

Vermont cannot desire a reunion with New-York, because this would amount to an abdication of their own power and consequence.—The people of Vermont will not desire it; because no people ever desired to pass from a situation in which they were exempted from taxes, and in which they suffered no particular oppression, to one in which they would be subject to burthens comparatively heavy.

I pass now to an examination of the constitutionality of the measure proposed by the bill. It is observed that by the constitution, the counties of Charlotte, Cumberland and Gloucester are constituent parts of the state—that one article of it declares that no power shall be exercised over the people, but such as is derived from, and granted by them, that no express power is given to the legislature to dismember any part of the state? and that this silence of the constitution is a tacit reservation of that power to the people.

To all this I answer, that the sovereignty of the people by our constitution is vested in their representatives in senate and assembly, with the intervention of the council of revision and, that the power of dismembering the state under certain circumstances is a necessary appendage of the sovereignty. The practice of nations and the authority of writers conspire to establish this principle; and the safety of society requires it. There are certain situations of kingdoms and states in which the sacrifice of a part is essential to the preservation or welfare of the rest.

History furnishes abundant examples of such sacrifices. Nations in making peace frequently cede parts of their territories to each other. Civil commotions have many times produced similar dismemberments.—The monarchy of Spain after a destructive and fruitless contest to preserve it was obliged at last to surrender its dominion over the Netherlands.—The Crown of Austria was in like manner compelled to abandon its jurisdiction over the Swiss Cantons.—And the United States are a recent and still more signal instance of the exercise of the same right neither of these instances has been censured or condemned nor the power of the sovereign to accede to the separation called in question.

The celebrated author quoted by the council for the petitioners is explicit on this article and decides with clearness that the prince or body entrusted with the sovereign authority may in certain emergencies dismember the empire and lop off a limb for the good of the body. This inference from the silence of a constitution, is the reverse of that drawn by the council for the petitioners. Doubts have been raised by particular theorists upon this subject; but their theorists were to abstract for practice, and are now exploded by the ablest writers on the laws of nations. Indeed those doubts were chiefly applied to the case of the cession or relinquishment of a part of the empire, still in possession of the sovereign; it has been long considered as a clear point, that were a part of an empire actually severed by conquest, or a revolution, the prince or body, vested with the administration of the government, has a right to assert to, and to ratify that separation. This is an obvious and important distinction; from which other inferences of moment will be drawn in another place. It will be found in Vattel. Book IV. Chap. 23 § 5.

Vermont is in fact severed from New-York, and has been so for years. There is no reasonable prospect of recovering it, and the attempt would be attended with certain and serious calamities. The legislature have therefore an undoubted right to relinquish it, and policy dictates that it should be done.

It is of no force to say that this principle would authorize the dismemberment of Long Island, or of any other part of the state; there is no doubt, the same circumstances concurring, the same consequences would result, but not sooner; and it will be the duty of the state to endeavour to prevent a similar extremity. (To be continued.)

L O N D O N, Aug. 25.

On Thursday a Messenger Extraordinary arrived at the Secretary of State's office from Sir James Harris at the Hague, whose dispatches contain the following particulars: the night on which the messenger set off, a large body of armed men, of the French party, were before the gates, and insisted upon entrance into the Hague, on which a council was summoned (and was sitting when the messenger set off) to determine what was best to be done.

It was generally thought that there would be an engagement between the people of the Hague and the besiegers; in consequence of which Sir James Harris has sent home all his private papers, nor is it very unlikely but he may follow them, until the disturbances be quieted.

Sat. 3. Friday a full board of Admiralty was held, when several officers who applied for 6 months absence were refused, and informed, that if they

attempted to quit England without obtaining leave, they would be struck off the list, and not allowed to serve any longer.

The same day orders were sent down to Portsmouth and Plymouth, for the holders of rendezvous there to give bounties to such seamen as shall enter into his Majesty's service, and to send up information twice a week, of the number entered.

Extract of a letter from Rotterdam, August 31. "We just now are informed, that the Prince's troops are attacking the city of Utrecht."

"The whole of the Prussian troops will be on the territories of Guelderland in three or four days, and a manifesto will be published by the Duke of Brunswick, declaring, that all such Bourgeois as may be found in arms, or using any resistance against his troops, and falling into their hands, will not be treated as ordinary prisoners of war, but will be immediately hung as rebels."

Paris at this time presents an alarming spectacle. The apprehensions of Government are so great, that every thing is under military law. A sergeant and twelve guards are placed at the corner of every street to awe the rising spirit of the inhabitants.

Sat. 5. Accounts were received late last night from Brussels, that Count Murray, the Governor-General, alarmed at the spirited and daring proceedings of the Brabantians, had wrote to Vienna for a further and an immediate supply of troops to prevent a general revolt of the inhabitants from their allegiance.

Some dispatches were received yesterday from Mr. Eden at Paris, by a special Messenger, of a very interesting and advantageous import; they principally consist of a Convention, which is already signed by the Plenipotentiaries of the Courts of London and Versailles, and are now waiting only for the ratification of his Majesty.

The express which arrived here yesterday afternoon from France, it is said, contains some important intelligence from the East Indies.

The state of the Presidency of Bombay has for several days past, been under the serious consideration of the Court of Directors of the East India Company; when after mature deliberation thereon, the Court yesterday came to a resolution, appointing Major General William Meadows, Governor and Commander in Chief of Bombay and its dependencies, in the room of Rowland Hart-Boddam, Esq.

General Meadows is to receive 100,000 Bombay rupees per annum in full for salary and all allowances whatever. This increase of allowance to the new Governor of Bombay, is meant as a particular mark of the Company's high opinion of the merits of the General, but is not to be drawn into a precedent.

