MESSAGE

From the president of the United States, respecting the application of
HAMET CARAMALLI, Ex-bashaw of Tripoli.

[CONTINUED.]

Commodore Barron, to Wm. Eaton, Esq.
Malta, 22d March, 1805.

SIR,

By capt. Hull, who arrived in this harbor with the United States' brig Argus under his command, on the 10th inst. I received your favors addressed to me, together with communications for the secretary of the navy and copies of the correspondence betwixt yourself & captain Hull relative to your proceedings, from your arrival in Egypt until his departure from thence: also by the hands of Mahumed, secretary, a letter from his excellency Hamet Bashaw, announcing his junction with you, all which, I have perused, with an attention and deliberation which the important and interesting nature of their contents demands. I cannot but applaud the energy and perseverance that has characterised your progress through a series of perplexing and discouraging difficulties, to the attainment of the object of your research, an attainment which I am disposed to consider as a fair presage of future success.

On receipt of these communications by captain Hull, I did not lose a moment in making the necessary arrangements for sending you succors, and I now dispatch the Argus brig, with the Hornet sloop under her convoy, carrying a variety of stores and provisions, according to the accompanying list.—Capt. Hull will shape his course for Bomba, direct, where he calculates on finding you with the Bashaw and his army, and where he supposes you will make a stand. I have directed him to deliver these stores to you, to be applied as your discretion may direct. He has also under his charge, a sum in specie amounting to 7,000 dollars, which is likewise to be placed at your disposal. By the time the time these vessels establish a communication with you, you will have been enabled to form a correct opinion as to the prospect of ultimate success, and thence to estimate the advantages likely to result to our affairs from this co-operation, and by this opinion you must be guided in the application of the succors. Should you have encountered unexpected difficulties and obstacles, which place the chances of success upon more than precarious ground, your own prudence will suggest the propriety of not committing these supplies, and the money uncontrouledly to the power of the bashaw; indeed, in the point of view in which I regard the measures already pursued, as well as the subject of co-operation generally, I conceive we ought to tread with the utmost caution. It is far from my wish, sir, to damp your ardor, or that of your companions in arms, by laying too great a stress upon the cold maxims of prudence, whereby the tide of success is often lost: something, I am aware, should always be left to fortune, in enterprises of this nature: but I must own there are certain things, expressed in your dispatches, which, when brought to the test of my instructions from home, give birth to feelings of doubt and uneasiness. These I deemed it incumbent on me to point out to you with candor and explicitness, in order that we may be fully understood.

