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THE BRITISH-AMERICAN REGISTER.

QUEBEC, SATURDAY, 28th MAY, 1803.

CONTENTS.—*The King vs. Jean Peltier*, 321. *Exposé Officiel de la situation de la République Française*, 331. *Foreign News*, 336. *Markets & Meteorological Table, &c. &c.*

[In the last number of the Register we gave an abridged account of Peltier's Trial; we now publish a more ample account of it, omitting the Speech of Mr. McKintosh, which we find is more fully reported in our last, (*vid.* page 310) than in the paper from which the present report is copied.]

COURT OF KING'S BENCH, FEB. 21.

The King v. Jean Peltier.

This was an information against the Defendant for publishing a libel against Napoleon Bonaparte, the First Consul of the French Republic.

Mr. ABBOT opened the pleadings on the part of the prosecution in the following manner:—Gentlemen of the Jury, this is an information against the prisoner Jean Peltier, for publishing, in a Paper called *L'Ambigu*, several libels against Napoleon Bonaparte, who was at the time of the said publication, and is now, First Consul and Chief Magistrate of the French Republic. The information states, that there subsisted at the time of such publication, and does now subsist, peace and harmony between this United Kingdom and the Republic of France, and that the said libels tend not only to disturb this peace and harmony so happily subsisting between the said Countries, by exciting animosities, jealousies, and resentments, but directly tend to degrade and vilify the said Napoleon Bonaparte, First Consul and Chief Magistrate of the French Republic, in the eyes of the French Nation, and to stir up and excite persons in France to assassinate and murder the said First Consul. The Learned Counsel then read the translations of

the different libels which were the subject of this prosecution. The first was in the form of an Ode on the 18th Brumaire; the second was also in verse, and entitled "The Prayer of a good Patriot of the 14th of July, 1802;" the third was a long speech, supposed to have been delivered by Lepidus to the Romans on the Dictatorship of Sylla: These pieces were extremely long. The first Ode contained, among many other strong passages, the following "O eternal Shame of France! When Cæsar was on the Rubicon, he was opposed by the Senate, by Pompey, and by Cato, and though victor on the plains of Pharsalia, a dagger yet remained in the hands of the last of the Romans; but Frenchmen receive their chains without a murmur." It also contained many other strong passages, calling to the French Nation to arm, to march, for the times admitted no delay. The second libel, entitled "The Prayer of a Good Patriot of the 14th of July, 1802," was also in verse, and after affecting to admire the fortune of Bonaparte, whom it describes under the name of the *Son of Letitia*, concludes, "I do not envy his fortunes; let him be named First Consul for life. There is nothing now wanting to him but the Sceptre and the Crown; let him have them, let him be elected Emperor. The story of Romulus reminds me of this, and I wish his *Apotheosis* may follow on the morrow."—The third Libel was stated to be a speech delivered by Lepidus to the Romans, and now addressed to the French, on the subject of the Dictatorship. In this long oration,

all the mischiefs which happened in the cruel Dictatorship of Sylla are applied to the present times of France. It begins in this manner:—"I hardly conceive that the mildness of your nature and character will permit you to give credit to the various atrocities committed by the present Dictator; it is not only you who suffer, but your children yet unborn are proscribed, perhaps, before they have seen the light. And was it for this that France has combated Prussia, Russia, Austria, and all Europe, to surrender her sovereignty and her liberty to a Corsican Rebel? These libels were of prodigious length, and were read throughout by Mr. Abbot. (Perhaps the few passages, we have now selected may give a sufficient idea of the complexion of the whole, to understand the nature and object of the prosecution).

The ATTORNEY GENERAL then rose and spoke to the following effect:—"Gentlemen of the Jury, after the very distinct opening of the pleadings, by my learned friend Mr. ABBOT, I flatter myself that I shall be able, very shortly, to put you in possession of the whole of the case which you are this day to try. The simple and not very difficult questions for your consideration will be, whether this person, who is brought up for your judgment, the Prisoner, Jean Peltier, is or is not guilty of publishing the libels which have been read to you? and whether the tendency of those libels, and the motives of their publication, are or are not such as the information attributes to them? Gentlemen, it is impossible for me not to perceive and feel, that great and uncommon interest and curiosity are excited upon this occasion. I see this Court graced by an audience more numerous and brilliant than what we are

accustomed to see; and I hope that this curiosity does not expect its gratification from any passages of my address, or from any of these few observations, which it is my duty now to offer you; if it does, it must be disappointed; for on the present occasion I feel myself equally led by duty and inclination to confine myself to the dull and dry examination of the libels which are the subject of the present prosecution, and of the law as it applies to similar publications. I have then to consider, whether from all we know of the law, both from the practice of the Courts, and from that reason on which the English Law is founded, we can tolerate, as innocent or indifferent, publications of the stamp and complexion of those which are the subject of the present prosecution. No man feels more strongly than I do the distinguished talents of my learned friend (Mr. MINTOSH) who conducts the defence in the present case; but rich as he is in all the treasures and resources of a strong and well stored mind, a brilliant imagination, an acute understanding, and a most cultivated taste, yet I doubt that even he will be able to satisfy the curiosity and interest that have been excited on the present occasion, if he confines himself to the points on which the present prosecution turns; and farther than that I cannot suppose my learned friend will go. I cannot believe that he would *lend himself* to support the principles of the libels that are the subject of the present prosecution. Were he to launch into the wide sea of politics, were he to wander into general observations, he would find an ample field indeed, in the consideration of the most eventful period of the most eventful revolution known in the history of the world; but I trust that he will shape his defence otherwise; and that you will not be perplexed,

on either side, by observations foreign to the point in issue. The ground then upon which I prosecute the publisher of these libels is, that I conceive they have a direct and immediate tendency to disturb the peace and tranquillity of this country, and I think it better to give a warning at the outset of my statement, that if the Defendant shall think of seizing the opportunity that the publication of the present trial presents, to give a greater circulation to his libel, this would be an offence, which I think a British Court of Justice will never tolerate. Our business on the present day is not to satisfy or to disappoint *curiosity*. We must satisfy the *Law*, and *Justice* must not be disappointed. Gentlemen of the Jury, before I describe to you what this prosecution is, I shall first tell you what it is *not*. It is *not* a prosecution against an author for discussing public events with freedom—with freedom even approaching to licentiousness. It is not a prosecution of an author speaking lightly, flippantly, or even *impertinently*, but it is a prosecution against an author, whom I conceive to have manifested in the whole scope and tenor of his publications one ruling, or rather sole object, and that object has been to vilify and degrade in the eyes of Frenchmen the character of their Chief Magistrate, and even to incite the people of that country to assassinate and murder him. Gentlemen, if you agree with me, that this is the object of the libels which are the subject of the present prosecution, I must state to you, with the fullest confidence, that I shall have the support of the Learned Judge, that such an object will not be tolerated by the British Law, and that whether we were at War, or whether we are at Peace, such publications must not be endured on British ground. If, Gentlemen, you think with me, that

any incitement or encouragement is held out to *assassination*, I am sure that there is no occasion for me to waste words upon that point—I know that British feelings recoil with more horror from the thought than it is in the power of language to express. I shall, therefore, rather point out those passages in the libels, which most evidently tend to degrade and vilify the Chief Magistrate of France in the eyes of the French People, and to stir up jealousies and animosities between the French and English Nations. I do not think myself, upon the present occasion, called upon to lay down the limit and the line which is to bound the freedom of the animadversions that may fairly and lawfully be made on the conduct of Nations, whose Government is at peace with ours; but I shall not hesitate to say, that that which would not be considered as a libel, if published against the Government of this country, I should never prosecute as a libel if published against the Government of another country; but the present case, Gentlemen of the Jury, is very far indeed removed from that nice boundary which distinguishes the legitimate freedom of discussion or political subjects, from the domain of licentiousness, calumny, and libel: this is a case of a publication whose sole object is to bring into contempt and degrade in the eyes of the French nation, both their Government and their Magistrate, and also to recommend *Rébellion*, *Murder*, and *Assassination*. Libels of this nature have been already severely punished in this Court; it is now fresh in the recollection of most of those who are present, that Lord George Gordon was tried upon information for a libel on the Queen of France, that he was found guilty, and, suffered a long imprisonment in consequence of that conviction: in times still later, there was an instance of a

