Treaty.

16. In case France has Allies in India, they shall be invited, as well as those of Great Britain,

Britain, to accede to the present pacification ; and for that purpose a term of four months, to be computed from the day on which the proposal shall be made to them, shall be allowed them to make their decision ; and in case of refusal on their part, their Britannic and Most Christian Majesties agree not to give them any assistance, directly or indirectly, against the British or French possessions, or against the ancient possessions of their respective Allies ; and their said Majesties shall offer them their good offices towards a mutual accommodation.

17. The King of Great Britain, desirous of giving his Most Christian Majesty a sincere proof of reconciliation and friendship, and of contributing to the solidity of the peace which is on the point of being re-established, will consent to the abrogation and suppression of all the articles relative to Dunkirk, from the treaty of peace concluded at Utrecht in 1713, inclusively to this time.

18. By the definitive Treaty, all those which have existed till now between the two High Contracting Parties, and which shall not have been derogated from either by the said Treaty, or by the present Preliminary Treaty, shall be renewed and confirmed ; and the two Courts shall name Commissioners to enquire into the state of Commerce between the two nations, in order to agree upon new arrangements of trade, on the footing of reciprocity

procuity and mutual convenience'—The said two Courts shall together amicably fix a competent term for the duration of that business.

19. All the countries and territories which may have been, or which may be, conquered in any part of the world whatsoever, by the arms of his Britannic Majesty, or by those of his Most Christian Majesty, and which are not included in the present articles, shall be restored without difficulty, and without requiring compensation.

20. As it is necessary to assign a fixed epoch for the restitutions and the evacuations to be made by each of the high contracting parties it is agreed, that the King of Great Britain shall cause to be evacuated the Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, three months after the ratification of the definitive treaty, or sooner if it can be done; St. Lucia in the West Indies, and Gorée in Africa, three months after the ratification of the definitive treaty, or sooner if it can be done. The King of Great Britain shall, in like manner, at the end of the six months after the ratification of the definitive treaty, or sooner if it can be done, enter again into possession of the Islands of Grenada, the Grenadines, St. Vincent, Dominica, St. Christopher's, Nevis, and Montserrat.

France shall be put into possession of the towns and comptoirs, which are restored to her in the East Indies, and of the territories which are procured for her, to serve as dependencies

dencies round Pondicherry, and round Karikal, six Months after the ratification of the definitive Treaty or sooner if it can be done.

France shall at the end of the same term of six months, restore the towns and territories which her arms may have taken from the English or their Allies in the East Indies.

In consequence whereof, the necessary orders shall be sent by each of the high contracting parties, with reciprocal passports for the ships which shall carry them, immediately after the ratification of the definitive Treaty.

21. The prisoners made respectively by the arms of his Britannic Majesty, and his Most Christian Majesty by land and by sea, shall be restored reciprocally, and *bonâ fide* immediately after the ratification of the definitive Treaty, without ransom, and on paying the debts they may have contracted during their captivity; and each Crown shall respectively reimburse the sums which shall have been advanced for the subsistence and maintenance of their prisoners, by the Sovereign of the country where they shall have been detained, according to the receipts and attested accounts, and other authentic titles which shall be produced on each side.

22. In order to prevent all causes of complaint and dispute which may arise on account of prizes which may be made at Sea after the signing of these preliminary articles, it is reciprocally agreed, that the vessels and
effects,

effects, which may be taken in the Channel and the North Seas, after the space of twelve days, to be computed from the ratification of the present preliminary articles, shall be restored on each side. That the term shall be one month from the Channel and North Seas, as far as the Canary Islands, inclusively, whether in the Ocean or in the Mediterranean. Two months from the said Canary Islands, as far as the Equinoctial line or Equator; and lastly, five months in all other parts of the World, without any exception or any other more particular description of time and place.

23. The ratification of the present preliminary articles, shall be expedited in good and due form, and exchanged in the space of one month, or sooner if it can be done, to be computed from the day of the signature of the present articles.

In witness whereof, we, the underwritten Ministers plenipotentiary of his Britannic Majesty, and of his Most Christian Majesty by virtue of our respective full powers, have signed the présent preliminary articles, and have caused the seal of our arms to be put thereto.

Done at Versailles, the 20th day of January 1783.

(L. S.)

Alleyne Fitz-Herbert.

(L. S.)

Gravier de Vergennes.

TRANSLATION

OF THE

PRELIMINARY ARTICLES

OF P E A C E,

BETWEEN

His BRITANNIC MAJESTY, and the
Most CATHOLIC KING ;

Signed at VERSAILLES, the 20th
of JANUARY, 1783.

In the Name of the Most Holy Trinity.