You must be sensible that in giving their sanction to a co-operation with the exiled bashaw, government did not contemplate the measure as leading, necessarily and absolutely, to a reinstatement of that prince in his rights on the regency of Tripoli. They appear to have viewed the co-operation in question, as a means which, if there existed energy and enterprize in the exile, and attachment to his person on the part of his former subjects, might be employed to the common furtherance and advantage of his claims and our cause, but without meaning to fetter themselves by any specific and definite attainment as an end, which the tenor of my instructions and the limited sum appropriated for that special purpose, clearly demonstrate. I fear by the convention you were about to enter into with Hamet, and by the complexion of other measures that a wider range may have been taken than is consistent with the powers vested in me for that particular object. These apprehensions may, perhaps, prove groundless, on further representations from you; but under my present impressions, I feel it my duty to state, explicitly, that I must withhold my sanction to any convention or agreement committing the United States, or tending to impress upon Hamet bashaw a convention that *we have bound ourselves* to place him upon the throne. The consequences involved in such an engagement cannot but strike you forcibly, and a general view of our situation, in relation to the reigning bashaw and our unfortunate countrymen in Tripoli, will be sufficient to mark its expediency. I shall consider it my duty, as it is certainly my inclination, to afford you every aid compatible with the authority vested in me, and commensurate with the means which have been placed at my disposal, and you may rely on the most active and vigorous support from the squadron, as soon as the season and our arrangements will permit us to appear in force before the enemy's walls; but I wish you to understand that no guarantee or engagement to the exiled prince, whose cause, I must repeat, we are only favoring as an instrument to our advantage, and not as an end in itself, must be held to stand in the way of our acquiescence to any honorable and advantageous terms of accommodation which the reigning bashaw may be induced to propose; such terms being once offered and accepted by the representatives of government appointed to treat of peace, our support to the ex-bashaw must necessarily cease. You will not, however, conceive that these considerations, important and necessary as they are, ought to induce us at once to abandon the benefits which the measures you have adopted seem to promise. I conceive a perseverance in these by no means incompatible with a total freedom from any trammels, with respect to a definite object, which freedom I deem it all important to preserve, especially when I view the peculiar situation in which capt. Bainbridge and his fellow-sufferers may be placed by this co-operation. If, by your energy and exertions, added to the supplies now sent forward, you succeed in getting possession of Derne & Bengazi, we may calculate, that, having received this impulse from our strength, the bashaw will himself possess sufficient energy, courage & talents, & if accounts are correct, sufficient interest among the people, to move on with firm steps, and to conduct his friends and followers to the gates of Tripoli. Every support will, of course, be given to him by a systematic union of operations with the squadron, so as to enable him to get in the rear of the town; but should he be found deficient in those qualities, or that it appears we have been deceived in regard to the disposition of the inhabitants, he must be held as an unat subject for further support or co-operation. I beg leave to mention to you, that as we are short of officers, the services of all will be wanted on board the respective ships as soon as we enter upon offensive measures.—Should you conceive, however, that any serious disadvantage may result from withdrawing those with you, I have no objection to their remaining as volunteers; but it is impossible for me to comply with your requisition for 100 marines to be sent to the coast. Such a step, in the present posture of affairs, far exceeds my powers, and, besides, as we are rather short of hands, I could not feel myself justifiable in detaching so considerable a force from the squadron. I have not been unmindful of your requisition for field artillery, which I think with you, is essential, but here it was impossible to procure it; I therefore dispatched, some days since, the Congress frigate to Messina, where I hope to obtain our field pieces complete for service, and as soon as they arrive they will be sent to the coast with the necessary ammunition. As I am still too unwell to write to you with my own hand, I must refer you to captain Hull, in whose judgment and discretion I have the fullest confidence, for information on several collateral points, and for my sentiments on others. In this letter I have endeavored to explain, as clearly as possible, what are my ideas with respect to the wishes and intentions of our government, and what I feel to be the extent of my authority, relative to the co-operation with Hamet Bashaw. I reiterate my fixed resolution to afford you every support and assistance which are consistent with the powers and resources vested in me, adding at the same time, my dissent from any guarantee, covenant or engagement, by which the United States may stand committed, to place the exiled prince on the throne, or any condition which militates against the most perfect and uncontroled power of choice and action, in concluding a pacification with Jussuff bashaw, should he offer terms honorable & advantageous to our country.

I should be wanting in justice to you, sir, as well as to the officers who have shared thus far your toils and dangers, were I not to express my full reliance upon your courage, energy and perseverance, as well as my ardent desire that your most sanguine expectations may be realised. The observations which I here convey to you, are far from being intended to cool your zeal or discourage your expectations, but they are what I conceive it necessary to make, and draw from me the purest feeling of duty, and as such permit me to recommend them to your calm and candid consideration, and I request that you will make them the subject of conversation with capt. Hull, who is fully possessed of my sentiments.

COPY.

From Commodore Barron to the secretary of the navy.

MALTA, *6th April*, 1805.

SIR,

Having in my respects of yesterday given a full account of the presant disposal of the squadron under my command, and whatever had occurred of notice since my preceding dispatches, I have now the honor to lay before you a sketch of Mr. Eaton's transactions in Egypt, and the measures which have been in consequence thereof adopted. The accompanying communications from that gentleman to the navy department, joined with copies of those addressed to me and the collateral correspondence betwixt capt. Hull and him to all which I beg leave to refer you minutely, will afford you a wide view of the subject, whilst it precludes the necessity of lengthy comments from me. You will there perceive the many and unforeseen difficulties which Mr. Eaton met with in finding the ex-bashaw, who had joined the fortunes of the Mamelukes. You will be apprized of the situation in which matters stood at the departue of the Argus from Alexandria, on the 19th of February, and the plan which he had chalked out to pursue the intended co-operation with Hamet. On receipt of those advises I made immediate arrangements to send such part of the succors requested by the bashaw and Mr. Eaton, as could be procured here, and as I considered myself authorised by my instructions to afford; and capt. Hull sailed again on the 26th ultimo, in the Argus, with the Hornet sloop, (the same which I mentioned having purchased) under convoy, carrying a supply of money, provisions, &c. He directed his course for Bomba, (a place about 60 miles to the eastwerd of Derne) where, as you will collect from the papers inclosed, he confidently expected to open a communication with the bashaw and his followers. Such, sir, is the present situation of the business.