person of the name of John Vint, being tried in this Court, and found guilty for a libel he published on the late Emperor of Russia, with whom we were then at amity. I shall state the libel on which John Vint was convicted, in order that the Jury may see how libels of this nature have been considered by former Judges and by former Juries. The libel was simply this: "The Emperor of Russia is rendering himself obnoxious to his own subjects by his capricious and tyrannical decrees, while at the same time he renders himself ridiculous to all Europe by his inconsistency." This libel was charged with having a tendency to interrupt and destroy the amity and harmony which then subsisted between Russia and this country. The Jury before whom the question was tried were of opinion that it had that tendency, and found the Defendant guilty. With these precedents, Gentlemen, and with these authorities, but with a much stronger case, I appear this day on the part of the Crown, to prosecute a libel much more flagitious, much more wicked than was submitted to the consideration of either of those Juries who found the publications alluded to to be libels. After these general observations on the subject of the present prosecution, I shall examine the particular libels which have been stated to you by my Learned Friend, and which will be again read to you in evidence. I shall first point out to your observation the paper in which those libels are published, and its title, which cannot fail of convincing you what was the real object or motive of that publication which I now prosecute. The title of this paper is, *L'Amigu; ou Variétés Atroces et Amusantes*—Miscellanies, Atrocious and Amusing. The Jury would be at little difficulty in determining to which class of *miscellanies* the Libels

they should hear read would belong; it is also to be observed, that the Frontispiece of this work is ornamented with a figure of a *sphinx*, having the head of Bonaparte. Gentlemen, I have never seen the First Consul, and therefore cannot say from my own knowledge that this head bears his resemblance; but we must all see that it resembles all those prints which are circulated in this country as the likeness of Bonaparte. The *Prospectus* of the work, which is published in the first Number, pretty plainly unfolds the designs of the Author. "We have been accused (says the Author *ironically*) of too much virulence against the Government of France, its First Consul, and two Proconsuls; but for the future we shall have nothing to do but to praise;" and it concludes with these remarkable words—"In the edifice I am now raising to the *Glory of Bonaparte*, I shall take care to manage so well the materials, that the workmanship shall be worthy of the Temple." So that it appears, by the Author's declaration in his *Prospectus*, that his object was to raise what he called an edifice *to the Glory of Bonaparte*: how he fulfils his promise may be well collected from the *atrocious* miscellanies, or libels, with which his paper is replete. Of these libels, I shall begin with that which purports to be an harangue from *Lepidus* to the Roman people, on the dictatorship of Sylla, but now addressed to the French nation, and to the present times. It begins as follows:—"I fear much that the mildness of your character will prevent you from committing the atrocities which are committed under the present Dictatorship. Who would suppose that the illustrious and august families of the Montmorencies, the Liancourts, the *Rocheboucaults*, those who boast the noblest blood in France, would sacrifice their own liberties, and those of

their country, for the privilege of returning home. Wherefore, French Citizens, have ye combated against Prussia, Austria, Russia, and all Europe combined, if you are now to surrender your sovereignty and your rights to the will of a Corsican rebel? And now the *Tyger*, who calls himself your Sovereign, has drawn out his list of proscription. Not only you, but your innocent children are liable every moment to proscription, deportation, or death. His *wickedness* increases every day; and as for you, Citizens, it is time for you to oppose what is passing; you must act, you must march: you must attack that Empire which is only upheld by *crimes*." Gentlemen, on this subject it does not become me to make any observations on the title of the magistrate of another country, or whether his government is assumed or delegated to him; it is enough for me to say that *Napoleon Bonaparte* is *de facto* Chief Magistrate of a nation in peace and amity with us and with our Sovereign, and that nothing can well be conceived more likely to irritate and alienate the Governments of foreign nations from friendship with this country, than to have it suffered in this country, that libels & calumnies against the most distinguished personages and magistrates of other countries should be fabricated and published here with impunity, and sent into general circulation. Between the Governments of two great neighbouring and rival nations, there must always exist some subjects of irritation, and if this irritation was to be much inflamed by atrocious calumnies or libels on either side, it would be hardly possible to bring the Governments to any point of agreement and harmony. This harangue proceeds to speak of the Corps of Mamelukes, "a Corps composed (as it states) of Greeks, Maltese, Syrians, Cophts, renegades of every descrip-

tion, strangers to the French Nation and to the French Language, and ready to be at any time their assassins and murderers. Are you to approve of all the murders which have been committed, in order that you may enjoy peace and concord? As for me (the speech concludes), I prefer all the dangers and storms of liberty to the tranquillity of despotism. "The other two libels were in the shape of poetry; the first was an *Ode*, which the publisher was pleased to attribute to the pen of Chénier. It described all nature as rising in a general effort to overturn the present system of things in France. The winds, the waves, and all the elements, were called up to give poetic imagery to the fond hope of the author; but soon he seems to sink again into despair, which he expresses in the following passages:— "The thunder, while it strikes the mountain and the plain, *saves tyrants*: the storm which buries in the depth of the ocean the vessel of the merchant engaged in innocent traffic, suffers the proud frigate, that bears the Corsican Rebel to the throne of France, to cross the seas unhurt! That frigate bears the fortunes and destinies of a Cæsar! Eternal disgrace of France! When Cæsar was on the *Rubicon*, he was opposed by Pompey, by the Senate, and by Cato; and when he triumphed over all obstacles on the plains of Pharsalia, *still a poniard remained in the hand of the last of the Romans*." This Ode contains many more expressions equally libellous. I shall now proceed to the third libel, which is entitled, "The prayer of a good Patriot of the 14th of July, 1802." This is also in Poetry, and after describing the astonishing career of Bonaparte's victories and fortune, concludes by saying, "Let him then be crowned, let him be elected Emperor. This reminds me of the story of Romulus; and, I hope, his *Apotheosis* will be on the morrow." Gentlemen, when

the story of Romulus is mentioned the application is most obvious. The story of Romulus, the first founder of the city of Rome, was, that the Senators *assassinated him*, and then persuaded the people he had ascended to the Gods, and satisfied their uneasiness by decreeing *his Apotheosis*, or the recognition of him as a divinity. What sort of *apotheosis* then is it that the Author wishes for Bonaparte on the morrow of his Coronation? I think, Gentlemen, it is not necessary for me to consume more time in commenting on these publications. I have conceived it my duty to prosecute them before you as libels, libels which I conceive most disgraceful to the British Press, and which would destroy the blessings of a free press, if they could be tolerated in any country. I hope I shall not be considered an enemy to the freedom of the press, because I think it necessary to prosecute such atrocious publications as the present: I say it again, Gentlemen, that even if we were at war with France, a publication, exciting to assassination and murder, would be a crime against the honest feelings of the English Law. If this would be a crime, in war, how much more strongly does it call for punishment in time of peace—how much more strongly must the horror of a British Jury be excited in the present circumstances! As to the *Moniteur* publishing scandalous libels against this country, I hope I shall not hear of that as a justification in the present case. If there is any party in France, or in any country, that will condescend to pursue any object or end by such means, let them, in God's name, have the benefit of it; but it is our duty to remove such disgrace from the justice and the law of the country we live in."

