

ANNEX 25

WILLIAM HENRY FLAYHART III

MADRID, Dec. 14, 1804.

The most Excellent Signior Don Pedro Cevallos, First Secretary of State and of Dispatches, has communicated the Royal orders to all the Councils, of the date of the day before yesterday, of which the literal tenor is as follows:

"The Peace which Europe beheld with so much delight, re-established at Amiens, has, unfortunately for the welfare of nations, proved but of short duration. The rejoicings with which this happy event was celebrated upon all sides, were scarcely concluded, when the public satisfaction began to be troubled, and the advantages of the Peace to disappear. The Cabinets of London and Paris held Europe suspended, and agitated between its terrors and its hopes, seeing the event of the negotiations every day become more uncertain, until the moment that discord arrived at such an height, as to kindle between them the fire of a war, which most naturally extend itself to other powers; since it was very difficult for Spain and Holland, who had treated jointly with France at Amiens, and whose interests, and political relations are so reciprocally connected, to avoid finally taking part in the grievances and offences offered to their Ally.

"In these circumstances, his Majesty, supported by the most solid principles of a wise policy, preferred pecuniary subsidies to the contingent of troops and ships which he was bound to assist France, in virtue of the Treaty of Alliance in 1796; and as well by means of his Minister in London, as of the English Agents at Madrid, he gave the British Government to understand, in the most positive manner, his decided and firm resolution to remain neutral during the war; making no doubt that he should quickly have the satisfaction of seeing that these ingenuous assurances were well received by the Court of London.

"Nevertheless, that Cabinet, which must have resolved in silence before-hand, for its own particular ends, upon the renovation of the war with Spain, and which it was always able to declare, not with the forms and solemnities prescribed by the Law of Nations, but by means of positive aggressions, which should turn to its own profit, sought the most frivolous pretexts to bring into doubt the conduct of Spain, which was truly neutral, and to give demonstrations, at the same time, to the desires of his Britannic Majesty, to preserve the peace, all with the intention of gaining time, cajoling the Spanish Government, and holding in uncertainty the opinion of the English nation upon its own premeditated and unjust designs, which could in no manner be approved by it. Thus it is, that in London it appeared artfully to accept various reclamations from Spanish individuals, which were addressed to it; while its agents in Madrid magnified the pacific intentions of their own Sovereign: But they never shewed themselves satisfied with the frankness and friendship with which all their notes were answered, rather anxious for proclaiming and magnifying armaments which had no existence, and pretending, contrary to the most positive protests on the part of Spain, that the pecuniary succours given to France were not merely an equivalent for the troops and ships which were stipulated in the Treaty of 1796, but an indefinite and immense stock, which did not permit them to consider Spain in any other light than as a principal party in the war.

"Moreover, as there was not time entirely to banish the illusion under which they laboured, they exacted, as the precise conditions upon which they would consider Spain as neutral, the cessation of every armament in her ports, and a prohibition of the sale of prizes brought into them. And, notwithstanding that both of these conditions, although urged in a tone superlatively haughty and unusual in political transactions, were immediately complied with, and religiously observed, they persisted, nevertheless, to manifest their want of confidence, and they quitted Madrid with eagerness, immediately after receiving dispatches from their Court, of which they did not communicate a particle of the contents.

"The context which results from all this between the conduct of the Cabinets of London and Madrid, must be sufficient to shew clearly to all Europe, the bad faith, and the secret and perverse aims of the English Ministry; even if they had not manifested them by the abominable crime of the surprise, battle, and capture of the four Spanish frigates, which, navigating in the full security which peace inspires, were fraudulently attacked in consequence of orders from the English Government, signed in the very moment in which it was faithfully exacting conditions for the prolongation

most perfect hospitality, and were experiencing the fidelity with which Spain was proving to England the good faith of her engagements, and how firm her resolutions were to maintain her neutrality—those very ships carried, concealed in the bosom of their Commanders, the unjust orders of the English Cabinet for assaulting Spanish property on the sea—ingulfous orders, and profusely circulated, since all its vessels of war on the seas of America and Europe, were already detaining and carrying into its harbours as many Spanish vessels as they met with, without respecting even the cargoes of grain which were coming from all parts to succour a faithful nation, in a year of the greatest calamity.