I am well aware that you will feel an anxiety to know my opinion with regard to the probable success of this co-operation; but until I have further intelligence and more data to go by, it were improper even to hazard a conjecture. In perusing letters from Mr. Eaton, and weighing the nature and consequences of certain measures in his contemplation, I must own that I have felt some uneasiness, arising out of a fear that he has taken a wider scope in his engagements to the bashaw, than is compatible with the ideas and intentions of government, or with the athority vested in me, as relates to the subject of co-operation. I have stated this apprehension in a communication to Mr. Eaton, in which I have also explained in precise terms, my own ideas, and how far I conceived he might proceed without committing himself or the country. A copy of my letter will be found annexed. I feel confident that the sentiments there expressed, and the principles laid down with respect to the plan in question, will meet your approbation.

From the concurring information, principally from persons well acquainted with the bashaw, which I have recently received of his character, and conduct, I confess that my hopes from a co-operation with him are less sanguine than they were. Perhaps, however, I may shortly have reason to raise my expectation to their former standard; but till something occurs to justify the belief that he possesses more courage, energy and talent, than those who appear to know him well, give him credit for, it would be reprehensible to flatter myself or the government with prospects, which the result may disappoint. I am equally at a loss to calculate the effects of this co-operation upon the mind of the reigning bashaw; a short time will throw light upon this interesting point. In the mean while I cannot conceal from you my candid opinion, that from the obstinacy hitherto evinced by Jussuf Bashaw, and the pertinacity of his character, not unmixed with bravery and other qualities belonging to a soldier, added to the natural advantages of his situation, the contest promises to be more arduous than was at first anticipated. Our co-operation with Hamet may, and in all probability will, induce him either to offer us terms at once; or, finding his dominions menaced and his life endangered, to put every thing to the hazard of war. In the latter case we may naturally conclude that his resistance will not only be obstinate, but disperate. I look with anxiety for the return of the vessel which sailed a few days since for Tripoli, with supplies for the prisoners, she will undoubtedly bring important intelligence.

The ex-bashaw's secretary of state, whom you will find mentioned in Mr. Eaton's correspondence, returned in the Argus to join his master. He appeared to be a sensible, discreet old man; he brought me a letter from the bashaw, a translation of which, with a copy of my answer, is attached to the accompanying papers.

[*To be continued.*]

NINTH CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Tuesday, January 21.

On motion of Mr. Nelson,

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire whether any, and if any, what alterations are necessary, in the criminal, civil or equitable jurisdiction of the circuit court of the district of Columbia, and that they have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

Referred to a committee of five members.

Mr. Gregg, from the committee on public lands, made a report on the petition of sundry inhabitants of Randolph and St. Clair, in Indiana territory. The report states that the petitioners pray for a grant of lands on which they are settled, and for a different mode of survey from that applied to the other public lands, and considers the request as inadmissible. Whereupon,

Resolved, That the petitioners have leave to withdraw their petition.

Mr. Early said he held in his hand a resolution instructing the committee of ways and means to enquire into the expediency of requiring the secretaries of state, treasury, war, and navy, to lay before congress, at the opening of every session, a detailed statement of the expenditure of the monies appropriated to the contingent expences of their departments. He would briefly state his reasons for offering this motion. The monies for the contingent purposes of the government were the only description of expenditures which were not controlled by the house, Over every other branch of expenditure the house exercised a control by specifying with definite clearness the respective objects of expenditure, when an appropriation was made. But the monies appropriated for contingent purposes were left exclusively to the discretion of the different officers presiding over the several departments, in which they were alone governed by their own will and judgment. The only check which could be exercised over this description of expenditures, was to require a detailed statement of disbursements. It would be recollected that a committee had been appointed some time since, to investigate the accounts of several officers of the government, and that they had made a detailed report to the house. About that time it had been contemplated to take the step which he now suggested, but for some reasons it had never been taken. Mr. Early said he by no means wished to be understood as entertaining the idea that the discretion with which the heads of department were clothed had been abused. He knew of no facts to justify such an opinion. It was on the ground of principle, and of principle only, that he offered this resolution. Thro' the four great departments which he had mentioned, passed 9 10hs of the whole money appropriated by congress; and on looking at the statement contained in the estimates of the secretary of the treasury, he found that more than one-fourth of the whole amount of money estimated as necessary for the several departments, was for contingent purposes. By that statement it appeared, that the whole expences of the department of state were 27,000 dollars, of which 14,400 were for contingent purposes. Under the head of foreign intercourse, 182,500 dollars were estimated as necessary, of which 76,900 dollars were for contingent purposes. The estimates for the treasury department were 72,100 dollars, of which 12,100 were for contingent purposes. The estimates for the war department were 29,400, of which 2,000 were for contingent purposes. The estimates for the military establishment were 900,500 dollars, of which 18,000 were for contingent purposes. The estimates for the navy department were 21,100 dollars, of which 2,700 were for contingent purposes. The estimates for the naval establishment were 867,800 dolls. of which 411,900 were for contingent purposes. Mr. Early said, he presumed this view of the subject would justify him in the eyes of the members of the house in offering the resolution. The resolution, as follows, was agreed to:

Resolved, That the committee of ways & means be instructed to enquire into the expediency of making provision by law, for requiring the secretary of state, the secretary of the treasury, the secretary of war, and the secretary of the navy, to lay before congress annually a detailed account of the expenditure of the fund appropriated for the contingent expences of their several departments, respectively.