John Gale, Messenger to Mr. White, Solicitor for the Treasury, was the first Witness for the prosecution. He

proved his buying the Papers, which were the subject of the present prosecution, at the shop of Deboffe, a bookseller, in Gerrard-street, Soho. He bought one of them on the 16th, the other two on the 26th.

The *London Gazette*, containing the Proclamation of Peace, was then handed in as evidence.

The fact of Bonaparte's being, as alleged in the record, First Consul and Chief Magistrate of the French Republic, was admitted by Mr. MACKINTOSH, on the part of the Defendant,

John De Boffe said, he is a Bookseller, or dealer in French books; imports considerable quantities of them, and exports occasionally when he has orders; is well acquainted with the Defendant Peltier; was almost in the daily habits of seeing him at the time of the publication of *L'Amigu*. He received a considerable number of them from the printers of Mons. Peltier, but Mons. Peltier never told him who was the author of them. Being asked some questions about the sale, Mr. MACKINTOSH objected, that the Witness was not bound to answer any question which might involve himself in the criminality of publishing.

Mr. FERGUSON submitted to his Lordship, that such questions as the Witness ought not to answer were not legal to put to him, and that more particular care was necessary in this case, as the Witness was a foreigner, and hardly understood English.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH said, that he should give him warning that he was not bound to answer any questions that might involve himself; but if after that warning the Witness chose to do it, he was at liberty so to do.

Upon Mr. GARROW then asking Mr. De Boffe about the publication, he at first said, that if he was privi-

leged to decline answering he should; but upon Mr. GARROW putting his questions in different ways, he at length confessed that he had sold a good number of them, and that he accounted with Peltier regularly for the profits.

The libels were then produced, and read in the original French,* and al-

Extrait d'une Ode attribuée à Chenier,

“ Tro, vain espoir de la vengeance !
 “ Peuples, livrés aux oppresseurs,
 “ N'auriez vous, dans votre souffrance,
 “ Que vos bras pour libérateurs ?
 “ Le Ciel est aveugle ou barbare,
 “ Et lorsque sa foudre s'égarre,
 “ Portée au hazard sur les vents,
 “ Qu'elle dévaste les campagnes,
 “ Ou frappe d'arides montagnes,
 “ Elie respecte les tyrans.

“ Jouets des flots et des orages.
 “ Voyez ces utiles vaisseaux
 “ De leurs débris couvrir vos plages,
 “ Ou s'abîmer au fond des eaux :
 “ Tandis que la nef criminelle,
 “ Qui porte ce Corse rebelle,
 “ Déserteur des Camps Africains,
 “ Tranquillement vogue sur l'onde,
 “ et de César annonce au monde,
 “ et la fortune et les desseins.

“ Rome, dans ce rêve sinistre,
 “ Pour te venger, au moins il reste
 “ Un poignard aux derniers Romains.

Les vers suivans d'une pièce intitulée, *Vœu d'un Patriote* 14 Juillet. 1802.

“ Pour moi loin qu'à son sort je porte quelque envie
 “ Qu'il nomme j'y consens, son digne successeur,
 “ Sur le pavois porté, qu'on l'élise Empereur !
 “ Enfin, et Romulus nous rappelle la chose,
 “ Je fais vœu dès demain qu'il ait l'apothéose !

“ AMEN.

Enfin les passages d'une adresse au Peuple François, dans lesquels on dit : “ les lois la justice, “ les finances, l'administration, les Souverains de “ l'Europe ; enfin la liberté et la vie des citoyens, “ sont au pouvoir d'un homme ” (faisant allusion au dit Napoléon Buonaparté.)

“ j'ai la plus grande confiance dans nos armées, “ toujours victorieuses, qui après tant de fatigues, “ pour prix de tant de blesser, ont fini par ne rien “ avoir qu'un tyran (faisant allusion au dit Napoléon Buonaparté).

“ Maintenant ce tigre, (faisant allusion au dit “ Napoléon Buonaparté) qui ose se dire le fonda- “ teur et le régénérateur de la France, jouit du “ fruit de vos travaux, comme des dépouilles d'un “ ennemi, &c, &c, &c.”

so in the translations by a Mr. Broughton, who made the translations. In the comparing the translations with the originals, Mr. Mackintosh observed, that the translator had not faithfully translated the word *l'apothéose*; which, instead of rendering the apotheosis, he took the liberty of translating it *his* apotheosis, which somewhat altered the sense. He, however, should not rely on this objection.

After the libels were read, he desired other parts of the same paper to be read, by way of context; the first passage was in the *prospectus*, which declared the object of the work was to present, as in the English *Panorama*, every surrounding object to the view; that it should contain anecdotes, songs, and miscellanies, of every description. As context to the ode, he read the introduction, which said, it was written by *Chenier*; and as to the speech of *Lepidus*, it was introduced by the observation, that it was a forgery of *Fouche's*, contrived to get a pretext for putting *Camille Jordan* into prison, and slipped in among his papers by some spy.

The evidence being gone through,—and Mr. Mackintosh having concluded the defence, (*vid. page 310.*)

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—“Gentlemen, you have heard a speech full of the most splendid eloquence, and the most wonderful ingenuity. Nothing, of which the subject is capable, has been neglected by my learned friend to give weight to his argument. It is now my duty, with far feeble powers, to make some remarks upon that torrent of almost irresistible eloquence. My Learned Friend has said, the Chief Magistrate of the French Republic is the prosecutor in the present libel. This I am authorized to deny. It is not the Chief Magistrate of France that now comes forward in order to vindicate his character, and to claim the protection of

a British Jury, against those papers which seem to be published with a view to endanger his person, and to procure his assassination.—No! It is the Chief Magistrate of this country, feebly represented by the person now before you, who appears to enforce the laws of the realm against a publication, the obvious tendency of which is to encourage assassination, and disturb the good understanding that at this moment exists between this and a neighbouring country. My Learned Friend has, in the course of his most eloquent address, put several questions to me, which I feel no difficulty in answering. In stating the freedom and boldness of discussion, which in every period of its history has distinguished this country, he asks me what I would have done with respect to the undaunted spirit, and fearless intrepidity with which the British Press has never failed to exhibit in their proper colours the actions of tyrants and villains, whether foreign or domestic? My Learned Friend has done me but justice, when he has assured, that my sentiments upon this subject are those which he and every honourable man will feel with respect to matters of that description. No man is more a friend to freedom of discussion, and the real liberty of the press than I am. My Learned Friend proceeds to ask what I would have done with regard to the terms in which the first English Newspaper, which was published in the reign of the glorious Queen Elizabeth, censured the tyrant who at that time threatened the liberties of Europe? what I would have done in regard to the strong and manly language in which the British Prints attacked the ambitious and vain Lewis the Fourteenth? In fine, what I would do, with regard to that feeling and energetic manner in which the atrocious crimes of the frantic Democrats of France were represented in public, and submitted to

the sympathetic feelings of our countrymen; the glowing expressions in which the massacre of Toulon and Lyons; the invasion of the unoffending and formerly happy Switzerland, and a long series of crimes were held up to the indignation and abhorrence of generous Britons? By way of answer to these questions, I ask, what did I do? Did I seem eager to come forward to solicit your verdict against the authors of free and bold declamation? No. Even though the Prints of this country were not, perhaps, always distinguished for candour and impartiality, though the bounds of prudence and moderation might have been sometimes overleapt, yet I reflected that the passions of mankind were aroused by strange and almost unparalleled crimes, and therefore that inflammatory language was palliated, if not excused, in discussing those subjects. I was aware of the delicacy with which the liberty of the press ought to be touched, and therefore, unless in cases where this liberty has been scandalously abused, as in the present instance, I have never been anxious to discover libellous matter in any publication. I refer my learned friend to the fact, and this I apprehend is the best answer to his interrogatories that can possibly be given. You have heard, Gentlemen, a great deal about the independence and intrepidity that has always distinguished British Juries, the bulwark of the Constitution; the glorious and immoveable *paladium* of our liberties! My Learned Friend here gave full scope to the energy of his eloquence, and ingeniously endeavoured to impress upon your minds that he was combating the principles and arguments which I advanced. But, Gentlemen, I aver, that the principles and sentiments which he, in the highest strain of the most impressive eloquence has now delivered, are, with very little variation, the same with

