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CONDITIONS.

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From the London Morning Chronicle.

THE FLORIDAS.

It was natural to expect, after a war like that of the Peninsula, in which so much British blood and treasure were exhausted, that the subject of indemnities would come on the carpet, as soon as the object was attained and peace established. It was a very difficult matter, however, to settle this point, in consequence of the indefinite terms of the treaty made by Mr. Canning, and the difficulty of treating with Ferdinand and his ministers, who, far from being prepared to give an indemnity, rather thought we had done more harm than good in aiding to liberate the Peninsula, and would have been happy if an Englishman had never trod their ground. Hence by every means in their power, are they now trying to undo what little, social as well as political, improvements we sought to introduce, and it will be no wonder, if in the next edict issued by the inquisition, it being deemed a crime of heretical depravity, for a Spaniard to be heard speaking English. This indemnity question, consequently, has met with great difficulties, as well for the reasons just assigned, as because the services to be compensated were performed to the cortes, and it would be very inconsistent, after his past conduct, for Ferdinand to seek to remunerate them, and, indeed, he only knows of them by hearsay.

Under this state of things it is easy to conceive the great dilemma in which the ministers have been placed, as well as their worthy representatives in Madrid, who have not learned logic enough to undergo the syllogism and other knotty arguments, the monastic counsellors of Ferdinand bring forward on this subject. This indemnity question was, however, warmly agitated in Madrid, in November last, and the whole weight and influence of the English at last wrested from the tenacious Spaniards, it is generally believed, an indemnity, viz. East and West Florida. It is generally supposed that several demands were made before this point was agreed on, viz. a free trade to Spanish America, the cotton trade of Spain, the Island of Puerto Rico, the Spanish part of S. Domingo, Cuba, the Balcares, Canaries, and for what we know, the Philippine Islands. Either of these bonuses, separately, might, perhaps have satisfied our wishes, but the Spaniards were too wise to let one go; so it would seem as if we had been forced to be content with the Florida, because Spain could retain them no longer on account of the North Americans, and the neighboring revolutions of Mexico. In making this concession, however, it is not clear, whether some valuable principle has not been given up, and whether some condition has not been exacted from us, opposed to the feelings and wishes of the people of England.—Time will enlighten us on this point a little more, but in Spanish America, we ought to remember, there is at present a general insurrection against tyrannical power, a strong and irresistible impulse of human nature groaning under oppression, a revolution, in short, the most just and interesting in its nature, as well as its consequences to the world, to be found in the annals of history.

To suppress this revolution, we know that the inquisition has been armed with the bayonet and the dagger, that religion has been prostituted, and that all the engines of rancor and malice have been set to work. To suppress this revolution also Spain has frequently called upon England, under a plea, that in our treaty we had guaranteed the integrity of the Spanish monarchy. It would be long and tedious to carry our readers through the various occasions in which Spain has urged England to interfere and decide against her ultramarine provinces, but this treaty has even, by the agents of the latter, been interpreted into the right of demanding the persons of Spanish

Americans landing in England. It has hitherto been thought that these remonstrances, on the part of Spain, have been unnoticed, but in our last treaty there is an additional clause, inserted on August 24, 18 4, as the 3d additional article, whereas the body of the same is signed on the 5th July, same year, which has created some alarm.—It is as follows:

“His Britannic majesty being anxious that the troubles and disturbances which unfortunately prevail in the domains of his Catholic majesty in America should cease, and the subjects of these provinces should return to their obedience to their lawful sovereign, engages to take the most effectual measures for preventing his subjects from furnishing arms, ammunition, or any other warlike article to the revolted in America.”

To this, another circumstance of a more important nature has lately been added, tending to prove that some change has taken place in the policy of England, which in the last parliament was pledged to be strictly, nay delicately, neutral, between Spain and her ultramarine provinces. If so, it is now generally asked, can this be in consequence of the cession of the Floridas to England? Can we have bartered our honor, our national foresight, and integrity, together with our mercantile interests, for this bauble? Let us look for a moment on the real merits of this gift on the part of Spain and what will accrue to us, by being made lords over the Floridas.