A very serious quarrel, it is said, is likely to take place between the Courts of Spain and Portugal, unless soon accommodated to the satisfaction of the latter. It seems that dollars to an immense amount have been for some time past brought into Portugal by permission of the Spanish government, when all of a sudden an edict appeared forbidding any further commerce of specie. At the time this edict was published, there were vast sums, to the amount of some millions of dollars coming to Lisbon, through the territories of his Catholic Majesty, which were seized upon as contraband, though the property of the Portuguese merchant. The Court of Portugal has made a positive demand of that of Madrid, of the restitution of the dollars.

A squadron of Portuguese men of war will shortly appear in the Tagus, and it is said her Faithful Majesty is determined to make reprisals to the amount of the sums that have been seized; alleging that the Court of Madrid have no just reason to issue such an unexpected edict, when it is considered that there has been more specie imported into Cadiz this year, than was ever known in any preceding one.

Sat. 6. It is reported that dispatches have arrived over land from India, which have occasioned some bustle at both ends of the town. The subject of them is said to be, that a French vessel, suspected of carrying on some illicit traffic in the River Hully, and refusing to be brought to, in passing the Fort of Calcutta, had been fired at by order of Lord Cornwallis, and unfortunately sunk.

Extract of a private letter dated Brussels, Aug. 28.

"The present situation of this town and country is the most alarming, and gives us the greatest uneasiness. I have not a quarter of an hour's peace at present. We are at the crisis of a general revolution! The Emperor will have his edicts put in execution by force, if not possible otherwise. The States received a letter yesterday the most arbitrary and menacing. The substituted Governor ordered the encamped troops to enter the town, but were prevented and are now at the gates. We apprehended they would enter by storm last night. No body went to rest, expecting this abominable e-

vent. The bourgeois and volunteers being ready to oppose them if they attempt to put in execution the orders of their arbitrary master; so that every moment we expect to see the town in a bloody confusion, the people put to the sword, or to be set on fire in all quarters by the desperate inhabitants. Such is the resolution of the people rather to die than to give themselves up to perpetual slavery. I will try if I can fly with our friend D. and our children into some little town in France, till you will be able to fetch or join us. It is clear now the Emperor will not give up the execution of his orders and edicts, and the States are resolved on their side to defend their rights at the expense of their blood and fortunes. The bourgeois and volunteers have kept good order till this moment, but this cannot be of any long duration. They are guarding and patrolling night and day, many hundreds. Also at Louvain, Ghent, Antwerp, and Namur; at the last place we learn that they have seized the powder magazine, killed some soldiers, and three Imperial officers of the garrison; so if they continue in this manner, this country will be soon the theatre of horror. There is not a peasant to be found at his Plough, and all our journeymen have left their business to take up arms to defend their country, wives and children! Judge my dear friend, in what a situation I am in."

Some letters are received in town from Flanders, which declare that the spirit of the inhabitants is by no means quelled by the late edict from Vienna; on the contrary, they continue to assemble in military parade, and are arrived at such a height of tumult, that it is intimated the Governor General had sent to the Court an account that his force at present was not sufficient for carrying into execution the Emperor's last orders.

Extract of a letter from Orléans, September 1. "The Governor General has caused copies of his instructions, which he received by a special courier from Vienna, to be printed and posted up in all the cities, towns, villages and hamlets of the Low Countries, with a caution from the Count himself, warning the inhabitants that the orders must be punctually executed, and that all persons disobeying, by any riotous or violent behavior, will have nobody to blame but themselves. There is not a village at this time but has soldiers, the officers of whom are very strict in their discipline."

N E W Y O R K, October 31.

Extract of a letter from Augusta, Sept. 22.

"We have it from the most unquestionable authority, that, on the latter part of last week, Lieut. Col. Barber, of Colonel Freeman's battalion, went out upon the line upon the Appalachi, with a small reconnoitering party of eight, and that a little above the Big Shoals, they were first discovered by a party of Indians, who had time to divide and lie down on either side of an obstacle, and fired on the party as they were going to pass. That Col. Barber, was wounded in both hands, his bridle reins shot in two, and his horse wounded; himself was thrown, with three men who were mortally wounded. In this situation they retreated, without being pursued. Gen. Clark, upon being informed of this little disaster ordered some men to be collected, and immediately marched to that quarter, and it is hoped will at last be able to discover the force of the Indians at present on our borders. Col. Barber thinks the party of Indians who attacked him consisted of about 40."

We are informed from Greene county, that, on Friday the 14th inst. a party of Indians killed a man in Greenborough, in sight of one of the forts; the savages run off with such precipitation that every attempt made to overtake them proved fruitless.

Arthur Fort, Esq. a Member for Wilkes county, informs us, that Major Ledbetter appeared before him and made oath to the following: On Monday the 17th inst. some Indians came to Buffalo Creek, in the county of Washington, about 12 miles from the Oconee, killed and scalped a lad of about 12 years of age, and shot a girl about 9 years old through the breast and thighs, and took two scalps off her head; they were both at work in the field, a small distance from the dwelling house. The girl notwithstanding the wounds she received, recovered her senses some time after, and says that she saw about five or six Indians. They made no attempt on the house."

Extract of a letter from Gen. Cocke, at Military Grove, State of Franklin, to Major Elkin, at Augusta, dated August 28, 1787.

"Col. Typton the other day, appeared with a party of about 50 men, of such as he could raise, under pretence of redressing a quarrel that had arisen between our Sheriff and the Sheriff of North Carolina, though their principal view was to put