those which I, in humbler dress, had before uttered. I agree with him in his account of the independent spirit of our ancestors, the rigid caution of former Juries, in matters relating to the freedom of the press and the liberty of the subject. I agree with him in the propriety of rousing the abhorrence and resentment of the people against crime by means of periodical publications. But still there exists no little danger that this liberty will be abused in the present instance, and it is my duty to check such abuse whenever it appears. I agree with my Learned Friend, that the Newspapers have been a powerful instrument in disseminating knowledge, and diffusing civilization; but he has, with the same breath, justly stated, that these are at the same time extremely liable to become the sources of much mischief and disorder in the community, and, therefore, here again our sentiments exactly correspond. You have not only then, Gentlemen, my assertion respecting the danger and impolicy of passing over in silence publications of a libellous tendency, but that assertion is corroborated by the powerful eloquence of my antagonist. Having thus shortly turned your attention, Gentlemen, to the observations of my Learned Friend, respecting myself and my sentiments, I beg leave to trespass upon your patience for a few minutes, while I advert to the construction which he has endeavoured to affix to some of the passages which form the grounds of the present prosecution. In one of these the Author says, that "he was to erect an edifice to the *glory* of Bonaparte, and that he would take care to select such materials as would be worthy of the Temple." I submit to the candid and impartial judgment of the Jury, whether these are not to be considered as an ironical attack upon the First Consul, notwithstanding the ingenious gloss intended to be put upon

them by the Learned Counsel. But mark another passage, "I have no particular resentment against Bonaparte; let him be declared Emperor of the Gauls, and let his *apothegms* follow on the ensuing morning. Though the ingenuity of my Learned Friend has endeavoured to make these expressions refer to the Roman Emperors who were deified while still alive, yet it is hardly necessary for me to observe, that they are evidently intended to apply to the case of Romulus, whose deification, every one acquainted with the Roman History knows, immediately followed upon his assassination. There can be little doubt, therefore, that the author intended to excite his countrymen to the assassination of the First Consul of France. The Learned Counsel has endeavoured to persuade us that the Ode, which also forms part of the grounds of the present prosecution, is a mighty harmless composition. The sentiments it contains, he avers, are intended not to apply to the First Consul of France, but to the infamous Jacobins whose crimes deluged their country with blood. But when a parallel is instituted between the state of France under Bonaparte, and the state of Rome under Julius Cæsar, and when the *poniard* of Brutus is described as the last resource of the Romans against the usurpation of the latter, can any man who exercises his judgment with impartiality entertain a doubt respecting the tendency of such a passage, which manifestly is to encourage the discontented to dispatch Bonaparte, as Brutus did Cæsar?—In vain does my ingenious friend argue, that no conclusion, detrimental to his client, can be drawn from his allusion to the conduct of Brutus, which has been admired in all ages. The application is clear to every unprejudiced understanding; and this, out of all question, fixes the charge of a *libel* upon its Author. It has been attempted to be proved, that

a manifest inconsistency appears, in ascribing such sentiments and views to this determined Royalist. Is it likely, it has been asked, that the resolute and constant enemy of the Jacobins should entertain a particular resentment against their destroyer? My Learned Friend has answered, no. But let us consider the character of the publication, and the situation of the author. That a French Royalist, strongly attached to the late Royal Family of France, should hate the person, who, to its exclusion, has occupied that throne, appears to me far from improbable. That the author of the *Ambigu* therefore should be disposed to vilify Bonaparte, notwithstanding his being the enemy of Jacobinism, is certainly not so unlikely as he would have us suppose. Bonaparte, therefore, must, in the opinion of Mr. Peltier, be considered as a vile usurper, and not to be regarded by a firm partizan of the expelled family of *Capet* with a very favourable eye; and in this view, therefore, the probability is rather on my side. Your feelings of compassion, and spirit of patriotism, are assailed, Gentlemen, in favour of this emigrant. The fame of this country for affording shelter and protection to the unfortunate, and the wretched condition of Mr. Peltier, driven by lawless villains from his home, with the barbarous murder of his family, have all been brought forward in the most glowing colours. I acknowledge the justice and propriety of my friend's observations in this respect, and I moreover assert, that this very prosecution is a proof of that justice and propriety. If the generosity and humanity that characterize Englishmen and the English Government had, for a moment been forgotten, this man might have been delivered up to the person whom he has satirized, instead of standing here to have the decision of an impartial British Jury upon his conduct. But ne-

ver, I trust, will Britons, while they endeavour to check improper conduct of every description, overleap the barriers of justice, nor forget what is due to the claims of compassion and humanity. Gentlemen, you are to decide upon the evidence before you, without allowing more than their proper weight to the observations on either side. My Learned Friend has diverted your attention to the lenity and independence of our ancestors, in deciding upon any thing that might have a tendency to infringe the freedom of the press and the liberty of British subjects. He has also expressed his apprehensions lest the time may come when we shall lose sight of those principles. But if that period should unfortunately arrive, as he seems to dread, pity it is, that his most eloquent, most ingenious, and almost irresistible address has not been reserved for an occasion when it would be so loudly demanded."

Lord ELLENBOROUGH charged the Jury as follows:—"Gentlemen, it now remains for me, with as much impartiality as I can, to sum up the evidence here as I do in other cases. It will then be your duty to give a true Verdict, according to the evidence, in compliance with the terms of your oath; and the attention you have uniformly exhibited, leaves no doubt that a fair and impartial Verdict will be given. With regard, then, Gentlemen, to the law, in cases of Libel, it is enacted, first, that any attempt to disturb the peace of the community in any way, for instance, by vilifying the Government or Religion of the country, is of a libellous nature. Secondly, an attempt to injure any individual in his person, property or reputation is considered in the eye of Law as libellous; and thirdly, it is held to be libellous, whatever has a tendency to vilify or injure in any manner persons high in office abroad. Let these principles of law, then, Gentlemen, be ap-

plied to the case now before us. The first question that you have to consider respects the publication of the Papers, on account of which the present prosecution is commenced. From the evidence of the Printer, who deposes that he had the management of the publication, and accounted to Mr. Peltier for all the emoluments derived from it, there can be little doubt as to the author. I need not state the Printer's evidence particularly, as no question appears to be started by either party on this head. The next point, then, for your decision is, whether or not the expressions said to be libellous, are intended to apply to Bonaparte, and whether he is the Chief Magistrate of the French Republic. That the passages considered by the prosecutor as libellous, are directed against Bonaparte, appears to me beyond all doubt; and the latter proposition, viz. that he is the Chief Magistrate of France, is a matter of too much notoriety to require any comment. The third and last question that you are to try then, is, whether the passages themselves are of a libellous nature? You have heard the construction which, in a speech of most astonishing eloquence and ingenuity, has been attempted to be put upon the expressions in question. If, Gentlemen, there was any ambiguity—if the expressions were capable of a favorable interpretation, I would most willingly abide by that construction, and I have no doubt you also would feel every inclination to lean to the side of mercy, if it could be done consistently with justice. But I apprehend, and I am required by the law to state my opinion to you on the subject, that the words will not bear any sense except the obvious one affixed to them by the counsel for the prosecution. With regard to the expressions that "an edifice should be erected to the glory of Bonaparte, and that materials were to be provided worthy of the temple."

there can exist no hesitation in an unprejudiced mind, that this was meant as an ironical attack upon the First Consul of France. From whence these materials were to be drawn appears evidently from the other parts of the publication, were quotations are cited from ancient history, tending to provoke the assassination of Bonaparte. Of this description, the allusion to the *apothéosis* of Romulus, and the poniard of Brutus, must clearly be considered. Whether this be the first of many prosecutions that are intended to be commenced, on account of libellous publications, as has been intimated by the Learned Counsel for the Defendant, is not the question at present. You, Gentlemen, are to consider the case, as it lies before you, without any respect to the past or the future. That the *Ambigu* is printed in French, is only an aggravation of the offence in this instance, as it is the more likely to engage the attention of Frenchmen, and must therefore prove additionally injurious and offensive to the person on whom the attack is made. Two trials for libels upon foreigners have taken place of late years; one for a libel on the Queen of France, and the other for one on the late Emperor of Russia. What were the verdicts then is of no consequence in the case before us. The matter rests with you, Gentlemen; and I have no doubt that your verdict will be such, as will give complete satisfaction to every mind that is not biased by prejudice, nor clouded by impartiality.—The Jury consulted for a moment, and then returned their verdict, finding the defendant—*GUILTY*.