THE King of Great-Britain and the
King of Spain, equally animated
with a desire of putting an end to the
calamities of a destructive war, and of
re-establishing union and good under-
standing between them, as necessary for
the good of mankind in general, as for
that of their respective kingdoms, states,
and subjects, have named for this pur-
pose, viz, on the part of his Majesty the
the King of Great-Britain, Mr. Alleyne
Fitz-Herbert, Minister Plenipotentiary
of his said Majesty, and on the part of
his

his Majesty the King of Spain, Don Peter Paul Abarea de Bolca Ximines d'Urnea, &c. Count of Aranda and Castell Florido, Marquis of Torres, of Villanau and Rupit, Viscount of Rueda and Yoch, Baron of the Baronies of Gavin, Sietano, Clamofa, Enipol, Traznoz, La Mata de Castil, Viego, Antillon, La Almolda, Cortes, Jorva, St. Genis, Robovillet; Oreau, and St. Colome de Farne's, Lord of the Tenance, and Honor of Alcalaten, the Valley of Rodellar, the Castles and Towns of Maella, Mefones, Tiurana, de Villaplana, Taradell, and Viladran, &c. Rico Hombre in Aragon, by Birth, Grandee of Spain of the first Class, Knight of the Order of the Golden Fleece, and of that of the Holy Ghost. Gentleman of the King's Bed-chamber in Employment, Captain-general of his Armies, and his Ambassador to his Most Christian Majesty, who, after having duly communicated to each other their full powers in good form, have agreed on the following Preliminary Articles :

ARTICLE

ARTICLE I.

AS soon as the Preliminaries shall be signed and ratified, sincere friendship shall be established between his Britanic Majesty and his Catholic Majesty, their kingdoms, states and subjects, by sea and by land, in all parts of the world. Orders shall be sent to the armies and squadrons, as well as to the subjects of the two powers, to stop all hostilities, and to live in the most perfect union, forgetting what has passed, of which their Sovereigns give them the order and example; and for the execution of this article, sea-passes shall be given on each side for the ships which shall be dispatched to carry the news of it to the possessions of the said Powers.

2. His Catholic Majesty shall keep the Island of Minorca.

3. His Britannic Majesty shall cede to his Catholic Majesty East Florida, and his Catholic Majesty shall keep West Florida, provided that the term of eighteen months, to be computed from the time of the ratification of the Definitive Treaty, shall be granted to the subjects of his Britannic Majesty who are settled as well in the island of Minorca as in the two Floridas, to sell their estates, recover their debts. and to transport their effects, as well as their persons, without being restrained on account of their religion, or under any other pretence whatsoever, except that of debts and criminal prosecutions; and his Britannic

tannic Majesty shall have power to cause all the effects that may belong to him in East Florida, whether artillery or others, to be carried away.

4. His Catholic Majesty shall not for the future, suffer the subjects of his Britannic Majesty, or their workmen, to be disturbed or molested, under any pretence whatsoever, in their occupation of cutting, loading and carrying away logwood, in a district of which the boundaries shall be fixed, and for this purpose they may build without hindrance, and occupy without interruption, the houses and magazines necessary for them, for their families, and for their effects, in a place to be agreed upon, either in the definitive Treaty, or within six months after the exchange of the ratifications; and his said Catholic Majesty assures to them, by this article, the entire enjoyment of what is above stipulated; provided that these stipulations shall not be considered as derogatory in any respect from the rights of his Sovereignty.

5. His Catholic Majesty shall restore to Great-Britain, the islands of Providence and the Bahamas, without exception in the same condition in which they were, when they were conquered by the arms of the King of Spain.

6. All the countries and territories which may have been, or may be conquered in any part of the world whatsoever, by the arms of his
his

his Britannic Majesty, or by those of his Catholic Majesty, and which are not included in our present articles, shall be restored without difficulty, and without requiring compensations.

7. By the definitive Treaty, all those which have existed till now between the two high contracting parties, and which shall not be derogated from either by the said Treaty, or by the present Preliminary Treaty, shall be renewed and confirmed; and the two Courts shall name Commissioners to enquire into the state of the commerce between the two nations, in order to agree upon new arrangements of trade, on the footing of reciprocity and mutual convenience; and the two said Courts shall together, amicably fix a competent term for the duration of that business.

8. As it is necessary to assign a fixed epoch for the restitutions and evacuations to be made by each of the high contracting parties, it is agreed, That the King of Great Britain shall cause East Florida to be evacuated, three months after the ratification of the Definitive Treaty, or sooner if it can be done.

The King of Great Britain shall likewise enter again into possession of the Bahama Islands, without exception, in the space of three months after the ratification of the Definitive Treaty.

In consequence whereof, the necessary orders shall be sent by each of the high contracting

parties, with reciprocal passports for the ships, which shall carry them immediately after the ratification of the Definitive Treaty.

