

ANOTHER JUNIUS!

In a late number of the *Wilmington (Del.) Mirror*, we find the following extraordinary publication. We know not what degree of credit is due to it.

No political writings ever made more noise in the world, or were more celebrated than the letters signed JUNIUS, and published in London some years ago.—And as the author conveyed those letters to the press in such a secret manner as to conceal himself entirely from the knowledge of the public, and every other person; the public curiosity has been excited from that time to this, to know who he was—frequent and various have been the conjectures respecting him, but all have accorded in attributing those letters to one person or other of the most eminent abilities. This without doubt does the author great honor. I have observed in some of your late papers, that they were attributed to the celebrated Mr. Dunning, by one writer, and to the late Earl of Chatham by another. But to satisfy the curiosity of the world, and to preclude all future and uncertain conjectures, I can assure the public that our celebrated Major-General Charles Lee, of the American army, was the real author of those Letters. And although he had declared that the secret rested solely with himself, and that he meant to carry it to the grave with him, yet I affirm, and answer the public that he revealed it to me, and perhaps to no other person in the world.

In the fall of 1773, not long after Gen. Lee had arrived in America, I had the pleasure of spending an afternoon in his company, when there was no other person present—our conversation chiefly turned on politics, and was mutually free and open—among other things the Letters of Junius were mentioned, and General Lee asked me, who was conjectured to be the author of those Letters. I replied our conjectures here generally followed those stated in England, but for myself I concluded from the spirit, style, patriotism, and political information, which they displayed, that Lord Chatham was the author; and yet that there were some sentiments in them that indicated his not being the author—General Lee immediately replied with considerable animation, affirming that to his certain knowledge Lord Chatham was not the author; neither did he know who the author was, any more than I did—that there was not a man in the world, no not even Woodfall, the publisher, that knew who the author was; that the secret rested solely with himself, and forever would remain with him.—Feeling in some degree surprised at the unexpected declaration, after pausing a little I replied, no, General Lee, if you certainly know what you have affirmed, it can no longer remain solely with him, for certainly no one could know what you have affirmed but the author himself? Recollecting himself he replied, I have unguardedly committed myself, and it would be but folly to deny to you that I AM THE AUTHOR, but I must request that you will not reveal it during my life; for it never was, and never will be revealed by me to any other.—He then proceeded to mention several circumstances to verify his being the author, and among them, his going over to the continent, and absenting himself from England, most of the time in which those letters were first published in London, &c. &c. This he thought necessary lest by some accident the author should become known, or at least suspected, which might have caused his ruin, had he been in the power of the Court of London, &c.

Whoever will compare the Letters of Gen. Lee, written to several of the British officers at the commencement of our revolutionary war, with those of Junius, will probably be convinced that they were dictated by the same mind and written by the same hand; but however that may be, I affirm, that what I have herein communicated to the public relative to General Lee's communication to me, respecting the author of Junius's Letters is, in substance, strictly true, and no doubt remains with me, but that he was the real author.

T. RODNEY.

Dover, February 1, 1803.

LONDON, JANUARY 17.

We some time ago noticed the arrival of a troop of French commercial agents, whom our government had refused to receive as such, but who had been sent over by Bonaparte in spite of that refusal. These persons were then just arrived in London whence they have since been distributed among our different sea ports; and, we are well assured, that the commercial agent at Hull is a colonel of engineers!—That other of his commercial comrades are of the same or of a similar description, no one can doubt.

A Tuscan deputation has waited on the French General Clark, at Florence, expressing their dissatisfaction with their new chief, his Etrurian Majesty, and requesting that they might be allowed to receive again the Grand Duke as their sovereign, or if that could not be complied with, that the First Consul would be pleased to place himself at the head of the government of Tuscany, in the same manner as he is in the Italian Republic.

Among other reports, it is said, as soon as Bonaparte shall be declared and established Emperor of the Gauls, he will be divorced from Madame Bonaparte, on the plea of state necessity, namely, that it is necessary to preserve the peace of his empire that the succession should be settled.—With a view of having an heir to the imperial throne, he will marry a daughter of the Prince of Baden, a most beautiful girl. By this means he will become brother-in-law to the Emperor of Russia, who is married to one of the princesses of Baden; and through the Wirtemberg family he will be even related to the King of Great-Britain. Bonaparte will royalise himself most wonderfully by this match. With regard to Madame Bonaparte, she will be provided for in the handsomest manner. She will probably be made a princess, or rather, perhaps a countess of Liguria, the Valais or some other little Republic.

JANUARY 19.

All the French officers of rank in Holland have repaired to Paris, in order to assist at something important which is soon to go forward; most probably the proclamation and coronation of the Emperor of the Gauls.

