

DECLARATION OF HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY.

[Concluded from last week's Expressor.]

It is not, while a French army still occupies and lays waste the remaining dominions of the King of Prussia, in spite of the stipulations of the Prussian treaty of Tilsit; while contributions are arbitrarily exacted by France from that remnant of the Prussian monarchy, such as, in its entire & most flourishing state, the Prussian monarchy would have been unable to discharge; while the surrender is demanded, in time of peace, of Prussian fortresses, which had not been reduced during the war; and while the power of France is exercised over Prussia with such shameful tyranny, as to designate and demand for instant death, individuals, subjects of his Prussian Majesty, and resident in his dominions, upon a charge of disrespect towards the French government; it is not while all these things are done and suffered, under the eye of the Emperor of Russia, & without his interference on behalf of his ally, that his majesty can feel himself called upon to account to Europe, for having hesitated to repose an unconditional confidence in the efficacy of his Imperial Majesty's mediation.

Nor, even if that mediation had taken full effect, if a peace had been concluded under it and that peace guaranteed by his Imperial Majesty, could his majesty have placed implicit reliance on the stability of any such arrangement, after having seen the Emperor of Russia openly transfer to France the sovereignty of the Ionian Republic, the independence of which his Imperial Majesty had recently and solemnly guaranteed.

But while the alleged rejection of the Emperor of Russia's mediation, between Great-Britain and France, is stated as a just ground of his Imperial Majesty's resentment; his majesty's rejection of the mediation for the re-establishment of peace between Great-Britain and Denmark, is represented as an insult which it was beyond the bounds of his Imperial Majesty's moderation to endure.

His Majesty feels himself under no obligation to offer any atonement or apology to the Emperor of Russia for the expedition against Copenhagen. It is not for those who were parties to the secret arrangements of Tilsit, to demand satisfaction for a measure to which those arrangements gave rise, and by which one of the objects of them has been happily defeated.

His Majesty's justification of the expedition against Copenhagen is before the world. The declaration of the Emperor of Russia would supply whatever was wanting in it, if any thing could be wanting to convince the most credulous of the urgency of that necessity under which his Majesty acted.

But until the Russian Declaration was published, his majesty had no reason to suspect that any opinions which the Emperor of Russia might entertain of the transactions at Copenhagen could be such as to preclude his imperial majesty from undertaking, at the request of Great-Britain, that same office of mediator, which he had assumed with so much alacrity on the behalf of France. Nor can his majesty forget that the first symptoms of reviving confidence, since the peace of Tilsit, the only prospect of success in the endeavors of his majesty's ambassador to restore the ancient good understanding between Great-Britain and Russia, appeared when the intelligence of the siege of Copenhagen had been recently received at St. Petersburg.

The inviolability of the Baltic sea, and the reciprocal guarantees of the powers that border upon it, guarantees said to have been contracted with the knowledge of the British government, are stated as aggravations of his majesty's proceedings in the Baltic. It cannot be intended to represent his majesty as having at any time acquiesced in the principles upon which the inviolability of the Baltic is maintained; however his majesty may, at particular periods, have borne for special reasons, influencing his conduct at the time, to act in contradiction to them. Such forbearance never could have applied but to a state of peace and real neutrality in the North and his majesty most assuredly could not be expected to recur to it, after France has been suffered to establish herself indisputed sovereignty along the whole coast of the Baltic sea, from Dantzic to Lubek.

But the higher the value which the Emperor of Russia places on the engagements respecting the tranquility of the Baltic, which he describes himself as inheriting from his immediate predecessors, the Empress Catharine and the Emperor Paul, the less justly can his imperial majesty, resent the appeal made by his majesty as the guarantee of the peace to be concluded between Great-Britain and Denmark. In making that appeal, with the utmost confidence and sincerity, his majesty neither intended, nor can he imagine that he offered any insult to the Emperor of Russia. Nor can his majesty conceive that, in proposing to the Prince Royal terms of peace, such as the most successful war on the part of Denmark could hardly have been expected to extort from Great-Britain, his majesty rendered himself liable to the imputation, either of exasperating the resentment, or of outraging the dignity of Denmark.

