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978-1-108-05053-1 - Haytian Papers: A Collection of the Very Interesting
Proclamations, and Other Official Documents

Edited by Prince Sanders

Excerpt

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Extracts from the Registers of the Deliberations of the Consuls of the Republic.

N^o I.

PARIS, 17th Brumaire,
in the 10th year of the French Republic,
one and indivisible.

Proclamation of the First Consul to the Inhabitants of St. Domingo.

W^{HATEVER} be your origin or your colour, you are all Frenchmen, *you are all free and all equal before God, and before the Republic.*

France, as well as St. Domingo, has been the prey of factions, dismembered by civil and by foreign wars; but all is

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changed. All nations have embraced the French, and sworn to them peace and amity. Frenchmen, too, have embraced one another, and have sworn unanimously to live as friends and brothers; come you, likewise, to throw yourselves into the arms of France, and rejoice to see once more your friends and brothers of Europe.

The government sends you the Captain-General *Leclerc*; he takes with him a numerous force for your protection against your enemies, and against the enemies of the Republic. Should any one whisper in your ear, “*These forces are destined to despoil you of your liberty;*” answer, “*It is the Republic that has given us liberty; the Republic will never suffer it to be ravished from us.*”

Rally around the Captain-General, he brings you back peace and plenty. Rally all around him: whoso dares to separate himself from the Captain-General shall be accounted a traitor to his country, and

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the wrath of the Republic shall devour
him as fire devours your parched sugar
canes.

Given at Paris, at the Palace of Go-
vernment, the 17th Brumaire, in the 10th
year of the French Republic.

(Signed) **BONAPARTE.**

By the First Consul,

(Signed) **H. B. MARET**, Secretary of
State.

(A True Copy.)

(Signed) **LECLERC**, Captain-General.

(A True Copy.)

(Signed) The General, Chief of the
Etat Major of the Army,

DUGUA.

N^o II.

LIBERTY AND EQUALITY.

ARMY OF ST. DOMINGO.

Head Quarters on Board the Ocean,
13th Pluiose, 10th year of the Republic.

*The General in Chief of the Army of St.
Domingo, Captain-General of the Colony,
to the General of Brigade, CHRIS-
TOPHE, Commandant at the Cape.*

I LEARN with indignation, Citizen
General, that you refuse to receive the
French squadron, and the French army
that I command, under the pretext that
you have received no orders from the
Governor-General.

France has concluded a peace with
England, and its government sends to St.

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Domingo forces capable of subduing the rebels; at least if any are to be found at St. Domingo. As to you, General, I confess it will grieve me to account you among them.

I give you notice, that if you have not in the course of this day surrendered the Forts Picolet and Belair, with all the batteries on the coast, to-morrow, at day-break, fifteen thousand troops shall be disembarked.

Four thousand men are, at this moment, landing at Fort Liberté; eight thousand more at Port Republican.

Herewith you will receive my Proclamation, which expresses the intentions of the French Government; but, recollect, whatever individual esteem your conduct in the colony may have inspired me with, I hold you responsible for what may happen.

I salute you.

(Signed) LECLERC.

N^o III.

Head-Quarters at the Cape,
13th Pluviose, year 10.

*Henry Christophe, General of Brigade,
Commandant of the Arrondissement of
the Cape, to the General in Chief, Le-
clerc.*

YOUR Aid-de-Camp, General, has delivered to me your letter of this day; I have the honour to inform you that I could not deliver up the forts and post confided to my command, without previous orders from the Governor-General, Toussaint Louverture, my immediate chief, from whom I hold the powers with which I am invested. I am fully persuaded that I have to do with Frenchmen, and that you are the chief of the armament called

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the expedition; but I wait the orders of the Governor, to whom I have dispatched one of my Aid-de-Camps, to apprise him of your arrival, and that of the French army, and cannot permit you to land until I have received his answer. If you put in force your threats of hostility, I shall make the resistance which becomes a general officer; and, should the chance of war be yours, you shall not enter Cape Town till it be reduced to ashes, nay, even in the ruins will I renew the combat.

You say that the French Government has sent to St. Domingo forces capable of subduing the rebels, if any such be found; it is your coming, and the hostile intentions you manifest, that alone could create them among a peaceable people, in perfect submission to France. The very mention of rebellion is an argument for our resistance.

As to the troops which you say are this moment landing, I consider them as

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so many pieces of cards which the least
breath of wind will dissipate.

How can you hold me responsible for
the event? You are not my Chief; I know
you not, and can therefore make no ac-
count of you till you are recognised by
Governor Toussaint.

For the loss of your esteem, General,
I assure you that I desire not to earn it at
the price that you set upon it, since to
purchase it I must be guilty of a breach
of duty.

I have the honour to salute you.

(Signed) H. CHRISTOPHE.

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N^o IV.

Head Quarters at the Cape, 29th Germinal,
Year 10 of the French Republic.

The General in Chief to General Christophe.

You may give credit, Citizen General, to all that Citizen Vilton has written to you on behalf of General Hardy ; I will keep the promises which have been made you ; but, if it is your intention to submit to the Republic, think on the essential service you could render her by furnishing the means to secure the person of General Toussaint.

(Signed) LECLERC.

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N^o V.

Head Quarters, Robillard, Grand-Boucan,
2d Floreal, Year 10.

*The General of Brigade, Henry Christophe,
to General Leclerc.*

I HAVE received yours of the 29th of last month. With earnest desire to give credit to what Citizen Vilton has written me, I wait only for a proof which must convince me of the intention to procure the liberty and equality of the population of this colony. The laws which consecrate the principles, and which the mother country, without doubt, has enacted, will carry to my heart this conviction; and I protest, that on obtaining this desired proof, by being made acquainted with these laws, I shall submit immediately.

You propose to me, Citizen General, to furnish you with the means of securing