

By the ship Anthony Mangin, arrived here on Saturday from London, which place she left March 11th, we have received London papers to that date. The definitive treaty was not signed; a categorical answer was to be given on the 15th. Warlike preparations were going on in England, supported by some as certain indications of approaching hostility, and by others as steps of precaution. The most profound secrecy with which the negotiations at Amiens is conducted, hides the causes of delay, or leaves them to conjecture, and excludes data by which to judge the issue of the negotiations: the opinion seems more prevalent that the treaty will not be signed.

Orders for victualling the channel fleet for five months, under Cornwallis, the immediate failing of to fail of the line, &c. have given rise to the belief that the ministry do not expect the signing the definitive treaty: some of the London editors appear rather in the belief that the warlike preparations are merely cautionary, and that the negotiations at Amiens will terminate according to the general wishes of the world.

We subjoin the remarks of the editor of the Sun of the 11th March.

"We view the situation of the country, at the present moment, not as some persons do with despondency, but certainly not without a great degree of anxiety. We are anxious, not so much to see the definitive treaty signed, not so much to be nominally at peace with France, but that we should be at peace with a reasonable hope of continuing so. The clamor raised against the former ministers was, they did not really wish for peace—the cry set up amongst some persons, against the present is, that they wish for it upon any terms. These accusations are equally unfounded. If the pressure upon the people has been great, the circumstances of the times have been unprecedented. Not only have we been driven and forced to war, but no candid man will confidently say, that from its commencement to the present hour, we could have closed it without a sacrifice of our honor and independence. The spirit of party we know, has dictated another language. We have heard it said, that it depended upon ministers to terminate the war whenever they chose; but this assertion is contradicted by every notorious fact. The most favorable opportunity for obtaining peace, since the commencement of the war, appeared to be that which the present ministers so readily seized. We hope they will obtain it; but sure we are, that they will do every thing in their power for that purpose, consistent only with the honor and safety of the nation; and if they are required to sacrifice these, they will be as little ready to concede them as the country would be to justify them, if they ventured to make such concession. We do not presume to state, with any degree of accuracy, what may have passed in the course of the present negotiation. It has been generally understood, the two questions in the preliminaries which remained for discussion, that which relates to the settlement of the island of Malta, and that which respects the payment of the expence of prisoners of war, have not yet been brought to a point. As to the first, any settlement of it, which would in fact give to France the dominion over it, we should look upon as entirely inconsistent with the spirit of the preliminaries; the other we consider as a subject of less importance; but it is clear, that according to the law of nations, to which the question is referred, each nation is bound to pay the expence of the maintenance of its own subjects when prisoners in an enemy's country.

If, as we have heard it reported, new pretensions have been brought forward, by France, we should look upon such pretensions, according to the nature of them, either as evidence of insincerity in the whole negotiation, or as urged only to be again conceded as the price of some other condition, which it was the real purpose of the negotiation to obtain. If it is the object of Buonaparte to be acknowledged as president of the Italian republic, although we do not think the question itself of great consequence, yet even that point might be brought forward in such a disposition as to render it impossible to concede it; and it will always be recollected that there can be no justice in such a proposal, as it is a title acquired by the chief consul since the signature of the preliminaries. The *quo animo* must be as much the subject of consideration with his majesty's ministers, as the matter itself which is brought forward for discussion in the course of negotiation.

But we feel with many of our countrymen that it is essential to our interests that the negotiation should not be permitted to continue to be protracted. There can be no fair ground to lengthen it; and it is evidently disadvantageous to this country, that it should long continue in its present state. Ministers we know are aware of this, and we are satisfied that after having given time for the fair discussion of every unsettled point, after having offered every arrangement which a fair construction of the preliminaries called upon them to propose, they will insist firmly upon these fair and just pretensions, and that much time will not elapse before this important question is brought to a point. We might have infer-

red this from their general character and dispositions, but we have stronger ground for asserting that such will be their conduct."

TO THE PUBLIC. LETTER II.