"Barbarous orders, since they deserve no other name; to sink every Spanish ship under an hundred tons; to burn those which they found on shore on the coast; and to make prize of, and carry to Malta, those only which exceeded an hundred tons. The Master of a *luz*, of Valencia, of fifty-four tons, has made this declaration, that he effected his escape in his launch upon the 16th of November, on the coast of Catalonia, when his vessel was sunk by an English vessel, whose Captain took from him his papers and his flag; and informed him, that he had received these express instructions from his Court.

"In spite of such atrocious actions, which proved to perfect evidence the covetous and hostile views which the English Cabinet had meditated, it was still able to carry on further its perfidious system of blinding the public opinion, alleging, for this purpose, that the Spanish frigates had not been carried into the English ports in quality of prizes, but as being detained until Spain should give the desired securities, that she would observe the strictest neutrality.

"And what greater securities could or ought Spain to give? What civilized nation, until this hour, has made use of means so unjust and violent, to exact securities of another? Although England should find, at last, any claim to exact from Spain, in what manner could she justify it, after a similar atrocity? What satisfaction could she be able to give for the lamentable destruction of the frigate *Mercator*, with all its cargo, its equipage, and the great number of distinguished passengers who have perished, the innocent victims of a policy so detestable!

"Spain would not comply with what she owes to herself, nor think herself able to maintain her well-known honour and dignity amongst the greatest Powers of Europe, were she any longer to shew herself insensible to such manifest outrages, and did not take care to revenge them with the nobleness and energy which belong to her character.

"Animated with these sentiments, the magnanimous breast of the King, after having exhausted (in order to preserve the peace), all the resources compatible with the dignity of his Crown, finds himself in the hard predicament of making war upon the King of England, upon his subjects and people, omitting the formalities of style by a solemn declaration and publication, owing to the English Cabinet's having begun and continued to make the war without declaring it.

"In consequence, after having given orders for an embargo, by way of reprisal, upon all English property in his dominions, and that the most convenient instructions, both for his own defence, and the offence of the enemy, should be circulated to his Viceroy, Captains-General, and great Officers of the Marine, his Majesty has commanded his Minister in London to retire, with all the Spanish Legation; and his Majesty does not doubt, that all his subjects, inflamed with that just indignation with which the violent proceedings of England must inspire them, will not omit any of all those means to which their valour shall prompt them, of co-operating with his Majesty towards the most complete vengeance for the insult offered to the Spanish flag. For this purpose, he invites them to arm corazas against Great-Britain, and to possess themselves, with resolution, of her ships and property, by every possible means; his Majesty promising them the greatest promptitude and celerity in the adjudication of prizes, upon the sole proof of their being English property; and his Majesty expressly renouncing, in favour of the captors, whatever part of the value of the prizes he had, upon other occasions, reserved to himself, so that they shall enjoy them in their full value, without the smallest discount.

"And finally, his Majesty has resolved, that what is contained in the premises, shall be inserted in the public papers, that it may come to the knowledge of all; and also, that it shall be transmitted to the Ambassadors and Ministers of the

BOXING

Notwithstanding the unpropitious state of the weather, yesterday morning, an unusual number of the amateurs of boxing, flocked down to Wood-Green, about two miles North of Highgate, to witness a pitched battle, between the well-known *George Maddox*, who is almost in his 50th year; and a young man of the name of *Cribb*, about 29, who never before entered the lists. He is employed at Wapping as a Coal-heaver, and is well known among the fraternity by the name of "The Black Diamond." The second to the Old Man was *Tom Jones*; and the Black Diamond was seconded by *Black Sam*. They entered the ring about twelve o'clock, and on stripping, appearances were much in favour of the youth: he is a well-made man, stands about five feet ten inches, and shews a great deal of bone; Maddox is two inches shorter.

The first Round consisted more of sparring than fighting, the Diamond struck first, but no damage was done on either side.

The fourth Round was well contested, in which Maddox had considerably the advantage, and finished it with closing his antagonist's right eye. Odds in favour of the old man, two to one.

From this to the thirteenth Round, nothing of consequence happened; each fought as hard as he could, and endeavoured to outdo his antagonist by standing best up; but when this period arrived, the Old Man finding that his antagonist was a *bold* man, and not to be beat by chance of fatigue, used every effort to deprive him of his other eye, which he severely hurt in the fourth Round, at which time they had exactly fought one hour. Four to one against the Old Man.

