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SPANISH OFFICIAL STATE PAPERS.

His Excellency the Captain-General of Andalusia, Governor of Cadiz, to General Dupont in answer to his official letters of complaint, written at Lebrixa and Port St. Mary.

Cadiz, August 10, 1808.

SIR,

Neither bad faith nor false dissimulation have ever been practised by me, and hence it was that I wrote your Excellency under date of the 8th inst. with the greatest candour; and am now sorry to find myself obliged by your reply of yesterday, to repeat in abstract what I had then the honor of representing to your Excellency, and which being the truth, cannot fail of proving so. The Capitulation—the approbation of the Supreme Junta—nor even an express order from our beloved King, can render practicable, that which is not possible; there are no vessels nor any means of obtaining them, for the transportation of your army—What greater proof can be adduced, than that of retaining here at a great expence the prisoners of your Squadron, for the want of transports to carry them off to other points of the continent. When Gen. Castanos promised to obtain passports from the British for the passage of your army, he could not have obliged himself to do more than to request them in the most particular manner—this he has done; but how could your Excellency suppose that the British nation would accede to the request, while she was certain that you would be immediately employed in making war on her in another quarter, or perhaps in the same. I feel persuaded that neither Gen. Castanos nor your Excellency could have believed that the said capitulation could have been carried into full effect—The object of the former was to extricate himself from his embarrassments, and that of your Excellency to obtain conditions, which although impossible to comply with, would make your unavoidable surrender the more honorable.—Thus each obtained what he wished, and now it becomes indispensable to yield to the imperious law of necessity. Our national character will not permit the exercise of any other law than this, towards the French, in preference to that of retaliation. Your Excellency compels me to express sentiments, which no doubt you must forcibly feel.

When circumstances render it impossible to comply with the articles of capitulation, the propriety or right of inserting another cannot possibly attach to an army which entered Spain under the specious pretext of the most intimate alliance and union, but which has imprisoned our King and his Royal Family—plundered their palaces—murdered and robbed their subjects—destroyed their cities—and deprived them of their crown. If your Excellency does not particularly wish to draw upon yourself more and more the just indignation of the people, which I am endeavouring so much to repress, you will do well to desist from such insufferable charges; and to endeavor by your conduct and conformity, to mitigate the lively sensations of the horrors which you so recently committed in the city of Cordova.

Your Excellency will have the goodness to believe that my only object in this recommendation is your own welfare and safety—the populace who will not take time to reflect, are naturally impelled to return evil for evil, without considering circumstances; and therefore I must hold your Excellency responsible for the melancholy consequences which may attend your non-conformity with what cannot be avoided. The instructions given by me to Don Juan Creagh, and communicated to him by your Excellency, are those of the Supreme Junta, and are moreover indispensable under all circumstances.—Any delay in their execution must alarm the public and create fresh inconveniences—in fact the aforesaid Mr. Creagh has already informed me of a circumstance which renders me very unhappy, that is, of a single soldier of your army having with him, 2180 livres tournois, equal to 436 dollars—What an incentive it would be to the populace to know this fact.

This is all I have to offer in reply to your Excellency's letter, and I sincerely hope it may be my last on those subjects, although fully disposed in other respects to render you every agreeable service in my power.

"I remain respectfully, &c."

CADIZ, AUGUST 14, 1808.

SIR,

I have received with great surprize, your Excellency's letter of yesterday, demanding restitution of the baggage, money, plate, horses, and every thing else belonging to your Excellency, and the other Generals which accompany you, arrested and ransacked by the populace of Port St. Mary's invoking the principles of honour and of probity, for the restoration of your said property—and you add, that the horrible excesses of that populace had caused you to weep, zealous as you are for the glory of Spain—I feel most sensibly for the conduct of these citizens, not because I consider it altogether unwarrantable, but because they have not shown more confidence in their government and magistrates, by assuming the administration of justice in their own hands, and that it were to be apprehended their passion

