

THE EXAMINER.

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THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few.
SWIFT.

No. 47.

EXPOSITION OF THE STATE OF THE FRENCH EMPIRE.

THE annual Exposition of the State of a Nation appears at first sight a very desirable thing; and people may regret perhaps that we have none in this country. The speeches of our kings upon the subject are indeed little more than political inuendos, and of late years have been unfortunately occupied in congratulating the people on the vigour of their shoulders rather than on the health and promise of the internal system. But Expositions are very different things in different countries. Were a minister to come before our legislative bodies and address them on the subject, we should demand a fair statement of the case; the English will not be cheated for the mere sake of being flattered by an individual; and who is the Minister that would venture to relate every circumstance of his administration even for a single year? In France the word Exposition involves nothing of this necessity: the minister there, or rather the orator, as he is very properly called, since it is his business to persuade rather than to prove, enters on his task with a perfect reliance on the good wishes and good nature of all around him; he knows that the Senators and Legislators of his nation, are the most servile in the world, and the subject of his eulogium has really done much to gratify the predominant passion of the country, and accordingly he makes out a flourishing statement that shall flatter the people into any thing his master pleases. Nor is he deceived. We have heard much of NAPOLEON'S odium in France, of unwilling soldiers, discontented merchants, impatient conscripts, murmurs, assassinations, and general insurrections; but we know the French very little if we think they will quarrel with the finest of their flatterers. Vanity is still their ruling passion; however it's views may have been enlarged by their philosophers or surpassed by their generals. To be a brilliant nation was always their good fortune, but to be a nation truly great, and above all, to be called so, rouses at once all their sublimity and their gratitude; and if the Parisians, as travellers assure us, are not such great beaux as formerly, their vanity has only taken a more ferocious turn, and instead of delighting in fine clothes, dresses itself, like

an American warrior, in the bloody spoils of it's enemies.

The present War and the state of European Commerce are the features of most immediate interest in the Exposition; but the first consists of the old bare-faced accusation against England of beginning all the wars in the universe, an accusation so notoriously false in a late instance, that it's very impudence is a relief to one's indignation. It is equally false that we began the war of blockades by our decree of the 11th November, 1807, since the French Emperor had already done it from his head-quarters at Berlin several months before. To mend however the truth of the matter, we are told, in spite of our connexion with Sweden and Spain, that all our social relations with the Continent are suspended and that we are "smitten with the excommunication" which we ourselves have provoked. The war therefore it seems, is to be waged solely against our Commerce. This is a word which BONAPARTE handles to great advantage without meaning a word he says. He persuades the merchants of the Continent that he is doing a great deal for them in depriving us of our commerce; while his sole aim is to hinder us from interfering in his continental arrangements. "A great nation essentially agricultural," says the Exposition, "can by possessing in abundance all articles of utility, easily forego those which only form certain luxuries or conveniences of life; particularly when it's independence and glory are at stake." The Emperor knows that he shall never see France a great commercial nation, and therefore without offending the merchants he gradually turns the attention of the people to their inland resources and to agriculture; he would do the same with Spain in the event of a conquest; and as to the ships he is building in all the ports, we may remark that they are almost entirely for war. It is only because he sees we have not spirit enough to renounce something of our mercantile passions, that he ventures to oppose them. On the return of peace he would not hesitate to open the whole Continent to our trade, and to encourage an overgrown commerce at the expense of our armed navy, which it injures by occupying so much of it's service.

The picture which the Orator gives of the effects of our ambition admirably applies, with a slight variation or two, to the French tyranny on the Continent. "The object of the war," says he, "is the slavery of the world by the exclusive possession of the seas (land); There is no doubt that by subscribing treaties

of bondage, disguised under the holy name of peace, nations may obtain repose, but this shameful repose would be death. In this alternative the choice between submission and resistance could not long be doubtful. But until these latter times, she paid at least some respect to the law of nations; she seemed to respect the rights of her allies, and even, by some returns towards peace, allowed her enemies to breathe. This conduct is however, no longer suitable to the development of a system which she can no longer dissemble. *All who do not promote her interests are her enemies. The abandonment of her alliance is a cause of war; neutrality is a revolt; and all the nations that resist her yoke, are made subject to her cruel ravages.* Is this a picture of the singular forbearance with which we have treated Germany, Prussia, Italy, and above all Russia? Is it not a fac-simile of BONAPARTE'S declarations and denunciations, of that second hand writing on the wall which announced their doom to all the corrupt and foolish courts of Europe, and particularly to Spain?

The apostrophe to the Spanish nation respecting England is exactly of the same reverse meaning. She availed herself," says the pathetic orator, "of the last circumstance to spread the genius of evil over Spain, and to excite in that unhappy country all the rage of furious passions. She has sought for alliances even in the support of the Inquisition, and even the most barbarous prejudices. Unhappy people, to whom do you confide your destiny? To the contemner of all moral obligations—to the enemies of your religion—to those, who, violating their promises, have elevated on your territory a monument of their impudence, an affront, the impunity of which for above a century would bear testimony against your courage, if the weakness of your Government had not been alone to blame!" Of what kind of sounding brass are these orators composed! The charge of tampering with that execrable tribunal the Inquisition, and with other barbarous prejudices in Spain, is indeed astonishing, when we recollect, that the very constitution which BONAPARTE drew up for the Spaniards recognised the Holy Office of the Inquisition, and even pronounced the Roman Catholic Religion to be the only one that was to be tolerated in the nation. One cannot but be moved with a mixture of sorrow and indignation to think that any man of talent and reflection should get up to utter such a series of falsehoods in the face of all Europe, and to the utter defiance of his own personal conviction. The statement of the general policy of France is interspersed of course, and very suitably to the rest of its facts, with infinite glorifications of the EMPEROR, who is said to be of a *pacific temper and not at all ambitious*. Amiable soul! I suppose he wants nothing but a crook and a silk jacket to go a sighing to the milkmaids of Malmaison! This is too contemptible.

Of the literary and other institutions, the arts and the sciences, very little is to be found in the English report of the Exposition. The Newspaper Editors, characteristically enough, tell us that they have admitted these things because they are, — as if the arts and sciences, and intellectual refinements of a

nation, were not the master-springs that ultimately move the whole system of politics. From the abridgement however of these gentlemen it appears, that the French are carrying on some very important public works, especially with regard to *continental navigation* and the improvement of inland wealth. Considerable sums have been expended on the roads; communicating with Spain, Italy, and Germany; plans are in agitation for the universal improvement of the great rivers and bays of the Empire, and canals in particular are to join the Meuse with the Scheldt, Seine, and Rhine, the Barmida with the Gulph of Genoa, and Marseilles with Amsterdam. With respect to commerce, the Minister, we see, deals in generals; but he is very particular with all that relates to the improvement of a nation *essentially agricultural*. To the internal administration he promises much improvement from the personal visits of the EMPEROR to the different districts of his dominion; and certainly there is the soundest policy in these visits, when they are to do something beyond *eating and drinking, and driving about in a post coach*.

To the Church re-establishment 30,000 Clergy have been added, called *Succursals*, a title which leads me to suppose that there has been no absolute addition to the Clerical Body, but that all the Priests, who answer to our Ministers of Parish-chapels, have been merely placed under the immediate superintendance of the Government. This is a measure well adapted to prevent those petty and nonsensical disputes about patronage and divinity which agitate the great men of parishes, and to prepare the minds of the priesthood for the ameliorations that may and certainly *will be suggested* by the Civil Power. Of Nunneries and Monasteries we hear nothing. There is but one new institution mentioned for any society like the former, and this is called a charity, the foundation of the *Sœurs de la Charité*. It is said, in the English translations, to be under the presidency of a Madame MERC; but this name is most probably a mistake for *Merc*, Madame MERE, or the EMPEROR'S Mother. The institution seems to be a copy of the charitable foundation of Madame MAINTENON, and is most probably nothing else but an indulgence to the pious feelings of Madame BONAPARTE, who is known to be a scrupulous Catholic, entirely wrapped up in mortifications and prayers for her son.

The improvement of human learning in France certainly keeps pace with that of religion. BONAPARTE, it must be confessed, is not a conqueror only. If we have no very high opinion of his taste, of which his letters and speeches are certainly no very fine specimens, yet his good sense, and above all his ambition, has led him to cultivate the arts of peace in the very uproar of war. Eight new schools of gratuitous education, the best schools undoubtedly for the cultivation of public spirit, have been added to the National Academies; but it must be confessed that the Exposition, according to the wretched abridgement of the translation, which in this respect is not worth copying, gives but a sorry account of the actual state of French literature. It merely tells us that the Napoleon Museum and the Museum of Natural History have been enriched, and that the Egyp-



tion Commission are going to *publish a book!* The Revolution indeed, which robbed the country of MIRABEAU, of CONDORCET, of LALANDE, BAILLY, CHAMFORT, and fifty other celebrated names of science and literature, have left a new generation to rise before the loss of the last age's manhood can be repaired. All the great arts in France are young at present, except politics: painting is young, and almost entirely occupied, like all beginners, in flat imitation: it is this which has led the new school to copy the treasures plundered from Italy with that indiscriminate love of the antique, which makes their paintings look like a set of statues. Music the French never boasted in any perfection, and we hear less of it now than ever; and the modern AUGUSTUS must still wait, it seems, for times of more peaceful patronage, before he can obtain his HORACES and his VIRGILS. In short, there are but two or three French at present, TALLEYRAND and SIEYES perhaps in politics, and DE LILLE in poetry, whose names will descend with any splendor to posterity. England, in spite of their antiquities and their second AUGUSTUS, has already beaten them in painting, in philosophy, and in poetry, and it promises to beat them still, for our Commanders in Chief, thank Heaven, have nothing to do with these matters.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

EXPOSITION OF THE SITUATION OF THE FRENCH EMPIRE.

PARIS, NOV. 3.—Yesterday in the Legislative Body his Excellency the Minister of the Interior, accompanied by Messrs. de Segur and Corvetto, Councillors of State, delivered the following Speech on the Situation of the Empire:—

"GENTLEMEN—You terminated your last Session, leaving the Empire happy, and its Chief loaded with glory. The year has passed away, and a multitude of new circumstances have added to the good fortune of the country, and increased our hopes of the future. All that I have to detail, Gentlemen, is already known to you; and for your full information, I have only to retrace to your memory the principal events which have filled up the interval between your last and present Session, and to recall to you the additional advantages for which France is indebted to the wisdom and valour of her Sovereign. The recital will bring us of course to this lamentable war, which we maintain against a single people. The glory of our nation calls that people, while our power alarms them: the independence of our commerce and of our industry disturbs them; every thing is again subjected to the fortune of war; but the day of retribution is not far distant."