From the fourth to the fifty-second Round there was nothing but hard fighting, and the odds changed but little, until the fifty-third, when the Old Man hit the Black Diamond a severe blow a little below his left eye, which nearly deprived him of his sight altogether. They had now one hour and a half of severe fighting exactly. The battle continued, and every Round until the sixth the Old Man continued to lose ground, when some of his colleagues knocked up another fight at one side of the ring, and his seconds led him off, declaring it to be a drawn battle; the seconds of the Black Diamond demanded the purse, which being refused, a general engagement instantly ensued, in which *Colo*, *Heldin*, *Tom Jones*, *Black Sam*, *Dutch Sam*, and several other gentlemen of the fist, took a very active share, and in which some one treacherously cut the Black Diamond on the head with a stick.

Order being again restored, the young man demanded either his prize, or that his antagonist should again come to the combat, this being so fair a proposal, it baffled the ingenuity of the friends of Maddox, and rather than lose their money, the Old Man again came from a backney-coach, when the battle was renewed, and lasted sixteen rounds more, making in all seventy-six, which were fought in two hours and twelve minutes.

The last sixteen rounds, the Old Man fought hard; and about the fourth, some slight hopes were entertained of his winning; but the strength and vigour of youth prevailed. The purse was made up by some gentlemen *antwartz*, twenty guineas for the winner, and five for the loser.

The Black Diamond having only just entered the list, has yet but few friends in it; in consequence of which he experienced much unfair play; he is an excellent sparrer, but fights rather round.

PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND.

Copy of a Report laid, by the Court of Directors of the East India Company, before the General Court of Proprietors, on Friday, Dec. 19, 1804, relative to Prince of Wales Island:—

"From the first acquisition of the Island of Panang (now Prince of Wales's Island), in the year 1780, the Government appointed for it has been considered as of a temporary nature. It has always been an intention to establish a regular system of administration for it; but from various causes, that system has not yet been formed, although, from the spirit of British rule, even when imperfectly administered, industry, enterprise, and improvement have appeared to a considerable extent on that island, and its population, produce, and commerce are already very respectable, yet the growth of the Colony has in many ways been stunted, by the want of regular government and laws, and as the inhabitants have become more numerous, that want has been more felt and complained of.

"The position of this island, its climate, its fertility, its harbours, its produce of large timber, its contiguity to Pegue, which contains the most abundant teak forests in Asia, have long pointed it out as an acquisition of very great importance, in a commercial and political view, being placed in a most favourable situation for an emporium of commerce in the Eastern Seas, and for becoming a commanding station for the rendezvous, resting, and supply of his Majesty's navy, required for the protection of the British possessions in the eastern parts of Asia.

"It has from these causes, been in the contemplation of the Court, for some years, to place the island under the same form of Government as the Company's other settlements in India enjoy, and to make it dependent immediately on the Company at home. By this means, the Court expect that the benefits of fixed Government and Laws will be established, and Industry, commerce, and general reprob be thereby encouraged.

"The Court's attention has lately been called to this subject, not only by the general reasons already mentioned, but by the necessity which the renewal of war has evinced, of putting this important station in a state of security from our enemies, who, even by a predatory attack, might destroy the flourishing labours of many years.

"On these grounds alone, a proposition for new modelling the Government would, at this

possible. Of the principle of that plan, the Committee have no hesitation to declare their approbation. They fully feel the great importance of the object; they have tangible hopes of the practicability of it, at least to a certain extent; and they know that Court are always willing to afford the utmost aid in their power to the public measures of Government. They have, therefore, no doubt that the Court will be disposed to give a full and fair trial to this laudible plan, confident that Government will liberally consider every species of expense to which the Company may thus be subjected. With respect to expense, the Committee will, of course, recommend all due caution in incurring it, and carefully feeling the way in the scheme of ship-building, before any large outlay is made on that account; local superintendance will, therefore, be necessary, and hence it becomes expedient to proceed to the establishment of the new Government immediately, in order to which, and to the other great object, the following General Resolutions are now passed by the Committee:—

"1st. That it is highly expedient to establish a regular Government in Prince of Wales's Island, on the model of the Company's other Indian Governments, and subject immediately to the Company, as the other subordinate Governments of India are.

"2d. That the scheme of erecting a Prince of Wales's Island, a naval arsenal for building and repairing King's ships, appears in this Committee of high importance, and very promising; and that the Company ought to act for Government in establishing and managing such an arsenal, in the manner proposed by the First Lord of the Admiralty, care being taken to secure to the Company a due reimbursement of their outlay on this account."