might have got the better of their reason, and that they might have proceeded to the vile and horrible duties of a hangman, and thereby stain themselves with the blood of the conquered and disarmed, and thus eclipse the glory of their co-patriots, by spilling the blood which they had consented to save in the field of battle.—Those are the true causes of my extreme agitation and sensibility, and were what actuated me in writing to col. Don Juan Creagh, to propose to your Excellency, for your greater security and that of your companions, to submit quietly to a moderate and necessary examination and deposit of your baggage previous to your departure from Lebrixa; and that your Excellency should come by night by the way of Xeres: my ordering a regiment to be stationed at Port St. Mary to check any disorder that might occur, and which the Governor, from his too much confidence, omitted having under arms. My writing to your Excellency that submission and a prudent conduct only could save you from the indignation of the people—but it never was my intention, and much less that of the Supreme Junta, that your Excellency and your army should carry out of Spain the fruits of your rapacity, cruelty, and irreligion. How could your Excellency ever persuade yourself that we should be so stupid or insensible; How can a capitulation which merely secures their baggage to an army, give them a right of property in the treasures acquired by assassinations, the profanation of every thing that is sacred. Cruelties and violations, such as your army committed in Cordova and other cities? Is there any law or principle of right, which prescribes that good faith, or even humanity, should be observed towards an army that has entered a kingdom in alliance and friendship, under the most specious and false pretences:—robbed them of their innocent and beloved King, and all his family, with equal fallacy—at the same time extorting from them the renunciation of their crown in favour of their sovereign; by which they have conceived themselves fully authorized to plunder their palaces and cities; and because those cannot quietly yield to such iniquitous conduct, they profane the temples and plunder them—assassinate the ministers of the altars—violate their innocent Virgins in the most barbarous manner—and finally plunder and load themselves with whatever they can carry off, and destroy what they cannot: And is it possible, that those very persons now in captivity shall have the audacity to complain at being deprived of what to them ought to appear the horrible fruits of their iniquity?—and to ground their demand of restitution on the principles of our national honour and probity!!

My natural moderation has caused me hitherto to address your Excellency with some degree of attention, yet I could not refrain from giving you a faint picture of your conduct in the extraordinary demand which you have made of me, and which are in fact telling me, that I must actually despoil the churches of this city, and plunder the vicinity of Cadiz to replace to you, what the populace of Port St. Mary have deprived you of, and which the greatest atrocities, violence and turpitude had borne away from the city of Cordova. Your Excellency must dispel those illusions, and rest contented, that the Spanish nation actuated by the nobleness of its character, shall abstain from performing as I have already observed, the vile duties of a hangman.

I shall however endeavour all in my power to secure your personal safety, and reasonable subsistence, and I shall use the most active means possible to transport you to France as soon as may be, which is all I have to reply to your Excellency at present, and to assure you that in any other view I entertain for your Excellency the greatest esteem, &c."

From the LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.

Admiral's Office, Sept. 16, 1808.

Capt. Hallstead, First Captain to the Squadron under the Command of Admiral Sir Charles Cotton, Barr. Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels on the coast of Portugal, arrived yesterday at this office, with dispatches from the Admiral to the Hon. W. W. Pole, of which the following are copies:

Hibernia, off the Tagus, Sept. 3, 1808

SIR,

Inclosed herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, is a copy of a Convention* entered into by Lieutenant-Col. Murray and General Kellerman, for the evacuation of Portugal by the French army; such convention having been ratified by Lieut. General Sir Hew Dalrymple, myself and the French Commander in Chief, British troops, consisting of the 3d and 4th regiments, were on the 5th inst. landed to occupy the forts of Cascais, St. Antonio, St. Julien, and the Bugio, and no time shall be lost to embark the French troops, agreeably to the said convention. Captain Hallstead, First Captain of this ship and Captain of the fleet, who is the bearer of dispatches to their Lordships respecting the Russian Squadron

* A copy of the convention inclosed in the letter from Sir Hew Dalrymple.

in the Tagus, is in full possession of my confidence, and will be able to explain to their Lordships the motives inducing me to ratify the convention in question, as well as give any further information that may be thought necessary.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed)

C. COTTON.

Hon. W. W. Pole, &c. &c. &c.