[Here follows a long detail respecting the Administration of Justice, the principal amelioration of which consists in the establishment of the Trial by Jury, on the precise principles of the English law. The next head is that of Public Worship, which is followed by that of Sciences and Literature, Public Instruction, &c.]

"Among the arts of industry which have made progress in the course of this year, we must enumerate the manufactory of tin. In two of our manufactories they have attained a degree of perfection no way yielding to that of the English. A premium of encouragement has been given accordingly, and another is also destined to ulterior efforts in the same branch. The mechanics, in their endeavours

to simplify their looms, and introduce economy in their labours, have often also improved the quality of their stuffs. Those that are used in the weaving of cotton, have been much multiplied; the spirit of invention has brought them to perfection. There is nothing now which we cannot make, and very well. The weaving of cotton has made us marked a progress as the spinning. These two kinds of industry are already adequate to the consumption of the Empire, which is for ever liberated from the grievous taxation it has hitherto been under to the Indian manufacturers, and to their oppressors. The machines best calculated for the manufacture of cloths are already in wide circulation; they have lately been much encouraged by advances made to different manufacturers in the Departments. The Conservatory of Arts and Handicraft is daily enriching by the requisition of new patterns, and is entitled to commendation for the information which the pupils receive, who frequent its school for drawing and descriptive geometry.—Reforms have been made in the school at Chalons-sur-Meuse. The Consultation Chambers of the Manufactures are hastening to present useful views, which will be taken advantage of. The Institution of Arbitrators for the purpose of deciding with celerity variances that may arise between the workmen and their employers, render to industry services which have been set forth. Since your last Session, Gentlemen, several towns have demanded them, and there are already some established at Nismes, Ailla-Chapelle, Avignon, Troies, Mulhausen, Sedan, and Thiers.

COMMERCE.

"The political events have been unfavourable to commerce. It still was kept alive in the midst of the contentions that have deluged the Continent in blood, because those nations that were involved in the war preferred their neutrality—that right deemed even in our times inviolable. But the English Legislation, already misled by the ambition of universal monopoly, has overthrown the ancient barrier of the law of nations, and trampled their independence under foot, substituting in the room of them a new maritime code. The ordinances of his Britannic Majesty have realized these innovations: that of the 11th of November, 1807, is particularly remarkable; it pronounces, by an universal blockade, the interdiction of all our ports, in subjecting the ships of neutral Powers, friendly and even allied to Great Britain, to the visitation of its cruizers, to be conducted to British ports, and there to be taxed by an arbitrary inquisition. The Emperor, obliged to oppose just reprisals to this strange legislation, gave out the Decree of the 23d of November, ordaining the seizure and confiscation of the ships which, after having touched in England, should enter the ports of France. From these measures, provoked by the British laws, the almost absolute cessation of the maritime relations, and many privations for the French merchants, manufacturers, and consumers, must have necessarily ensued. We all know with what resignation these privations were endured: we know that they are already become habitual, that they have awakened the genius of invention, and produced a thousand resources in substitution of the objects which we are in want of; we know, finally, that a Great Nation, essentially agricultural, can, by possessing in abundance all articles of utility, easily forego those which only form certain luxuries and conveniences of life, particularly when its independence and glory should be put at stake. These circumstances have favoured one of the greatest scourges of commerce, smuggling. But it has been strongly repressed. The Government is preparing new means against this foe to the public revenue and national industry. The Government penetrated with the situation of the French commerce, has strove to mitigate the evils, to provide for its wants. Abroad, a treaty with the kingdom of Italy secures to France all the advantages which are compatible with reciprocal justice. In the interior, various sums have been advanced to manufacturers and proprietors

of produce, which public events had accumulated or cramped in their stores. The Caisse d'Amortissement has interfered in its outfitings with adventurers. A law has limited the bounds of the interest of money; Offices established at Lyons and at Rouen are preliminary to a grand system of facility in the circulation of specie and merchandise. The Exchange and the Commercial Tribunal of Paris are rising for their accommodation a stately Palace, on the site of the Nunnery of St. Thomas. Conformably to the new code, an organization of the Tribunals of Commerce of the Empire is preparing. The Prefects, the Courts of Appeal, have been consulted on the most eligible sites for these tribunals, as well as on the subject of their number, the Judges and their Surrogates. A general project has been submitted to the discussion of the Council of State, and to the sanction of his Majesty.

AGRICULTURE.

"The Prefects, the Courts of Appeal, and of the Members of the General Councils of the Departments, formed in Commission, are also called upon to give their advice on a project of the greatest utility, that of a Rural Code, so important to the prosperity of agriculture, and so closely interwoven with national prosperity. In the mean time, one of the principal improvements of which agriculture is capable, is daily effected by the re-organization of our repositories for the breed of horses. Eight new repositories of stallions have been formed this year. Premiums held out to the owners of the best horses brought to the fairs, rewards decreed at the departmental races, are so many additional means of favouring the production of the most eligible species of this animal. Two new sheep-farms have been introduced. Six hundred Merinos, of the best breed, have been ordered from Spain; and they are already arrived in France, notwithstanding the variety of obstacles that have occurred in their passage. They will be divided into two new establishments, as yet in embryo. The multiplication of the flocks increases rapidly, and we may consider the happy revolution introduced in this branch as completed. May it one day be so also with the culture of cotton. In spite of the contrarieties of a hard spring, and a tolerably cold autumn, the attempts made still give room to hope for ultimate success. We are justified to augur well also of the attempts made on the grape. The rich culture of tobacco is daily extending; that which is gathered in the vicinity of St. Malo, equals in quality that of America. France will one day, to judge by appearance, not only supply its own wants with that production, but also export it to her neighbours.

THE PUBLIC TREASURE AND FINANCES.

"Regularity, and a judicious administration, prevail in every department of the Public Treasury. The national accounts are reduced to a system the most scientific and luminous; it differs from the mode adopted by the most intelligent merchants only in the extent and necessary complication of the transactions of Government. The Finances have been gradually brought by the Emperor from a state of dilapidation and confusion to a state of order and prosperity, unknown in the Governments the best administered. It is a trophy raised by vigorous exertion, by combinations the most judicious, and by a perseverance which has unravell'd the most intricate details, and surmounted incredible difficulties. The nation enjoys the benefits which result from this new sort of conquest. Since France has generously consented to the adoption of indirect taxation, the finances have really been consolidated, and the utmost facility for carrying on the functions of every Department of the Public Service. The Finances in modern times may be considered as the security of States, and the measure of their stability. If they furnish Government only with inadequate, precarious, or oppressive resources, its energies become paralyzed, individuals insolvent; and if war, or any other calamity, should visit a nation under these circumstances, it must subscribe to its own dishonour, or be involved in irretrievable ruin. The Finances of a State are

not essentially and efficiently good until they become independent of circumstances—until they can be maintained independently of the ruinous expedient of resorting to loans and excessive contributions—until, in fine, they are so connected and identified with national prosperity, that they constitute a direct emanation from it; then only can they be deemed solid, efficient, permanent; and essentially national, and, particularly, if they have received an organization sufficiently simple; so that in an extraordinary emergency, all the property, and all the individuals may be called upon, promptly to furnish their quotas in advance. The endeavours of his Majesty have been incessantly directed to the attainment of this desirable object, and they have been crowned with the most complete success; and the Finances are calculated in future to meet with equal effect the exigencies of war and of peace. In a period of peace, 600 millions will be sufficient to defray the public expences, and will leave a large surplus for national improvements. The receipts, which amount at the present to 800 millions, will, according to this arrangement, be reduced to one fourth. In the time of war, it is not in the contemplation of his Imperial Majesty to resort to the illusory expedients of imposing taxes of a novel description, or to hold out temptation to raise new supplies. The contributions on the recurrence of war will be brought back to the war standard—i. e. 800 millions, and even then raised only by 100 or 150 millions at a time, in case of need; and this will be done by a simple scale, or table of proportions, which will enable every Citizen to judge of the share he has in the good or bad fortune of the State. Observe, Gentlemen, that this simplicity has no affinity or connection with that so considerably extolled as the result of a single direct contribution; it is, on the contrary, founded on a conviction that taxes ought to be laid on various objects, that our laws of Finance include all the taxes which it was expedient to establish, and that all that is just and reasonable has been effected. It remains only to limit the Survey, or Register, without which the uniform progress of the scale of increase or diminution would be deficient in proportion, and would continue to affect the Proprietors of the funds actually surcharged; the making up of this Register, which ought to efface so much inequality, to repair so much involuntary and inevitable injustice, is pursued with so much constancy, that those who disbelieve the practicability of this immense work, no longer doubt of its speedy execution. I must not here omit, Gentlemen, the creation of the Court of Accounts, to the establishment of which you co-operated in your last Session. This Court ought, by the distribution of its duties, and the number of its Members, to be adequate to all the occasions, and responsible for all the labours that may be entrusted to it. The principles on which this establishment rests, the choice of its Members, the consideration in which they are held, every thing guarantees the success the Government has promised itself—that of a salutary control over the several Accountants.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

"The same principles of order, and the same views for the acceleration of the service, have influenced the general direction of the Commissariat, whose first essays justify the expectation that had been formed. This administration renders the Supplies of the Army independent of Contractors, who have so frequently done injury, at the same time that it secures the advantage of our economy, very essential to the public funds.

MARINE.