"The opposers of the new establishment on Prince of Wales's Island, first made their attack, by calling the whole a corrupt job. This scandalous calumny, which has been industriously circulated, was again and again refuted in open Court, and they have not durst to repeat it in print. But now they bring forward other arguments, if they may be so called, which were also completely exposed by different speakers; although they have the effrontery to say, that not even an attempt was made to answer them. In fact, the opposition stirred up against the proposed measure, arises, in the first place, from faction, so plain in its language, as to require no exposition; and in the next, from some alarm taken for private interests, in other parts of India, which it may be supposed, though perhaps without reason, will be affected by the new establishment.

The high importance of that Island, in a commercial and political view, was demonstrated, to the satisfaction of a great majority of the General Court, and admitted by those respectable Proprietors who proposed an amendment, which did not go to defeat the plan, but to strengthen the hands of the Directors, in dealing with Government about the expense of the proposed naval arsenal.

SHIP NEWS.

PLYMOUTH, JAN. 5.
The *Amphion*, of 26 tons, Capt. Sutton, now fitting for sea service, is nearly ready for sea, and has gone down the harbour into the Sound, to be refitted. Came in the Spanish ship packet *El Feris de Cerde*, of 16 tons, and 755 men from the Havana, bound to Coram, detained on the 24th ult. by his Majesty's Frigate *Mercury*, with a fleet of 16 vessels, from the coast of Wales, with a fleet under convoy; the *Mercury*, of 92 tons, from the Channel fleet; the *Santa Barbara*, of 80 tons, from a cruise; the *Flores*, of 48 tons, from the West Indies.

PORTSMOUTH, JAN. 6.
The *Haven* brig, Captain *Lawson*, has made the signal for a convey to the Admiralty. Governor *Brayley* this day embarked on board the *Princess of Wales*, Captain *Severn* which will sail to-morrow for Cork and the West-Indies. Arrived the *Sybil* brig, Captain *Severn*, which was driven ashore at Guernsey, is repaired, and the *Mercury* private vessel, Lieutenant *McWhirre*, for the Downs. Arrived the *Felimon* lugger, from off Dieppe, after a most distressing engagement.

DOVER, JAN. 6.
The lively revenue cutter, Captain *Sutton*, has just this port a fine large smuggling cutter, named the *Sheep*, which she took yesterday morning, on board. Five casks of brandy, and a large quantity of tobacco. The *Sheep* cutter has come into this harbour in safety.

A fog, unusually thick, prevailed at Portsmouth, last Wednesday, when (and it should be noticed as a novel effort of nautical zeal and skill) the *Prince of Wales*, of 98 guns, was led out of the harbour of Spithead, by a drum being beat from the ship, and beat at the different bays, where the atmosphere was so dense, that she could not distinctly be seen even when passing the platform.

Mr. THOMAS, of the Company of Canadians, now at Plymouth, was on Friday found drowned in Falmouth harbour.

DUEL.—On Friday last a meeting took place near Plymouth, between Captain G— and Lieutenant R—, both of the Royal Navy, when after exchanging shots, happily without effect, the seconds interfered, and amicably adjusted the dispute. The following is said to have been the cause of the duel: Lieut. R. had dreamed three successive nights, that a certain Number would be a Prize of Twenty five Thousand Pounds in the ensuing Lottery, which he mentioned to Captain G. but never intimated any intention of having that Ticket; he, however, wrote up to his agent in London to procure it, who found the Captain was before-hand with him, as he had got it the day before, and refused to give it up. By the intercession of the seconds, it is settled that they are each to have half the Ticket, and as they are both very meritorious Officers, we sincerely wish they may have one of the numerous Capital Prizes with which the Scheme abounds.

CORN EXCHANGE, Monday, Jan. 7.
We had to-day but few fresh arrivals of Wheat, our supply however, was very great from what remained on board on former days; the sales were heavy, and were concluded in our last, the prices were still lower; a few of the finest old supplies of the present price, had they not been sold, would have been sold at a higher price. Both sorts of Beans remained their price, and were still in great demand. Flour had a heavy sale at a further decrease of full half a penny. It may be relied on that the trade looks still downwards.

PRICE OF STOCKS.

STATE PAPER.

SPAIN.

MADRID, Dec. 14, 1801.