PAPIERS OFFICIELS.

Exposé de la Situation de la République.

Paris le 21 Février.—Les événements n'ont point trompé les vœux et l'attente du Gouvernement. Le corps Législatif, au moment où il reprend ses travaux, retrouve la République

plus forte de l'union des citoyens, plus active dans son industrie, plus constante dans sa prospérité.—L'exécution du Concordat, sur laquelle des ennemis de l'ordre public avoient encore fondé de coupables espérances, a donné presque partout les résultats les plus heureux. Les principes d'une religion éclairée, la voix du souverain Pontife, la constance du Gouvernement, ont triomphé de tous les obstacles; des sacrifices mutuels ont réuni les ministres du culte. L'Eglise Gallicane renaît par les lumières et par la concorde, et déjà un changement heureux se fait sentir dans les mœurs publiques: les opinions et les cœurs se rapprochent; l'enfance redevient plus docile à la voix de ses parents, la jeunesse plus soumise à l'autorité des magistrats; la conscription s'exécute aux lieux où le nom seul de la conscription soulevoit les esprits, et servit la patrie est une partie de la religion.—Dans les Départemens qu'a visités le Premier Consul, il a recueilli partout le témoignage de ce retour aux principes qui font la force et le bonheur de la société.—Dans l'Etire, dans la Seine-Inférieure, dans l'Oise, on est fier de la gloire nationale: on sent, dans tous leur étendue, les avantages de l'égalité; on bénit le retour de la paix; on bénit le rétablissement du culte public. C'est par tout ces liens que les cœurs ont attachés à l'Etat et à la constitution.

Le devoir du Gouvernement est de nourrir et d'éclairer ces heureuses dispositions.—Les autres cultes s'organisent; et des consistoires se composent des citoyens éclairés, défenseurs connus de l'ordre public, de la liberté civile et de la liberté religieuse.—L'instruction publique, cet appui nécessaire des sociétés, est partout demandée avec ardeur. Déjà s'ouvrent plusieurs lycées; déjà, comme le Gouvernement l'avoit prévu, une multitude d'écoles particulières s'élevent au rang des écoles secondaires. Tous les citoyens sentent qu'il n'est point de bonheur sans lumières, que sans talens et sans connoissances il n'y a d'égalité que celle de la misère et de la servitude.—Une école militaire recevra de jeunes défenseurs de la patrie. Soldats, ils apprendront à supporter la vie des camps et les fatigues de la guerre. Par une longue obéissance, ils se formeront à l'art de commander, et apporteront aux armées la force et la discipline unies aux connoissances et aux talens.

Dans les lycées, comme dans l'école militaire, la jeunesse des départemens, nouvellement incorporée à la République, vivra confondue avec la jeunesse de l'ancienne France. De la fusion des esprits et des mœurs, de la communication des habitudes et des caractères, du mélange des intérêts, des ambitions et des espérances, naîtra cette fraternité qui, de plusieurs peuples, ne fera qu'un seul peuple, destiné par sa position, par son courage, par ses vertus, à être le lien et l'exemple de l'Europe.

L'institut national, qui a la puissance sur l'instruction publique, a reçu une direction plus utile; et désormais il déploiera, sur le caractère de la nation, sur la langue, sur les Sciences, sur les lettres et les arts, une influence plus active.—Pour assurer la stabilité de nos institutions naissantes, pour éloigner des regards des citoyens ce spectre de la discorde, qui leur apparoissoit encore dans le retour périodique des élections à la suprême magistrature, les amis de la patrie appelloient le consulat à vie sur la tête du premier magistrat. Le Peuple consulté a répondu à leur appel, et le Sénat a proclamé la volonté du peuple.—Le système des listes d'éligibilité n'a pu résister au creufet de l'expérience et à la force de l'opinion publique. L'organisation du Sénat étoit incomplète.—La justice nationale étoit disséminée dans des tribunaux sans harmonie, sans dépendance mutuelle; point d'attribut qui les protégeoit ou qui pût les réformer; point de lien qui les assujettit à une discipline commune.—Il manquoit enfin à la France un pouvoir que réclamaient la justice même, celui de faire grâce. Combien de fois depuis douze ans, il avoit été invoqué! Combien de malheureux avoient succombé victimes d'une inflexibilité que les sages reprochoient à nos loix! Combien de coupables qu'une funeste indulgence avoit acquittés parceque les peines étoient trop sévères!—Un sénatus consulte a rendu au peuple l'exercice des droits que l'Assemblée Constituante avoit reconnus; mais il les lui a rendus environnés de précautions qui le défendent de l'erreur ou de la précipitation de ses choix; qui assurent l'influence de la propriété et l'ascendant des lumières.

Que les premières magistratures viennent à vaquer, les devoirs et la marche du Sénat sont tracés: des formes certaines garantissent la sagesse et la liberté de son choix, et la souveraineté de ce choix ne laisse ni à l'ambition le moyen de conspirer, ni à l'anarchie le moyen de détruire.—Le ciment du temps consolidera chaque jour cette institution titulaire. Elle sera le terme de toutes les inquiétudes et le but de toutes les espérances, comme elle est la plus belle des récompenses promises aux services et aux vertus publiques.—La justice embrasse d'une chaîne commune tous les tribunaux; ils ont leur subordination et leur censure: toujours libres dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions, toujours indépendans du pouvoir, et jamais indépendans des loix.—Le droit de faire grâce, quand l'intérêt de la République l'exige ou quand les circonstances commandent l'indulgence, est remis aux mains du premier magistrat; mais il ne lui est remis que sous la garde de la justice même; il ne l'exerce que sous les yeux d'un conseil, et après avoir consulté les organes les plus sévères de la loi.—Si les institutions doivent être jugées par leurs effets, jamais institution n'eut un résultat plus impor-

tant que le sénatus-consulte organique. C'est à compter de ce moment que le peuple François s'est confié à sa destinée, que les propriétés ont repris leur valeur première, que se sont multipliés les longues spéculations : jusques là tout sembloit floter encore. On aimoit le présent, on doutoit du lendemain, et les ennemis de la patrie nourrissoient toujours des espérances. Depuis cette époque, il ne leur reste que de l'impuissance et de la haine.

L'Isle d'Elbe avoit été cédée à la France ; elle lui donnoit un peuple doux, industrieux, deux ports superbes, une mine féconde et précieuse : mais séparée de la France, elle ne pouvoit être intimement attachée à aucun de ses départemens, ni soumise aux règles d'une administration commune. On a fait fléchir les principes sous la nécessité des circonstances ; on a établi pour l'Isle d'Elbe l'exception que commandoient sa position et l'intérêt public. L'abdication du souverain, le vœu du peuple, la nécessité des choses, avoient mis le Piémont au pouvoir de la France. Au milieu des nations qui l'environtoient, avec les élémens qui composoient sa population, le Piémont ne pouvoit supporter, ni le poids de sa propre indépendance, ni les dépenses d'une monarchie. Réuni à la France, il jouira de sa sécurité et de sa grandeur ; ses citoyens laborieux, éclairés, développeront leur industrie et leurs talens dans le sein des arts et de la paix.

