

THE LIFE  
PUBLIC SERVICES, ADDRESSES  
AND LETTERS  
OF  
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MR. SAMUEL BAYARD TO MR. BOUDINOT.

LONDON 14 March 1795.

MY DEAR SIR:—

I have seldom in my life experienced so lively a satisfaction as your two letters of the 15 and 20 Dec'r gave me. Your "Political sketch" although "hasty" furnished me with information both new and interesting. In return I intended giving you by the present conveyance as full view of the state of these belligerent powers and more particularly of this country as my information would allow.

I fear that I shall not be able to do as satisfactorily as after Monday next when I purpose attending the House of Commons to hear the debate on the motion Mr. Fox is then to make on the state of the nation. Some information however I can communicate which may prove interesting.

Long before the arrival of this letter you will have learned the fate of Holland and the conduct of the French there.

The revolution in the U. Provinces has been highly honorable to those who have conducted it. As yet no blood has been shed. No proscription of persons and no confiscation of property except that of the Stadt-holders. This has been demanded and in part received by the national Commissioners of France as the price of their exertions in favor of Dutch Liberty.

By the last accounts from Holland it appears

that the people are proceeding with great calmness and judgment in the formation of their new Govern't.

The Provisional Representatives are employed in destroying ancient abuses and in putting the country in safety against any foreign attacks. They have lately ordered all the citizens between the age of 18 and 60 to be enrolled as a national guard. They have directed their attention to their marine and have taken energetic measures to ensure the protection of their foreign possessions. Their policy appears to be prudent and enlightened and is calculated to wipe away the slanders that have been thrown on republican government in consequence of the late cruelties in France under Robespierre's administration. In this great Republic you will find by the public papers, that the reign of justice and order has become pretty firmly established. We have just learned that the Commission of 21 have reported on Barrere Collot-d'Herbois Belland Varrenne and Vadier, and the Convention amidst great applauses have decreed them to be tried before the Revolutionary Tribunal. In the present disposition of the people of Paris there is said to be little chance of their escaping the guillotine. In the morning Chronicle of Thursday (12 inst.) we had the speech of Boissy D'Anglas on the relations of the Republic with other Powers, which is universally praised here, as one of the finest speeches ever delivered in a legislative assembly. It was

unanimously adopted by the Convention as containing a just representation of their views and principles.

The report of a treaty having been concluded between the King of Prussia and France is generally believed here. It is supposed also that the Emperor is negotiating with the French, his loan stagnates and on change the idea is that it will not be accepted.

In Spain things are at a stand. The severity of the late winter has put a stop to military operations there but with the Spring it is believed that the French will either conclude a peace or overrun the whole country :

Ireland at this time presents a scene interesting to the friend of mankind—to explain the late disturbances in this country it is necessary to go back for several years.

When Mr. Pitt came into administration he was supported by the Marquis of Buckingham and all his connections. They have ever since adhered strongly to Mr. Pitt. In return the Minister has uniformly paid the greatest attention to the Marquis, and to his friends, wherever he could introduce them into place, it has been done, except as to the Marquis himself. His eye has been fixed on the place of First Lord of the Admiralty—for this place he has long been qualifying himself by the utmost attention.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Family letters.