Mr. Crowninshield from the committee of commerce and manufactures, made a report on the petition of Nathaniel Goodall, praying that an additional duty may be laid on iron hollow ware, adverse to the same, in which the house immediately concurred. The report details the grounds on which it is made, which, as we purpose publishing, from its connexion with an interesting topic, we omit further noticing at present.

Mr. P. R. Thompson, from the committee apoointed on sundry memorials relative to a bridge over the Potomac, made a report. After a very detailed report, the committee conclude, by declaring their opinion that the public interest would be greatly promoted by a bridge from or near the Maryland avenue to the opposite shore; and submit a resolution that the prayer of the memorialists soliciting leave to erect a bridge is reasonable, and ought to be granted.

Mr. Thomson moved, that the report be made the order for Thursday.

Another member moved that it should be the order for the 1st of May.

The question was first taken on the last day, and passed in the negative—ayes 9.

When the report was made the order for Thursday.

The bill for the relief of the governor, secretary and judges of the late territory of the U. S. north-west of the Ohio, was read the third time and passed.

The bill extending the powers of the surveyor-general to the territory of Louisiana & for other purposes, was read the third time and passed.

A message was received from the senate, stating that they had passed the bill making an additional appropriation to supply the deficiency in the appropriation for the support of the navy during the year 1805.

Wednesday, January 22.

Mr. P. R. Thompson presented a memorial from sundry inhabitants of Alexandria, in the district of Columbia, representing that the fees paid to the officers of the courts are exorbitant and oppressive, and praying that the fees may be reduced to the same amount chargeable in the courts of Virginia.

Referred to the committee appointed yesterday on the resolution offered by Mr. Nelson.

After a few explanatory remarks, the object of which was to shew the necessity of uniformity in certain judicial proceedings of the states, Mr. Bidwell offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to consider whether any, and if any, what further provisions ought to be made by law for prescribing the manner in which the public acts, records and judicial proceedings of the respective states shall be proved, and the effect thereof; that they have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

Agreed to, and referred to a committee of five members.

Mr. Quincy presented a petition from the inspecting officers of the customs for Boston and Charlestown, praying an augmentation of their compensations.

Referred to the committee of ways and means.

The house again went into committee of the whole—Mr. Dawson in the chair—on the resolution of Mr. Sloan, for imposing a tax of ten dollars on every slave imported into the United States.

When, after a long debate (which shall be hereafter given, unless excluded by more important matter) the resolution was agreed to—Ayes 79.

The committee rose and reported their agreement to the resolution.

The house immediately took it into consideration; and after some further debate, concurred in the report—Yeas 90—Nays 25—when the resolution thus agreed was referred to a committee of three members to bring in a bill.

On motion of Mr. Sailly, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole—Mr. Varnum in the chair—on the bill to extend the jurisdiction in certain cases to the state judges and state courts. After a short discussion of the provisions of the bill, the committee rose and reported it with an amendment, which was ordered to lie for consideration.

LONDON, Nov. 21.

We have been favored with the sight of a private letter from the Hague, dated the 12th inst. received by the last Hamburg mail, which says—

"I can assure you of a fact, which better than our official Gazette evinces the spirit of our country—when the exaggerated news of Bonaparte's victories arrived, every countenance bespoke sadness & melancholy; whilst, on the contrary, the unadorned news of admiral Collingwood animated dullness itself, and nothing was seen but the shaking of hands, *visible* smiles, but *silent* congratulations. I suppose you know, that here, as well as in *free* France, *speaking* one's sentiments is more dangerous and more criminal than robbing one's neighbors.

"The number of French troops in our country at present, does not amount to nine thousand, and those are marched towards East Friezland and Westphalia. Our burghers do military duty, and are very desirous of being relieved by the English, Russians, Swedes or Prussians. The friends of France assure us, however, that before the end of the year we shall have here a French army of seventy or eighty thousand men, destined not only to protect Holland, but to *reconquer* Hanover.