Dans l'intérieur de la France règnent le calme et la sécurité. La vigilance des magistrats une justice sévère, une gendarmerie fortement constituée et dirigée par un chef qui a vieilli dans la carrière de l'honneur, ont imprimé partout la terreur aux brigands — L'intérêt particulier s'est élevé jusqu'au sentiment de l'intérêt public. Les citoyens ont osé attaquer ceux qu'autrefois ils redoutoient, lors même qu'ils étoient enchaînés aux pieds des tribunaux. Des communes entières se sont armées et les ont détruits. L'étranger envie la sûreté de nos routes, et cette force publique qui souvent invisible, mais toujours présente, veille sur ses pas, et le protège, sans qu'il la réclame.

Dans le cours d'une année difficile, au milieu d'une pénurie générale, le pauvre ne s'est point défilé des soins du gouvernement : il a supporté avec courage des privations nécessaires et les secours qu'il avoit su attendre, il les a reçus avec reconnaissance.

Le crime de faux n'est plus encouragé par l'espoir de l'impunité. Le zèle des tribunaux chargés de le frapper, et la juste sévérité des loix, ont enfin arrêté les progrès de ce fléau qui menaçoit la fortune publique et les fortunes particulières. — Notre culture se perfectionne et défie les cultures les plus vantées de l'Europe. Dans tous les départemens il est des cultivateurs éclairés, qui donnent des leçons et des exemples. — L'éducation des chevaux a été

encouragée par des primes ; l'amélioration des laines, par l'introduction des troupeaux de races étrangères. Partout des administrateurs zélés recherchent et révèlent les richesses de notre sol, et propagent les méthodes utiles et les résultats heureux de l'expérience.

Nos fabriques se multiplient, s'animent et s'éclairent ; émules entre elles, bientôt, sans doute, elles feront les rivaux des fabriques les plus renommées dans l'étranger. Il ne manque désormais à leur prospérité, que des capitaux moins chèrement achetés. Mais déjà les capitaux abandonnent les spéculations hasardeuses de l'agiotage, et retournent à la terre et aux entreprises utiles. Plus de vingt mille ouvriers François qui étoient dispersés dans l'Europe, sont rappelés par les soins et par les bienfaits du Gouvernement, et vont être rendus à nos manufactures.

Parmi nos fabriques, il en est une plus particulière à la France, que Colbert échauffa de son génie. Elle avoit été ensevelie sous les ruines de Lyon : le Gouvernement a mis tous ses soins à l'en retirer. Lyon naît à la splendeur et à l'opulence ; et déjà du sein de leurs ateliers, les fabricans imposent des tributs au luxe de l'Europe. Mais le principe de leurs succès est dans le luxe même de la France : c'est dans la mobilité de nos goûts et dans l'inconstance de nos modes, que le luxe étranger doit trouver son aliment ; c'est à ce qui fait mouvoir et vivre une population immense, qui, sans cela, iroit se perdre dans la corruption et dans la misère.

Il y aura à Compiègne, il s'élèvera bientôt sur les confins de la Vendée, des pyramides où la jeunesse se formera pour l'industrie et pour les arts mécaniques. De là nos chantiers, nos manufactures, tireront un jour les chefs de leurs ateliers et de leurs travaux.

Quatorze millions, produit de la taxe des barrières, et dix millions d'extraordinaires, ont été, pendant l'an 10, employés aux routes publiques. Les anciennes communications ont été réparées et entretenues. Des communications nouvelles ont été ouvertes : Le Simplon, le Mont-Cenis, le Mont-Genève, nous livreront bientôt un triple et facile accès en Italie. Un grand chemin conduira de Gènes à Marseille. Une route est tracée du Saint-Espirit à Gap ; une autre de Rennes à Brest par Pontivy. A Pontivy s'élèvent des établissemens qui auront une grande influence sur l'esprit public des départemens dont se composoit l'ancienne Bretagne ; un canal y portera le commerce et une prospérité nouvelle.

Sur les bords du Rhin, de Bingen à Coblenz, une route nécessaire est taillée dans des rochers inaccessibles. Les communes voisines affoient leurs travaux aux sacrifices du trésor public ; et les peuples de l'autre rive, qui rioient de la folie de l'entreprise, restent confondus de la rapidité de l'exécution.

De nombreux ateliers sont distribués sur le canal de St- Quentin.

Le canal de l'Ouercq vient de s'ouvrir et bientôt Paris jouira de ses eaux, de la salubrité et des embellissemens qu'elles lui promettent. Le canal destiné à unir la navigation de la Seine, de la Saone, du Doubs et du Rhin, est presque entièrement exécuté jusqu'à Dole; et le trésor public reçoit déjà, dans l'augmentation du prix du bois auxquels ce canal sert de débouché, une somme égale à celle qu'il a fournie pour en continuer les travaux. Les canaux d'Aigues-Mortes et du Rhone, le dessèchement des marais de la Charente-Inférieure, sont commencés, et donneront de nouvelles routes au commerce, et de nouvelles terres à la culture. On travaille à réparer les digues de l'île de Cadfan, celle d'Ostende, celles des Cotes du Nord, et à rétablir la navigation de nos rivières. Cette navigation n'est déjà plus abandonnée aux seuls soins du Gouvernement. Les propriétaires des bateaux qui les fréquentent, ont enfin senti qu'elle étoit leur patrie, et ils appellent sur eux-mêmes les taxes qui doivent en assurer l'entretien.

Sur l'Océan, des forts s'élevaient pour couvrir le rade de l'île d'Aix, et défendre les vaisseaux de la République. Partout des fonds sont affectés à la réparation et au nettoisement de nos ports; un nouveau bassin et une écluse de chasse termineront le port du Havre, et en feront le plus beau port de commerce de Manche. Une compagnie de pilotes se forme pour assurer la navigation de l'Escaut, et l'affranchir de la science, et du danger des pilotes étrangers. A Anvers, vont commencer les travaux qui doivent rendre son commerce à son ancienne célébrité; et dans la pensée du Gouvernement sont les canaux qui doivent lier la navigation de l'Escaut, de la Meuse et du Rhin, rendre à nos chantiers, à nos besoins, des bois qui croissent sur notre sol, et à nos fabriques une consommation que des manufactures étrangères leur disputent sur notre propre territoire.

Les îles de la Martinique, de Tabago, de Sainte-Lucie, nous ont été rendus avec tous les élémens de la prospérité. La Guadeloupe reconquise et pacifiée renait à la culture. La Guiane sort de sa longue enfance, et prend des accroissemens marqués.