We are not aware, that from time to time, long and elaborate memoirs have been presented to government, on the subject of the Floridas, since we held possession of that country, so there have also been respecting the cutting of the isthmus of Panama, and in all probability they have been on a par.—They have been represented as Dorados, or the Elysian fields, and commercial avidity has delineated a comparative desert into a magnificent vent for goods. Yet it is a fact, that the soil of West Florida is sandy, and that the climate is unhealthy, as our experience taught us from the year 1768, till we gave it up, which we even seem to have been glad to do. Neither East nor West Florida supply furs, for the game is extinct, nor are there Indians now to hunt and consume goods. West Florida has indeed some advantages of locality, from being the channel to the sea of a large and fertile tract of country, extending from the 31 degree to the sources of the Pearl, Alabama, and Chatahoche rivers; but all this belongs to the United States, and hitherto these rivers have scarcely been used. East Florida possesses no harbors; and indeed the population of both is so extremely thin, that, as commercial and agricultural points, they cannot present an advantage worth the expense of keeping them. They have long been a burden to Spain, who had annually to draw from Mexico 150,000 dollars for their expense of administration. Spain therefore rids herself of a load, for she is sensible that the inhabitants who endure all the horrors of Spanish legislation, &c. without either protection or benefits, and behold the rise of Louisiana since its cession to the U. States, will not be long before they wish to form part of the same confederation. Nay, this dread of progressive liberty has long given umbrage to the cabinet of Madrid; for this they owe an old grudge to the North Americans, as well as for aiding the revolutions of the Mexicans; but as Spain is too feeble to retaliate, she is now glad to get England to do it for her.

Spain, therefore, in making us masters of the Floridas would give what to her is scarcely worth keeping, and indeed what she cannot keep long; and we seem to think, that what is worth giving, is worth having. But our possession of the above county seems to be founded on the advantages of a military position, and as a future bridge on the United States. On this score it deserves a particular attention.

Beaujour, in his sketch of the U. States, a work that certainly develops the views and situation of that country better than any other before published, says, “that the Floridas to the south, appear sooner or later, destined to be united to the American republic, since they form part of the boundaries delineated by nature.” The government, as well as the people of the U. States, have the same idea; and if England takes possession of that country, they are persuaded it is solely for the purpose of being a thorn in their side, to annoy them in time of war, and counterbalance any attack they may wish to make to the north. Mr. Ellicot, who some years back measured the boundary line between Spain and the United States, observed, “that West Florida must be highly important in a commercial point of view, and, if connected with the country north of it, capable of prescribing maritime regulations

to the Gulph of Mexico.” That is giving to understand, that in the hands of the United States, and as an outlet to the sea for a great part of the Mississippi Territory and Upper Carolina, and connected with a fertile range of country, in a rapid state of progression, it might be made of great consequence; but these advantages could never be realized by Spain or England, as solitary possessions of a strip of sea coast, and shut out from the interior. Besides, it is only when these back countries are settled and cultivated, that these advantages are to be realized; and this is indeed the material reason why the United States are not possessed of them already. Yet their holding them certainly enters into the future views of the United States; and being so near, with the population in their favor, it is evident they can take them whenever they choose. It is, therefore, when we have laid out large sums in barracks, new cities, (for our garrisons can never be put into Pensacola and Mobile, once the tomb of our countrymen,) and in other necessary objects to make an establishment, that the United States’ back-woods-men will sound their bugle, at the first symptoms of war, and all our trouble and expense will be lost.

Whatever then be the consideration we give for the Floridas, it can only be viewed in the light of a bad debt, for which we get what we can; but when we come to consider that this must be the cause of a new war with the United States, sooner or later, if we can get nothing better, would it not be more advisable to dash the sponge over our debt against Spain, than heretofore endanger the Canadas? By the war out of which we have just emerged with the United States, we have given that country a tone of importance greater than it would have attained by thirty years’ growth and certainly its inhabitants will never henceforward endure what they have been in the habit of hitherto bearing. The possession of the Floridas can, consequently, bring upon us nothing but a war, and if obtained by the sacrifice of any principle dear to the feelings of Englishmen, and essential to our trade, disgrace must be the issue. It is then necessary for us to look narrowly into this affair, before the meeting of Parliament for in it many of the vital interests of this country are implicated. It indeed seems to be the lot of nations, to derive no instructions but from experience, nor, nowadays, do they avail themselves of the past folly of their neighbors.—Absorbed as we are in modelling Europe to our wishes, North and South America seem to be entirely neglected; or, if thought of, merely to destroy the future prospect a combination of fortunate circumstances has presented. Sufficient gall has already been infused into the minds of the North American people; their manifesto respecting the late war, and particularly some of its detached features, have been rancorous enough; and if we purchase from Spain a country for the purpose of fomenting dissensions in the bordering States, & placing a barrier to the independence of South America, we create a sympathetic feeling throughout, of which our children may experience the fatal consequences.