Hibernia, off the Tagus, 4th Sept. 1808.

SIR,

Herewith I have the honor to inclose to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a conversation entered into by me, with Vice-Admiral Seniavin, commanding the Russian fleet in the Tagus; by which it will appear to their Lordships that such fleet has been surrendered to me, to be held by his Majesty as a deposit, until six months after the conclusion of a peace between Russia and England.

I have charged Capt. Hallstead, first Capt. of the Hibernia, and Capt. of the Fleet, with the delivery of this dispatch to their Lordships; he was sent by me to negotiate the convention with Vice-Admiral Seniavin, and will be able to explain every particular.

To Capt. Hallstead I feel greatly indebted for his able advice and assistance upon all points of service, his zeal and diligence have been exemplary, and entitle him to my highest commendation.

Rear-Admiral Tyler has been directed to superintend the first division of the Russian fleet, which I purpose ordering under his protection immediately to Spithead; to him (since with me) I have been indebted for every assistance, and to the Captains, officers and crews, of those ships that have been employed throughout a tediously protracted blockade (by whom every exertion has been made with a degree of cheerfulness doing them infinite honor.) I feel extremely grateful, and deem it my duty to offer every possible testimony of my approbation in their favor.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed)

C. COTTON.

ARTICLES OF A CONVENTION

Entered into between Vice-Admiral Seniavin, Knight of the Order of St. Alexander, and other Russian Orders, and Admiral Sir Charles Cotton, Baronet, for the surrender of the Russian fleet, now anchored in the River Tagus.

Art. I. The ships of war of the Emperor of Russia now in the Tagus, as specified in the annexed list, shall be delivered up to Admiral Sir Charles Cotton, immediately, with all their stores as they now are, to be sent to England, and there held as a deposit by his Britannic Majesty, to be restored to his Imperial Majesty, within six months after the conclusion of a peace between his Britannic Majesty, and his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias.

II. Vice-Admiral Seniavin, with the Officers, Sailors, and Marines, under his command, to return to Russia without any condition or stipulation respecting their future services: to be conveyed there in men of war, or proper vessels, at the expence of his Britannic Majesty.

Done and concluded on board the ship Twerday, in the Tagus, and on board his Britannic Majesty's ship Hibernia, off the mouth of that river, the 3d day of September, 1808.

(Signed)

DE SENIAVIN.

(Signed)

CHARLES COTTON.

(Counter-signed) by Command of the Admiral.

E. SASS, Aileffeur de College,

(Counter-signed) by Command of the Admiral.

JAMES KENNEDY, Secretary.

List of ships referred to in the foregoing Convention.

Twerday, Vice-Admiral Seniavin, Captain durer rang Malavell, of 74 guns, and 729 men—Skroy, Captain durer rang Schelling, of 60 guns, and 504 men—Stehelere, Captain 2d rang Bitchenskoj, of 74 guns and 598 men. S. Casaf, Captain du 2d rang Rolhoff, of 74 guns, and 663 men—Sitney, Captain Lieutenant, Malgruin, of 74 guns, and 605 men—Morchnos, Captain Lieutenant, Rafvoff, of 74 guns, and 699 men—Rafael, Captain Lieutenant, Bychenskoj, of 80 guns, and 646 men—Fregatte Kildun, Captain Lieutenant, Dournoff, of 26 guns, and 222 men—Yarowlavl, Captain du 2d rang Milkoff, of 74 guns, and 567 men.—Total—5685 men.

(Signed) MALIVJEFF, 1e Capitaine de Pavillon.

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 12.

This day's Gazette contains an account of the capture of the Danish schooner Acutiff pierced for twelve guns, but had eight only mounted, by the Daphne, Captain Mason, of Harfhalha.

Statesman Office, 2 o'clock, P. M., 17th September.

Yesterday evening a mail from Gottenburg arrived. It brings an account of an action between Sir Samuel Hood, and the Russian fleet in the Baltic. It appears that Sir S. Hood had, with two sail of the line, joined the Swedish fleet, with which he failed in pursuit of the Russians.—The