Saint-Domingue étoit soumis, et l'artisan de ses troubles étoit au pouvoir de la France. Tout annonçoit le retour de sa prospérité; mais une maladie cruelle l'a livré à de nouveaux malheurs. Enfin, le fléau qui défolioit notre armée, a cessé ses ravages; les forces qui nous restent dans la colonie, celles qui y arrivent de tous nos ports, nous garantissent qu'il sera bientôt rendu à la paix et au commerce. Des vaisseaux partent pour les îles de France et de la Réunion, et pour l'Inde. Notre commerce maritime recherche les traces de ses anciennes liaisons, en forme de nouvelles, et s'enhardit par des essais. Déjà une heureuse expérience et des encouragemens ont ranimé les armemens pour la pêche qui fut longtemps le patri-

moine des François. Des expéditions commerciales plus importantes sont faites ou méditées, pour les colonies occidentales, pour l'île de France, pour les Indes. — Marseille reprend sur la Méditerranée son ancien ascendant. — Des chambres de commerce ont été rendues aux villes qui en avoient autrefois; il en a été établi dans celles qui, par l'étendue de leurs opérations et l'importance de leurs manufactures, ont paru les mériter. Dans ces allocations formées par d'honorables choix, renait l'esprit et la science du commerce. Là se développeront ses intérêts toujours inséparables des intérêts de l'Etat. Le négociant y apprendra à mettre, avant les richesses, la considération qui les honore, et avant les jouissances d'un vain luxe, cette sage économie qui fixe l'équilibre du croyen et la constance de l'étranger. Des députés choisis dans ces différentes chambres, discutent, sous les yeux du Gouvernement, les intérêts du commerce et des manufactures, et les loix et réglemens qu'exigeront les circonstances.

Dans nos armées de terre et de mer se propagent l'instruction et l'amour de la discipline; la comptabilité s'épure dans les corps militaires; une administration domestique a succédé au régime dilapidateur des entreprises et des fournitures. Le Soldat, mieux nourri, mieux vêtu, connoît l'économie; et les épargnes qu'il verse dans la caisse commune, l'attachent à ses drapeaux comme à sa famille.

Toutes les ressources de nos finances deviennent plus fécondes. La perception des contributions directes et moins rigoureuse pour le contribuable. On comptoit en l'an 6, cinquante millions en garnisaires et en contraintes, et les recouvrements étoient arriérés de trois ou quatre années. Aujourd'hui on n'en compte pas trois millions, et les contributions sont au courant. — Toutes les règles, toutes les administrations, donnent des produits toujours croissans. La règle de l'enregistrement est d'une fécondité qui atteint le mouvement rapide des capitaux et la multiplicité des transactions.

Au milieu de tant de signes de prospérité, on accuse encore l'exès des contributions directes. Le Gouvernement a reconnu avec tous les hommes éclairés en administration, que la surcharge étoit surtout dans l'inégalité de la répartition: des mesures sont arrêtées et déjà s'exécutent pour constater l'inégalité réelle qui existe entre les divers départemens. Au plus tard, dans le cours de l'an 12, des opérations régulières et simultanées nous auront appris quelle est le rapport des contributions entre un département et un autre, et quelle est, dans chaque département, le taux moyen de la contribution foncière. Une fois assuré d'un résultat certain, le Gouvernement proposera les rectifications que réclame la justice. Mais dès cette session, et sans attendre les résultats il proposera une diminution importante sur la contribution foncière. Des innovations sont proposées encore dans notre système de finances: mais tout changement est un mal, si l'on n'eût pas démontré jusqu'à l'évidence, que des avantages certains doivent en résulter. Le Gouvernement attendra; du temps et des discussions les plus approfondies, la maturité de ces projets que hasarde souvent l'impécunerie; qu'on appuie sur l'exemple d'un passé dont les traces sont déjà effacées pour la plupart, des esprits, et sur la doctrine financière d'une nation qui, par des efforts exagérés, a rompu toutes les mesures des contri-

butions et des dépenses publiques.—Avec un accroissement incalculé de revenus, des circonstances extraordinaires ont amené des besoins qu'il n'avoit pas été donné de prévoir. Il a fallu reconquérir deux de nos colonies, et rétablir dans toutes, le pouvoir et le Gouvernement de la métropole; il a fallu, par des moyens soudains et trop étendus pour être dirigés avec la précision d'une saine économie, assurer des subsistances à la capitale et à un grand nombre de départemens: mais ou moins le succès a répondu aux efforts du Gouvernement; et de ces vastes opérations, il lui reste des ressources pour garantir désormais la capitale du retour de la même pénurie, et pour se jouer des combinaisons du monopole.

Dans le compte raisonné du Ministre des finances, on trouvera l'ensemble des contributions annuelles et des diverses branches du revenu publique que celles ont dû produire dans l'année révolue; ce qu'on doit attendre d'amélioration, soit des mesures de l'administration, soit du progrès de la prospérité publique; quels ont été dans les divers départemens du ministère, les élémens de la dépense pour l'an 10; que les sommes sont encore à solder sur cette année et les années antérieures; quelles ressources restent pour les couvrir, soit des recouvrements à faire sur le passé, soit dans les fonds extraordinaires qui avoient été assignés à la dépense de ces années, et qui n'ont point encore été consommés: quel est l'état actuel de la dette publique, quels en ont été les accroissemens; quelles en ont été les extinctions naturelles; quelles en ont été enfin celles qu'a opérées la caisse d'amortissement.—Dans le compte du ministre du trésor public, on verra, dans leur réalité, les recettes et les paiemens effectués dans l'an 10, ce qui en appartient aux diverses branches de revenus, ce qui doit être imputé à chaque année et à chaque partie de l'administration.—Des comptes réunis de ces deux ministères, sortira le tableau le plus complet de notre situation financière. Le Gouvernement le présente avec une égale confiance à ses amis et à ses détracteurs, aux citoyens et aux étrangers.—Après avoir autorisé les dépenses prévues de l'an 12, et appropriés les revenus nécessaires à ses dépenses, des objets du plus grand intérêt occuperont la session du corps législatif. Il faut rétablir l'ordre dans notre système monétaire; il faut donner au système de nos douanes une nouvelle force et une nouvelle énergie pour comprimer la contrebande.—Il faut enfin donner à la France ce code civile depuis longtemps promis et trop long-temps attendu.—Sur toutes ces matières, des projets de lois ont été formés sous les yeux du Gouvernement et muris dans des conférences, où des commissions du conseil d'état et du tribunal n'ont porté que l'amour de la vérité et le sentiment de l'intérêt public. Le même sentiment, les mêmes principes dirigeront les délibérations des législateurs et garantiront à la République la sagesse et l'impartialité des lois qu'ils auront adoptées.—Sur le continent, tout nous offre des gages de repos et de tranquillité.—La République Italienne, depuis les succès de Lyon, se fortifie par l'union toujours plus intime des peuples qui la composent. L'heureux accord des autorités qui la gouvernent, son administration intérieure, sa force militaire, lui donnent déjà le caractère et l'attitude d'un état formé depuis long-temps; et si la sagesse les conserve, ils lui garantiront une destinée toujours plus prospère.—La

Ligurie placée sous une constitution mixte, voit à sa tête et dans le sein de ses autorités, ce qu'elle a de citoyens les plus recommandables par leur vertus, par leurs lumières et par leur fortune.—De nouvelles secousses ont ébranlé la République Helvétique. Le Gouvernement devoit son secours à des voisins dont le repos importe à son repos; et il fera tout pour assurer le succès de sa médiation, et le bonheur d'un peuple dont la position, les habitudes, et les intérêts, en font l'allié nécessaire de la France.—La Bavière rentre successivement dans les colonies que la paix lui a conservées.—Elle se souviendra toujours que la France ne peut être pour elle que l'amie la plus utile ou l'ennemie la plus funeste. En Allemagne se consomment les dernières stipulations du traité de Lunéville. La Prusse, la Bavière, tous les Princes séculiers qui avoient des possessions sur la rive gauche du Rhin, obtiennent sur la rive droite de justes indemnités. La maison d'Autriche trouve dans les évêchés de Salzbourg, d'Eischlert, de Trente et de Brixen, et dans la plus grande partie de celui de Passau, plus qu'elle n'a perdu dans la Toscane.

