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Newcastle, le 20 Janvier 1843, Dillon à [François Guizot]

Auteurs : Dillon, Francis (1822-1898)

Les folios

En passant la souris sur une vignette, le titre de l'image apparaît.

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134
Affaires Étrangères
Consulat de France
A NEWCASTLE.

Newcastle, le 20 Janvier 1843

Honorable & dear Sir,

You will forgive me for hesitating
as to the propriety of addressing you at this moment.
I am aware of the battle you have to fight, of the snags of prejudices
I Napoleon with which you have got to grapple. I am fearfully
Anxious for the result, so much so, that I smother it a sin-pole
to divert, even for an instant, your attention from the preparations
which the Campaign that is before you necessitates. I shall
Commit this fault however, if it be one, it is better that you
should know what the people, in this part of the world, think of
the question that now sets you all wild in France.

I have been over all the United Kingdom; I have
mingled with the bericting minds of the nation; and I may venture
to say that I have not met with one, who does in the right of
search any of those plans of aggrandisement & maritime tyranny,
which we lay at the door of the British nation. The fact is that the
people of England care nothing, have never cared, about this question.
I except, of course, a large number of sincere, rather over heated religious
minds, amongst whom you can find, to day, a few embers of the
old Puritanical fire. But what the people here do care about,
what does occupy all their minds & thoughts, is the systematic

was made up on them by our press & orators. There is accumulating gradually & slowly in the British mind a something which I might call indignation. The people are anxious for peace; they feel that war would be a serious thing for interests so complicated as theirs, & then they came out of the long struggle with the Emperor, with a sort of elation, the brightness of which they are afraid of dimming. All this is perfectly true; the pacific dispositions of the people are even stronger than I describe them. Yet I hesitate not to say, that if the present state of affairs lasts much longer they will cause themselves from one end of the land to the other, I make up their minds at once for war. I have met recently several Tory members of Parliament, staunch supporters of Sir Robert Peel's ministry, who have all told me that things cannot go on as they are much longer. The attitude of France is the only thing which embarrasses their plans, or diminishes their chances as a party. A party animosity is therefore beginning to mingle itself up with that growing bitterness towards us which I have alluded to above. I shall mention names, influential ones, some of them M. M. M. Hodgson, Thackeray, Bell, Cromwell etc. — I think I give you pretty accurately the Tory feeling; as for the Whig, the Palmerstonian feeling, there is frenzy, there is madness in it.

Here there is a certain prospect of France coming victoriously out of a struggle with this Country & Europe, for England still disposes

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of Europe), I would say at once, *Et bien!* *Revenez en vos mains.*
I shall speak frankly to your Excellency; notwithstanding the
faith I have in the almost irresistible impetus of France
when once launched forth, I am afraid that in the long run
we should have the worst of it. The British people are a
long winded, persevering people; they never have to agree
when war arises; they are only, no matter what is said to
the contrary, in the apogee of their strength. The period of
decadence has not yet commenced for Great Britain. Her
activity, her indomitable perseverance, her vast masses of
accumulated wealth, all of which the patriotism of
the people would allow to come into play, enable her
to weigh heavily in a contest. There are millions of
able bodied paupers in this country to man the ships
I fill up the ranks of the Army. These are accustomed
to hardships; they are in that state of imperfect civiliza-
-tion in which physical force & vigour, when well directed,
became truly formidable. I do repeat it emphatically,
if a war take place, the people who, with us, have pro-
-ved it, without a sufficient motive, merit & will obtain
the curses of their contemporaries & posterity.
But matters will not come to this. Your Excellency will
confront & master this difficulty. It is not for me to
suggest, from such a distance, a system of Parliamentary
tactics, but I shall take the liberty of saying that
if an amendment, prescribing vigilance on the
part of the French government, in the execution of

the Right of Search were adopted, the government & people have seemed accept it in a good spirit. It is only the abrogation of the treaty, or an attempt to abrogate it, that would be scouted at once. Is there no friend of the Ministry, a M^r. Wotenberg or a Jacques Lefebvre to come forward & helpfully & at the proper moment with such an amendment?

I have occupied your Excellency's attention too long. It only remains for me to join with all the heart & good in wishing you success in the coming conflict.

Ever respectfully & devotedly
Yours.

Dellare