THE NEGOCIATION.

Papers presented by his majesty's command, to both houses of parliament, 18th May, 1803.

[CONTINUED.]

(No. 56.)

Downing-street, April 13, 1833.

My Lord—Your excellency's dispatches have been received, and laid before the king.

His majesty has observed with great satisfaction, the admission by the French government of the justice of his claim to some compensation in consequence of the increased power and influence of France, since the period of the conclusion of the definitive treaty.

Although, under the circumstances of your conversation with M. Talleyrand, and particularly after the note verbale which he gave to you, it might have been expedient that you should have deferred presenting the project contained in my dispatch No. 7, in the form of a project, it is desirable that you should communicate without delay in some mode or other, the contents of that project, for the purpose of ascertaining distinctly whether the conditions are such as to induce the French government to give way upon the question of Malta. These conditions appear to his majesty well calculated to save the honor of the French government on the subject of Malta—if the question of Malta is principally considered by them as a question of honor—and at the same time hold out to them such important advantages, that the success of the proposition is at least worth trying, particularly as the result of it might be productive of the most easy means of adjusting the most material of our present differences.

With respect to the assertion so often advanced and repeated by M. Talleyrand in your last conversations, of the non-execution of the treaty of Amiens, relative to Malta, I have only to observe again, that the execution of that article is become impracticable, from causes which it has not been in the power of his majesty to control. That the greatest part of the funds assigned to the support of the order, and indispensibly necessary for the independence of the order and defence of the island, have been sequestrated since the conclusion of the definitive treaty, in direct repugnance to the spirit and letter of that treaty; and that two of the principal powers, who were invited to accede as guarantees to the arrangement, have refused their accession, except on the conditions that the part of the arrangement which was deemed so material relative to the Maltese inhabitants should be entirely cancelled. The conduct of the French government since the conclusion of the definitive treaty, gives his majesty a right, which is now at length admitted by themselves, to demand some compensation for the past, and security for the future. Such compensation could never be considered as obtained by the possession of an island, which would entail a very heavy expence on this country—and the degree of security which would be provided by these means, would only be such as his majesty, under the present circumstances, is entitled to demand.

I observe in the note verbale of monsieur Talleyrand, he makes use of the expression, *the independence of the order* of Malta. If this is meant to apply to the order exclusively, his majesty would be willing, for the preservation of peace, that the civil government of the island should be given to the order of St. John; the Maltese enjoying the privileges which were stipulated in their favor in the treaty of Amiens; and that, conformably to principles which have been adopted on other occasions, the fortifications of the island should be garrisoned forever by the troops of his majesty.

In the event of either of these propositions being found unattainable, his majesty might be disposed to consent to an arrangement by which the island of Malta would remain in his possession for a limited number of years, and to wave in consequence his demand for a perpetual occupation, provided that the number of years was not less than ten, and that his Sicilian majesty could be induced to cede the sovereignty of the island of Lampedosa for a valuable consideration. If this proposition is admitted, the island of Malta should be given up to the inhabitants at the end of that period, and it should be acknowledged as an independent state. In this case, his majesty would be ready to concur in any arrangement for the establishment of the order of St John in some other part of Europe.

You will not refuse to listen to any proposition which the French government may be disposed to make to you with a view to an equivalent security for these objects in regard to which his majesty claims the possession or occupation of Malta; but the three propositions to which I have above alluded, appear, at the present moment, to furnish the only basis for a satisfactory arrangement; and you will decline receiving any proposition which does not appear to you to offer advantages to his majesty as substantial as that which I have last stated.

"It is very desirable that you should bring the negociation to an issue, if possible, without referring to his majesty's government for further instructions, after the receipt of this dispatch; and if you should be of opinion, that there are no hopes of bringing it to a favorable conclusion, you may inform M. Talleyrand of the necessity you will be under, after a certain time, to leave Paris. I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) HAWKESBURY.

His excellency lord Whitworth,
K. B. &c. &c. &c.

No. 57. Is a letter from lord Whitworth to lord Hawkesbury, informing his lordship that the conduct of M. Reinhardt respecting the publication in the Hamburg newspaper was considered by the French government as highly reprehensible, and that every satisfaction was promised on that point.

(No. 58.)

Paris, April 18, 1803.

My Lord,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your lordship's dispatches of the 14th instant.

