

stimulated, and accumulating for the purpose of carrying it on, in countries so remote from each other, and with expenses so enormous, have raised most exorbitantly the price of provisions, have diverted from circulation the current coin of the realm, have introduced in its stead a fictitious, precarious, and fluctuating kind of property in paper, and have filled our gazettes with bankruptcies, our jails with debtors, and our numerous workhouses with paupers, who are compelled to flee farther as to a place of refuge, from hunger and thirst, from cold and nakedness, and all the other baleful consequences of unexpected and involuntary exclusion from the daily labours, which had supplied their daily bread.

That your petitioners, therefore, upon every principle dear to you, and to themselves, as Englishmen, and as Christians, most earnestly beseech you, to direct your attention to the multiplied scenes of private distress, and public danger, which characterize the present war and to employ every means which the discernment of your honourable house can devise, or its authority recommend, for the speedy re-establishment of peace.

At the same time, your petitioners beg leave to assure this honourable house, that the peace which they are solicitous to obtain, is not such an one as would endanger the solid interests, or debase the real dignity of their country. The prosperity, liberty, and independence of that country are, in the opinion of your petitioners, inseparable from its glory; and, therefore, it is in a spirit of steady, considerate, and genuine patriotism alone, that they now prefer to your Honourable House their prayer for the restoration of those blessings which peace only can procure, and the importance of which they will think it their duty to urge repeatedly in those respectful, but firm and serious appeals, which the Constitution has authorized them to make, as free-born Britons, to the justice, wisdom, and humanity, of their representatives in Parliament.

NOTTINGHAM PETITION FOR PEACE.

To his Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

Sir,

We, the undersigned Burgesses, or Inhabitants of the Town and County of the

Town of Nottingham, and its precincts, beg leave to claim the attention of your Royal Highness, as being the representative of a Sovereign, whose highest glory we presume it is, that he should be considered as the Father of his people; while we dutifully present, before the Throne, a statement of the evils from war, experienced by ourselves, and by millions beside of his Majesty's vast family: and while we earnestly supplicate, from a paternal regard, so becoming an English Monarch, that relief from dire distress, which the speedy restoration of peace alone can be expected to afford. On that Royal power, which was designed to be a blessing and protection to millions, we call for an exertion of God-like benevolence, which shall speedily terminate a contest, unhappily commenced with precipitancy, and direfully prolonged by the exasperated passions and infatuated understandings of men. Many are the motives to peace, and most powerful, which might be expected to influence the mind of your Royal Highness. A respect for the divine principles of christianity and humanity, it may be hoped, will prevent your Royal Highness from being swayed by the representations of men, whose prejudices, passions, or selfish interests, render them advocates for the perpetuity of a war, which, if much longer persisted in, will evidently be accompanied by civil commotion, by famine, and by pestilence.

An awful admonition of our having nearly exhausted the resources of the country, is painfully obtruded on our notice, by the rapidly increasing beggary and wretchedness of myriads of its industrious and frugal inhabitants, who, at no very distant period, enjoyed affluence or competence; and also by the obviously increasing inability of our ablest financiers, even while imposing a most oppressive taxation, to devise means for raising supplies in any wise correspondent to the public annual expenditure.

In the largest parish of this once flourishing, but now miserable town, nearly a third part of its population, in consequence of the interruption of trade, is reduced to the state of paupers; and in the other parishes of the town, not less oppressive so those inhabitants on whom a levy can be made, is the burden of poor's rates. And we are credibly informed, that a like re-

duction to beggary and want of multitudes of our countrymen in the different manufacturing towns of this kingdom, is the consequence of the annihilation of our trade, and of the increase of the taxation produced by war.

Additional to these evils, might be recalled to your Royal Highness's recollection, those also which are inevitably concomitants of the most successful wars, even when waged by nations whose resources may be the most ample, and whose condition the most flourishing. It assuredly cannot be a matter of little estimation with your Royal Highness, that thousands of brave men should be extended lifeless on the field of battle: that thousands should perish by the hardships of warfare: that there should be thousands of mourning widows and orphan children: that thousands of parents should be hurried to the grave by the loss of beloved sons, who were the support of their declining years: that thousands should die lingering deaths in captivity: and that the majority of the survivors of a long and bloody contest, having, in a course of warfare, experienced interruption to those moral habits, which promote the harmony, comfort, and welfare of civil society and of domestic life, should, on the return of a state of peace, be rendered less valuable members of society, and less welcome to the roofs of their relations and friends.

As a speedy restoration of peace alone can mitigate the heavy evils we endure, and save the inhabitants of this land from impending ruin, and the irrecoverable loss of their once prosperous and enviable condition; as now the ill success and disappointed views of the enemy may lead him to listen more readily to reasonable conditions of peace; we join our afflicted countrymen in earnestly petitioning your Royal Highness to manifest, by some unequivocal expression, or public act of the British government, your truly Royal desire to seize the earliest opportunity of sheathing the sword of slaughter, and healing the wounds of a long-protracted war: that thus the enemy may be precluded from plausibly throwing the odium of delight in war, and its concomitant mi-

series, on your Royal Highness's pacificatory government.

We will indulge the hope, that your Royal Highness will grant the prayer of our petition; and that your Highness's endeavours will be effectual in soon restoring to the afflicted people intrusted to your Royal protection, that lasting peace after which they so ardently aspire.

Thus may the blessings of the Peacemaker descend on your Royal Highness; and thus may your Royal Father, when called from his present state of sufferings to a better world, be enabled to resign to your Royal Highness, in a state of peace, that throne, which he ascended amid the din of arms, and on which he has continued to sit during so many years of war.

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#### NATIONAL DEBT.

By several documents, it appears, that the funded debt in February, 1812, was nearly 772 Millions: that the various other sums for which the Government stood charged, amounted to other 150 Millions; making the total of the public engagements 922 Millions! That, against this, the sinking fund has redeemed a sum of (since the time when the debt itself was but 230 Millions) 215 Millions; leaving an unliquidated debt of 707 Millions! It appears also, that the annual charges of the debt, are nearly 35 Millions; that the other outgoings are nearly 70 Millions more; making a total charge on the revenue of upwards of 104 Millions, while the consolidated fund, or permanent taxes, are less than 36 Millions, (that is no more than the amount of the interest of the debt,) and the war-taxes produce but 22 Millions, leaving a deficiency below the expenditure of above 48 Millions, to be provided by loans, issues of exchequer-bills, &c. The figures, in truth, have become so extravagant, that our nominal exports of 40, and imports of 50 Millions, which used to seem vast amounts, dwindle into insignificance, when placed beside our debts and expenditure!

*Monthly Magazine.*