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"The Peace which Europe beheld with so much delight, re-established at Amiens, has, unfortunately for the welfare of nations, proved but of short duration. The rejoicings with which this happy event was celebrated upon all sides, were scarcely concluded, when the public satisfaction began to be troubled, and the advantages of the Peace to disappear. The Cabinets of London and Paris held Europe suspended, and agitated between its terrors and its hopes, seeing the event of the negotiations every day become more uncertain, until the moment that discord arrived at such an height, as to kindle between them the fire of a war, which must naturally extend itself to other powers; since it was very difficult for Spain and Holland, who had treated jointly with France at Amiens, and whose interests and political relations are so reciprocally connected, to avoid finally taking part in the grievances and offences offered to their Ally:

"In these circumstances, his MAJESTY, supported by the most solid principles of a wise policy, preferred pecuniary subsidies to the contingent of troops and ships with which he was bound to assist France, in virtue of the Treaty of Alliance in 1796: and as well by means of his Minister in London, as of the English Agents at Madrid, he gave the British Government to understand, in the most positive manner, his decided and firm resolution to remain neutral during the war; making no doubt that he should quickly have the satisfaction of seeing that these ingenuous assurances were well received by the Court of London.

"Nevertheless, that Cabinet, which must have resolved in silence before-hand, for its own particular ends, upon the renovation of the war with Spain, and which it was always able to declare, not with the form and solemnities prescribed by the Law of Nations, but by means of positive aggressions, which should turn to its own profit, sought the most frivolous pretexts to bring into doubt the conduct of Spain, which was truly neutral, and to give demonstrations, at the same time, to the desires of his BRITANNIC MAJESTY, to preserve the peace, all with the intention of gaining time, cajoling the Spanish Government, and holding in uncertainty the opinion of the English nation upon its own premeditated and unjust designs, which could in no manner be approved by it. Thus it is, that in London it appeared artfully to accept various reclamations from Spanish individuals, which were addressed to it; while its agents in Madrid magnified the pacific intentions of their own Sovereign: But they never shewed themselves satisfied with the frankness and friendship with which all their notes were answered, rather anxious for proclaiming and magnifying armaments which had no existence, and pretending, contrary to the most positive protests on the part of Spain, that the pecuniary succours given to France were not merely an equivalent for the troops and ships which were stipulated in the Treaty of 1796,

most perfect hospitality, and were experiencing the fidelity with which Spain was proving to England the good faith of her engagements, and how firm her resolutions were to maintain her neutrality—those very ships carried, concealed in the bosom of their Commanders, the unjust orders of the English Cabinet for assaulting Spanish property on the seas—iniquitous orders, and profusely circulated, since all its vessels of war on the seas of America and Europe, were already detaining and carrying into its harbours as many Spanish vessels as they met with, without respecting even the cargoes of grain which were coming from all parts to succour a faithful nation, in a year of the greatest calamity.

"Barbarous orders, since they deserve no other name; to sink every Spanish ship under an hundred tons; to burn those which they found on shore on the coast; and to make prize of, and carry to Malta, those only which exceeded an hundred tons. The Master of a *lava*, of Valencia, of fifty-four tons, has made this declaration, that he effected his escape in his launch upon the 16th of November, on the coast of Catalonia, when his vessel was sunk by an English vessel, whose Captain took from him his papers and his flag; and informed him, that he had received these express instructions from his Court.

"In spite of such atrocious actions, which proved to perfect evidence the covetous and hostile views which the English Cabinet had meditated, it was still able to carry on further its perfidious system of blinding the public opinion, alleging, for this purpose, that the Spanish frigates had not been carried into the English ports in quality of prizes, but as being detained until Spain should give the desired securities, that she would observe the strictest neutrality.

"And what greater securities could or ought Spain to give? What civilized nation, until this hour, has made use of means so unjust and violent, to exact securities of another? Although England should find, at last, any claim to exact from Spain, in what manner could she justify it, after a similar atrocity? What satisfaction could she be able to give for the lamentable destruction of the frigate *Atrevida*, with all its cargo, its equipage, and the great number of distinguished passengers who have perished, the innocent victims of a policy so detestable?

"Spain would not comply with what she owes to herself, nor think herself able to maintain her well-known honour and dignity amongst the greatest Powers of Europe, were she any longer to shew herself insensible to such manifest outrages, and did not take care to revenge them with the nobleness and energy which belong to her character.

"Animated with these sentiments, the magnanimous breast of the King, after having exhausted (in order to preserve the peace), all the resources compatible with the dignity of his Crown, finds himself in the hard predicament of making war upon the King of ENGLAND, upon his subjects and people, omitting the formalities of style by a solemn declaration and publication, owing to the English Cabinet's having begun and continued to make the war without declaring it.

"In consequence, after having given orders for an embargo, by way of reprisal, upon all English property in his dominions, and that the most convenient instructions, both for his own defence, and