I saw Joseph Bonaparte immediately on the receipt of your lordship's dispatch; and without troubling your lordship with a repetition of the arguments I used to hasten the conclusion of the negotiation, amongst which I endeavored to convince him of the importance of preventing the ultimatum which would inevitably follow the rejection of what I had to propose. I will briefly state, that on finding it perfectly impracticable to establish the principle of our keeping possession of Malta in perpetuity, I delivered to him in writing the second proposal I had to make. He did not fail to observe, that by this modification the difficulty which he considered as insurmountable was not removed; that although the order was restored, it could not be considered as independent, and in fact, Malta would belong to that power which had possession of the forts. I enforced the adoption of this plan by every reason which could serve to recommend it; but the possession in perpetuity was constantly urged as a difficulty which nothing could remove. Our conversation lasted nearly two hours.

I confess that I gained no solid ground of hope that the project, which he assured me he would take to the first consul at St. Cloud, would be adopted. But he said that he was not without hope that he might be authorised to propose to me the occupation of the fortresses for a term of years. It was my wish that such a proposal should come from him rather than from me. I told him that I did not see well how such a tenure would suit us; but that I wished too sincerely to avoid the fatal extremities to which I saw the discussion was tending, not to give any reasonable proposal which might be made on their part every assistance in my power. This proposal originated with him, and was therefore received by me merely as a matter which I would refer to your lordship. If, however, I can bring the matter to an immediate conclusion, and without further reference to your lordship on the principle of our retaining possession of the fortresses of Malta for a term of years, not less than that pointed out by your lordship, and with the assurance that this government will not oppose the cession of the island of Lampedosa, I shall have great pleasure in announcing to your lordship such a conclusion.

The conversation which I had the same morning with M. de Talleyrand, differed in no wise from what I have above mentioned. He suggested also the possibility of coming to an arrangement on the ground of a temporary occupation, and I made him the same answer.

(Translation of inclosure referred to in No 58.)

His majesty will consent, for the sake of preserving peace, that the government of the island of Malta shall be given to the order of St. John; the Maltese enjoying those privileges which have been granted on former occasions. The fortifications of the island shall be occupied in perpetuity by the troops of his majesty.

(No. 59.)

Paris, April 20, 1803.

My Lord,

I had hoped that the first extraordinary messenger I should have had occasion to send, would have been to announce to your lordship, that the differences between the two governments were adjusted on one of the modifications pointed out to me by my last instructions from your lordship. In this expectation I am deceived. I saw Joseph Bonaparte the night before last, before I had sealed up my dispatches of that evening to your lordship—but as all he said tended only to justify the hope I had given your lordship in those dispatches, I added nothing to them. He assured me positively, that I should hear from M. de Talleyrand in the course of yesterday morning, and that a meeting would be appointed in order to settle the term of years for which the first consul might be induced to consent to the cession of Malta. It is true, that he declared, that in order to gain his consent, it would be necessary to hold out the advantages which the British government was willing to offer in return meaning the acknowledgments of the new governments in Italy. I told him that this offer was made only with a view to the possession of Malta in perpetuity; but after some conversation, I gave him to understand that I would not refuse to admit the demand, *subsperati*, on the condition that the cession should be made for a considerable term of years; that a suitable provision should be made for the king of Sardinia. He seemed to think there could be no difficulty in this arrangement; and I left him in the persuasion that I should the next day, yesterday, or this morning, receive the summons of M. de Talleyrand, which he had given me reason to expect. I am sorry to say, that no such summons has been received by me, neither has any further notice been taken of the business. So that I feel, that I should betray the confidence your lordship may place in me, were I to delay any longer requesting, that I may be immediately furnished with the terms on which his majesty's ministers would be willing to conclude, in order that I may propose them in the form of an ultimatum; and that at the expiration of the period allowed for deliberation, I may be authorized not only to declare that I am to leave Paris, but actually so to do, unless in the intermediate time, the French government should accede to our demands. I have the honor to be, &c. (Signed)

WHITWORTH.

Right honorable lord
Hawkesbury, &c.

(No. 60.)

EXTRACT.

Downing-street, April 23, 1803.

My Lord,

If, upon the receipt of this dispatch, it shall not have been in your power to bring the negociation to a conclusion on any of the propositions to which I have above referred, it is his majesty's pleasure that you should communicate, officially, to the French government, that you have gone, in point of concession, to the full extent of your instructions: and that, if an arrangement, founded upon one of these propositions, cannot be concluded without further delay, you have received his majesty's commands to return to England.