"Though, during the present campaign, the Government has limited its maritime operations, still a squadron, armed at Toulon as if by enchantment, and conducted with skill, has been able to defeat, by able manoeuvres, the combinations of the enemy, by conveying to Corfu two years supplies of men, artillery, provisions, and ammunition. After having thus rendered useless the expedition with which the barrier of the Adriatic was threatened,

the fleet of Admiral Gantheaume returned safe through all the difficulties of a boisterous navigation, and all the dangers of continued tempests. The colonies in like manner have been successfully supplied with provisions, by squadrons of frigates and corvettes, which, while they fulfilled that important object, had, like the squadron that went to Corfu, the advantage of making prizes of a great number of the enemy's ships, richly laden. In India, prizes to the value of 15 millions have been the result of the cruises of our frigates, one of which only has surrendered, and that after a glorious contest with a superior force.—Privateers in all parts of the world, and above all in the seas of India and Guadalupe, have proved themselves formidable to the enemy. But it is not so much with a view to what it has done, but what it may do with time, that our Marine ought to be considered. Tenships of the line, constructed in the docks of Antwerp, and fitted for sea many months since, are awaiting their destination. The flotilla of Boulogne, kept up and equipped, is still in readiness to undertake the operations for which it was originally created. Twelve ships of the line, and as many frigates, have been launched within the year; and 25 more, and as many frigates on the stocks, attest the activity of our dock-yards. Our ports are preserved in perfect order; and the creation of that of Cherbourg is so far advanced, that its basin may be expected to be in a state to contain squadrons before the lapse of two campaigns.—Spezzia is about to become a second Toulon. The union of almost all the coasts of the Mediterranean to France, secures to our arsenals and our ships abundant supplies of provisions, stores, and men. Venice, Ancona, Naples, and all the means of Holland and Italy, are in motion.

THE PRESENT WAR.

“At the epoch of your last Sitting, Gentlemen, every thing combined to deliver Europe from its long agitations; but England, the common enemy of the world, still repeats the cry of perpetual war, and war continues. What then is the object, what will be the issue? The object of this war is the slavery of the world, by the exclusive possession of the seas. There is no doubt, that by subscribing treaties of bondage, disguised under the holy name of peace, nations may obtain repose; but this shameful repose would be death. In this alternative, the choice between submission and resistance could not be long doubtful. The war which England has provoked, which she continues with so much pride and obstinacy, is the termination of the ambitious system which she has cherished during two centuries. Mixing in the politics of the Continent, she has succeeded in holding Europe in a perpetual agitation, and in exciting against France all the envious and jealous passions. It was her wish to humble or destroy France, by keeping the people of the Continent constantly under arms; by thus distracting the Maritime Powers, she had the art to profit from the divisions she fomented among neighbours, in order to forward her distant conquests. In this manner has she extended her colonies, and augmented her naval power; and, by the aid of that power, she hopes henceforth to enjoy her usurpation, and to arrogate to herself the exclusive possession of the seas. But until these later times, she paid at least some respect to the laws of nations; she seemed to respect the rights of her allies; and even, by some returns towards peace, allowed her enemies to breathe. This conduct is, however, no longer suitable to the development of a system which she can no longer disguise. All who do not promote her interests are her enemies. The abandonment of her alliance is a cause of war; neutrality is a revolt; and all the nations that resist her yoke, are made subject to her cruel ravages. It is impossible to foresee what might have been the consequence of so much audacity, had not fortune, on our part, raised up a man of a superior order, destined to repel the evils with which England threatens the world. He had always to combat the allies of that power on the

Continent, and to conquer the rising enemies she succeeded in creating. Always attacked, always threatened, he found it necessary to regulate his policy by that state of things, and felt that to by the coast it was necessary to augment our forces, and weaken those of our enemies. The Emperor *always pacific*, but always aroused by necessity, was not ambitious of aggrandising the Empire. Prudence always directed his views. It became necessary for him to relieve our ancient frontiers from the too near danger of sudden attacks, and to found their security on limits fortified by nature; finally, it became necessary, so to separate France, by alliances, from her rivals, that even the sight of an enemy's standard never could alarm the territory of the Empire. England, defeated in the disputes she so often renewed, profited, however, by them, to increase her wealth, by the universal monopoly of commerce. She had impoverished her allies by wars, in which they fought only for her interests. Abandoned at the moment in which their arms ceased to serve those interests, their fate became the more indifferent to her, as she preserved some commercial relations with them, even while she continued the war with France. Even France herself left to the English the hope of a shameful subjugation to the want of certain objects, the privation of which they believe our generous population could not support. They thought that if they could not enter the territory of the Empire by their arms, they might penetrate its heart by a commerce now become its most dangerous enemy, and the admission of which would have exhausted its most valuable resources. The genius and the prudence of the Emperor have not overlooked this danger. Involved in the difficulties of the Continental war, he ceased not, however, to repel from his States the monopoly of English commerce. He has since completed the measures of an effectual resistance. No one can now be deceived on this subject: since the English have declared this new kind of war, all the Ports on the Continent are blockaded, the Ocean is interdicted to every neutral ship which will not pay to the British Treasury a tribute, which is meant to be imposed on the whole population of the globe. To this law of slavery other nations have replied by measures of reprisal, and by wishes for the annihilation of such a tyranny. The English nation has separated itself from every other nation. England is fixed in this situation; all her social relations with the Continent are suspended. She is smitten by the *excommunication* which she has herself provoked. The war will henceforth consist in repelling from all points the English commerce, and in employing all the means calculated to promote that end. France has energetically concurred in the exclusion of the monopoly of commerce; she has resigned herself to privations, which long habits must have rendered more painful. Some branches of her agriculture and her industry have suffered, and still suffer, but the prosperity of the great body of the nation is not affected: she is familiarised with that transitory state, the hardship of which she beholds without fear. The allies of France, and the United States, sacrifice like her, and with a resolution equally generous, their private conveniences. England was on the eve of the moment when her exclusion from the Continent was about to be consummated; but she availed herself of the last circumstance to spread the genius of evil over Spain, and to excite in that unhappy country all the rage of furious passions. She has sought for alliances even in the support of the Inquisition, and even the most barbarous prejudices. Unhappy people, to whom do you confide your destiny? To the contemner of all moral obligations—to the enemies of your religion—to those, who, violating their promises, have elevated on your territory a monument of their impudence, an affront, the impunity of which, for above a century, would bear testimony against your courage, if the weakness of your Government had not been alone to blame! You ally yourself with the English, who have so often

wounded your pride and your independence, who have so long ravished from you, by open violence, and even in time of peace, the commerce of your colonies; who, in order to intimate to you their prohibition of your neutrality, caused their decrees to be preceded by the plunder of your treasures, and the massacre of your sailors; who, in fine, have covered Europe with proofs of their contempt for their allies, and for the deceitful promises they had made to them. You have, without doubt, recovered from your error. You will then groan for the new perfidies that are reserved for you. But how much blood, and what a quantity of wars will flow, before this tardy return to your senses. The English, hitherto absent from all great conflicts, try a new fortune on the Continent. They ungarrison their island, and leave Sicily almost without defence, in the presence of an enterprising and valiant King, who commands a French army, and who has already snatched from them the strong position of the island of Capri. What then will be the fruit of their efforts? Can they hope to be able to exclude the French from Spain and Portugal? Can the success be doubtful? The Emperor himself will command his invincible legions. What a presage does the heroic *Army of Portugal* offer to us, which, struggling against double its force, has been able to raise trophies of victory on the very land where it fought to such disadvantage, and to dictate the conditions of a glorious retreat. In preparing for a new struggle against our only enemy, the Emperor has done all that was necessary for the maintenance of peace on the Continent. He must reckon upon it without doubt, inasmuch as *Austria*, the only Power which could disturb it, has given the strongest assurances of her disposition, in recalling her Ambassador from London, and desisting from all political communication with England. Still Austria had recently made armaments, but they took place certainly without any hostile intention. Prudence, nevertheless, dictated energetic measures of precaution. The armies of Germany and Italy are strengthened by levies of the new conscription. The troops of the Confederation of the Rhine are complete, well organised, and disciplined. One hundred thousand of the Grand Army leave the Prussian States, to occupy the camp at Boulogne; while Denmark, henceforth safe from any English invasion, is evacuated by our troops, which are concentrated and concentrating themselves. Before the end of January, the battalions withdrawn to Spain will be replaced on the Banks of the Elbe and the Rhine. Those which quitted Italy last year, return to their former destination. Such, Gentlemen, is the external situation of France. In the interior, the greatest order in all parts of the administration prevail: important ameliorations, a great number of new institutions, have excited the gratitude of the people. The creation of titles of Nobility have envircled the throne with a new splendour. This system creates, in all hearts, a laudable emulation. It perpetuates the recollection of the most illustrious services, repaid by the most honourable reward. The Clergy have distinguished themselves by their patriotism, and by their attachment to their Sovereign and their duties. Respect to the Ministers of the Altar, who honour religion by a devotion so pure, and virtues so disinterested! The Magistrates of all classes every where aid, with their efforts, the views of the Sovereign; and the people, by their zeal, facilitate the operation of their authority, and by the manifestation of the most affecting sentiments, exalt the courage and ardour of the troops. Soldiers, Magistrates, Citizens, all have but one object, the service of the State—but one sentiment, admiration of the Sovereign—but one desire, that of seeing heaven watch over his days, a just recompense for a Monarch who has no other thought, no other ambition, than those of the happiness and the glory of the French nation.”

The Orator descended from the Tribune, amidst the applauses of the Assembly,

The PRESIDENT—“ Sir, the Minister of the Interior, and Gentlemen Councillors of State—You have painted the true greatness of the Prince, in retracing all the good he has done. The annual pictures of his internal administration, will one day be the finest monuments of his reign. Unhappy the Sovereign who is great only at the head of his armies; happy the one who knows how to govern as well as to conquer—who occupies himself incessantly with useful works, in order to rest himself from the fatigues of war, and whose provident hand sows, in the midst of so many ravages, the fruitful seeds of public happiness. One single man has fulfilled these two great destinies; he has subdued powerful States; he has traversed Europe as a conqueror, under triumphal arches erected to his glory, from the bounds of Italy to the farthest extremities of Poland. It was enough for the first of heroes, but not enough for the first of Kings. In the fields of Marengo and of Jena, that indefatigable genius meditated the happiness of nations. All the ideas of public order—all the safe counsels which protect societies and empires, have always accompanied him in his warlike tent. It was he that reopened the temples of desolated religion, and who saved morality and the laws from a ruin which was almost inevitable. In one word, he has founded more than others have destroyed. Behold that which recommends his memory to eternity! In the midst of the most magnificent of our squares, a column, worthy of the age of the Antonines or the Trajans, has been elevated, in opposition to the voice of the hero that is above such things. Our exploits will be engraved on the glorious bronzes with which it is to be covered. Victory, erect on this triumphal column, will point to Italy twice subdued—to Vienna, to Berlin, and Warsaw, opening their gates; our standards waving on the Pyramids; the Po, the Danube, the Rhine, the Spree, the Vistula, stopping beneath our laws. Frenchmen will stop with pride at the foot of this monument. The day is perhaps not far distant, when we may be able to erect, to the pacification of Europe, a monument still more worthy of him. Let all the arts decorate him with the emblems of agriculture and industry; let the images of peace and abundance preside above; let there be represented with them, not cities destroyed, but cities rebuilt—not captive rivers, but rivers mixing their streams for the benefit of commerce—not fields of slaughter, but fields fertilised—not the war which shatters thrones, but the wisdom which re-establishes them. Let them engrave on them, in fine, as a substitute for all other inscriptions, these memorable words—‘ I have felt that, in order to be happy, it was necessary for me first to be assured of the happiness of France.’ This triumphal arch, of a new description, will never be beheld without emotions of respect and love. It is there that every heart will send forth, without effort, the most exalted eulogy of the great man who has been the author of so much good. We cannot render him our homage in a better mode, than by putting up prayers, that his talents as a warrior may soon become useless. Secure is he of finding within himself other sources of greatness. Let us not doubt it. Thanks for all that he shall undertake for the happiness of the nation. His renown as a conqueror will henceforth be but the most feeble part of his glory.”

