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TOGETHER WITH


H. NILES, EDITOR.

THE PAST—THE PRESENT—FOR THE FUTURE.

FROM MARCH TO SEPTEMBER, 1822—VOL. XXII.

OR, VOLUME X.—NEW SERIES.

Baltimore:
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WATER-STREET, EAST OF SOUTH-STREET.
Independence of Haiti.

The following communication, however strong prejudice and the force of education and circumstances may be, cannot but be read with interest.

From the Boston Centinel of August 10.

PRESIDENT OF HAITI.

(Having learned that one of our respectable citizens had received a letter from president Boyer, of Haiti, on the subject of the acknowledgment of the independence of that republic and of commercial engagements between her and the United States, we have requested a copy for publication, and the receiver of it, has made his personal disqualification to the publicity of a complimentary document yielding his desire to afford information to the public. The purport of this letter will show, that these wonders who have so long struggled for liberty and independence, who know and will justly appreciate their rights; and that, for cleanliness of accusation, correctness of political morality, and just views of national interest, this letter is equal to any white's production. The mind of man in bursting the fetters of tyranny, awakes to new life and energy, and, as asserting the chartered rights of nature, evinces an elevation unknown to those in thraldom. Genius, bravery, and high moral attainments, are confined to no zone, nor color, but where freedom is, there will they flourish. The people of Haiti are not fully understood—but the prejudices against them are fast wearing away, and the day, we trust, is not far distant when the United States will acknowledge their independence, with the full consent, not only of the philanthropist, but of the sagacious statesman.)

[DUPLEX.]

REPUBLIC OF HAITI.

Jean Pierre Boier, president of Haiti, to Mr. Hedge, at North Salem, Massachusetts.

AT PORT au Prince, 16th Aug. 1821,
19th year of independence.

I have received, sir, the letter of 9th April last, which you have been pleased to address to me. I have read it with the greatest interest which it inspires, and all the interest which the sentiments it inspires, dictated. I cannot but applaud the manifestation of zeal and philanthropy which animates you and the wish which you have formed of seeing your government, and those of Europe, acknowledge the independence of the republic of Haiti.

For the interests of humanity and of national morality, it should be wished that the rights of the people might be recognized throughout all the civilized world, and that relations, reciprocally advantageous, might be established between states destined to exchange the products of their soil. Considered in this point and view, it cannot be denied that Haiti is of great importance in the scale of commerce. It is then to be hoped that time and experience, enlightening governments upon their true interests, and destroying all prejudices founded upon trifling and absurd considerations, will produce the reign of a wise and reasonable policy, and the peaceable agreements to favor all which can contribute to the development of the human faculties, the Haytiens will always be disposed to listen to every proposition, officially made, or from individuals, which may be made to them, with the view of effecting the establishment of useful relations. At the same time that they desire to establish a good understanding with states which may have commercial relations with them, they think, that before making any diplomatic communication, tending to bring about the happy event of their admission, it would be proper that they should know what are the dispositions of those governments towards them, and in what manner a step taken with this view would be received.

As to what concerns particularly the government of the United States, I am willing to believe, that the obstacles which until now, have prevented it from pronouncing itself in favor of the independence of the republic of Haiti, will disappear from the moment it shall yield weak considerations to the honor of rendering a brilliant homage to the principles to which it is indebted for its political existence.

The friends of liberty in the United States, who interest themselves particularly in the fate of the Haytiens, may, by continuing to exercise a happy influence upon the public opinion by their writings, ascertain the intentions of their government as to what concerns the acknowledgment of the independence of Haiti.

As to you, sir, who are animated by so noble a zeal for every thing which can contribute to the happiness of mankind, and who have so well proved the lively interest which you take in the cause of the Haytiens, by the useful and judicious observations which you have addressed to me, receive, with my thanks, for the good dispositions which you entertain towards us, the assurance of my distinguished consideration.

"BOYER."

Internal Improvement.

VIEWS of the president of the United States on the subject of internal improvement.

[Concluded.]

To the objection that the United States have no power, in any instance, which is not complete to all the purpose, to which it may be made instrumental, and, in consequence, that they have no right to appropriate any portion of the public money to internal improvements, because they have not the right of sovereignty and jurisdiction over them when made; a full answer has, it is presumed, been already given. It may, however, be proper to add, that, if this objection was well founded, it would not be confined to the simple case of internal improvements, but would apply to others of high importance. Congress have a right to regulate commerce. To give effect to this power, it becomes necessary to establish custom houses in every state along the coast, and in many parts of the interior. The vast amount of goods imported, and the duties to be performed to accommodate the merchants and secure the revenue, make it necessary that spacious buildings should be erected, especially in the great towns, for their reception. This, it is manifest, could best be performed under the direction of the general government. Have congress the right to seize the property of individuals, if they should refuse to sell it, in quarters best adapted to the purpose, to have it valued, and to take it at the value? Have the congresses, which are the courts of first instance within those buildings? Neither of these claims has ever been set up, nor could it, as