His majesty can only consent to relinquish the permanent occupation of Malta by his forces, on the conditions that the temporary possessions shall not be less than ten years; that the authority, civil and military, shall, during that period, remain solely in his majesty; and that, at the expiration of that period, the island shall be given up to the inhabitants, and not to the order; and provided likewise, that his Sicilian majesty shall be induced to cede to his majesty the island of Lampedosa. It is indispensable that, as a part of this arrangement, Holland should be evacuated by the French troops within a short period after the conclusion of a convention by which all those provisions are secured. His majesty will consent to acknowledge the new Italian states, upon the condition that stipulations in favor of his Sardinian majesty, and of Switzerland, form a part of this arrangement.

It is his majesty's pleasure that, in the event of the failure of the negociation, you should delay your departure from Paris no longer than may be indispensably necessary for your personal convenience; and that you should in no case remain there, after the receipt of this dispatch, more than seven days.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) HAWKESBURY.

His excellency lord Whitworth, K. B. &c. &c. &c.

(No. 61.)

Paris, April 23, 1803.

My Lord,

As I heard nothing from M. de Talleyrand, I called on him on Thursday, in order to learn the effect of the proposal which I had made conformably to your lordship's instructions, on the basis of a perpetual possession of the forts of Malta, on re-establishing the order in the civil government of the island. He told me, that if I had called on him sooner, he should two days ago have communicated to me the first consul's answer, which was, that no consideration on earth should induce him to consent to a concession in perpetuity of Malta, in any shape whatever; and that the re-establishment of the order was not so much the point to be discussed, as that of suffering Great-Britain to acquire a possession in the Mediterranean. I told him that I did not call sooner, because I had been given to understand, that he would have himself proposed it to me, for the purpose of communicating the answer of the first consul; and that it did not in any shape become me to to put myself on the footing of a solicitor in this transaction. After some conversation, and finding, (what I most sincerely believe to be the case) that the first consul's determination was fixed on the point of a possession of Malta in perpetuity! I repeated to him what I had previously suggested to Joseph Bonaparte, the modification which I had to propose, namely, that for the sake of peace his majesty would be willing to wave his pretensions to a possession in perpetuity, and would consent to hold Malta for a certain number of years to be agreed upon, on the condition that no opposition should be made on the part of the French government to any negociation his majesty might set on foot with his Sicilian majesty for the acquisition of the island of Lampedosa. We discussed this proposal in a conversation of some length, and I made use of all the arguments which have been furnished me by your lordship, or which occurred to me in its favor. I begged him particularly to recollect that we were in actual possession of the object, and that therefore every modification tending to limit that possession, was in fact a concession on the part of his majesty, and a proof of his desire to sacrifice to his love of peace the just claim which he had acquired in consequence of the conduct of France, and which had recently been admitted, of a much more considerable compensation and counterpoise. M. de Talleyrand did not seem disposed to dispute any of my positions, and I left him, I confess, fully impressed with the idea, that the next day (Friday) I should find him prepared to treat on this ground, and that the only difficult point to be arranged would be the number of years for which Malta should be ceded to his majesty.

Your lordship will conceive my surprise when on seeing him the next day, he told me that although he had not been able to obtain from the first consul all he wished, still the proposition he had to make, would, he trusted, be such as fully to answer the purpose. He then said, that the first consul would, on no terms, hear either of a perpetual or a temporary possession of Malta; that his object was the execution of the treaty of Amiens, and that rather than submit to such an arrangement as that I had last proposed, he would even consent to our keeping the object in dispute forever! On the ground that in the one there was an appearance of generosity & magnanimity; but in the other nothing but weakness & the effect of coercion! That therefore his resolution was taken, and what he had to propose was the possession we required of the island of Lampedosa, or of any other of the small isles of which there were three or four between Malta and the coast of Africa; that such a possession would be sufficient for the object we had in view, which was a station in the Mediterranean as a place of refuge and security for any squadron we might find it convenient to keep in that sea. I suffered him to expatiate a considerable time, and without interruption, on the great advantages we were to derive from such an acquisition, as well as on the confidence which the first consul reposed in our pacific intention in lending a hand to such an establishment.

[In reply lord W. stated, how urgent his orders were to bring the negociation to an issue, and that this spirit of procrastination would only have the effect to make him communicate, in the form of an ultimatum, the terms he had offered and from which he could not depart.]