Fouche lately entertained at dinner a party of twenty

Members; who sat with him to a late hour. Next day he had a message to repair to St. Cloud. He was there interrogated by Dubois, in an outer apartment, respecting the circumstances of his dinner.—His answers being communicated to the First Consul, leave was given him to retire.—But he had not the honor of being admitted into the presence of Bonaparte; who is persuaded by his spies, that some new conspiracy is a brewing against him, of which Fouche may perhaps be not unconscious.

The above extraordinary fact, which we extract from the *Courier de Londres*, is countenanced by the *Hague Courant* of the 11th inst. which says, "In our *Courant* of this day, there is an account from Paris, that a new conspiracy has been discovered against the First Consul, which was on the point of breaking out. Several persons have been arrested; and when the First Consul went to the theatre, the guards were doubled."

JANUARY 20.

It may be useful to our merchants to be informed of the following decree, which has been issued by the Court of Spain:—

CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN.

By an arrete of his Spanish Majesty, dated at Tortosa, November 19, 1802, it has been resolved, that all the Custom-Houses in this Kingdom shall require certificates of origin of all the merchandize and foreign articles imported into this kingdom.

These certificates shall be attested or delivered by his Commissaries of Commercial Affairs established in the provinces or departments of ports where these goods shall be shipped.

The Special Commission, issued for the trial of the persons concerned in the Oakley street Meeting, was opened at the new sessions house, in Southwark, yesterday morning. After hearing one of the most able, impartial, and humane charges ever delivered by a Judge on such an occasion, from Lord Chief Justice Ellenborough, the Grand Jury retired, and a quarter past eight o'clock in the evening returned a true bill against 13 persons named in the indictment. The Court then adjourned to the 5th of February when the prisoners will be arraigned; and on the 7th their trial will commence.

JANUARY 22.

For some days past no intelligence has been received from France, which we are at a loss to account for, as the weather has not been unusually tempestuous. We have seen a thousand speculations respecting French affairs, founded upon as slight a foundation. The recent death of the Consul's brother-in-law must postpone the execution of those grand schemes which are said to be on the eve of being announced, so that there is little reason to believe that the next arrivals from Paris will surprise us with the Proclamation of the Emperor of the Gauls, the title which general consent seems to have assigned to Bonaparte. Some letters represent many officers of the army as much discontented with some late measures of the First Consul: where so many are soldiers of fortune, it must be impossible in time of peace to gratify the ambition of all.

The following appeared in the *Courier de Londres* of last night:—

"The line of conduct lately pursued by the First Consul respecting the organization of the army, has given rise to very general discontent among the old officers; regiments are now reformed under the pretence that they are reduced to a very small number of men; and they are then incorporated into these regiments where favor is to be shewn to the chief officers. It must be confessed that the officers who have been reformed still retain the rank and pay of actual service; but they are all well aware that this attention in their behalf is but a thing of moment; and that is to silence the present murmurs, and to act only as a transition that may conduce to a perfect reform."

The grand judge is commissioned to prepare a report, in which are to be collected all the proofs which tend to shew the influence of the late administration of England upon the different events of the revolution, and to demonstrate that the same power is still active in endeavouring to bring about fresh disturbances.

A Dutch Mail arrived on Monday. The letters contradict the rumour of the French having demanded of the Dutch government a loan of thirty millions; but says, France has agents at Amsterdam and the Hague, who are endeavouring to raise loans from the Dutch renters and merchants. These agents, however, have not been very successful.

At the beginning of this month, a squadron sailed from Toulon with troops for the West-Indies: it put into Genoa to take on board the Polish brigade destined for St. Domingo.

Letters from Paris state, respecting the project of proclaiming Bonaparte Emperor of the Gauls, that though the measure was opposed by only one member of the Senate very warm discussions took place upon the subject; the question however was carried and most unanimously, and the determination of the Senate is to be submitted to the Legislative body, which meets on the 20th of February, for their sanction. This proceeding however will be a mere matter of form; for, as the Legislative body is at present constituted, there is no doubt of their silent vote being in favor of the views of their consular master, through whose indulgence alone they are permitted to hold their sittings, or receive their salaries. Bonaparte's inauguration as emperor of the Gauls, promises therefore, to take place without any further opposition on the part of the constituted authorities.

ACCOUNT of a JOURNEY on the ICE, over the GULPH of BOTHNIA, from SWEDEN to FINLAND. From the late and very interesting Travels of JOSEPH ACERBI.

