

*Head Quarters at Alkmaar, the 15th of October 1799, the 8th Year of the French Republic.*

THE Duke of York, Commander in Chief of the English Army, proposes that a Cessation of Hostilities shall take place, in consequence of the Approach of the inclement Season. He promises to withdraw from the Batavian Territory, between the present Period and the End of November next, the whole Army under his Command; and consents that no Damage shall be committed, no Sluices opened, or Dykes broken up, on Condition of his Retreat not being molested by the French and Batavian Army.

These Motives would not have been brought forward by the Duke of York, if he had considered himself possessed of Means sufficient for advancing into the Country; for in that Case, he would have had the Facility of extending his Quarters, of procuring Subsistence, and, in short, of placing himself beyond the Reach of the Inconveniences arising from the unfavourable Season. We ought consequently to look to Advantages in an Arrangement, proportionate to the Insufficiency of the Forces under his Command.

The Terms proposed by the Duke of York contain nothing but what would be the necessary Result of a Cessation of Hostilities. It can scarcely be supposed that the Duke of York will cause the Dykes to be destroyed, the Country to be inundated, and the Villages to be burnt, for the mere Purpose of committing such Acts of Violence; as such Conduct would be contrary to the Laws of War, and must draw upon him the Reprobation of all Europe and of his own Nation. It appears therefore evident, that the Duke of York would confine himself to such Measures as might be useful to his own Army, or detrimental to ours: but we look upon such Accidents as inseparable from a State of War. No Object of Advantage to us appears therefore to result from the Proposals which have been made.

Since, however, the Sufferings of Humanity come under the Consideration of the Duke of York, General Brune is ready to meet this honorable Feeling, and, in doing so, declares that the following Stipulations on which he offers to consent to a Suspension of Hostilities are so obviously just, that he cannot depart from them.

I. The Batavian Fleet, which was surrendered to Admiral Mitchell by Admiral Story, shall be restored to the Batavian Republic with its Stores and Crews. In case the Duke of York shall not be vested with sufficient Powers to comply with this Article, His Royal Highness shall engage to obtain from his Court an equivalent Compensation.

II. Fifteen Thousand Prisoners of War, French and Batavians, detained in England, shall be unconditionally released and sent home. The Mode of Selection, and the Proportion for each Country, to be settled between the Governments of the Two Republics. The Batavian Admiral De Winter shall be considered as exchanged.—This Article shall in no Degree prejudice or interfere with the Cartel of Exchange at present established.

III. The Batteries and Fort of the Helder shall be restored in the Condition in which they were found at the Period of the Invasion of the English and Russian Army. An Officer of Artillery shall be sent

to the Helder by General Brune to see that this Article is complied with.

IV. The Army under the Command of the Duke of York shall within Forty-eight Hours evacuate the Position of the Zuyp; its Advanced Posts shall be withdrawn to the Height of Callants-Oog. The French and Batavian Army shall preserve the Positions it occupies at present, taking up however its Advanced Posts at Petten, Crabendam, Schagenbrug, and Colhorn. It shall have merely a Vidette at the Height of Callants-Oog.

V. The Troops composing the English and Russian Army shall be embarked successively, and as speedily as possible. All the British Shipping shall quit the Texel, and all the English and Russian Troops be withdrawn from the Seas, Coasts, and Islands of the Batavian Republic, before the 20th of November next, and shall not damage the great Sources of Navigation or occasion any Inundation in the Country.

VI. All Ships of War or other Vessels, having on board Reinforcements for the Combined English and Russian Army, shall put to Sea as soon as possible, without landing the same.

VII. To guarantee the Execution of these Articles, Hostages shall be given by the Duke of York, to be selected amongst the Officers of Rank in his Army.

By Order of General Brune, Commander in Chief of the Combined French and Batavian Army.

(Signed) VEVRY, Secretary.

*Head-Quarters, Schagen Brug,*

GENERAL, *October 17, 1799.*

I Send back Major-General Knox with my Answers to the Explanatory Note which he has delivered to me in your Name. He is fully authorized to conclude on my Part upon every Point which relates to the Subject of his Mission.

(Signed) FREDERICK Duke of York, Commander in Chief of the Combined English and Russian Army.

To General Brune, Commander in Chief,  
*&c. &c. &c.*

*Head-Quarters, at Schagen Brug,*

*October 17, 1799.*

THIS Royal Highness the Duke of York, Commander in Chief of the Combined English and Russian Army, proposed to General Brune, Commander in Chief of the French and Batavian Army, an Arrangement equally to the Advantage of both Parties, originating in his Desire to prevent the farther Effusion of Blood, and to preserve this Country from the terrible Effects of an Inundation, as also from the Destruction of the best of its Ports, involving the total Ruin of the principal Channels of its Interior Navigation and Commerce.

In answer to which General Brune observes, that he cannot imagine His Royal Highness will recur to Measures not less revolting to Humanity, than repugnant to the Character of the British Nation, and to the general Feeling of all Europe.

Devastation or Destruction is certainly incompatible with the Character and with the uniform Conduct of the English Nation; and as little do