To all I could say (continued his lordship) Mr. Talleyrand objected the dignity and honor of the first consul, which could not admit of his consenting to any thing which might carry with it the appearance of yielding to a threat. I told him that it never could be admitted that the first consul had a right to act in such a manner as to excite jealousy and create alarm in every state of Europe, and when asked for explanation or security say that it was contrary to his honor or his dignity, to afford either. Such aguments might perhaps do when applied to some of those governments with which France had been accustomed to treat, or more properly dictate to, but never could be used to Great-Britain; that his majesty had a right to speak freely his opinion, and possessed also the means, whenever he chose to employ them, of opposing a barrier to the ambition of any individual, or of any state, which should be disposed to threaten the security of his dominions, or the tranquility of Europe.

Our conversation concluded by M. Talleyrand's assuring me that he would report the substance of it to the first consul in the evening, and that probably he should have occasion to see me on the following day.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) WHITWORTH.

(No 62.)

Paris, April 25, 1803.

My Lord,

The conversation I had on Saturday morning with M. Talleyrand has produced nothing from which I can draw a more favorable conclusion as to the result of the negociation than when I last addressed your lordship. He told me that although he had seen the first consul the night before, he had nothing to add to what he had communicated to me on Friday; that the first consul was determined not to give his consent to our retaining Malta, either in perpetuity, or for a term, although of the two he would prefer the former tenure as the less repugnant to his feelings; that he was therefore ordered to repeat the proposal he had lately made me, of acceding to our demand of Lampedosa or any of the neighboring islands; and that as our object was to obtain a settlement in the Mediterranean he imagined that which we had ourselves pointed out would answer every purpose we might have in view. But, at all events, the first consul neither could nor would relinquish his claim to the full execution of the treaty of Amiens. To this I could only repeat what I had already said to him on the inadequacy of such a proposal, and of the impossibility in which I found myself to transmit it to your lordship. I lamented the course which the negociation was taking, and that the first consul should have so little regard to the dreadful consequences which must ensue, as to suffer them to be outweighed by a mistaken notion of dignity. And I added, that notwithstanding the acquiescence which he might have met with from others, the plea of its being incompatible with the dignity of the French government to give satisfaction or security, when both might with justice be demanded, could never be admitted by Great-Britain.

M. Talleyrand heard every thing I could say with the utmost patience, notwithstanding he had nothing satisfactory to say, and seemed unwilling to break up the conference. He constantly brought forward the same inadmissible proposal, requesting that I would at least communicate it to your lordship. This I told him I could not refuse to do, since every thing which passed between him and me must of course make the subject of my reports to your lordship. I declared, however, at the same time, that I should not think myself by any means authorized to suspend the execution of any instructions I might receive, tending to bring the negociation to an issue, in the expectation of any change which such a proposal might produce. All I could do, and that I would certainly do, would be to communicate the ultimatum, if his majesty should think proper to furnish me with it, confidentially to M. Talleyrand, before I presented it officially to him as minister for foreign affairs. He assured me, that he should consider such a conduct as a further proof of my desire to conciliate, and that he could not yet forbear hoping that the differences might be adjusted. I repeated that if his hope was founded on the expectation of his majesty's being induced to recide from his demand, it would be deceiving himself to cherish it.

The remainder of the conversation turned on the calamities which would follow the failure of our endeavor to avoid a rupture. He insinuated that Holland, Naples, and other countries connected with Great-Britain, would be the first victims of the war. I asked him whether he thought that such a conduct would add to the glory of the first consul, or whether the falling on the innocent and defenceless would not rather tarnish it, and ultimately unite against him, not only the honest men in his own country, but every government in Europe? That it certainly would excite more detestation than terror in England, at the same time that it would serve to impress upon us still more strongly the necessity of omitting no means of circumscribing a power so perniciously exerted. I could not help adding, that although no act of hostility had actually taken place, yet the inveteracy with which our commerce, our industry, and our credit had been attacked in every part to which French influence could be extended, did in fact almost amount to the same, since it went to prove, in addition to the general system of the first consul, that his object was to pursue under the mask of peace, the same line of conduct in which the preceding governments had acted.

I now trust entirely to the effect of the ultimatum, which will at least convince him that we are in earnest, and that he has nothing to expect from protraction. I shall, not however, as I said before, make use of this officially, until I have tried its effect in a more conciliatory manner.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) WHITWORTH.

The right hon. lord Hawkesbury, &c. &c.

P. S. Your lordship's dispatches of the 23d, with their inclosures, were delivered to me by Shaw, this evening at nine o'clock. I shall see M. de Talleyrand, to-morrow morning.