His Majesty has thus replied to all the dif-

ferent accusations by which the Russian government labors to justify the rupture of a connection which has subsisted for ages, with reciprocal advantage to Great-Britain and Russia; and attempts to disguise the operation of that external influence by which Russia is driven into unjust hostilities for interests not her own.

The Russian declaration proceeds to announce the several conditions on which alone these hostilities can be terminated, and the intercourse of the two countries renewed.

His Majesty has already had occasion to assert, that justice has in no instance been denied to the claim of his Imperial Majesty's subjects.

The termination of the war with Denmark has been so anxiously sought by his majesty, that it cannot be necessary for his majesty to renew any professions upon that subject. But his majesty is at a loss to reconcile the Emperor of Russia's present anxiety for the completion of such an arrangement with his Imperial Majesty's recent refusal to contribute his good office for effecting it.

The requisition of his Imperial Majesty for the immediate conclusion, by his majesty, of a peace with France, is as extraordinary in the substance, as it is offensive in the manner. His Majesty has at no time declined to treat with France, when France has professed a willingness to treat on an admissible basis. And the Emperor of Russia cannot fail to remember that the last negotiation between Great Britain and France was broken off upon points immediately affecting, not his Majesty's own interests but those of his Imperial Ally. But his Majesty neither understands nor will he admit, the pretension of the Emperor of Russia to dictate the time or the mode of his Majesty's pacific negotiation with other powers. It never will be endured by his Majesty, that any government shall indemnify itself for the humiliation of subserviency to France, by the adoption of an insulting & peremptory tone towards Great-Britain.

His majesty proclaims anew those principles of maritime law, against which the armed neutrality, under the auspices of the Empress Catharine was originally directed, and against which the present hostilities of Russia are denounced. Those principles have been recognized and acted upon in the best periods of the history of Europe; and acted upon by no power with more strictness and severity, than by Russia herself, in the reign of the Empress Catharine.

Those principles it is the right and duty of his Majesty to maintain; and, against every confederacy his majesty is determined under the blessings of Divine Providence, to maintain them. They have at all times contributed essentially to the support of the maritime power of Great-Britain, but they are become incalculably more valuable and important at a period when the maritime power of Great-Britain constitutes the sole remaining bulwark against the overwhelming usurpations of France; the only refuge to which other nations may yet resort, in happier times, for assistance and protection.

When the opportunity for peace between G. Britain and Russia shall arrive, his majesty will embrace it with eagerness. The arrangements of such a negotiation will neither be difficult or complicated. His Majesty as he has nothing to concede, so he has nothing to require. Satisfied if Russia shall manifest a disposition to return to her ancient feelings of friendship towards Great-Britain, to a just consideration of her own interests, and to a sense of her own dignity as an independent nation.

Westminster, Dec. 18.

Translated for the Mercantile Advertiser from late French papers.

Milan, (Italy) Dec. 22.

The Emperor and King, seated on his throne, surrounded by the viceroy, the grand duke of Berg, the prince of Neuchatel, the high officers of the empire, and of the kingdom, the high officers of the crown, the counsellors of state the civil and military officers of the royal household, received yesterday at private audiences the deputation of the three electoral colleges. These deputations were introduced one after the other by the grand master of the ceremonies; each of their presidents pronounced a discourse suitable to the occasion, and to which his majesty answered in a manner as honorable to the deputies as it was flattering to all his Italian subjects. His majesty has likewise admitted to the honor of being presented to him a deputation from Tuscany destined henceforward to live under his laws. By a royal decree of the 19th his majesty has created 15 new dignities, 50 commanders, & 300 knights of the iron crown.