PARIS, Nov. 10.—On the 5th inst, his Majesty the Emperor and King transferred his head-quarters to Vittoria. *The Augus* announces that the arrival of his Majesty was the signal of a general action, which was attended by a victory complete in every respect

BAVONNE, Nov. 4.—The Emperor set out to day at noon for Spain. His Majesty will, it is said, sleep at Irun, and arrive early to-morrow, with his august brother, at Vittoria. There has been a very brilliant affair for our troops near Lagrona. The insurgents have

been completely beaten. On the other side a division of the army commanded by Marshal Moncey, had, on the 26th of last month, an engagement at Leriu, in which the Spaniards were defeated. In this affair we took several pieces of cannon, and 600 prisoners, which yesterday arrived at Bayonne. The officers are confined in the citadel. These miserable Spaniards are in a most deplorable condition; their clothes are mere shreds, and they are without shoes. The siege of Saragossa will commence in a few days, and be carried on vigorously. The army of Spain will be divided into eight grand divisions, and be commanded by the Marshals Ney, Bessieres, Soult, Mortier, Victor, Moncey, and by Generals St. Cyr, and the Duc d'Abrantes. The head-quarters of the Imperial army has been removed from Fuen to Tolosa. It is confirmed that Romana has been completely beaten, and that we are masters of Bilboa; St. Ander will soon be in our possession.

Nov. 5.—The defeat of the Spaniards at Bilboa has been most complete. Marshal the Duke of Dantzic has made 4000 prisoners, among whom are two Aides-de-Camp of Gen. Blake. The dispositions which were made to drive the Spaniards from the Banks of the Ebro, have been attended with the most complete success at every point. Gen. Castanos, after the defeat of his advanced guard, quitted his position at Sofia. By this movement, the Marquis Romana was no longer able to receive succours from the principal Spanish army; he has had reason to repent of the temerity with which he advanced. The French soldiers had no sooner perceived this corps, which had rendered itself so guilty by the most signal perfidy, than they most impatiently waited the order for battle; the victory was quickly decided. Romana was not able to effect his retreat but in the greatest disorder, and his position will no longer permit him to cover St. Ander, which will be immediately attacked and carried.—There exists in Spain the greatest subjects of division, both between the different corps of their army and their Generals, and between the different Authorities. It is evident that the people of property are very seriously alarmed at the pretensions of an anarchal multitude, ever ready to commit the greatest excesses.

SPAIN.

[FROM THE PATRIOTIC PAPERS.]

INTELLIGENCE EXTRAORDINARY.

Corunna, November 8, 1808.

A Dispatch has been received by the Junta of this kingdom, from his Excellency Gen. Joaquim Blake, Captain General of Galicia, dated 1st of Nov. containing the duplicate of a dispatch, which he had sent to the President of the Supreme Central Junta of Government, at Aranjuez; and is as follows:—

"MOST EXCELLENT SIR,

"The enemy having received great reinforcements from France within these few days, and having collected the whole of their forces into one body, attacked yesterday our troops posted at Sornosa, who fought with great bravery; but after an action that lasted the whole of the day, they were forced by the superior numbers of the enemy, who threatened to cut them off, to abandon their positions. I cannot yet inform your Excellency of the amount of our loss, or of the particulars of the action, not having yet received the Report of the Commanders of the divisions en-

gaged. A thick mist, which concealed the movements of the enemy, favoured greatly his attack. Wherever I was present, I witnessed the utmost bravery on the part of our Generals, Officers, and Soldiers, and, from the obstinate resistance which they made to the enemy in every point where they were attacked, I am persuaded that they have all behaved themselves like true Spaniards, and in this conviction, and in the belief that the enemy has suffered enormously, I am confirmed by his not attempting to follow us. When I saw the troops falling back, and the greater part of them taking the direction of the high road, I formed a junction of the different corps engaged in the action, and led them to the Sierra of Viscargui, on the left flank of the enemy, from whence, after allowing them to rest for about two hours, I marched them by Legama to the heights of Bilboa, the rear guard of the army being covered in this retreat by the Marechal de Camp, D. Nicolas Mahy, and this morning I left them at Bilboa under the command of that officer, while I proceed to take new positions for the army, adapted to its present circumstances, availing myself for that purpose of the Asturian troops, the army from the North, and the second division of the army of Galicia, which were not engaged in the action. I communicate the whole to your Excellency, for the information of the Supreme Junta. God preserve your Excellency many years.

"JOAQUIM BLAKE.

"Hirandegui, Nov. 1, 1808."

"To his Excellency Count Florida Blanca."

"P. S. I am this instant informed, that the whole of the French army has appeared before Bilboa, in consequence of which, and the orders given to Gen. Mahy, that town will be evacuated, and the troops under his command will fall back to join the rest of the army, the head-quarters of which I mean to establish at Valmaseda."

COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE SUPREME JUNTA TO GENERAL D. FRANCISCO PALAFOX, BROTHER OF THE CAPTAIN-GENERAL OF ARRAGON.

"The Supreme Junta is convinced of the absolute necessity of our armies putting themselves in motion against those of the enemy, which are causing so great evils in the Spanish territory. The Junta has at different times made manifest its desires to the Generals, and however just the reasons for delay and inactivity may have been hitherto, it has nevertheless been mischievous, and many evils must be increased by it, especially should the enemy receive their expected reinforcements. The Government can no longer observe, with indifference, that their towns are sacked and destroyed with impunity, at a time when our forces outnumber those of the enemy, and our soldiers burn with impatience to attack them. There must be immediately an end put to such delay in our operations, which, if carried on with activity, might save the country, while want of energy exposes it to great danger. To avoid delay, and to give to the armies all the energy that is required on this occasion, your Excellency is commissioned to go to the head-quarters of the Army of the Centre and elsewhere, with all the powers of the Supreme Junta, in the character of its representative, in order to treat with the Generals respecting the reunion of all the divisions, the combining of operations, and every thing thus disposed, yourself resolve upon such attacks as you may think necessary, and conducive to the attainment of the so-much-desired object, that so fully occupies the nation, and that our circumstances, and the interests of the cause in which we are engaged, so imperiously demand. And to the end that your Excellency may more easily discharge this important commission, the Junta has resolved, that the Marquis de Couplign, Marshal-de-Camp, shall accompany you, conforming himself to your orders, until he joins the division under his command, and likewise the Brigadier Conde de Montijo, who is also to be obedient to your orders.

"The Supreme Junta inform your Excellency, that the honours due to you, in the character of their Deputy

ought to be the same with those due to a Captain-General of the Army.

"Aranjuez, Oct. 18th."

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTS.

- L. Cotton, Fenchurch-street, merchant, to surrender Nov. 19, Dec. 3, 27, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Eviit and Rixon, Haydon-square, Minories.
- C. Mannin, Pickett-street, cheesemonger, Nov. 22, at one, 29, Dec. 27, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Hurd, Temple.
- R. Wright, Thorveton, Devonshire, dealer, Nov. 26, 29, Dec. 27, at eleven, at the Globe Tavern, Exeter. Attorney, Mr. Mortimer, Exeter.
- J. Gilbert, Chiswell-street, grocer, Nov. 19, at two, 26, Dec. 27, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Hughes, Dorset-street, Salisbury-square.
- L. Lane, Kingsclere, Hants, shopkeeper, Nov. 19, 29, Dec. 27, at twelve, at Guildhall, London. Attornies, Messrs. Kibblewhite, and Co. Gray's-Inn-Place.
- W. Atkinson, Manchester, shop-dealer, Nov. 23, 24, Dec. 27, at eleven, at the Globe Tavern, Liverpool. Attornies, Messrs. Griffiths and Hinde, Liverpool.
- J. Pearce, W. Dixon, and B. Allen, Paternoster-row, money-scriveners, Nov. 19, 29, Dec. 27, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Bovill, Bridge-street, Blackfriars.
- G. Johnson, Pear-Tree-row, Blackfriars-road, cabinet-maker, Nov. 19, at two, 26, Dec. 27, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Allingham, St. John's-square.
- L. Wm. Jackson, Brownlow-street, Holborn, cabinet-maker, Nov. 22, 29, Dec. 27, at eleven, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Patten, Cross-street, Hatton-garden.
- J. Whitehead, Kingston-upon-Hull, grocer, Nov. 22, 25, Dec. 27, at eleven, at the George-Inn, Kingston-upon-Hull. Attorney, Mr. Martin, Hull.
- B. Cooper, Earl-street, Blackfriars, builder, Nov. 22, 29, Dec. 27, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Loxley, Cheapside.
- R. L. Rolls, Southam, Warwickshire, money-scrivener, Nov. 24, 25, Dec. 27, at the Warwick Arms Inn, Warwick. Attorney, Mr. Tidmas, Warwick.
- J. Page, Bishopsgate-street, haberdasher, Nov. 22, 26, Dec. 27, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Sweet, King's Bench Walks.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty-Office, Nov. 19.

Copy of a Letter transmitted by Admiral Young, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels at Plymouth, to the Hon. W. W. Pole.

Amethyst, Hamoaze, Nov. 15, 1808.