IN the first letter, it has been proved that nothing had been said in the Recorder which could be tortured into a reference to the duel between Mr. Seldon, and Skelton Jones. The paragraph has been reprinted at full length, from which this most absurd and groundless accusation was pretended to be drawn. It is evident, at the first glance, that nothing like such an allusion could be traced in the whole passage collectively, nor in any branch of it. You might as well search for the Mac Fingal of Iumbal in the Fingal of Oflian; or, for the seven Champions of Christendom in Simpson's Euclid.

It was at first proposed to take an oath before a magistrate with regard to the absolute innocence of the publishers of this paper, as to the fact charged against them. But a judicial oath is always a transaction of some weight, not only with a man that is religious, but indeed with any man that is tolerably serious. Upon farther consideration, also, it was most firmly believed that the charge itself was totally incredible; that a judicial oath would only tend to give the tale an air of importance; and finally, that the brothers themselves, in advancing this imputation, acted in defiance of their own judgement and conviction.

The real cause of such a tempest of outrage appears to have been shortly this. The subscriber had embarked, about three months since, in the conduct of a Richmond newspaper. His principles were known to be not merely republican, but to be of that sort, which invites and challenges tyranny to inflict its utmost, without flinching for a moment from the ground that had been taken. On this account, it was to be supposed that a newspaper under the direction of such a person would, in the course of time acquire a considerable sale, and receive a reasonable share of the confidence of Republicans. The editor was a man to whom the cause was confessedly indebted for some part of its success in this state. Chancellor Wythe, Governor Monroe, Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Madison, and a long train of other distinguished and tried characters, had been prompt in acknowledging the importance of his services. Two of the gentlemen just named had paid him a visit in Richmond jail. But, far above all, the marked kindness of THE GOVERNOR shall never be erased from his memory. More upon this subject might be said; but perhaps it would be felt as improper, and indelicate.

Mr. Jones, it would seem, apprehended some danger of rivalry from a brother near the throne. Such a rivalry might have produced inconvenient effects. Richmond, and its range of subscription, cannot afford much encouragement for more than three newspapers. The Examiner has twelve hundred subscribers, with an immense body of advertisements. After making an extensive deduction for outstanding debts, that paper must be worth four thousand dollars per annum. This fact may possibly be denied. The particulars are capable of demonstration; as well as that the office of public printer issues in a sinecure of about three thousand dollars per annum.\* Upon the extent of Mr. Jones's income, no second person has, in ordinary cases, a claim to criticize. Candour would likewise overlook a solitary hysterical paragraph, which had been wrote, perhaps, on a rainy day. But, when affected poverty has been hauled forward, as a pretence for demanding the most undeserved compassion, the world has a title to examine the justice of the complaint. When hypocritical yelping about persecution is raised with a view to the defamation and the ruin of two honest men, they must be pardoned for pulling this impostor from his lurking place, and for holding him up to the scorn of mankind, in all his duplicity, and in all his dirt.

The means of accomplishing this generous conspiracy for the extinction of the Recorder was to represent the subscriber, as a trimmer, a rascal, and a coward; for that is the real object and essence of those four columns. As for any thing which these people can say concerning my political character, my trimmings, my treachery to the cause of freedom, the brothers are welcome, for me, to blow the trumpet of slander from the thirty-two points of the compass to the farthest extremities of terrestrial space.

I shall, in this part of my defence, begin with a few words to Skelton Jones; and after dispatching him, I shall proceed with his em-

NOTE.

\* "I shall close my life with as much tranquillity as my declining health will permit; and, in my last moments, shall be amply consoled in the conviction, that, amidst POVERTY and PERSECUTION, I preserved my political faith, my love for my fellow citizens, and an inflexible adherence to principle." MERIWETHER JONES, in the Examiner of the 28th ult. Of the two words printed in capitals, it is impossible to comprehend the meaning.