Ainsi, par l'heureux concours de la France et de la Russie, tous les intérêts permanents sont conciliés; et au sein de cette tempête, qui sembloit devoir l'anéantir, l'Empire Germanique, cet Empire si nécessaire à l'équilibre et au repos de l'Europe, se relève plus fort, composé d'élémens plus homogènes, mieux combinés et mieux assortis aux circonstances présentes et aux idées de notre siècle.—Un Ambassadeur François est à Constantinople, chargé de resserrer et de fortifier les liens qui nous attachent à une puissance qui semble chanceler, mais qu'il est de notre intérêt de soutenir et de raffermir sur ses fondemens.—Des troupes Britanniques sont toujours dans Alexandrie et dans Malthe: le Gouvernement avoit le droit de s'en plaindre; mais il apprend que les vaisseaux qui doivent les ramener en Europe sont dans la Méditerranée. Le Gouvernement garantit à la nation la paix du Continent, et il lui est permis d'espérer la continuation de la paix maritime. Cette paix est le besoin et la volonté de tous les peuples; pour la conserver, le Gouvernement fera tout ce qui est compatible avec l'honneur national, essentiellement lié à la stricte exécution des traités.—Mais en Angleterre deux partis se disputent le pouvoir. L'un a conclu la paix et paroit décidé à la maintenir; l'autre a juré à la France une haine implacable; de là cette fluctuation dans les opinions, et dans les conseils, et cette attitude à la fois pacifique et menaçante. Tant que durera cette lutte des partis, il est des mesures que la prudence commande au Gouvernement de la République. Cinq cents mille hommes doivent être et seront prêts à la défense et à la vengeance. Etrange nécessité que de misérables passions imposent à deux nations qu'un intérêt et une égale volonté attachent à la paix.—Quel que soit à Londres le succès de l'intrigue, elle n'entraînera point d'autres peuples dans des ligués nouvelles; et le Gouvernement le dit avec un juste orgueil, seule, l'Angleterre ne sauroit aujourd'hui lutter contre la France. Mais ayons de meilleures espérances, et croyons plutôt qu'on n'écouterà dans le cabinet Britannique que les conseils de la sagesse et la voix de l'humanité. Oui, sans doute, la paix se consuldera tous les jours d'avantage; les relations des deux Gouvernemens prendront ce caractère de bienveillance qui convient à leurs intérêts mutuels,

Un heureux repos fera oublier les longues calamités d'une guerre désastreuse; et la France et l'Angleterre, en faisant leur bonheur réciproque, méritent la reconnaissance du monde entier.

(Signé) **BONAPARTE**, Premier Consul.

Par le Premier Consul,

H. B. MARET, Secrétaire-d'Etat.

FOREIGN NEWS.

HOLLAND.—FLUSHING, APRIL 5.

This morning arrived from Cadix and a battalion of French infantry of the 8th Half-Brigade, which immediately proceeded on its march for Middelburg. In the afternoon arrived another battalion of the same Brigade, which likewise proceeded for Middelburg: A battalion of 95th Half-Brigade, lying here in garrison, set out at noon for Veere, and a few hours after was replaced by another battalion of the same Brigade. Our garrison consisted hitherto of two battalions of the 95th Half-Brigade.

This evening, at six o'clock, the whole garrison came under arms in the Great Market, and General Monnet, Commander of the troops in the town of Flushing and the Isle of Walcheren, accompanied by General Otten and some other officers, appeared in the front, and delivered to the Commandant of the place a writing, which was read by the same Commandant, and contained as follows:

LIBERTY. EQUALITY.

Extract from the Register of the Deliberations of the Consuls of the Republic.

Paris, 10th of Germinal, 11th Year of the Republic.

Bonaparte, First Consul of the Republic, decrees:

Art. 1. The Town of Flushing is placed in a state of siege, under the command of the General in Brigade Monnet, who for this purpose is invested with all the necessary powers, and who will correspond directly with the Minister at War.

Art. v. The Minister at War is charged with the execution of the present Decree.

The First Consul (Signed) **BONAPARTE**.

The Secretary of State, (Signed) **HUGHES B. MARET**,
The Minister at War, (Signed) **ALEX. BERTHIER**.

A true Copy, the Commandant-General of the Town of Flushing and Isle of Walcheren.

(Signed) **MONNET**.

We expect to day or to-morrow, three hundred and eighty Cavalry, and two Companies of Artillery, which, it is said, will be distributed in the towns of Flushing, Middleburg and Veere.

ROTTERDAM, APRIL 8.

Commissary-General Michaud has spoken at Hague in very strong terms to the Commissary of the Batavian Government, with whom he was directed to consult in regard to the subsistence and pay of the troops newly arrived. The Dutchman, having difficulty to express himself in French,

said, perhaps without meaning it, some things which had the air of being very uncivil; and the two gentlemen parted in mutual dissatisfaction.—It is true, that, in the present low state of our treasury, the Frenchmen's demands could not but be very unpleasant.

To Readers and Correspondents.

The length of Peltier's Trial and the Official Report of the State of the French Republic, have prevented us from inserting several other papers, which were prepared for this number.

Silvestris is received and will appear next week. The verses purporting to be translation from the Gaelic will also appear.

A Correspondent's request will be strictly attended to. The communication to which he alludes does terror to the author. We hope that he will continue to cultivate his abilities in that line of composition.

MARCHE'S.

A QUEBEC, 28 Mai, 1803.

Farine p. q.	115 8d.	à 15s	Lard par lb.	7 1/2
Son - do - -	-	-	Suife do	6 1/2 à 9d
Pois par minot	55 à 5s	4d	Beurre en Tin.	11d
Patates p. do.	2/6 à 3s		Ditto frais	1/6
Avoine p. do.	-	3s	Dinde p. coup.	7s
Bœuf par lb.	-	5d	Oies p. do	2s 6d à 4s
Do. p. quartier	(point)		Poulets p. do	2/6 à 3s
Veau par lb.	6d à 7d		Anguilles	
Do en quarties:	2s 6d		Morue	5d à 2s 6d
Mouton p. lb.	7 1/2		Foin par cent	3s à 50s
Do. p. quartier	(point)		Paille par do	12s 6d à 20s
Sain Doux do	9d à 1s	3d	Bois p. corde	12s 6d à 15s
Bœuf p. Tierce	44l. 10s.		Pork p. baril	5 1/2 10s. 4l.
Pain Blanc 3 lb.	2 onces		Bis 3 lb.	12 onces 6d.

A MONTREAL.

Farine b. 30 à 35s.	37/6.	Lard p. bl.	13 à 14 piis.
Son p. cent	4/2 à 4s	Suife p. lb.	10d.
Bled p. minot	5s. à 5/6	Chandelles	1/2 1/3
Avoine p. do.	2/6 à 3/6	Beurre en Tin.	1s
Bled d'Indep. do.	3/9	Frais	1/3.
Pois do.	5s.	Jambon	7 1/2 d. à 10d
Patates p. do.	1/8 à 2/6	Potasse	£30.
Bœuf p. lb. 4d. 5d. à 6d.		Dinde coup.	4/2 à 5/10
Do. p. quartier	2 1/2 à 3d	Poulets p. do.	1/3 à 2s
Mouton p. do.	4s à 7/6	Foin p. cent	3s 1/2 à 4s 1/2
Do. p. quartier	10s	Bois p. corde	10s.
Veau p. do.	5/ à 10/	Pain Blanc 4 lbs.	8d
Sain Doux p. lb.	7 1/2 d.	Do. Bis	6 lbs. 8d

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE, MAY 1803.

Days.	M's Age.	Weather.	Wds	Barometer.		Thermo.	
				Inches.		Degrees.	
				M.	A.	M.	A.
22		fine		29.4	29.4	55	67
23		fine		29.6	29.6	53	63
24		fine		29.6	29.6	60	72
25		fine		29.6	29.6	60	67
26		fine	E	29.7	29.8	54	57
27		fine		29.8	29.8	59	67
28	☽	fine		29.8		59	

☉ N. Moon. ☽ 1st. Quar ☉ F. Moon. ☾ 1st 2.