MY LORD.—I have the most sincere pleasure in acquainting you, that his Majesty's ship the Amethyst, under my command, captured, the 10th inst. at night, the French frigate La Thetis, of 24 guns, and a crew of 380 men, who had served years together, and 106 soldiers, from L'Orient for Martinique. Being close to the N. W. point of Groa, she was seen a quarter before seven P. M. and immediately chased; and a close action began before ten o'clock, which continued with little intermission till twenty minutes after midnight. Having fallen on board for a short time, after ten, and from a quarter past eleven, when she intentionally laid us on board, till she surrendered (about an hour), she lay fast alongside, the fluke of our best bower anchor having entered her fore-most main-deck port, and she was, after great slaughter, boarded and taken possession of, and some prisoners received from her, before we disengaged the ships. Shortly after a ship of war was seen closing fast under a press of

sail, which proved to be the Triumph, which immediately gave us the most effectual assistance that the anxious and feeling mind of such an Officer as Sir Thomas Hardy could suggest. At half-past one the Shannon joined, received prisoners from, and took La Thetis in tow. She is wholly dismantled, dreadfully shattered, and had her Commander (Pinson, Capitaine de Vaisseau), and 135 men killed; 102 wounded, amongst whom are all her Officers except three. Amethyst has lost 19 killed and 51 wounded; amongst the former is Lieut. Bernard Kindall, a most promising young Officer, of the Royal Marines, who suffered greatly; and that invaluable Officer Lieut. S. J. Payne, dangerously wounded; the mizen-mast shot away, and the ship much damaged and leaky. No language can convey an adequate idea of the cool and determined bravery shewn by every officer and man of this ship; and their truly noble behaviour has laid me under the greatest obligation. The assistance I received from my gallant friend the First Lieutenant, Mr. Goddard Blennerhasset, an Officer of great merit and ability, is beyond all encomium. Lieutenants Hill and Crouch, and Mr. Fair the Master (whose admirable exertions, particularly at the close of the action, when the enemy was on fire, the boarders employed, and the ship had suddenly made two feet water, surmounted all difficulties), are happily preserved to add lustre to his Majesty's service. In justice to Monsieur Dede, the surviving Commander of La Thetis, I must observe, he acted with singular firmness, and was the only Frenchman on the quarter-deck when we boarded her. I have the honour to be, &c.

MICHAEL SEYMOUR.

Admiral Lord Gambier, &c. &c. &c.

N.B. Dimensions of La Thetis—length, 162 feet; breadth, 41 feet 6 inches; twenty-eight 18-pounders (24 pounds English) on the main-deck; twelve 36-pounders (42 pounds English) on the quarter-deck; four 8-pounders on the fore-castle,—1000 barrels of flour on board, beside known stores.

List of Killed and Wounded.

KILLED.—Mr. B. Kindall, 2d Lieut. Marines; and 13 Non-commissioned Officers and Privates of the Seamen and Marines.

WOUNDED, SOME DANGEROUSLY.—Lieut. Payne; Mr. Gibbings, Master's Mate; Mr. Miles, Midshipman; Mr. Gilson, Captain's Clerk; and 47 Non-commissioned Officers and Privates of the Seamen and Marines.

Downing Street, November 18, 1808.

A Dispatch, of which the following is a Copy, was this day received by Viscount Castlereagh, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Lieutenant General Beckwith, commanding his Majesty's troops in the Windward and Leeward Islands:

MY LORD, Barbadoes, Sept. 14, 1808.

Intelligence having been received here on the 27th of last month, that the enemy had hazarded a landing in Marie Galante with a detachment of regular troops from Gaudaloupe; the three companies of the 1st West India Regiment, under the command of Lieut.-Gen. Blackwell, of the 4th West India, proceeded from Barbadoes, as expressed in my dispatch No. 17, were landed in Marie Galante on the 29th, attacked the French troops, in conjunction with the Naval Garrison, on the 30th, and after a series of operations in the fastnesses of the country, the enemy surrendered at discretion on the 3d instant. Colonel Cambriel abandoned his command the day before the surrender, and it is imagined escaped in a canoe to Gaudaloupe.

The detachment returned to Barbadoes on the 10th, having had three men wounded, one of whom is since dead.

The perseverance and temper of the three companies was respectable; and the fatigue they underwent at this season of the year unusually great.

I enclose Lieut.-Col. Blackwell's Report, and have the honour to be, &c. GEORGE BECKWITH, Lieut.-Col.

[Here follows Col. Blackwell's Report. It possesses little interest. The regular force of the French amounted only to 200 men, but they were joined by 400 or 500 natives; 162 of the troops were made prisoners by the British, the rest escaped.]

[This Gazette contains also accounts of the following captures:—The French privateer Gen. Paris, of 3 guns and 38 men, by the Port Mahon sloop, Capt. Chambers; the Italian schooner Ortenzia, of 10 guns and 56 men, by the Minstrel sloop, Captain Hollinworth; and the French privateer La Princesse Pauline, of 3 guns and 90 men, by the Pilot sloop; Captain Walpole.]

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

J. and J. Hulbert, Bath, cabinet-makers.

BANKRUPTS.

- G. Mann, Southampton-place, Strand, victualler, to surrender Nov. 26, at eleven, Dec. 3, 31, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Crawford, Charles-square, Old-street Road.
- J. Kitchen, Leeds, dyer, Nov. 29, 30, Dec. 31, at eleven, at the Star and Garter Inn, Leeds. Attorney, Mr. Grainger, Leeds.
- J. Leman, Ramsgate, shopkeeper, Nov. 23, at two, 26, Dec. 31, at twelve, at Guildhall, London. Attorney, Mr. Clutton, St. Thomas's-street; Borough.
- J. Kitson, Dewsbury, Yorkshire, clothier, Nov. 29, at ten, at the Yew-tree Inn, Robert-Town, Dec. 8, at eleven, at the Woolpacks Inn, Wakefield, 31, at eleven, at the Yew-tree Inn, Robert-Town. Attorney, Mr. Wadsworth, Millbridge.
- G. Averill, Armitage, Staffordshire, wheelwright, Nov. 28, 29, Dec. 31, at eleven, at the Crown Inn, Rugeley. Attorney, Mr. Robinson, Hill-Ridware, Staffordshire.
- T. and S. Knight, Mosley, Lancashire, clothiers, Dec. 7, 8, 31, at the Packhorse Inn, Huddersfield. Attorney, Mr. Bannister, Rochdale.
- J. Handcocks, Bromyard, Herefordshire, dealer in pigs, Dec. 15, at four, 16, 31, at ten, at the Feathers Inn, Ledbury. Attorney, Mr. Reece, Ledbury.
- R. Read, Caroline-Mews, Bedford-square, Stable-keeper, Nov. 29, 29, Dec. 31, at ten, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Denton and Barker, Field-court, Gray's-inn.
- G. Fall and J. Hutchinson, Tooley-street, Southwark, brewers, Nov. 26, 29, Dec. 31, at eleven, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Holmes and Lewis, Mark-lane.

PRICE OF STOCKS YESTERDAY.

Consols..... 60½.

The FINE ARTS, and several Miscellaneous Articles, are postponed for want of room.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, NOVEMBER 20.

THE Board of Inquiry upon the Portuguese Convention commenced its sittings last Monday. This is a tribunal of a very singular nature. It has no concern whatever, in a constitutional point of view, with a real public enquiry into the subject; it is a mere consultation of the King's friends, of private gentlemen in fact, who might have given his Majesty their opinions in a room of the palace quite as well as at Chelsea; but whatever they may think of the matter, it can have no possible influence on the requests of the people or the royal promises of a full enquiry. The Judge Advocate requested, it seems, that none of the proceedings should be made public; but here

is the dilemma, here the suspicious character of the measure betrays itself. Either the Board is a public or a private Board; if the former, the people have a right to know its proceedings as well as those of a Court of Law; if the latter, why is a public character studiously given to its influence and decision? Why are the members publicly named, and in one or two instances selected from men, who because they are not in the immediate interest of Ministers, are supposed to be no courtiers? Are the Members his Majesty's advisers only, or are they the advisers of public opinion also? In short, the Board appears to be a very useless thing. If the private individuals who compose it pronounce in favour of the Convention, the nation has nothing to do with its verdict; if they do not, a public declaration of their opinion will certainly look like pronouncing judgment before public investigation; and therefore, at any rate, the public must still look for a public inquiry. The daily papers, however, with a politeness that seems to recognize the half-private half-public character of the Board, have abstained from publishing the evidence, and have merely given us the statements of Sir HEW DALRYMPLE and Sir A. WELLESLEY respecting the share of influence they had on each other. But even this glimpse into the matter has enabled the public to settle a very important question. At the commencement of the sitting Sir HEW DALRYMPLE, with an evident feeling of the odium of the Convention, thought it necessary to state, that he had not only exerted no influence over Sir ARTHUR's opinions on the subject, but that generally speaking he had rather bowed to them himself; neither did he recollect that a single objection was at the time of signing made by Sir ARTHUR, except as to the duration of the treaty; and Sir ARTHUR stated in justice as well as from necessity, that this was true, observing at the same time, that he had never authorised any person to state the contrary to the public, and that he most cordially concurred in the opinion that the French should be permitted to evacuate Portugal. So far therefore Sir HEW and Sir ARTHUR agree in principle, and the Court Papers have not only been uttering the most wilful and most impudent falsehoods in every sense of the word, but in all their attacks on Sir HEW in defence of WELLESLEY, they have been overwhelming the latter with every thing that they themselves call abusive. There is still however a degree of mystery hanging over the consultation between our Commanders and General KELLERMANN; Sir HEW says that "the conference was held in the French language," and that "when he advanced to the table in order to place his signature to the armistice, he was informed by General KELLERMANN, that he (KELLERMANN) as a General of Division, was unable to treat with the Commander in Chief of the British forces." I need not expatiate here upon that unfortunate attachment of Courts to the French language, which has rendered it the universal medium of diplomacy, and has contributed more than people imagine to the ascendancy of the French nation; but it would be very satisfactory to understand, whether Sir HEW is sufficient master of the language to comprehend all the delicate turns and tricks of an intriguing and

voluble Frenchman, or whether Sir ARTHUR was the principal person concerned in the conference. Sir HEW tells us, he *advanced* to the table to sign the Armistice. What is the precise or relative meaning of the word *advanced*? Was the Armistice drawn up *without a table*, so that all the party *went together* to the table at the conclusion, or were Sir ARTHUR and KELLERMANN already at the board, and Sir HEW *at a distance* till he joined them? He was not in great request, it seems, or of much service, for when he was about to put his signature, he was *informed* by the French General that a Commander in Chief could not sign with a General of Division. Was Sir HEW then ignorant of this essential piece of etiquette, or did he know as little about the conference as he did about the signature? These are interesting questions.