I had not seen, nor thought of that person for a long time past, when I chanced, some weeks ago, to call at his brother's house. He was there, and spoke to me. My astonishment at seeing him was so great, that, for some moments, I was incapable of making him an answer. In the language of his brother's favorite hero, *Caleb Williams*, I could not help saying to myself *Surely, this man is a MURDERER!* He went on to tell me that, in his brother's absence, he was editor of the Examiner; and it was partly upon the ground of this intimation, that I soon after took some freedom, as a critic, with the contents of that newspaper. In a tone of brutality which harmonizes with the complexion of his amours, this man refers the editor of the Recorder to the knout. If I hear much more of his noise, I shall have him apprehended, as I have done by two of my late visitors; or, if apprehension is found to be impracticable, I shall procure a motion to be made in the next general assembly for enquiring by whose BREACH OF DUTY it happens, that he has been suffered to walk at large. The assembly pays the salaries of our public officers, and if they neglect or despise the execution of their business, it is full time for the public to have done with them.

People talk of aristocracy! Was there ever a viler instance of its worst spirit than this, that a man who is understood to have killed another, under the most questionable circumstances, shall be endured to spit in the face of public justice, merely because he is the brother of a popular democratical printer? This is liberty and equality with a vengeance!

If doubt had rested in the public mind, as to the real features of his character, Skelton Jones's last production would determine the point. I have already shewn that there was not even a shadow of ground for his alledging that I wanted to refer to his duel with Mr. Seldon. My readers are most earnestly requested to look at the passage over and over again; and if they can be convinced that the charge is just, THEN, let my name be enrolled as the *head quarters of infamy*. But they will perceive that there is not the smallest twinkling of probability that the two brothers themselves believed in the justice of their own accusation. Such being the case, it follows that the duel was to be brought forward, at all rates, as an evidence of family prowess, and as a gratification of family pride! My fellow citizens! again, I request, I conjure you! by all that is held sacred in this world, or, in the next one, to pause upon the whole paragraph; and if I stand convicted by your judgement of having started such an allusion, then, in God's name, let me become the focus for concentrating your contempt! BLAST ME TO ALL ETERNITY!

Skelton Jones had charged me with venality. His proofs were demanded. Here they follow:

"As to the writer's venality, and his *twelve or fifteen federal subscribers*, I received from several hands, among others from Mr. Henry Banks, that one of his essays concerning the post office, gained him about *that number of subscribers, on that side of the political question.*"

There have been three pieces inserted in the Recorder concerning the post office. The object of each of them is to expose the illiberal and snivelling conduct of Granger. The first of them was published in the Recorder of March 6th. It complained, with some violence, of Granger's wanting to prolong domestic divisions. The federal party were mentioned with civility and respect. Mr. Jones reprinted this piece! Eh! In the very next number, however, it was visible that he repented of what he had done. Somebody had told him, that the piece was ironical; and that it approached too closely to the curtain of the democratical *Sanctum sanctorum*. It was necessary, therefore, to make a fresh protestation about the purity of his democratical principles. He did so.

As to Mr. Banks, that gentleman called at this office, last Thursday morning, just after the Examiner appeared. He assured me that he had never said what was imputed to him by Skelton Jones. He had told both Jones and myself that some one of these post office pieces would be sure of bringing a number of subscribers. But he never meant to say that twelve or fifteen federal names had been got; for, at the time when he spoke thus, that piece in the Recorder had been only just published. By what Mr. Banks said to Jones, he had no more design of injuring my character than I have, at this moment, of wronging his. I have been acquainted with Mr. Banks for about three years. He is a moderate, a well informed, and a consistent federalist.

The several other persons is a mere expletive expression. Who were those persons, or by what means could they ascertain what number of subscribers the Recorder had received within a given time, what were their political principles, or their motives for putting down their names? It is true, however, that several gentlemen of each party, or perhaps of none, have called lately, and have professed their satisfaction at the appearance of so impartial and independent a newspaper. One of these gentlemen is Dr. Adams; and if it is

disgraceful to accept of his subscription, the Recorder must plead guilty.

