

Paris December 22nd 1795

Sir,

Since my last I was favoured with yours of the 9th of October with a quadruplicate of that of the 23^d of September, of which latter the original and triplicate were before acknowledged.

Since my last too I have received a note from the minister of foreign affairs complaining of the conduct of M^r Parish our Consul at Hamburg in granting passports for France to British subjects, equipping the emigrants, and acting in all cases as the English agent, a copy of which note and may rely are herewith forwarded you. I hear also that his conduct was more¹ reprehensible than is stated by the minister, for that he not only equiped the emigrants but did it in American bottoms with a view of protecting them under our flag. In calling your attention to this subject permit me to add that two American citizens Benjamin Jarvis and Thomas Randall both of New York, the former a respectable merchant as has been represented to me and the latter known to the President as captain of artillery in the late war and lately as Vice-Consul at Canton in China, have requested me to communicate to you their wish to obtain appointments in the consulate in any of the respectable ports of France, or other European ports connected with the trade of France, and that I have reason to believe the would either of them be happy to accept the appointment in question. In case M^r Parish is removed permit me further to suggest the propriety of giving to his successor two commissions, one for Hamburg the other for Altona, in the neighbourhood of Hamburg, but under the jurisdiction of Denmark: much business is done at Altona, on account of the greater freedom of its trade, for Hamburg though in some respects a free and independent city yet in others it feels the influence of the Empire, and is therefore a less eligible port for mercantile transactions and especially those connected with France.

I sent you with my last a report of M^r Skipwith upon the cases submitted to his care for adjustment with this government, and shall continue to give him all the aid in my power in those cases which remain unsettled and apprise you regularly of the progress. To that of M^r Gerard due attention shall certainly be paid.

At present no symptoms of an approaching peace are to be seen, unless indeed the most rigorous preparation for a continuance² of war be deemed such, and which sometimes happens. The Directoire has called on the Legislature for a supply of 600 millions in specie and which was granted immediately, by a law which proposes raising it in the form of a loan, of which I send you a copy. The greatest possible exertions are making by that body, and which seem to be supported by the legislature, in putting the armies, the fleets and the interior into the best possible order: and so far as I can judge from appearances these exertions seem to produce the effects that are desired from them; for to those who are friendly to the revolution they give confidence, and from those who are not they command respect. 'Tis said that Pichegru and Jourdan have lately gained several important advantages over the Austrians, in actions which though not general

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² Page Break

were nearly so, and that in the result they have resumed their station before Mayence. The former part of this report is I believe to be depended on; the latter wants confirmation. In Italy the troops of this republic continue to reap new successes, in which quarter indeed since the victory mentioned in my last they have met with but little opposition.

Latterly the views of Prussia have become more doubtful than they were before. The conduct of Prince Hohenloe who commanded the Prussian troops at Francfort in the neighbourhood of the French and Austrian armies during the retreat of the former, and who were stationed there to preserve the line of neutrality, in favour of Prussia, 'tis said, could scarcely be deemed neutral. For the civilities which were shewn by him to the Austrians³ upon that occasion, 'tis also said he has been rewarded since by some complimentary attention from the Emperor. The Dutch appear apprehensive that the King of Prussia will seize a suitable opportunity, if any offers to favour the restoration of the Stadholder, and 'tis possible the conduct of Prince Hohenloe above referred to may have increased that suspicion, by giving at least an insight into what might be the views of the Prussian cabinet, in case the retreat had continued, or any great reverse of fortune should hereafter befall the French arms. 'Tis certain however that moments of difficulty are always moments of great jealousy, and that sometimes upon such occasions suspicion is thrown upon those who do not deserve it.

The Count Carletti late Envoy &c from Tuscany left Paris on his return home 5 or 6 days since. He had refused going 'till he had heard from the Grand Duke, and remained withstanding the reiterated orders of the Directoire. Finally however he was ordered to depart in 24 hours (this was not done before as stated in my last) with intimation that force would be used to compel him in case he did not. He still held out however the flag of defiance. The 24 hours expired at which moment a commissary with a carriage &c from the government waited to receive his orders for departure, or in other words to take the Count by force and conduct him safe beyond the bounds of the Republic, and which was accordingly done. The diplomatic corps was summoned by a member either averse to this peremptory mode of proceeding, or friendly to the Count, to interfere with the Directoire on his behalf: but several member of⁴ that corps were of opinion that although sometimes a demand is made, on the government of a minister who gives offence, to recal him, yet there is no obligation on the government offended, by the law of nations to take that course; but that it may take any other, and even upon slight occasions, to rid itself of him, more prompt and summary if it thinks fit, and in consequence no step was taken by the diplomatic corps upon the subject.

I inclose you also a note from the minister of foreign affairs complaining of the seizure and confiscation of the Corvette Cassius, which he says is in violation of the treaties between the two Republics, and to which I replied that I would present the subject to your view and doubted not I should be enabled to give a satisfactory explanation thereon.

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With sentiments of respect and esteem, I have the honour to be, Sir, your very obedient servant.

Ja^sMonroe.