(No. 63.)

Extract of a dispatch from lord Whitworth to lord Hawkesbury, dated Paris, April 27, 1803.

I avail myself of the opportunity of a messenger, passing through from Constantinople, and Vienna, to inform your lordship of the state of the negociation at this moment. I communicated to M. Talleyrand the purport of my instructions of the 23d yesterday at 4 o'clock. He immediately asked me if the possession of Malta was still insisted upon? I told him most certainly it was; and I repeated to him the particulars of the terms on which it was yet possible to conclude the business. That these were the possession of Malta for ten years, during which period the authority, civil and military was to remain solely in his majesty, and that at the expiration of that term, it was to be given up to the inhabitants, and not to the Order; provided also that his Sicilian majesty shall be induced to cede to his majesty the island of Lampedosa; that Holland should be evacuated by the French troops within a month after the conclusion of a convention by which all these provisions shall be secured; and that his majesty would consent to acknowledge the new Italian states, provided stipulations were made in favor of his Sardinian majesty and of Switzerland.

I had no sooner made known these conditions than M. Talleyrand told me it would be perfectly unnecessary to delay the official communication; for as the possession of Malta was still insisted upon, although for a term, the first consul would not consent to them. I accordingly did repeat them to him in the manner he desired; when he told me that he comprehended perfectly what we required, but that in similar cases it was usual to state the demand in writing, and he desired I would give him a note upon the subject. I told him that I would repeat to him once more, or as often as he pleased, the express terms which I had stated to him, and that as my communication to him was verbal, I should of course be content with an answer in the same form. He consented at length to receive it, and to communicate to me the first consul's answer as soon as possible. I desired that he would recollect that Tuesday next must be the day of my departure.

(No 64)

Extract of a dispatch from lord Whitworth to lord Hawkesbury, dated April 29, 1803.

My last letter to your lordship was of yesterday evening. This morning a person came to me whom I suspect of being empowered by the first consul for the purpose of ascertaining my sentiments, and told me that I should, in the course of the day, receive a letter from M Talleyrand, drawn up under the inspection of the first consul, which although not exactly what I might wish, was however so moderate as to afford me a well grounded hope, and might certainly be sufficient to induce me to delay, for a short time, my departure. I told him that it would be a matter of great satisfaction to me to perceive a probability of bringing the negociation to a favorable issue; and that I should be extremely sorry to spoil the business by any useless precipitation. But it must be recollected that I acted in conformity to instructions; that those instructions were positive; that by them I was enjoined to leave Paris on Tuesday next, unless in the intermediate time certain conditions were agreed to. Having received no letter in the course of the day, about 4 o'clock I went to M. Talleyrand; I told him that my anxiety to learn whether he had any thing favorable to tell me, brought me to him, and in case he had not to recall to his recollection that Tuesday was the day on which I must leave Paris, and to request that he would have the necessary passports prepared for me and my family. He appeared evidently embarrassed, and after some hesitation observed, that he could not suppose I should really go away; but that at all events the first consul never would recall his ambassador. To this I replied, his majesty recalled me in order to put an end to the negociation, on the principle that even actual war was preferable to the state of suspence in which England, and indeed all Europe, had been kept for so long a space of time.

From the tenor of his conversation, I should rather be lead to think that he does not consider the case as desperate. Upon my leaving him he repeatedly said, *J'ai encore de l'espoir..*

Saturday Evening.

P. S. This day has passed without any occurrence whatever. The letter in question has not yet arrived.

[*To be continued.*]

PHILADELPHIA, July 7.

By the Fame we have received a file of the "*Moniteur de la Louisiane,*" printed at New-Orleans, from which we have translated a few articles for this day's Gazette. We have also received a translated copy of the royal order for the delivery of the colony to the French, which we subjoin:

TRANSLATION.

His excellency Don Pedro Ceballos under yesterday's date, informs me what follows:

Most excellent sir,

The French government having requested that in delivering to it the colony of Louisiana, it be put in possession of the artillery, arms, ammunition, stores, hospitals, sea craft and other effects belonging to the king, that may be found in the colony, and that the royal order be expedited to the captain general of said provice, for the delivery of the colony, be forwarded by an express to Paris, that the captain general Victor, who goes out on that commission, may carry it with him. His majesty, desirous of pleasing without delay, the said government, has determined to expedite, through the office of state, under my charge, the royal dispatch, a copy of which I enclose herewith; adding moreover that it is his majesty's will, that conformably thereto, you give the necessary orders for the formation of a rated inventory of all the existencies relating to your department, observing to make a separation of the papers to be delivered to the French, in consequence of the cession; and of those not relating to said affair, which are to be transported to the dominions of his majesty. I acquaint you of this by royal order for your information and government, in what respects your royal dispatch.