The next day by another decree, the monarch has ordered that the council of the *Consulato* should cease to make a part of *Senate*. By a third decree, the sovereign has appointed 12 assistants near the state council of the kingdom; whose functions will be the same as those of the auditors near the state council of France. The fourth constitutional statute of the kingdom, the first of the four royal acts, communicated on the 20th to the three electoral colleges; is of the following tenor:

Fourth Constitutional statute of the kingdom of Italy.

"NAPOLION, by the grace of God, and the constitution of the empire, emperor of the French and king of Italy; having seen the first constitutional statute of our kingdom of Italy, of March 17th, 1805; We have decreed and do decree as follows:

"Article I. We adopt as our son Prince Eugene Napoleon, arch-chancellor of state of our empire of France, and viceroy of our kingdom of Italy.

"II. The crown of Italy shall after us and in default of our male legitimate and natural children and descendants, be hereditary in the person of Prince Eugene and of his direct legitimate and natural descendants, from male to male, by order of primogeniture, to the perpetual exclusion of Females and their descendants.

"III. In default of our sons and legitimate and natural male descendants, and of the sons and legitimate and natural male descendants of Prince Eugene, the crown of Italy shall devolve to the son or next of kin to that prince of our blood who shall then reign in France.

"IV. Prince Eugene, our son, shall enjoy all the honors attached to our adoption.

"The right which our adoption gives him to the crown of Italy, shall in no case and circumstance whatsoever, authorise either him or his descendants to raise any pretension to the crown of France, whose succession is irrevocably settled by the constitutions of the empire.

"VI. We do command and order that these presents the seal of state being first affixed thereto, be communicated to the electoral colleges of our kingdom of Italy inserted in the bulletin of the laws, and addressed to the tribunals and administrative authorities, that they may transcribe them upon their registers, observe and cause them to be observed.

"The secretary of state of our kingdom of Italy is charged with seeing the present dispositions duly executed.

"Given at our imperial palace of the Thuilleries, the 16th February, 1806.

(Signed) NAPOLEON.

By the Emperor and King.

(Signed) ANTONIO ALDINI.

December 25.

His majesty the emperor, left yesterday at 6 o'clock in the morning the capital of Italy, to return to that of his vast empire. The discourse which his majesty pronounced at the meeting of the three electoral colleges of the kingdom, in the great hall of the palace, on the 20th of this month, is of the following tenor:

"I see you with pleasure surrounding my throne. Returning here after three years absence, it pleases me to observe the progress my people have made: but how many things remain yet to be done in order to wipe off the faults of our fathers, and render you worthy of the destinies I am preparing for you!

"The intestine divisions of our ancestors, their miserable egotism to cities, prepared the loss of all our rights. The country was disinherited of its rank and dignity; that country, which in remote ages, had carried so far the honor of her arms and the splendor of her virtues. That splendor, these virtues, I make my glory consist in reconquering them.

"Citizens of Italy, I have done much for you; I shall still do more. But on your side, united in heart as you are by interest with my people of France, consider them as your eldest brothers. View constantly the source of our prosperity, the guarantee of our institutions, and that of our independence, in the union of the iron crown with my imperial crown."

It is not yet known whether the ci-devant kingdom of Etruria will be incorporated with that of Italy, or whether his majesty intends giving it another sovereign. Meanwhile we give the following extracts of letters from Florence, concerning the state of things in that country:

Florence, (Tuscany) December 12.

In consequence of the proclamation issued the 10th by the Queen regent of the Kingdom of Etruria, by which her majesty has announced to the Tuscans the termination of her government. General Rielle commander of the Legion of Honor, and of the military order of Bavaria, knight of the order of St. Henri of Saxony, aid-de-camp to his majesty the emperor of the French and king of Italy, and his commissary to take possession of the kingdom of Etruria, arrived at Florence the 7th inst. and formally declared to the royal council that he was charged with the taking that possession, and to receive in the name of his imperial majesty the oath of fidelity, submission and obedience. There arrived also here on the 10th 600 French cavalry, 1200 infantry, and several pieces of artillery.