9. The prisoners made respectively by the arms of his Britannic Majesty, and his Catholic Majesty, by sea and by land, shall, immediately after the ratification of the Definitive Treaty, be reciprocally and *bona fide* restored without ransom, and on paying the debts they may have contracted during their captivity, and each Crown shall respectively reimburse the sums which shall have been advanced for the subsistence and maintenance of their prisoners by the Sovereign of the country where they shall have been detained, according to the receipts and attested accounts, and other authentic titles which shall be produced on each side.

10. In order to prevent all cause of complaint and dispute, which may arise on account of prizes which may be made at sea after the signing of these Preliminary Articles, it is reciprocally agreed that the ships and effects which may be taken in the Channel, or in the North Seas, after the space of twelve days, to be computed from the ratification of the present Preliminary Articles, shall be restored on each side.

That the term shall be one month from the Channel, and the North Seas as far as the Canary Islands inclusively, whether in the Ocean or in the Mediterranean: Two months
from

from the said Canary Islands as far as the Equinoctial Line, or Equator, and, lastly five months in all parts of the world without exception, or other more description of time and place.

11. The ratifications of the present Preliminary Articles shall be expedited in good and due form, and exchanged in the space of one month, or sooner if it can be done, to be computed from the day of the signature of the present articles,

In witness whereof, we the under-written Ministers Plenipotentiary of his Britannic Majesty and of his Catholic Majesty, by virtue of our respective powers, have agreed upon and signed these Preliminary Articles, and have caused the seal of our arms to be put thereto.

Done at Versailles, the 20th day of January, 1783.

ALLEYNE FITZHERBERT, (L. S.)
LE COMTE D'ARANDA, (L. S.)

ARTICLES

Articles agreed upon by and between Richard Oswald, Esq; the Commissioner of his Britannic Majesty for treating of Peace with the Commissioners of the United States of America, in behalf of his said Majesty, on the one part, and John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, John Jay, and Henry Laurens, four of the Commissioners of the said States for treating of Peace with the Commissioner of his said Majesty, on their behalf, on the other part; to be inserted in and to constitute the Treaty of Peace proposed to be concluded between the Crown of Great-Britain and the said United States; but which Treaty is not to be concluded until terms of a Peace shall be agreed upon between Great-Britain and France; and his Britannic Majesty shall be ready to conclude such Treaty accordingly.

WHEREAS reciprocal advantages and mutual convenience are found by experience to form the only permanent foundation of peace and friendship between States, it is agreed to form the Articles of the proposed Treaty on such principles of liberal equity

and reciprocity, as that partial advantages, those seeds of discord, being excluded, such a beneficial and satisfactory intercourse between the two countries may be established as to promise and secure to both perpetual peace and harmony.

I. His Britannic Majesty acknowledges the said United States, viz. New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, to be Free, Sovereign, and independent States; that he treats with them as such; and for himself, his heirs, and successors, relinquishes all claim to the government, propriety, and territorial rights of the same, and every part thereof: and that all disputes which might arise in future, on the subject of the boundaries of the said United States, may be prevented, it is hereby agreed and declared that the following are and shall be their boundaries, viz.

2. From the north-west angle of Nova Scotia, viz. that angle which is formed by a line drawn due north from the source of Saint Croix River to the Highlands: along the said Islands, which divide those Rivers that empty themselves into the River Saint Lawrence from those which fall into the Atlantic Ocean, to the north-westernmost head of Connecticut River, thence down along the middle of that

River to the forty-fifth degree of north latitude, from thence by a line due west on said latitude, until it strikes the River Iroquois or Cataraquy; thence along the middle of said River into Lake Ontario, through the middle of said lake, until it strikes the communication by water between that lake and Lake Erie; thence along the middle of said communication into Lake Erie, through the middle of said lake until it arrives at the water communication between that lake and Lake Huron; thence along the middle of said water communication into the Lake Huron; thence through the middle of said lake to the water communication between that lake and Lake Superior; thence through Lake Superior, northward of the Isles Royal and Phelipeaux, to the Long Lake, thence through the middle of said Long Lake, and the water communication between it and the Lake of the Woods, to the said Lake of the Woods; thence through the said lake to the most north-western point thereof, and from thence on a due west course to the River Mississippi; thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of the said River Mississippi, until it shall intersect the northernmost part of the thirty-first degree of north latitude. South, by a line to be drawn due east from the determination of the line last mentioned, in the latitude of thirty-one degrees north of the Equator, to the middle of the River Apalachicola, or Catahouche; thence

along the middle thereof to its junction with the Flint River; thence strait to the head of Saint Mary's River; and thence down along the middle of Saint Mary's River to the Atlantic Ocean. East, by a line to be drawn along the middle of the River Saint Croix, from its mouth in the Bay of Fundy to its source, and from its source directly north to the aforesaid Highlands, which divide the rivers that fall into the Atlantic Ocean from those which fall into the River Saint Laurence; comprehending all Islands within twenty leagues of any part of the shores of the United States, and lying between lines to be drawn due east from the points where the aforesaid boundaries, between Nova Scotia on the one part, and East Florida on the other, shall respectively touch the Bay of Fundy and the Atlantic Ocean; excepting such Islands as now are, and heretofore have been, within the limits of the said province of Nova Scotia.