But would the brothers themselves refuse the subscription of any man, who was able and willing to pay for their Examiner? Is it not the very pinnacle of impertinence to condemn us for doing what is done by them, and by every new printer? Meriwether cares about his love for his fellow citizens; and he shews this love by doing his petty utmost for setting them by the ears. Were not the seventy-five freeholders that voted last Wednesday for Dr. Adams quite as much fellow citizens as himself? And does not his whole libel against us turn upon this pivot, that the Recorder has dared to accept of federal names? If this be his inflexible adherence to principle, he had better give up such principles. His adherence to them will offend Mr. Jefferson, who, in his election speech, told the whole world, in express words, that *the one party was just as good as the other.*

In support of his charge of venality, Jones has produced only one witness; and that gentleman disowns, in effect, the words which have been ascribed to him. Here is, indeed, a most curious arrangement of evidence, and a process of demonstration which is perfectly original. If the creature can be said to have proved any thing it amounts only to this that *he had been telling a falsehood against me.*

I quit, for this time, an adversary so loathsome as the man, who fights a duel with his friend for the possession of an African trumpet.

We shall now walk up stairs from the deputy to the principal, to that MASTER-EDITOR, who marshals the contents of his newspaper with as much dexterity as Buonaparte fights a battle. The arguments of Mr. Jones are like the armed men of Cadmus. The moment that they spring up, they knock each other upon the head. Mr. Jones, and Skelton toil through four columns to prove that the Recorder has deserted to the federal cause; and they both upbraid us with *your accession of federal patronage!* &c. As the parting stroke, they boast that Mr. Warden is a decided federalist, and that he will not pay for this paper! The syllogism, when compressed, stands thus: "A decided federalist will not pay for your paper: Ergo; it has acquired an accession of federal patronage."

Mr. Warden is old, rich, and without a family. He is remarkably violent in his opinions. To serve them, he values two dollars no more than two pinches of snuff. In point of political and constitutional knowledge, the two brothers, when compared with this old Scotchman, are but as two cock sparrows under the beak of a Turkey Buzzard. His refusal to take the Recorder, or, at least his refusal to pay for it, is, *charissime*, the best evidence that he does not think it a federal newspaper. The superiority of his knowledge ascertains that he is a far better judge of the matter than this little pair of Examiners.

Mr. Jones himself in his attack upon me has this passage: "Your sufferings interested me in your welfare beyond what all the federalists, and many even of the moderate republicans, thought you merited. But while I supposed that your conduct was dictated by principle, I was most forward to pardon errors, and to do justice to your services and merit. Even now I do not abandon you, or give you up for lost; humanity is frail, some allowance is due to circumstances and situations, which I shall never withhold from one who has in any degree possessed my confidence. It is only upon a full demonstration, that I shall yield my assent to your apostasy."

The length to which this letter has already been extended, makes it impossible to give the above extract a suitable rebutter in this day's paper. But as Mr. Jones says, that he was *most forward to pardon errors, and to do justice to your services and merit,* it becomes a matter of necessity to explain, at least in some measure, what those services were, and what this justice proved to be. I came to Richmond on May 25th, 1799. I lived in Mr. Jones's family till sometime in December following, to wit, about six months. In that period, I once, asked him to lend me five dollars. In accents more melodious than even the warbling of John Warden's wind-pipe, Mr. Jones answered, that he could give me four. I did not, at that time, know, that the first of Mr. Jones's personal maxims was, to get into debt as far as possible; and that the second was, to keep in it as long as possible. He was never asked a second time for money by me, while I was in his house. When I came away, Mr. Jones sent a letter. He therein said that he would give three hundred dollars per annum for my services, besides paying for my board. Hence, from his own statement, it follows, that, in the preceding six months, and besides the charge of my lodging, I had been worth an hundred and fifty dollars to him. But for these six months of the summer and fall of 1799, there was never asked, there was never received one cent more than those FOUR DOLLARS. This is the rate of compensation that I have met with.

Richmond, 3  
May 4th. 1802. J  
JAMES T. CALLENDER.

† Vid. page 2d of this day's Recorder.

† Vid. the former note.