"Our troops under gen. Marmont, have suffered severely during the late engagements in Germany. Of fourteen thousand, eight thousand have been killed or wounded, and our government is now busy to replace them, if Prussia does not prevent the future passage of recruits towards the German empire, by an invasion of our own territory, round which Prussian light troops have been hovering for near three weeks.

"Our finances are still in the most lamentable situation; nevertheless, our government is called upon to provide for the cloathing and equipping of 11,000 conscript, said to be on their march to this country. The contributions we at present pay are not five per cent. on our incomes, but ten per cent. on our capitals.

"Our political communications with Prussia, Russia, and Sweden, continue open.

"Among the anecdotes related here by the Orange party is one which, if true, does not bespeak the stability of our present order of things. It is said that our present grand pensionary Schimmelpinnick, has borrowed money upon all his property in this country to the full ammount of it, and remitted it to France to be laid out in French funds or in estates.

"The crisis must be near which will determine whether we are to continue enslaved and opressed by France, or to recover our former independence and prosperity, under the princes of the house of Orange."

SALEM, January 17.

FIRE!—Last evening at 7 o'clock a very alarming fire commenced in the house of Mr. Joseph Edwards, in Carpenter-street. The house being unfinished, and part of it used as a carpenter's shop, it was soon wrapt in flames, and no efforts could save it. From Mr. Edwards's it communicated to Mr. Chaplin's house, a little to the northward and westward, and to deacon Lamson's directly opposite, both of which were also totally destroyed. To this last building the ravages of the fire were restrained. A barn standing near it was pulled over with the fire hooks, which was a great means of preventing its further communication. Mr. Dix's house the next to the southward, and deacon Farrington's to the northward, were saved by uncommon exertions. Two or three persons were observed through the scene, amidst smoke and flames, upon the top of the latter, received water through the cuttle door, and dashing out the fire wherever it caught, and they did not quit their station till their gallantry was crowned with complete success. Fortunately it was almost calm, and, what little wind there was bore the cinders into the river, and the roofs of the houses they passed over were shielded by a coat of snow. A northwest wind would have spread ruin through the town. The scene was indeed awful and alarming, and it drew to our assistance the inhabitants of all the neighboring towns, with a generous alacrity. The sufferers are well known, as some of our most active and industrious citizens, and their situation excites a general sympathy. How the misfortunate originated, we have not learnt.

NEW-YORK, January 23.

The brig Dido, Stiness, of Marblehead, 100 days from Leghorn, via Martha's vineyard. Left at Leghorn, ship *Traveller, Kidall, of Baltimore*; and brig Molly, Adams, of Philadelphia, both at quarantine. October 13, off Cape-de-Gat, was boarded by the British brig Childres, who at the same time had captain Hasket on board, of the American ship Cincinnatus, of Salem, bound to Leghorn, and captain Haskett was ordered for Gibraltar. October 15, saw a brig board the Cincinnatus, again supposed to be the Childres, and then both brig and ship bore away and run to the eastward. October 24, off Cape de-Gat, spoke the brig Franklin, of Boston, 10 days from Malaga, for Philadelphia.—October 26, off Gibraltar, spoke with the Caroline, Tubbs, 12 days from Marseilles, for Bourbon. November 21, in long. 37, 30, the Danish ship Elizabeth, 100 days from Bourbon, for Copenhagen, short of bread. December 9, in lat. 27, long. 60, the brig George Washington, Edes, 12 days from Newburyport, for Barbados, and received a supply of some water and wood. December 17, in lat. 32, long. 67, the schooner John, Weeks, of Portland, 8 days out, who very humanely supplied captain Stiness with eight sawed sticks of wood, at 25 cents a piece! December 20, in lat. 31, 40, long. 67 spoke the ship Superb, Bosworth, of Bath, from Charleston, for Liverpool. December 21, in lat. 39, 20, long. 71 the ship Atlantic, 51 days from Amsterdam, for Philadelphia. January 3, in lat. 39, 40, long. 69, 30, spoke the ship Flora, Lee, 102 days from Leghorn, for New-York, short of provisions—supplied him with half a barrel of beef and some candles. On Sunday night previous to speaking the Flora, she shipped a sea which took the boat from the stern, and knocked a plank out of the long-boat; but received no other material damage. Twenty leagues N. N. W. of Montock point, spoke the brig Harriet, Smith, 2 days from New-London, for the West-Indies, with stock on board.

Cleared ship Moultrie, M'Clenachan, Bengal; brigs Ontario, Leningwell, Gua-