3. It is agreed that the people of the United States shall continue to enjoy unmolested the right to take fish of every kind on the Grand Bank, and on all the other Banks of Newfoundland; also in the Gulph of Saint Laurence, and at all other places in the sea, where the inhabitants of both countries used at any time heretofore to fish; and also that the inhabitants of the United States shall have liberty to take fish of every kind on such part of the coast of Newfoundland as British fishermen shall

shall use (but not to dry or cure the same on that island) and also on the coasts, bays, and creeks; of all other of his Britannic Majesty's dominions in America ; and that the American fishermen shall have liberty to dry and cure fish in any of the unsettled bays, harbours, and creeks, of Nova Scotia, Magdalen Islands, and Labrador, so long as the same shall remain unsettled, but so soon as the same or either of them shall be settled, it shall not be lawful for the said fishermen to dry or cure fish at such settlement, without a previous agreement for that purpose with the inhabitants, proprietors, or possessors of the ground.

4. It is agreed, that creditors on either side, shall meet with no lawful impediment to the recovery of the full value in sterling money, of all *bona fide* debts heretofore contracted.

5. It is agreed that the Congress shall earnestly recommend it to the legislatures of the respective States, to provide for the restitution of all estates, rights, and properties, which have been confiscated, belonging to real British subjects, and also of the estates, rights, and properties of persons resident in districts, in the possession of his Majesty's arms, and who have not borne arms against the said United States: And that persons of any other description shall have free liberty to go into any part or parts of any of the Thirteen United States, and therein to remain

remain twelve months unmolested in their endeavours to obtain the restitution of such of their estates, rights and properties, as may have been confiscated ; and that Congress shall also earnestly recommend to the several States a reconsideration and revision of all acts or laws regarding the premises, so as to render the said laws or acts perfectly consistent not only with justice and equity, but with that spirit of conciliation, which on the return of the blessings of peace should universally prevail. And that Congress shall also earnestly recommend to the several States, that the estates, rights and properties of such last-mentioned persons shall be restored to them ; they refunding to any persons who may be now in possession the *bona fide* price (where any has been given) which such persons may have paid on purchasing any of the said lands or properties since the confiscation.

And it is agreed, That all persons who have any interest in confiscated lands, either by debts, marriage settlements, or otherwise, shall meet with no lawful impediment in the prosecution of their just rights.

6. That there shall be no future confiscations made, nor any prosecutions commenced against any person or persons for or by reason of the part which he or they may have taken in the present war ; and that no person shall, on that account, suffer any future loss or damage, either in his person, liberty, or

property, and that those who may be in confinement on such charges, at the time of the ratification of the Treaty in America, shall be immediately set at liberty, and the prosecutions so commenced be discontinued.

7. There shall be a firm and perpetual peace between his Britannic Majesty and the said States, and between the subjects of the one and the citizens of the other, wherefore all hostilities both by sea and land shall then immediately cease : all prisoners on both sides shall be set at liberty, and his Britannic Majesty shall, with all convenient speed, and without causing any destruction, or carrying away any negroes, or other property of the American Inhabitants, withdraw all his armies, garrisons, and fleets from the said United States, and from every port, place, and harbour within the same ; leaving in all fortifications the American artillery that may be therein : and shall also order, and cause all archives, records, deeds, and papers, belonging to any of the said States, or their citizens, which in the course of the war may have fallen into the hands of his officers, to be forthwith restored and delivered to the proper States and persons to whom they belong.

8. The navigation of the Mississippi, from its source to the ocean, shall for ever remain free and open to the subjects of Great Britain and the citizens of the United States.

9. In case it should so happen, that any
place

place or territory belonging to Great Britain or to the United States, should be conquered by the arms of either from the other, before the arrival of these articles in America, it is agreed, that the same shall be restored without difficulty, and without requiring any compensation.

Done at Paris, the thirtieth day of November, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two.

RICHARD OSWALD (L. S.)

JOHN ADAMS (L. S.)

B. FRANKLIN (L. S.)

JOHN JAY (L. S.)

HENRY LAURENS (L. S.)

Witness,

CALEB WHITEFOORD,

Secretary to the British Commission.

W. S. FRANKLIN,

Secretary to the American Commission.