From Cobbett’s Weekly Register.

NO. I. OF THE ALARM; OR EXCITEMENT TO A NEW WAR WITH AMERICA.

Bolley, August 2d, 1814.

One would have supposed, that not being less malignant than Satan is said to be, would already have begun to sow the seeds of a new war with America, even at the moment, when, as we are told, a treaty of commerce and amity is forming between the two countries. Yet our principal newspapers are at this already.

Courier of the 15th instant: “We have received some more American papers to the 19th of July, and it is curious to see how the return of Bonaparte to France has revived the hope and language of the Americans. They are again for war. We should like to behold their countenances upon the arrival of the news of their favorite’s final discomfiture and surrender to the British.”

Times of the 16th instant: “American papers to the 16th ult. have been received. We have not generally noticed these lately, as containing little matter worthy of observation. The present merit a word or two. It will be observed that THE AMERICANS are as faithful to their OLD MASTER as Ney, Labedoyere, and the rest of his respectable adherents in Europe. No sooner do they learn that Bonaparte has landed on the coast of France, than they, his transatlantic subjects, also assume the tri-colored flag. And yet

the Americans never partook of the 25 years of glory gained under those insignia—that the French rebels talk about, but have on the contrary, undergone twenty-five years of insult and wrong by the various revolutionary governments of France; by mounting the tri-colored cockade, it will be obvious that they mean insulting us. They are almost as ready to make war on us, as Bonaparte was to attack the allies at Waterloo. They are for short accounts. Unluckily the accounts in Europe are closed before their’s is opened with us. They will therefore, do well to take out the tri-colored cockade, and use less swaggering.”

This, the reader may be well assured is only the commencement of a series of efforts to mislead the people of England, to inflame them, and to prepare for another war with America.—What sort of this can those false and base assertions aim at? The writer knows, that all he has here said is false. He knows, that Americans have hoisted no tri-colored flag or cockade—he knows, that they have fought their own battles, always keeping aloof from all connection with Napoleon’s titles or his conquest; he knows, that at a period of the French revolution they actually declared war and went to war against France; he knows, that they now earnestly cultivate peace with all the world; and knowing all this, he again begins to call them the slaves of France, and to accuse them with a design to make war upon us.

And what is the publication, on which this war trumpeter founds these his assertions! Here it is as published by himself, from a New-York paper of the 12th of July.

“Symptoms.—It is lamentable, that peace in form, does not produce reconciliation at heart. England seems still sour, sullen, and hostile. The butchery of American prisoners at Dartmoor, after peace was known to exist; the impressment of four American sailors since that event, and the correspondence of colonel Nichols in Florida with colonel Hawkins, relative to the Indians in alliance with Britain, &c. &c. since deep hatred to America. We cannot doubt, but our government will profit by experience, and settle accounts with England, before delay increases the score, and endurance of one wrong be urged as a reason for bearing another. The vulgar adage is as true of nations as of private persons—short accounts make long friends.”

Now, here are specific charges against us. Why not answer them?—If true, are they not very serious? If false, why not answer them? The fate of the unfortunate Americans at Dartmoor was enough to move a heart of lead. Can it be supposed, that the people of America will not feel for those men? And ought not the language of conciliation to be used, instead of that of reproach and defiance? As to the impressment of American seamen, it was the sole cause of the war with America. I do not know that the present charge is well founded, and, I hope, it is not. But of one thing we may be sure; and that is, that this is a practice which the Americans will never submit to.—With regard to the correspondence of colonel Nichols with colonel Hawkins, I do not know what it is. The American papers, containing it, have not reached me, and these war-trumpeters have avoided giving it to the English public. Yet, they ought to have done that, in order to let us see what it was, in this correspondence, which had so offended the Americans.

No, you foolish men, you would not see the Americans hang their heads, if you could see them on the arrival of the news of Napoleon’s second fall.—They may be sorry for it, because they think, that it tends to the injury of the freedom of mankind, especially when they now hear it avowed in our prints, that it was not Napoleon but free government that was the object of, at least, their animosity. But the Americans never relied upon any but their own power for their defence.