Upon the whole, Sir HEW exhibits a much better figure at Chelsea than at Cintra, and Sir ARTHUR a still worse. Of the liberality with which the latter confirmed the truth of Sir HEW's statement I think very little indeed; for if his love of the truth, his regard for a brother officer's character, and his disdain to be upheld by falsehood, had been as lively as they appeared at Chelsea, how happened it, that he suffered the public to be deceived so long, and never publicly contradicted a word of what his fantastic flatterers advanced? It is delightful to see how a single established fact can put to flight a whole host of courtiers and calumniators. What has become of the Hero of Vimiera, who scorned the infamous Convention, who "privately protested against it in the strongest terms," who had "no concern with it," who had no share whatever "in drawing it up," who "totally disapproved and avowed his disapprobation of every article of the instrument in question?" These are but petty specimens of all that was said about Sir ARTHUR's hatred of the Convention, by that new sect of *Protestants*, who claimed infallibility, and talked of I know not what authority, with I know not how much impudence.

The *Oracle*, the only paper out of five, has had the honesty to acknowledge its errors, on this subject; but another of the daily papers, a paper which a gentleman will hardly condescend to notice, which calls the PRINCE OF WALES a *beautiful, glorious and sacred* Prince, and like a snail crawls about the Court by means of its own corruption,—in short, the *Morning Post*,—has not only been completely dumb with respect to any thing like acknowledgment or repentance, but has absolutely had the disgusting meanness, in its account of the Chelsea Board, to drop every word of Sir HEW's explanation and Sir ARTHUR's confession. I leave it to the just vengeance of the various papers which, whether right or wrong, it has always been in the habit of abusing, to the quarterstaff of the *Chronicle*, the well-tempered blade of the *Times*, and the tomahawk of Mr. COBBETT.

The head-quarters of BONAPARTE are now at Vittoria, and the affairs of Spain assume a more important aspect every moment. The celerity with which this man travels, presents a humiliating contrast with the wretched tardiness of our expeditions. It seems but yesterday since he was at Erfurth. Nothing stops him in his determined road. He travels all night,

fords the river in a common ferry-boat in the morning, mounts an artillery-horse, rides eighteen miles in an hour and a quarter through the mud and wet, and whenever he rests for an hour or two at a great town, finds leisure to examine the principal works of the place in person. Such is the manner in which this consummate soldier and politician at once conquers his enemies and his subjects too. The commencement of the campaign has of course raised a hundred opposite reports of the successes of the Spaniards and their enemies. One day the Spaniards are the victors, another day the French; but all that can be gathered with any certainty is, that the latter have regained Bilboa; *so far*, therefore, literally speaking, they have the advantage. The Spaniards are said to have been in full march for that place on the afternoon of the 6th, and this is the latest intelligence that has been received. In the mean time CASTANOS has joined PALAFOX, and their united armies extend in a very important line from Sanguessa to Villafranca, thus interposing between the French in Navarre and the French in Barcelona. It is certainly a pity that the line is not stronger in numbers. The Spanish and British forces altogether amount to the following number:—

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Reding's Corps..... | 16,000 |
| Valencian and Murcian Levies..... | 20,000 |
| Castanos and Palafox..... | 20,000 |
| Blake and Romana..... | 35,000 |
| British and Estremaduran Armies..... | 53,000 |

144,000

The French are supposed to be of much the same amount. Some say, that ROMANA has superseded BLAKE, though why the first ardour of a conqueror should thus be damped, it is useless to examine; perhaps because the former is a Marquis and *high on the list*. The Supreme Junta seem to be at variance with the Generals, and have at length condescended to publish something of their proceedings, merely appointing however a brother of General PALAFOX to represent them at the seat of war, and to controul the movements of the armies. This important officer does not appear to be a military man even! The existence of Spain depends on the cordial co-operation of all ranks of her inhabitants, on the mass of mind as well as the mass of levies; but what do these appointments and supersedings look like?

A noble achievement has been performed by Capt. MICHAEL SEYMOUR, who, in the *Amethyst* of 36 guns, has intercepted and captured the French frigate *Thetis*, of 44, in her attempt to leave L'Orient for Martinique, with provisions. The action commenced near Groa, off L'Orient, a little before ten at night, and continued for more than two hours, during half of which time the vessels were engaged hand to hand. The French lost all their Officers but three, and had 135 men killed, out of 330. The number of slain surpassed that of the wounded by 38; but the *Amethyst* lost only nineteen, and had but fifty-one wounded, so that the enemy must have suffered most terribly even before the ships came together. Towards the close of the action the *Thetis* caught fire, which was stopped by the activity of Mr. FARR, the Master of the *Amethyst*. Capt. SEYMOUR's account of the ac-

tion is that of a man of deeds and not words: it is concise and modest, and bestows liberal praise not only on the assistance he received from his own men, but on the desperate gallantry of the enemy. The French, always of a lively courage, fight the more gallantly on these occasions from their very fear of BONAPARTE, who, I verily believe, would rather see twenty of his merchantmen captured than one of his ships of war, since it is not our commerce but our real naval strength that he would rival. VILLENEUVE knew this when he shot himself. Captain SEYMOUR, like his brother conquerors NELSON and SMITH, is the son of a clergyman; he has been in active employment from his earliest years, and lost an arm in Lord HOWE's victory, in which he rendered such important service, that he was immediately promoted to the rank of Master and Commander and appointed to the Spitfire sloop. In this situation he led a life of perfect chivalry, capturing some of the enemy's privateers in every cruize, and rescuing vessels they had taken. This excellent skill both in offence and defence soon elevated him to the rank of Post Captain, and he has now added to his long services an exploit that must certainly lift him much higher, at least with regard to title. It is a pity that the Order of the Bath, which was originally purely warlike, has latterly been bestowed on men who, whatever their merits may be, have never perhaps handled a deadlier weapon than a carving-knife. There is still wanting an Order purely chivalrous, that might be able to do honour to such men as Captain SEYMOUR.

THE LATEST NEWS FROM SPAIN.

The following is the substance of the official reports of the late actions in Biscay, as transmitted to the Spanish Government:—

“On the 31st of October four divisions of General Blake's army were attacked by 25,000 French. After fighting as became valiant Spaniards during the whole day, General Blake, in order to prevent being surrounded, determined to fall back and to form a junction with the divisions of the Asturias and the Marquis de la Romana. The retreat was conducted in the best order, without the loss of cannon, colours, or prisoners. They halted during the night of the 1st of November at Bilbao. General Blake having resolved to take post at Valmaseda, the army marched on the 2d for another position, where it was joined by the Asturians, the troops of the North, and the fourth division of Galicia; a small detachment having been left at Bilbao. On the 3d, the French appeared before that city in great force, and the few troops that were there evacuated it in good order, and fell back on Valmaseda. In the action of the 31st all the divisions displayed the greatest gallantry in maintaining their position against a very superior force during the whole day, with unexampled energy, and left the field of battle with reluctance; the enemy, notwithstanding his superiority, was unable to gain a foot of ground. The loss of the Spaniards was considerable, but that of the French much greater; so that they were incapable of molesting the Spaniards in their retreat, which was effected in the most orderly manner, without the loss of a single knapsack. The army being concentrated at Valmaseda, Gen. Blake received information, on the 4th, that a division of the enemy, consisting of 10,000 men, was marching on the heights of Ontara, with a view of cutting off a division of his army posted in that place. He therefore put his troops in motion at day-break of the 5th, and at one o'clock attacked the enemy. After an obstinate battle

which lasted till dark, he completely put them to the rout, with great slaughter, and the loss of many prisoners, one howitzer, two ammunition waggons, and a considerable quantity of provisions. Till eleven o'clock of the night of the 5th, when the dispatch was sent off, prisoners and baggage continued to be brought in. The number and rank of the prisoners cannot be exactly stated, as our troops continued the pursuit, and there were the best founded hopes they would be able to capture a great part of the French division, who finding their retreat by the high road cut off, defiled by the edge of the mountains skirting the vallies, in which direction they were closely pursued. On the morning of the 6th, all the army marched forward, and earnestly solicited permission to enter Bilbao at the point of the bayonet. We anxiously await the result of this enterprize, which, there is every reason to hope, will prove successful.”

The above is an authentic account of the occurrences from the 31st October to the 6th instant. Major Carrol, in his dispatches to Government, affirms, that no troops ever conducted themselves with greater valour and intrepidity than the Spanish soldiers; the greatest regularity and cheerfulness prevailed; their minds being wholly intent on attacking the enemy, and calling on the General to lead them to Bilbao, to carry it at the point of the bayonet. General Blake was present in the hottest parts of the battle, exposing his person like a private soldier, wherever necessity required, and cheering and animating the troops. He would not entrust to any one else the command of the division which covered the retreat, but conducted it in person. In the same manner he superintended, on their arrival at Bilbao, the distribution of the scanty ration furnished to the troops; his own food consisting only of the common rations; and this rule he observed so strictly, that from the 1st to the 3d, during the temporary scarcity, he was the last to receive his allowance, and his only sustenance was a piece of ammunition bread given to him by his servant.

The following Bulletin was issued on Wednesday evening from Downing-street:—

“Government have received dispatches from St. Andero, dated the 7th November, which state, that the French, having received considerable reinforcements, attacked the Gallician army, under General Blake, on the 31st of October, in their positions, about one league from Zernosa. The attack commenced at six o'clock in the morning, under cover of a thick fog, and lasted till three in the afternoon, when the Spaniards, after a most obstinately contested engagement, in which they had to contend with numbers greatly superior, and a formidable artillery, being destitute themselves of that species of force, were obliged to retire. They effected their retreat in excellent order to Bilbao, with a view to further retirement upon Valmaseda. The enemy's force was computed at 25,000 men, that of General Blake at 17,000. The bravery and steadiness of the Spanish troops are mentioned in the highest terms.—In the course of eight hours most obstinate and incessant fighting, the enemy never gained more than a quarter of a league.”