Don Carlos, by the Grace of God, &c.

Having thought it expedient to retrocede to the French republic, the colony and province of Louisiana, I order, that when this is presented to you by general Victor, or any other officer duly authorised by said republic, to take charge of said delivery, you put him in possession of the colony of Louisiana and its dependencies, as likewise the city and island of New-Orleans, with the same extent that it now has, that it had when possessed by the French, when ceded to my royal crown, and as it ought to be after the various treaties between my states and those of other powers, in order that in future it may belong to said republic, who is to administer and govern it with its officers and governors, as if it belonged to her without any exception, I order, that as soon as the said troops of the French republic have taken possession of said colony, you withdraw therefrom all the officers, soldiers and persons in my service, and send them to Spain, or any part of my possession in America, excepting those who prefer remaining in the French service, to whom you will make no objection.

I moreover order, that after the evacuation of the said ports and town of New-Orleans, you collect all the papers and documents relative to the revenue and administration of the colony of Louisiana, in order to bring them to Spain to settle the accounts, delivering nevertheless, to the French governor, or officer charged with taking possession, all that may relate to the limits and demarcation of said territory, as likewise those respecting the Indian and other posts, taking necessary receipts for all for your discharge, and that you give to the said governor all the information that may be wanting for him to govern said colony to the satisfaction of the republic. And in order that the said session be effected to the satisfaction of both powers, you will form an inventory signed by you, and the respective commissioners of the republic, of all the artillery, arms, ammunition, effects, stores, hospital, sea craft, &c. that may belong to me in the said colony, and you will proceed joinly with said commissary to make an exact estimation of all the effects belonging to me, in the different parts of the colony that their value be reimbursed to me by said republic, agreeably to valuation.

We hope at the same time for the interest and tranquility of the inhabitants of the colony, and we promise ourselves, from the sincere friendship and close alliance which unite us to the government of the republic, that it will give orders to its governor and other officers employed in its service in said colony and city of New-Orleans, that the clergy and religious houses that serve there may continue their functions, and enjoy the privileges, prerogatives and exemptions which have been granted to them by the title of their establishment. That the ordinary judges, as likewise the established tribunals, continue to administer justice according to the received and common laws, that the inhabitants be maintained in quiet possession of their property, that all the grants, of what nature soever issued by my governors, although not confirmed by me, be confirmed to them, and hoping moreover that the government of the republic will shew to her subjects the same proof of protection and friendship which they have experienced under my dominions.

Given at Barcelona, the 15th October, 1802. I THE KING.

DON PEDRO CEBALLOS.

I transmit to you by order of his majesty, for your information and for the fulfilment of the part that relates to you. God preserve you many years.

SOLEN.

Barcelona, 16th October, 1802.

To the intendant of Louisiana.

July 9.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman of the first respectability, dated Trinidad, 13th June, to his friend in this city.

"I am very sensible you will be much surprized at the length of time your brig has unfortunately been detained here, which I do assure you, is equally as painful to me as it can be to yourself, the reason of which, I will relate as plain as I possibly can. Since the arrival of colonel William Fullerton, and Samuel Hood, esqrs. who were in joint commission, for executing the office of governor for this island and its dependencies, with our present governor general Picton, and their opinions not exactly suiting general Picton in many circumstances, as they would not come into measures, which he thought consistent, and was wanted to carry on, either proper or not, I do not pretend to say, as it is very well know in a number of places and instances, that he was and is uncommonly severe, for his will has been our law, for a considerable period back, which you may judge has been pretty arbitrary, and some have been benefitted and others have suffered by it; from these circumstances it is natural to suppose, it created party matters, which have gone to such a pitch, that they have quarrelled in such a degree, that colonel Fullerton has quitted his family and the island for these six weeks past, and the other commissioner Hood, left this in a similar manner, about a month ago, in consequence of his behavior being very unbecoming the gentleman---General Picton now remains sole governor, but it cannot be so long, for in the height of one of his rages, he wrote home to have his resignation accepted, of which since we have received accounts, has been accepted, and some other person appointed in his room. Since he has received this information it has almost distracted him, for it appears colonel Fullerton is appointed sole governor in his stead, which af-