

MARYLAND GAZETTE, AND POLITICAL INTELLIGENCER.

VOL LXXIV.

ANNAPOLIS, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1816.

No. 71.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED
BY
JONAS GREEN,
BOSTON-STREET, ANNAPOLIS.

Price—Three Dollars per Annum.

Secretary of State to the Chevalier de Onis, Envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to his Catholic Majesty.

Department of State, January 19,

1816.

Sr.—I have had the honour to receive your letters of the 30th Dec. and 22 of Jan. last, and to submit them to the president.

You demand that your sovereign

shall be put in possession of West

Florida; that certain persons, whom

you have mentioned, shall be ar

rested and tried on the charge of

plotting insurrection in the Spa

nish provinces, and exciting ci

ties of the U. S. to join in it; and

that the flags of Carthage

and the Mexican congress, Buenos

Aires, and other revolting provin

cial be excluded from the ports

of the U. S.

On the re-establishment of the

friendly relations between the U.

and Spain, it was hoped that

your government would not have

paid attention to the objects

which Spain is alone interested,

or have extended to it the injuries

which the U. S. have suffered,

and complained, with a view to

reparation as it might now be

possible to make. The subjects are, in

their nature, intimately connected.

In some important circumstances,

it is impossible to separate

them, since the exposition of the

rights of the U. S. affords the pro

per answer, in those instances, to

the complaints of Spain. It is my

desire to bring these wrongs into

view, that they may be duly consid

ered and provided for, in case

your government has, as I am bound

to presume, invested you with ade

spective powers for the purpose.

At a period anterior to either of

the circumstances mentioned in your

letter, the United States had suf

fered great injury by the unlawful

capture and condemnation of their

subjects in the ports of Spain. A

day providing an indemnity for

such apolations, was agreed to and

signed by a minister duly authoris

ed by each government, but its ra

tion, though negotiated and

concluded in the presence of the

Spanish government, was after

wards declined by it. At an ante

rior period too, the deposit at N.

Orleans, stipulated by the treaty

of 1795, was suppressed. As the

S. had done no injury to Spain,

acts so hostile in their nature,

and injurious in their effect, ex

cit much surprise. It had been the

uniform object of this government

to make such arrangements with

Spain, respecting the free naviga

tion of the Mississippi & the bounda

ries, as securing to our citizens the

enjoyment of their rights, would

secure the peace and friendship of

the two countries on a solid and

stable basis. With this view it

was sought to obtain of Spain, at a

decreed of the chancery, in Annapolis, passed in

1794, the territory east

of the Mississippi. Overtures

to this effect, were made to the

Spanish government, and rejected. Be

renewed, the Minister of the U.

was informed that Spain had ced

ed Louisiana to France, to whom

she was referred for the acquisition

of such territory, in that quarter,

she might be instructed to make,

the last very important event,

the suppression of the deposit at N.

Orleans, a special mission was in

stituted to France and Spain, the

object of which was to avert, by

negotiation and arrangement,

the calamities of war. Affairs

more especially by this act of

hostility, reached a

stage which precluded the idea of

temporary palliatives. A compre

hensive and permanent arrange

ment had become indispensable, of

which it was presumed, was the more

conspicuous, from the consideration, that

your government has inflexibly main

tained the unjust and hostile attitude,

which it then assumed, and has

even added new injuries and insults

to those of which I have already

complained. I refer, in this latter

remark, to the breaches of the neu

trality of Spain, which her govern

ment permitted, if it did not author

ise, by British troops, & British

agents, in Florida, & through that

province, with the Greeks & other Indi

an tribes; in the late war with Great

Britain, to the great injury of the

United States. It is under these

circumstances that you have made

the demands above recited, to which

I will now proceed to give a more

detailed description.

4 Joseph Howard.

4 cerry Sale.

decree of the chancery, in Annapolis, passed in

1794, the territory east

of the Mississippi. Overtures

to this effect, were made to the

Spanish government, and rejected. Be

renewed, the Minister of the U.

was informed that Spain had ced

ed Louisiana to France, to whom

she was referred for the acquisition

of such territory, in that quarter,

she might be instructed to make,

the last very important event,

the suppression of the deposit at N.

Orleans, a special mission was in

stituted to France and Spain, the

object of which was to avert, by

negotiation and arrangement,

the calamities of war. Affairs

more especially by this act of

hostility, reached a

stage which precluded the idea of

temporary palliatives. A compre

hensive and permanent arrange

ment had become indispensable, of

which it was presumed, was the more

conspicuous, from the consideration, that

your government has inflexibly main

tained the unjust and hostile attitude,

which it then assumed, and has

even added new injuries and insults

to those of which I have already

complained. I refer, in this latter

remark, to the breaches of the neu

trality of Spain, which her govern

ment permitted, if it did not author

ise, by British troops, & British

agents, in Florida, & through that

province, with the Greeks & other Indi

an tribes; in the late war with Great

Britain, to the great injury of the

United States. It is under these

circumstances that you have made

the demands above recited, to which

I will now proceed to give a more

detailed description.

4 o'clock.

4 *Carriagery, Trade,*

as it was presumed would leave no cause of controversy with Spain.

The mission had thus succeeded in a very important object, but there were others, of a similar character, which remained to be adjusted. The differences with Spain still existed, and to them was added, a circumstance of much interest proceeding from the acquisition of Louisiana, the unsettled boundaries of the province, which were now to be established with Spain. Under the influence of the same policy, the special mission was ordered, soon afterwards, to Madrid, to invite a negotiation for the arrangement of all these important concerns.

It is known to your government, that the United States claim by cession, at a fair equivalent, the province of Louisiana, as it was held by France prior to the treaty of 1763, extending from the River Perdido, on the eastern side of the Mississippi, to the Bravo, or Grande, on the western. To the whole territory within those limits, the United States consider their right established by well known facts, and the fair interpretation of treaties. In a like spirit may the United States demand the surrender of all the territory above described, now in the occupancy of Spain, as a condition to the commencement of any negotiation for the adjustment of differences. When we consider how long your government has maintained what is deemed an unjust possession; more especially, when we recollect that the injuries before received are still unredressed, and that others have been since rendered, there can be, it is presumed, but one opinion, as to the great moderation of this government, in acquiescing in it. But why restore this province to Spain, if it is the intention of your government, to make the title to it, in connection with other differences, a subject of amicable negotiation and arrangement? May not such negotiation be entered into, as well while it is in the occupancy of the United States, as if it were in that of Spain?

You demand next, that Mr. Toledo and others, whom you mention, charged with promoting revolt in the Spanish provinces, and exciting citizens of the United States to join in it, shall be arrested and tried—

their troops disbanded and dispersed.

You intimate that troops are levying in Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana and Georgia, for the invasion of the Spanish provinces, of whom one thousand are from Kentucky, and three hundred from Tennessee, to be commanded by American citizens, but you do not state at what points these men are collected, or by whom commanded; and as to the forces said to be raised in Louisiana and Georgia, your communication is still more indefinite.

<