Letters have been received from Calaoorra, on the Ebro, dated the 28th ult. which state that General Castanos arrived at that place, where the Head-quarters of the Central Army were established on the 23d. A Council of War was held, and it was determined that the army should change its position, and occupy the left bank of the Alagon, leaving 2500 men at Lagrono, to check the incursions of the French across the Ebro. General Castanos proceeded from Calaoorra to Lagrono on the 25th. On that day the enemy attacked the Spanish advanced posts on the left bank of the Ebro, which fell back. General Castanos left Lagrono about noon to return to Calaoorra, giving orders to General Pignatelli not to abandon the town, unless the enemy should advance in force.

His escort consisted only of 100 infantry and 30 cavalry. The road by which he proceeded followed the winding of the Ebro. The enemy had lined the hills which also skirt the course of the river, with a body of light infantry, which, at the moment of the General's appearance, kept up a constant fire, often at a distance not exceeding 300 yards. The General continued under this fire for above a mile, never altering his horse's pace, which was that of a walk. The road then turning off from the right, left him no longer exposed. After the General's arrival at Calaorra, he received advice that Colonel Cruz, with the regiment of Volunteers of Cadiz, had been surrounded in Lerin, and taken prisoners after a most gallant defence. The Colonel was supported by a squadron of cavalry and the Volunteers of Spain; and had he retired with the cavalry when the enemy's force became too powerful to be resisted, his country would not have to lament the loss of an Officer whose only fault was an excess of bravery. His battalion consisted of only 400 men. The troops at Lagrono, under General Pignarelli, began their retreat to Nalda on the 26th, at ten at night.

A Corunna Gazette of the 9th inst. states an important circumstance, if true, viz. that our squadron and the Russian squadron had met in the Straits, and after a severe action, we had two 74's sunk. The Russians had five sail of the line taken, four frigates, four brigantines, and one cutter. The Editor adds at bottom of the paragraph, *this is true*.

This account is not probable. The Russians had but four ships of the line in the Mediterranean.

A Writer says—"I have seen a Corunna Gazette, just received, which states, that a naval action has taken place in the Mediterranean, between ten sail of the line English, and 15 sail of the line French and Russian, supposed from Toulon. This account is given on the authority of one of the Portuguese men of war cruising against the Algerines. It is said two 81 gun-ships, English, were sunk, and 900 men killed; but the action ended in the total annihilation and capture of the enemy. This account ends—" *Esta noticia esta cierta.*"

It is proper that the people should be fully acquainted with the mode by which a considerable portion of the taxes is diverted from the public service, at a time when those taxes press so heavily upon all ranks and conditions. Not only did Sir A. WELLESLEY enjoy 6,000l. a-year, as Secretary of State for Ireland, at the time he was absent in Denmark and Portugal, (where also he was receiving pay as a General), but even now, the Hon. C. W. STEWART (brother to Lord CASTLEREAGH), actually holds the office of Under Secretary of State, with a salary of 2,000l. a-year, though he is at this moment in Portugal with the 18th Light Dragoons, of which regiment he is the Colonel. There needs no argument to prove that these abuses are of the grossest description; and yet those who encourage and practice them have the impudence to talk of their patriotism!! What a knot of knaves! but the people are not fools enough to believe them.

Another maniac presented herself at the Queen's Palace on Wednesday, and insisted on seeing her Majesty, by whose order she said she attended, with a number of prints of elegant buildings, representing the edifices to be erected in the New Jerusalem for Richard Brothers, the Prophet; also a portrait of

that madman, engraved by his disciple, Mr. SHARP, the celebrated engraver, with other things. The poor woman refused to leave the Palace without seeing the Queen, as she was sure her Majesty was there, and none but Royalty should dismiss her. She was at last induced to depart, on the porters promising that on her calling again they would admit her to an audience; and so they would, but it would have been with Messrs. Townsend and Macmanus.

MISCELLANEOUS SKETCHES

UPON TEMPORARY SUBJECTS, &c.

BREAKFAST SYMPATHIES UPON THE MISERIES OF WAR.

As the present campaign between the French and Spaniards is likely to be of a most sanguinary nature, I cannot help hinting to my readers, and to my fair countrywomen in particular, that it would be as well to get rid of that habitual indifference in speaking of battles and bloodshed, which is better suited to French thoughtlessness than to English sound feeling.

I can forgive a little want of feeling in the disputers in coffee-houses, who read a paper only to argue upon it, or in old gentlemen, whose souls have grown stiff in the stocks, and lost their feeling from being continually in one posture; let these persons, who lose in taverns the meditation and the quiet feeling of the home fireside, read a newspaper as they please, and in a new sense of the phrase kill their thousands and their ten thousands with the jawbone of an ass; but in domestic life let us have domestic sympathies, let us open the door to the feelings and the miseries that wander about the world and ask nothing but our compassion, and let us, for God's sake, have no more such dialogues as the following:—

TWO GENTLEMEN AND A LADY AT BREAKFAST.

A. *Reading the newspaper and eating at every two or three words.* "The combat lasted twelve hours . . . and the two armies separated at nine. in the evening. . . leaving 30,000 men literally cut to pieces," another piece of toast, if you please, "on the field of" . . . stop, 30,000 is it? (*looking at the paper closely*) Egad, I believe it's 50,000.—Tom, is that a 3 or a 5?

B. A 3 or a 5?—Oh, a 5. That paper's horridly printed.

A. Very indeed.—Well, "leaving 50,000 men on the field of battle"—50,000! That's a great number to be killed with the bayonet, eh! War's a horrid (*sips*) thing.

The LADY. Oh shocking! (*takes a large bite of toast.*)

B. Oh monstrous! (*takes a larger.*)

A. (*Reading on.*) "One of the French Generals of Division riding up to the Emperor with a sabre covered over with blood, after a charge of cavalry, exclaimed,"—stick your fork into that slice of ham for me, Tom—thanky'e—"exclaimed, there is not a man in my regiment whose sword is not like this." The two armi—"

B. What?—What was that about the sword?

A. Why—his own sword, you know, was covered with blood.—Didn't you hear me read it? And so he said, There is not a—

B. Ay, ay—whose sword is not like this? I understand you. Gad, what a fellow!

A. (*sips*) Oh horrid!

The LADY. (*sips*) Oh shocking!—Dash, get down: how can you be so.

A. The two armi—

B. By the bye, have you heard of Mrs. W.'s accident?

A. and the LADY. (*putting down their cups.*) No! What can it be?

B. Why, she has broken her arm.

A. Poor thing! Her husband's half mad, I suppose.

The LADY. Good God! I declare you have made me quite sick. Poor, dear Mrs. W. Why she'll be obliged to wear her arm in a sling. But she would go out this slippery weather, when the frost's enough to kill one.

B. Well. I must go and tell my father the news. Let's see—how many men killed, Charles?

A. 50,000.

B. Ah—50,000. Good morning. (*Exit.*)

The LADY. Poor dear Mrs. W. I can't help thinking about her. A broken arm! why, it's quite a dreadful thing! I wonder, whether Mrs. F. has heard the news.

B. She'll see it in this morning's paper, you know.

LADY. Oh, what it's in the paper, is it?

B. (*Laughing*) Why didn't you hear Charles read it just now?

LADY. Oh, that news—No, I mean poor Mrs. W. Poor dear! (*meditating*) I wonder whether she'll wear a black sling or a blue. [*Exit.*]

What feelings, what habits of thought are these! Distance, it is true, is a great softener of the effect of misery; and when we have no relations or acquaintances in the battle, we may be allowed to feel more acutely for domestic than for foreign troubles, for the sorrows of a friend than the destruction of hundreds. But the habit of talking indifferently, produces a habit of feeling indifferently; and, at any rate, the humming carelessness with which some people read an account of such battles as those of Austerlitz or Marengo betrays a want of common reflection. Let us think, for an instant, of one quarter of the miseries in a single campaign, of the hardships of the soldiers, of the thousands of hearts that are pierced in the death of a thousand men, of the lingerings of multitudes left on the field of battle, of the burning of villages, the diabolical outrages on the female sex, the agonies of fathers, mothers, and husbands,—in short, of the murders, the pestilence, and the famine arising from one great victory. I do not wish my fair readers to plunge themselves on these occasions into an agony of sorrow, or into laborious hysterics; I want no German affectation, none of the woe of white handkerchiefs, no starts and sudden attitudes, no pretty dabbings of the eyes, with "How foolish I am!"—but the decent sensibility of Englishwomen, and the common respect of a good heart for the miseries of human kind. An age like this should make philosophers of us all.

BOARD OF INQUIRY:

The Members of this Board assembled on Monday morning in the Great Hall, Chelsea Hospital, to inquire into the causes and circumstances of the late Treaty of Armistice, and Convention of Cintra.

PRESIDENT.

General Sir DAVID DUNDAS.

MEMBERS.

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Generals | { | Earl MOIRA, PETER CRAIG, Lord HEATHFIELD, Earl PEMBROKE, |
| Lieut.-Generals . . . | { | Sir G. NUGENT, OLIVER NICHOLS. |

"GEORGE R.—Whereas, we were pleased, in the month of July, 1808, to constitute and appoint Lieut.-General Sir Hew Dalrymple, Knt. to the command of a body of our forces, employed to act on the coasts of Spain and Portugal, or in such other part of the Continent of Europe he might hereafter be directed to, and the said Lieut.-General did, pursuant to our instructions transmitted to him, proceed to Portugal, and did on the 22d of August, 1808, land in that country, and take upon himself the command of the said body of our forces accordingly. And whereas it appears that on the same 22d of August, and subsequently to his having assumed the command, an Armistice was concluded as follows.—[Here is recited the Armistice as stated in Sir Hew Dalrymple's dispatch.] And, whereas, it appears that on the 30th day of August, 1808, a Convention was concluded as follows:—[Here is recited the Convention as stated in Sir Hew Dalrymple's dispatch.]—We think it necessary that an inquiry should be made by the General Officers hereinafter named, into the conditions of the said Armistice and Convention, and into all the causes and circumstances (whether arising from the previous operation of the British army or otherwise) which led to them, and into the conduct, behaviour, and proceedings of the said Lieut.-General Sir Hew Dalrymple, and of any other officer or officers who may have held the command of our troops in Portugal; and of any other person or persons, as far as the same were connected with the said Armistice and Convention, in order that the said General Officers may report to us, touching the matters aforesaid, for our better information. Our will and pleasure therefore is, and we do hereby nominate and appoint the General Officers of our army, whose names are respectively mentioned in the list annexed, to be a Board, of which we do hereby appoint Gen. Sir David Dundas, K. B. to be President, who are to meet accordingly for the purposes above-mentioned. And you are hereby required to give notice to the said General Officers when and where they are to meet for the said examination and inquiry; and you are hereby directed to summon such persons as may be judged necessary by the said General Officers (whether the General Officers employed in the expedition, or others) to give information touching the said matters, or whose examination shall be desired by those employed in the said expedition. And the said General Officers are hereby directed to hear such persons as shall offer to give information touching the same, and they are hereby authorised, empowered, and required strictly to examine into the matters before mentioned, and to report a state thereof as it shall appear to them, together with their opinion thereupon, and also with their opinion, whether any or what further proceedings should be had thereupon; all which you are to transmit to our Commander in Chief, to be by him laid before us for our consideration; and for so doing this shall, as well to you as to our said General Officers, and all others concerned, be a sufficient warrant.

