

"About 700 men soon after flocked to the standard of Gen. Thomas, and the convention being re-assembled in a small settlement to the rear of Baton Rouge, on lake Pontchartrain, issued their declaration of independence. The colours hoisted consists of a blue field with a narrow white border, and a large white star in the centre. I trust that after all, this star will find its way into the neighboring constellation.

"I formerly apprized you of the intrigues and speculations of Clarke at Orleans; he has been fairly bit, the biter is bitten; he and others, in the attempt to favor their speculations, have contributed to bring on this crisis, and produced effects the very reverse of what they had speculated upon. One of the convention who was in the same interest, one Wm. Cooper, and another who was one of the judges, appointed in the first instance, of the name of S. Brown, when they found that the objects they had in view were blasted, fled, collected about 80 men, erected a block house and intrenchment, declaring hostility to the convention; Thomas went against them with a small party, and on his approach Cooper and Brown again fled, and the men they had with them immediately joined Gen. Thomas. Brown has since surrendered himself, and is now detained prisoner in Baton Rouge.

"A Corps of 105 men, are now embodied, they are enlisted for six months only, their pay and allowances are upon the same footing as the U. States troops; indeed they conform in every respect to the institutions of the U. States. All is now quiet, and the convention must have formed their constitution about this time, which from what I have heard, will be an imitation of that of the U. S.

"There is a report in circulation that some persons are seeking to induce the convention to declare war against the U. States, the pretext of there people is, that this would compel the U. States to send a force to take possession; but I rather think it proceeds from the Orleans intriguer, and that it is the old trick in a new dress; an attempt to produce some title to the lands which Folch refused to let Clarke have, and for which Macdonough has given Clarke a bill of sale, with a bond and judgment; but these infamous schemes will not succeed, four-fifths of the population of the country lies within 20 miles of the Mississippi, between Baton Rouge and Pinkneyville; the greater part of the population are from the U. States, and a vast proportion from Kentucky. There are some, too many, attached to the British government, but these are principally in the back settlements. The above Wm. Cooper was a famous (or infamous) tory in 1776, and compelled to fly from N. Carolina; he is now once more an outlaw and I suppose gone to see his old friends at Pensacola.

"The people of Florida have now gone too far ever to submit to any king; but are very much disconcerted at not having received either aid or countenance from the U. States government, who, it was at least expected by the friends of the union, would at least lay claim to the sovereignty and protest against alienations, under the treaty of Paris. This sentiment was expressed by one of their most influential men, in a company, at which a friend of mine was present a few days ago. The people are desirous of nothing but the quiet-pursuit of their individual avocations, and protection from legalized outrage and oppression. Their facilities for trade are good, and the country fine; their cotton is of the best kind; and, in general, that part now settling between the Mississippi and Pearl river, is more desirable than the Mississippi territory.

"The following is the best general sketch I can give you of the leading men in that country; I have not been near enough, to know them all: Mr. John Rhea, president of the convention, is, I believe, an Irishman, but very long settled in America; formerly of the house of Cochrane and Rhea; he is now a planter, fond of domestic life; his friends had some difficulty in bringing him forward; his respectable private character, his amiable temper, and a sound understanding, rendered him necessary and important to assure the confidence of the inhabitants.

Andrew Steel, secretary to the convention, is a native of Pennsylvania, and was in Kentucky; he was originally in an ecclesiastical profession; but he, he relinquished the church,

and having studied medicine, he removed to St. Louis, in Upper Louisiana, I believe in 1805; in 1807 he removed to the neighborhood of Baton Rouge and settled there; he is a man of considerable learning and fine talents.

"Shepherd Brown, lately a superior judge, now a prisoner in Baton Rouge; he is from Virginia; settled in New Orleans about 12 years ago, had acquired an immense fortune; turned planter in West Florida, where he became connected with some notorious sharpers who have kept that country in turmoil and the government in discredit since the cession to us.

"Mr. Fulwar Skipwith, a native of Virginia, formerly consul general of the U. S. at Paris, he also is a judge appointed by the convention; I am not acquainted with his character or understanding but he is reputed to be a man of talents.

General Philemon Thomas, a native of Virginia, served in the Virginia legislature and was a general in the Militia there, he removed to Florida in 1806, is a good moral character, plain talents, but like all the Virginians fond of parade, so that he is quite at home.

"Col. John Balenger is from Kentucky, he is the person whom you noticed in your paper in 1808, as quoted by John Rowan, he is very little known.

"Capt. Benjamin Collins, commands in the fort of Baton Rouge, he also is a native of Virginia, removed to Kentucky when a child, and to Florida in 1806. The following are members of the convention and stand very high in the estimation of the people of West Florida.

"John W. Leonard, formerly a licut. in the United States navy.

"Thomas Lilly—not known by me, neither do I personally know—

"Philip Hickey, William Spiller, Edmund Haws, nor Benj. O. Williams.

"John H. Johnson is a native of Florida.

"Mr. Barrow, a native of Florida, a man of great wealth.

"John Mills, all I know of him that he is a constant and ardent reader of the Aurora.

"The following are of subordinate consideration.

"Joseph Thomas, I do not well know who he is; but he is not so generally respected or esteemed as the other members.

"Mr. Manuel Lopes, a Spaniard of Europe, he has taken no part since the fall of Delassus, but remains in the country.

"Wm. Cooper is a native of N. Carolina, a tory during the war, and always held to be a bad character—but he is off.

"Since writing the above, I have seen some account of affairs in Florida, in a Natchez paper of the 5th. The accuracy or inaccuracy of it, I cannot say, not having had time to read it. The election for members under the new constitution was to take place the 10th inst."

Copenhagen Jackson arrived at Portsmouth on the 19th of October in the Venus frigate. "Notwithstanding the precaution, says the London paper, taken by captain Crawford, five men and a boat's crew deserted from the Venus whilst she was in the Chesapeake. The five men jumped overboard in the night, and swam to the shore; the others took away the boat, deserted in day time, and reached the shore before they could be overtaken." [The history of this escape is pretty well known in Baltimore.] *Whig.*

The officers of general Stedford's brigade, gave on Thursday, an elegant entertainment to his excellency the commander in chief.—Amongst the many respectable characters who attended, we noticed our distinguished citizen general Armstrong. On the general's retiring, the company gave as a toast—"General Armstrong, the minister who has dared to speak American language at a foreign court."

*N. Y. paper.*

A London paper of Oct. 15th contains the following article:

"Lucien Bonaparte is, we understand, to be allowed to continue his voyage to America and that orders have been sent from the admiralty to afford him the necessary convoy thither."

It is understood that Lucien takes passage in the ship, Hercules, West, of Salem, and intends to proceed to Philadelphia, where his arrival may be daily executed. [English news.]