WHEN a traveller is going to cross the GULPH on the ice, from Sweden to Finland, the peasants always oblige him to engage double the number of horses to what he had on his arriving at Grislehamn. We were forced to take no less than eight sledges being three in company and two servants. This appears at first sight to be an imposition on the part of the peasants; but we found by experience that it was a necessary precaution. The distance across is forty-

three English miles, thirty of which you travel on the ice without touching on land. This passage over the frozen sea is doubtless the most singular and striking spectacle to a traveller from the south can behold. I laid my account with having a journey more dull and unvaried than surfing or dangerous. I expected to travel forty-three miles without sight of land, over a vast and uniform plain, and that every successive mile would be in exact unison and monotonous correspondence with those I had already travelled; but my astonishment was greatly increased in proportion as we advanced from our starting-post. The sea, at first smooth and even, became more and more rugged and unequal. It assumed, as we proceeded, an undulating appearance, resembling the waves by which it had been agitated. At length we met with masses of ice heaped one upon the other and some of them seeming as if they were suspended in the air, while others were raised in the form of pyramids. On the whole, they exhibited a picture of the wildest and most savage confusion, that surprised the eye by the novelty of its appearance. It was an immense chaos of icy ruins, presented to view under every possible form, and embellished by superb stalactites of a blue-green colour.

Amidst this chaos it was not without difficulty and trouble that our horses and sledges were able to find and pursue their way. It was necessary to make frequent windings, and sometimes to return in a contrary direction, following that of a frozen wave, in order, to avoid a collection of icy mountains that lay before us. In spite of all our expedients for discovering the evenest paths, our sledges were every moment overturned to the right or the left; and frequently the legs of one or the other of the company, raised perpendicularly in the air, served as a signal for the whole caravan to halt. The inconvenience and the danger of our journey were still further increased by the following circumstance. Our horses were made wild and furious both by the fight and smell of our great pelices, manufactured of the skins of Russian wolves or bears. When any one of the sledges was overturned, the horses belonging to it, frightened at the sight of what they supposed to be a wolf or bear rolling on the ice, would set off at full gallop, to the great terror of both passenger and driver. The peasant, apprehensive of losing his horse in the midst of this desert, kept firm hold of the bridle, and suffered the horse to drag his body through masses of ice, of which some sharp points threatened to cut him in pieces. The animal, at last wearied out by the constancy of the man, and disheartened by the obstacles continually opposed to his flight, would stop; then we were enabled to get again into our sledges, but not till the driver had blindfolded the animal's eyes. But one time one of the wildest and most spirited of all the horses in our train, having taken fright, completely made his escape. The peasant who conducted him, unable any longer to endure the fatigue and pain of being dragged through the ice, let go his hold of the bridle. The horse, relieved from this weight, and feeling himself at perfect liberty, redoubled his speed, and surmounted every impediment. The sledge which he made to dance in the air by alarming his fears added new wings to his flight. When he had fled to a considerable distance from us, he appeared from time to time as a dark spot which continued to diminish in the air, and at last totally vanished from our sight. Then it was that we recognized the prudence of having in our party some spare horses, and we were fully sensible of the danger that must attend a journey across the Gulph of Bothnia, without such a precaution. The peasant who was the owner of the fugitive, taking one of the sledges, went in search of him, trying to find him again by following the traces of his flight. As for ourselves, we made the best of our way to the Isles of Aland, keeping as nearly as we could in the middle of the same plain, still being repeatedly overturned, and always in danger of losing some of our horses, which would have occasioned a very serious embarrassment. During the whole of this journey we did not meet with, on the ice, so much as one man, beast, bird, or any living creature. Those vast solitudes present a desert abandoned as it were by nature. The dead silence that reigns is interrupted only by the whistling of the winds against the prominent points of ice, and sometimes by the loud crackings occasioned by their being irresistibly torn from the frozen expanse: Pieces thus forcibly broken off are frequently blown to a considerable distance. Through the rents produced by these ruptures, you may see below the watery abyss; and it is sometimes necessary to lay planks across them, by way of bridges, for the sledges to pass over.

The only animals that inhabit those deserts, and find them an agreeable abode, are sea-calves or seals. In the cavities of the ice they deposit the fruits of their love, and teach their young ones betimes to brave all the rigours of the rudest season. Their mothers lay them down, all naked as they are brought forth, on the ice; and their fathers take care to have an open hole in the ice near them, for a speedy communication with the water, into these they plunge with their young, the moment they see a hunter approach; or at other times they descend spontaneously in search of fishes, for sustenance for them and their offspring. The manner in which the male seals make those holes in the ice is astonishing, neither teeth nor their paws have any share in the operation; but it is performed solely by their breath. They are often hunted by the peasants of the isles. When the islanders discover one of those animals, they take post, with guns and slaves, at some distance from him, behind a mass of ice, and wait till the seal comes up from the water for the purpose of taking in his quantum of air. It sometimes happens, when the frost is extremely keen, that the hole is frozen up almost immediately after the seal makes its appearance in the atmosphere; in which case the peasants fall on him with their sticks, before he has time with his breath to make a new aperture. In such extremities the animal displays an incredible degree of courage. With his formidable teeth he bites the club with which he is assailed, and even attempts to attack the persons who strike him; but the utmost efforts and resistance of these creatures are not much dreaded, on account of the slowness of their motions, and the inaptitude of their members to a solid element.

After considerable fatigue and many adventures, having refreshed our horses about halfway on the high sea, we at length touched at the small island of Signiskar. This island