

and that you will know how to preserve it unshaken by Licentiousness and Dissentions.

In such a State of Things, a becoming Diffidence made me, nevertheless, apprehend that the Enemy would increase in Force, and attempt to carry into Execution the destructive Plans they had formed against you: Under these Circumstances I felt the Necessity of Foreign Assistance; and, in Conformity to your general Wishes, and to the public Opinion and universal Expectation, I had Recourse to the King, and to the generous and powerful Nation, which had, on other Occasions, protected the Remains of our Liberty; a Measure dictated by the public Safety, and which I took only when every conciliatory Offer had been obstinately rejected, and every Hope of obtaining Moderation or Justice from the French Convention was extinct.

His Britannick Majesty's Arms have made their Appearance in your Support: His Ships and Troops are employed with you to drive from our Country the common Enemy, and the Blood of Britons and Corsicans is conjointly shed for the Liberty of this Island. Our Enterprize has already been crowned with happy Events, and draws near to a fortunate Completion.

This pleasing Aspect of Affairs has determined me to turn my Thoughts to the most efficacious Means of establishing a permanent Freedom, and of securing our Island from the various Events which, till this Moment, have kept us in Agitation.

The Protection of the King of Great Britain, and a political Union with the British Nation, of which the Prosperity and Power, uninterrupted for Ages, are to the Universe Proofs of the Excellency of it's Government, have appeared to me to accord with the Happiness and Safety of Corsica. The universal Opinion on this Head, evinced by the unreserved Inclination you have shewn, and strengthened by your Gratitude for Benefits received, appears fortunately to concur with mine. I have therefore made the proper Overtures to His Majesty the King of Great Britain, with a View to establish this desirable Union.

With a Satisfaction never to be erased from my Mind, I now behold our Wishes anticipated, and our Hopes realized: The Memorial which has been transmitted to me by their Excellencies, the Admiral commanding the Fleet, and the Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty, affords us the Opportunity of establishing this Union in the Manner best adapted to the Benefit of both Nations, and to the Honour of His Majesty. I cannot better make known to you their Excellencies Sentiments, than by a faithful Translation of their Memorial.

The Nature of the present Address does not permit me to enlarge upon the Benefits of this Union, which tends to conciliate the most extensive Political and Civil Liberty with personal Security. You are convinced of these Truths, and will regulate your Conduct accordingly: I nevertheless avail myself of this Opportunity to declare to you, that, in taking the English Constitution for your Model, you will proceed upon the most solid Principles that Philology, Policy, and Experience, have ever been known to combine for the Happiness of a great People, reserving to yourselves the Power of adapting them to your own peculiar Situation, Customs, and Religion, without being exposed, hereafter, to the Venality of a Traitor, or to the Ambition of a powerful Usurper.

A Matter of such Importance ought nevertheless to be discussed, and agreed to by you, in a General Assembly, at which I entreat you to assist by your Deputies, on Sunday the 8th of the ensuing Month of June, in the City of Corté. The provisional

Government will then suggest to you the Form and Mode of the Elections.

I beseech you to impress yourselves with the great Importance of the Affairs on which you have to determine; and, on that Account, let it be your Care to select Persons of Zeal and acknowledged Probity; and, as much as may be in your Power, reputable Heads of Families, interested in good Government and the Prosperity of the Country. Let Moderation and Propriety of Conduct prevail in your Assemblies, that no Person among you may have the Mortification to remark any Disorder in the most happy Moment which has occurred in the Course of our Revolutions, and in passing the most important Act of Civil Society. In the mean Time, let every Man suggest whatever he may conceive most useful to the Country, in order to communicate his Opinion to the Nation, legally represented and assembled.

Corsica is now justly regarded by Foreign Powers as a Free Nation; her Resolutions will, I hope, be suitable to her Situation, and dictated by Wisdom and by a Love for the Publick Good.

With respect to myself, my dearly beloved Countrymen, after having devoted every Moment of my Life to your Happiness, I shall esteem myself the happiest of Mankind, if, through the Means I have derived from your Confidence, I can obtain, for our Country, the Opportunity of forming a free and lasting Government, and of preserving to Corsica, it's Name, it's Unity, and it's Independence, whilst the Names of the Heroes who have spilt their Blood in it's Support and Defence, will be, for future Generations, Objects of noble Emulation and grateful Remembrance.

(Signed) PASQUALE DE PAOLI.

*Copy of a Letter from their Excellencies Lord Hood and Sir Gilbert Elliot, Bart. to General Paoli.*

SIR, *Victory, Bastia Roads, April 21, 1794.*

YOUR Excellency having been pleased to represent to us, on Behalf of the Corsican Nation, that the intolerable and perfidious Tyranny of the French Convention having driven that brave People to take up Arms in their own Defence; they were determined to shake off altogether the unjust Dominion of France, and to assert the Right of a Free and Independent Nation; but being sensible that their own Efforts might be insufficient to contend with France, or other powerful Nations, who might undertake hostile Attempts against them; and confiding implicitly in the Magnanimity and Princely Virtues of His Britannick Majesty, and in the Bravery and Generosity of his People; they were desirous of forming a perpetual Union with the British Nation, under the mild and equitable Government of His Majesty and his Successors, for the better Protection, and for the perpetual Security and Preservation of their Independence and Liberties: And your Excellency having, on these Considerations, solicited, in the Name of the People of Corsica, His Majesty's present Assistance, and His Royal Protection in Time to come, we took the same into our most serious Consideration; and knowing His Majesty's gracious and affectionate Disposition towards the Corsican Nation, and his Readiness to contribute in every Way, which is consistent with Justice and the Interests of his Subjects, to the Happiness of that brave People; and being invested with sufficient Powers for that Purpose, we determined to comply with your Request, and have accordingly furnished the Aid of His Majesty's Naval and Military Forces in the Mediterranean, towards expelling the common Enemy from the Island of Corsica.

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