

On Thursday the 19th of June I received a Deputation from the Assembly, presenting to me a Copy of the Act of Union, and inviting me to return with them, that the Crown might be tendered to His Majesty by the Assembly itself, in the most solemn and authentic Form.

I accompanied the Deputation; and, in Presence of the Assembly, received from the President, his Excellency General Paoli, in the Name of the People, the Tender of the Crown and Sovereignty of Corsica to His Majesty.

His Excellency's Address to me is contained in the Minutes.

After addressing the Assembly in a Manner which appeared to me suitable to the Occasion, I pronounced, in His Majesty's Name, the Acceptation of the Crown, according to the Articles contained in the Act of Union.

I then took, in His Majesty's Name, the Oath prescribed, "to maintain the Liberties of Corsica, according to the Constitution and the Laws."

The President then took and administered to the Assembly the Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity; after which I signed and sealed the Acceptation annexed to both Copies of the Act of Union, one of which I have now the Honour to transmit.

The Day following (Yesterday) *Te Deum* was sung in the Cathedral, accompanied by the Discharge of Artillery; and Prayers were offered up for His Majesty, by the Name of George the Third, King of Great Britain and Corsica. In the Evening the Town was illuminated, and the People demonstrated their Loyalty and Joy by every Means in their Power.

The Assembly has voted, this Day, an Address to His Majesty, expressive of their Gratitude, Loyalty and Attachment; and have deputed Four respectable Gentlemen to present it to His Majesty in London.

I cannot conclude this Dispatch without offering my very humble Congratulations on the fortunate Termination of this important and interesting Affair, as once advantageous, as I trust, to the Contracting Parties, honorable to His Majesty, and gratifying, in every View, to his Royal Feelings, as well as to those of his British Subjects.

The true Foundation and Basis of this Transaction has rested on the Confidence inspired by His Majesty's princely Virtues, and the exalted Reputation enjoyed throughout the World by the British Nation for every honorable and generous Quality. The People of Corsica have, on one Hand, done Homage to those Virtues, by confiding and tendering, even solicitously, the Sovereignty of their Country to His Majesty; they have, on the other Hand, heightened the Value of that Confidence, by evincing that it comes from Men who have rejected, with Horror, the poisonous and counterfeit Liberty of France, without being ignorant or careless of a well-ordered and constitutional Freedom.

His Majesty has acquired a Crown; those who bestow it have acquired Liberty. The British Nation has extended it's political and commercial Sphere by the Accession of Corsica: Corsica has added new Securities to her ancient Possessions, and has opened fresh Fields of Prosperity and Wealth, by her liberal Incorporation with a vast and powerful Empire.

This Dispatch will be delivered to you by Mr. Petriconi, a young Gentleman of this Country, who has served with Distinction throughout the War, under the Orders of General Paoli, and particularly in the Sieges of Bastia and St. Fiorenzo.

I beg Leave to refer to him for any Particulars which I may have omitted, and to recommend him to the Honor of your Attention during his Residence in England.

I have the Honor to be, &c.
(Signed) GILBERT ELLIOT.

[TRANSLATION.]

GENERAL PAOLI to his COUNTRYMEN.

Furiani, May 1, 1794.

Most dearly beloved Countrymen,

THE unabated Confidence with which you have honoured me, and the Solicitude I have ever had to promote your Interests and to ensure your Liberty, prescribe to me the Obligation of stating to you the present Situation of Public Affairs.

You remember how many cruel and treacherous Arrangements were made by the Three Commissioners of the French Convention who were sent over to our Island; and in what Manner they attempted to concentrate the Powers of Government in a small Number of their Satellites, destined to be the Instruments of those Violences and Cruelties, which were to be exercised against all well-meaning Persons, and against the Nation at large.

The unjust Decree which ordered my Arrest, and my Transfer to the Bar of the Assembly, was the first Attempt directed by them against your Liberty. You unanimously declared yourselves, and humbly remonstrated against an Act designed to facilitate the Execution of your Enemy's Plots: Finally, you, in a General Assembly, declared your Indignation at this Act of Injustice; and you adopted, at that Moment, such Resolutions as were consistent with your Dignity and with the Public Welfare.

I accepted, as a distinguishing Proof of your Confidence, the Commission you were pleased to confer upon me, for providing, in those critical Circumstances, for the Maintenance of your Safety and Liberty: Anxious that you should not be exposed to any Danger, unless Indignation and Necessity commanded you to resist, I tried every Means which Prudence and Moderation suggested to me at that Time; but neither your just Reclamations, nor my Innocence, were sufficient to recall to Sentiments of Rectitude and Humanity a violent and sanguinary Faction, irritated by the noble Resistance you had made, and resolved to accomplish your Destruction; for which Purpose the Subversion of the Government was ordered, and the Members of it proscribed, conjointly with many other zealous Patriots: The Nation was declared in a State of Rebellion; Orders were given to reduce it by Force of Arms, and to treat it with the bloody Rigour of Revolutionary Laws.

Roused by these Causes; by the endless Succession of Destruction and Ruin, which characterizes the Conduct of those Persons who exercise the Powers of Government in France, and by the Destruction of all Religion and of every Form of Worship, enforced and proclaimed among the People with unexampled Impiety, every Corsican felt the Necessity of separating from the French, and of guarding against the poisonous Influence of their Errors.

The Acts of Hostility committed by the French, and those Corsican Traitors who had taken Refuge in the Garrisons of Calvi, St. Fiorenzo and Bastia, compelled us to repel them by Force of Arms. I have seen, with infinite Satisfaction, during the Course of a whole Year, that your ancient Bravery and Attachment to your Country were not in the least diminished. In various Encounters the Enemy have been defeated, although numerous and supported by Artillery: You have treated the Prisoners, taken in the Heat of Battle, with Generosity; whilst the Enemy have, in cold Blood, massacred our Prisoners, who were so unfortunate as to fall into their Hands: In all these Agitations we have kept ourselves united, and exempt from the Horrors of Licentiousness and Anarchy; a happy Preface of your future Fate, and an irrefragable Proof that you are deserving of true Liberty,

and.