

“ him faithful Obedience according to the Constitution and the Laws of Corsica, and to maintain the said Constitution and Laws.”

The Constitutional Act being entirely completed and finished, the President adjourned the Session, and signed the above, as did also the Secretaries, the Year, Month and Day above-mentioned.

(Signed)

PASQUALE DE PAOLI, President.

CARLO ANDREA POZZO DI BARGO, Secretary.

GIO. ANDREA MUSELLI, Secretary.

TRANSLATION.

Speech made in the General Assembly of Corsica, on the Acceptation of the Crown and Constitution of that Island, by his Excellency Sir Gilbert Elliot.

GENTLEMEN,

IN availing myself, for the first Time, in the Midst of the Corsican Nation, of the Privilege of calling you Brothers and Fellow Citizens, a Reflection, which will naturally occur to every one, excites in me the most heartfelt Satisfaction; independent of the reciprocal political Advantages which we may derive from so close a Connection, I f.e. on the present Occasion. every Thing that can render it more preci us and more estimable by the Sentiments of Confidence and of Affection, the first and pure Principles of our Union, which they will for ever continue to cement and consolidate.

This remarkable Truth, which it is impossible to overlook, cannot be mentioned without a strong Emotion of Sensibility and Joy. Our Two Nations have, for a long Period, been distinguished by a reciprocal and remarkable Esteem. Without anticipating the happy End to which this instinctive Partiality, this sympathetic Attraction, may some Day lead us, we have given to each other Instances of Confidence on every Occasion, yet no Relations have hitherto subsisted between us, except those of reciprocal and voluntary good Offices. Our Minds have been prepared by Providence for the Fate which awaited us; and the Divine Goodness, intending our Union, has ordained that it should be anticipated and brought about (if I may so express myself,) by a Similarity of Character, and by a Conformity of Views and Principle, and, above all, by a pleasing Exchange of friendly Services.

This sacred Compact, which I received from your Hands, is not a cold and interested Agreement between two Parties who meet by Accident, and form a Contract founded on the Impulse of the Moment, or on a selfish and temporary Policy.—No; the Event of this happy Day is only the Completion of Wishes we had previously formed; To-day our Hands are joined, but our Hearts have long been united, and our Motto should be *Amici & non di ventura.*

However seducing this Prospect of our Happiness may appear, I trust (and it is important for us to know it, as we assuredly do) that it does not depend on Sentiment alone; but that it rests on the solid Basis of the true Interests and permanent Felicity of the Two Nations.

I will not mention to you the Interests of Great Britain upon this Occasion; not that they are of little Consequence, but being of a Nature purely political, the Subject would be too cold, too dry, for this important Day. Besides, it is not necessary on this Occasion to appreciate them in Detail. I shall confine myself to this Remark, that every possible Advantage, which Great Britain could have in View from her Union with Corsica, is essen-

tially attached to your political and absolute Independence of every European Power, and that these Advantages are not only compatible with your Interests, but cannot for the most Part exist, and still less flourish, but in Proportion to your Prosperity.

On your Part, what is necessary to render you a happy People? I will tell you in two Words—Liberty at Home, and Security Abroad.

Your Liberty will not be exposed to any Encroachments from a Monarch, who, by his own Experience and the Example of his Ancestors for several Generations, is persuaded that the Liberty and the Prosperity of his People is the only Foundation of the Power, the Glory, and the Splendor of the Throne. A King who has ever governed according to the Laws, and whose Sceptre is at once strengthened by the Privileges and embellished by the Happiness of his Subjects: Here I might expatiate on the august Virtues of that Monarch whom you have chosen for your own; but they are known to all his Subjects: You will therefore become acquainted with them by a happy and certain Experience, and this Testimony will be far more faithful than my weak Voice.

It would not, however, be right that your Liberty should depend solely on the personal Virtues of the Monarch. You have therefore been careful to ensure it by the wise Constitution and fundamental Laws of our Union, which, in my Opinion, constitute so essential a Part of the Act you present to me this Day, that I could not (without violating the Confidence reposed in me by my Sovereign,) agree to a System which might have degenerated into Tyranny; a Condition equally unfavourable to the Happiness of him who exercises it, and of those who endure it.

If His Majesty, therefore, accepts the Crown which you have agreed to offer him, it is because he is determined to protect, and never to enslave those from whom he receives it; and, above all, because it is given, and not seized upon by Violence.

For external Security, you wanted nothing but the constant and active Alliance of a Maritime Power: This Act ensures it to you; and whilst you enjoy at Home Peace and Tranquility, which the Enemy will no longer be able to interrupt, you will share with us the Treasures of Trade, and the Sovereignty of the Seas.

From this Day therefore you are quiet and free. To preserve these Blessings, you have only to preserve your ancient Virtues, Courage, and the sacred Love of your Country.—These are the native Virtues of your Soil; they will be enriched by those which accompany our Union, and which you will derive from our Industry, from our long Experience, (that true Source of political Wisdom) and from our Love of Liberty, at once enthusiastic and enlightened. I speak of that Liberty which has for its Object to maintain your Civil Rights, and the Happiness of the People; not to serve Ambition and Vice: That Liberty, which is inseparable from Religion, Order, Respect for the Laws, and a sacred Regard for Property, the first Principles of every human Society; that Liberty which abhors every Kind of Despotism and especially that most terrible of all Despotism, which arises from the unrestrained Violence of the human Passions. Such are the Virtues which belong both to you and to us; on their happy Mixture and Influence on each other depends the Prosperity of Corsica. Immediate Liberty, and a progressive and encreasing Prosperity: Such is the Text; to which I hope and venture to predict that our Behaviour to each other, and our common Destinies will always prove a faithful and a satisfactory Illustration.