I repeat, that these men (without success I hope) will use all the means in their power to re-ignite the flames of war with America, she being the last of their enemies left, as they think in existence. It is the duty of every man to endeavor to defeat this horrible purpose. What! just as the two countries are re-opening their commercial connections; just when a chance offers of our still retaining some part of our former supply of America, would these vile men re-plunge the two countries into a war.

I have thus begun to sound the alarm. I beseech the people of England, the merchants and manufacturers, and every body to take the alarm, and to be upon their guard against the efforts of these mischief-brewing writers. It shall be my care, under suc-

cessive Nos. of THE ALARM to expose their conduct in this respect, so that, if unhappily, they should succeed in their endeavors, I may, as in the case of the last war, be able to say, that I have done all I could to prevent it.

WM. COBBETT.

THE RUINS OF CARTHAGE.

Extract of a letter from a young officer in the Navy to his friends.

“Previous to our leaving Tunis, we made an excursion to the ruins of Carthage. Our captain, accompanied by a number of his officers, left the vessel early in the morning, and having procured horses, reached the desolate site of that once powerful city, at 9 o’clock; it is situated about sixteen miles from Tunis, and three from the Goletta, and is from its antiquity and former celebrity, justly an object of curiosity. We found the remark of Tasso strictly correct.—

“Ill fated Carthage! scarce amidst the plains,
A trace of all her ruined pomp remains.”

“All that the traveller can now discover is a large extent of loose stones and fragments of marble, parts of pillars, cornices, &c. and some very large cisterns to contain the water for the city, which was brought from a great distance by an aqueduct; these are in tolerable preservation. We found also a number of subterraneous passages leading from one part of the city to another, many of which are inhabited by families of miserable, half-starved Turks, who appear to regard with jealousy or contempt, those Christians whose curiosity attracts them to their abodes. We were unable to discover all the wonders detailed by Lady Montague and Chateaubriand, but I have selected a fragment of the palace of Queen Dido, which, for aught I know, composed part of the very hall in which Aneas relates his perilous adventures! On our return to the vessel, we immediately got under weigh and made sail for Tripoli, concluding that commodore Bainbridge had gone to that place, Sept. 2d, on our arrival there, we learned from Mr. Jones, the American consul, that the commodore had sailed for Tunis four days previous. Commodore Decatur had repeated his demands here for the same cause, and met with the same success; the bashaw paid 30,000 dollars and liberated ten slaves, one of whom had been in captivity for fifteen years! He was very friendly and attentive to the Americans when in slavery, and had been of service to them in several instances. The present bashaw is the same who reigned during our war with Tripoli, and remembers the hard knocks which he received from commodore Preble. The wreck of the Philadelphia remains just at the entrance of the bay; its stern post and some of its ribs are discovered at low water, but are somewhat dangerous when hidden, which is the case at high tide. The commander of an English 74 struck on it with his barge a short time since, and narrowly escaped drowning. The bashaw has a sort of a box built out of the upper story of his palace, to represent the stern of the Philadelphia, in which we saw him repeatedly surrounded by his wives. The American character is highly respected here, to which the resolute deportment of Mr. Jones has contributed in some degree. No indignities were offered him during the continuance of his quarrel with the regency, except upon one occasion being ordered to hoist his colors; he refused compliance, and it was threatened to be done by force, but the bashaw desisted on finding him so determined. While we remained he held a Divan, to which our captain was invited and went, accompanied by those of his officers who were provided with chapeaux de bras; he made many inquiries with respect to our country, and in return for an Indian war club given him by the captain, presented a silver mounted Turkish sabre. The city of Tripoli is smaller than Tunis or Algiers, but its inhabitants are more civilized, or rather, less inimical to Christians than those of the latter places.”

FRENCH ROYAL PARLIAMENT.

PARIS, OCTOBER 7

This day the King opened the chambers in the hall of the sitting in the chamber of the deputies. Salutes of artillery announced his Majesty’s arrival. The King was met at the foot of the stairs of the great portico, by a deputation from the chamber of peers and another from the deputies. The Duke d’Orleans and the Prince d’Orleans, received his Majesty at the top of the stairs of the portico. At his Majesty’s entrance the whole assembly arose crying “Vive le Roi?” His Majesty placed himself upon his throne; the assembly was standing and uncovered; the King ordered the peers to be