In consequence of these arrangements, her majesty the queen left on the same day the capital of Tuscany, with a numerous suite, carrying with her fifty waggon loads of her own effects and property. The next day the French imperial arms, were displayed on the old palace. The infantry, cavalry, chasseurs, and national guards, assembled on the royal square, and gave the oath of fidelity to his majesty the Emperor of the French.

LATEST FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

New-York, February 29.

The British Packet Lord Hobart, arrived at this port yesterday. She left Valmouth on the 15th of January, but has brought papers only one day later than those received by the Romp.

The papers are principally devoted to reports, some of which are destitute of probability. The leading rumour relates to approaching negotiations for peace. It is said that although the proffered mediation of Austria was rejected by the British Ministry, yet they had offered to treat directly with France, and that Bonaparte had acceded to this proposal, and had sent a passport for the proposed Envoy.

One report states, that the Emperor of Russia had died very suddenly.

Another, that Bonaparte had fallen a victim to assassination, on his return from Italy to Paris.

Another, that Bonaparte had been driven by the fury of the populace from Milan, and that he fell by the hands of an enraged multitude in Paris.

It is said the emperor of Austria has given a decided refusal to the demand of Bonaparte that Trieste should be shut against the commerce of England.

Accounts from Holland state, that a serious difference had occurred between the French and Russian emperors respecting the partition of Turkey and the conduct of Bonaparte towards the king of Prussia.

Letters from Holland also announce that Talleyrand had arrived in that country with the ostensible object of negotiating a loan, and that king Louis was about taking his departure for Paris.

A paper of the 9th says—"On Thursday morning several merchants and brokers waited on the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to request that he would prevail on the Admiralty to direct our cruisers, after having examined neutrals, not to write the word searched upon their papers, as, according to the French decrees, that act was sufficient evidence for their condemnation on arriving at any port under the control of France. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, we understand, observed that no such direction would be given by the admiralty, as government had determined not to relax any of the measures adopted in retaliation of Bonaparte's decrees."

Congress of the United States.

Washington, Feb. 26.

The President this day communicated the following important MESSAGE to Congress.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

The dangers of our country, arising from the contests of other nations, and the urgency of making preparation for whatever events effect our relations with them have been intimated in preceding Messages to Congress. To secure ourselves by due precautions, an augmentation of our military force, as well regular as of volunteer militia, seems to be expedient. The precise extent of that augmentation cannot as yet be satisfactorily suggested: but that no time may be lost, and especially at a season deemed favorable to the object, I submit to the wisdom of the legislature whether they will authorise a commencement of this precautionary work by a present provision for raising and organizing some additional force, reserving themselves to decide its ultimate extent on such views of our situation as I may be enabled to present at a future day of the session.

If an increase of force be now approved, I submit to their consideration the outlines of a plan proposed in the enclosed letter from the Secretary of War.

I recommend also to the attention of Congress the term at which the act of April 13, 1806, concerning the militia, will expire, & the effect of that expiration.

TH. JEFFERSON.

Feb. 25, 1808.

War Department, Feb. 24, 1808.

The President of the United States.

Sir—I take the liberty of suggesting whether, under existing circumstances, it would not be advisable to propose to Congress an augmentation of our regular troops, as soon as practicable, and also the engaging and organizing of twenty-four thousand volunteers, on the principles I have had the honor of proposing for your consideration, the general outlines of which are contained in the paper marked No. 1.

The number of regular troops I would propose being raised immediately, is six thousand, to be composed of suitable proportions of infantry, artillery, cavalry and riflemen, and organized as stated in the enclosed paper marked No. 1.

It may be presumed that previous to the close of the present session, Congress will be possessed of such farther information in regard to our foreign relations as will be necessary for forming an ultimate opinion on the expediency or in expediency of a greater augmentation of our army than is now proposed; and in the mean time measures may be taken for the recruiting service in different parts of the U. S.

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