"Given at our Court at St. James's this 1st day of November, 1808, in the 49th year of our reign."
"To the Hon. R. Ryder, Judge-Advocate-General."
The Judge-Advocate next read the official documents which appeared in the London Gazette of the 16th of Sep-

tember. After a short consultation, the President observed, that in order to make the necessary arrangements, it would be proper for them to deliberate in private. The Court was accordingly cleared. Strangers were not re-admitted, and at one the Court adjourned till Thursday.

SECOND DAY.—NOV. 17.

The Board assembled at about half past ten. It remained for an hour in private consultation, when the JUDGE ADVOCATE read two letters from Sir Hew Dalrymple, stating, that he should be happy to lay before the Court a narrative of all the transactions which took place in the army, from the day of his taking the command of it to the day of his return; and he hoped that at the time they should be ready to consider the circumstances of the Convention of Cintra, Naval Officers might be ready to inform the Board of the state of the weather and of the transports, at the time that the Convention was concluded. In the second letter, Sir Hew requested the Court to apply to Lord Castlereagh to lay before them copies of the correspondence which took place with the Commanders of the French army, with the Junta of Galicia, and with the Bishop of Oporto.

The answer of Lord Castlereagh was next read, it stated that these papers should be laid before the Court, as they had been called for, and that it had been his intention to lay them all before the Court, except what related to the Correspondence with the Bishop of Oporto, which did not appear to him to have been necessary to the Inquiry.

The Judge Advocate also stated, that Sir Arthur Wellesley wished to lay a narrative of his proceedings likewise before the Court.

The Judge Advocate then stated to the Public who were attending, that the Board was extremely anxious to enforce the necessity of restraining any publications of their proceedings, not only until they should have concluded their sittings, but until his Majesty's pleasure should be made known, whether any further proceedings of a military nature should be instituted; because, if in the result, the business should appear to his Majesty to deserve a farther inquiry, justice would require a call for the suppression of publication until those further proceedings should be closed.—[He then proceeded to read a vast variety of official documents, the most interesting of which were, a letter from Lord Castlereagh to Sir A. Wellesley, containing orders to proceed to the Tagus, and enumerating the different regiments that were to compose his army. It stated, that he was first to proceed with his army off Cape Finisterre; but that if he should find that his force was not sufficient, he was to communicate that fact to the Portuguese Government, and at the same time to write home, in order to obtain fresh supplies. It left much to the discretion and judgment of Sir A. Wellesley on this point: and he was to reconcile, as much as possible, any differences which might arise between the Provinces. It strictly enjoined him not to take any part in the discussions among the Provinces of Spain, without particular orders. It also stated, that this Government could not at present recognize the Prince of Asturias as possessing any Royal authority, he being actually a prisoner in France.]

A dispatch from Sir Charles Cotton, dated 12th June, wherein that Admiral states, that, according to the best information he could obtain, the French had not more than 4000 troops at Lisbon, and that he thought that about 3000 British troops might venture a landing, and effect the necessary operations. It also contained some remarks upon the critical state of the French force in Portugal.

A letter, dated 15th of July, from Lord Castlereagh to Sir A. Wellesley, inclosed communications from General Spencer as to the state of the enemy, and intimated that the troops under Lieut.-Gen. Sir J. Moore, then in the Baltic, after due refreshment, should proceed without delay to join Sir A. Wellesley in the Tagus. The attack upon the Tagus was to be the first object of the expedition. From the intelligence which his Majesty had received, he was induced

to trust, in a great degree, to the resources of the country, for the supply of provisions for the troops.

A letter from Sir A. Wellesley, dated the 24th of July, on board the Crocodile, off Corunna. The whole of the French troops in Portugal, according to the information he had received, amounted to 15,000 men, 12,000 of whom were stationed at Lisbon.

Another letter from the same to Lord Castlereagh, dated July 26, contained an estimate of the Portuguese troops stationed at Coimbra and elsewhere, the whole of whom were badly armed, and principally peasants.

A letter from Sir A. Wellesley to Lord Castlereagh, dated Aug. 1, on board the Donegal, off Mondego river, stated the position of the enemy in the neighbourhood of Lisbon, and that it appeared to Sir Arthur to be too strong for them to attack at present. The vicinity of the enemy, and the want of the necessary assistance, would increase the difficulty of disembarkation near Lisbon, and therefore he had been induced to land to the northward at Mondego Bay; that he had commenced his disembarkation in that river on the day of writing that letter, but that the landing was attended with some difficulty, and would have been quite impossible had it not been for the zeal of the people of the country, and the activity of the officers of the navy and army. He stated that he had issued 5000 stand of arms, to equip the people of the country to co-operate with the British forces.

A letter from Gen. Spencer to Sir A. Wellesley, dated the 15th July, gave some information respecting the position of the French army, and the most advantageous points of attack for the British forces. It referred to an absolute want of money in Portugal, and the necessity of supplying them in this respect, and also mentioned the difficulty of obtaining mules to draw the ammunition waggons, &c.

A dispatch from Sir Arthur Wellesley to Lord Castlereagh, dated August 16th, relates the particulars of his march, and the junction of the Portuguese troops. It had been the wish of that Government that the British stores should be employed for the maintenance of the Portuguese troops; and the dispatch stated the refusal of compliance on the part of Sir Arthur Wellesley, who intimated to the Portuguese General that the British forces would not be under the necessity of obtaining bread from them, but should require that nation to supply the British with beef, wine, and forage. It also contained an account of the British army saving from the French a magazine of provisions, and of some extraordinary messages sent respecting the supplies, in which General Friere expressed his anxiety on that subject. Sir Arthur Wellesley received a proposition from General Friere respecting a new plan of operations, which went to separate the Portuguese from the British troops; and the pretext for this proceeding was the probable want of supplies, notwithstanding Sir Arthur Wellesley had expressly stated to him the contrary. Sir Arthur Wellesley attributed this wish of General Friere to his apprehension that the British were not sufficiently strong for the enemy. He could not account for this proceeding, because the two Generals had always been on good terms, and General Friere had voluntarily, at a former period, placed himself and his troops under the command of the English. If Sir Arthur had been furnished with the supplies, he would have acceded to the request, but he found that the British Commissariat had not sufficient stores to enable him to do so. Besides, he did not believe that the motives stated by General Friere were what led to his determination.

A letter from Sir Arthur Wellesley for Sir Harry Burrard, of the 11th of August, stated, that Portugal, in time of peace, never supported itself more than seven months out of the twelve; and therefore that the British must depend upon the transports for bread and other provisions. It advised General Burrard also to take with him five days provisions in advance, and to keep up that stock in case of any interruption.]

When a letter was about to be read from Sir A. Wellesley to Sir H. Burrard, Sir Arthur addressed the Court in a very low tone of voice; whereupon Lord Moira observed, that it was evident that the communications contained in it had been made confidentially, and it did not appear to his Lordship that any thing contained in it bore materially upon the question, especially when the letter contained only private observations upon individuals. In case these letters should be printed with the Report of the Board, this letter must also be made public, and he left it to the Court therefore to judge what must be the consequence: it could have no other effect than that of giving an offence, which might prove exceedingly injurious to the public cause, and could not possibly forward any one point under discussion. He therefore moved that it should be withdrawn.

The letter was accordingly withdrawn.

The Judge-Advocate then read a letter from Sir A. Wellesley, containing the official dispatch respecting the battle of Vimiera; a letter from Sir H. Burrard to Lord Castlereagh; and a letter from Sir A. Wellesley to Sir H. Burrard.

Sir H. Dalrymple then read a paper to the Court. It stated that before he proceeded to put the Court in possession of a detail of proceedings which would place his conduct in that point of view in which alone it ought to be considered, he had to claim their indulgence in the statement of some circumstances by which his feelings and reputation had been most deeply wounded. He had always looked forward with joy to this moment, when he should have an opportunity to repel a calumny which he had every reason to know had the most injurious effect upon his character. He alluded to a paragraph which appeared in one of the public newspapers, and which had been transmitted to the army in Portugal, calculated, not only to destroy the respect of the soldiers placed under his command, but to rob him of that confidence which his Majesty had been pleased to repose in him. The object of this paragraph was to defame his character, and to rescue that of a more favoured Officer; but, in what he was about to say on the subject, he was far from wishing to shrink from the responsibility, and still less to disclaim the share he had in making an armistice, which, in the event, the more it was considered, the more it would be approved.—[Sir Hew Dalrymple here read the paragraph to which he alluded—insinuating that he (Sir Hew) had torn the laurels from the brows of an Officer (Sir Arthur Wellesley) who had deserved the admiration of his country for a splendid victory; and that he had compelled that same Officer to sign an armistice which would for ever remain on record as a disgrace to his Majesty's arms.]—Sir Hew Dalrymple begged leave most solemnly to affirm, on the word and honour of an Officer, that the conference with General Kellerman, which lasted from two o'clock in the day till nine at night, on the 22d of August, was carried on by Sir Arthur Wellesley, Sir H. Burrard and himself, during the whole of which Sir A. Wellesley made what observations he thought proper upon the Treaty, and took that prominent part in the discussion which the victory he had recently gained, and the local knowledge he possessed of the country, seemed to justify. The conference was held in the French language; and when he (Sir H. D.) advanced to the table, in order to place his signature to the Armistice, he was informed by General Kellerman, that he, as a General of Division, was unable to treat with the Commander in Chief of the British Forces; and, therefore, it was proposed that Sir A. Wellesley should place his name to the Armistice, and Sir H. Dalrymple did not recollect that a single objection was at that time made by Sir Arthur to the provisions of the treaty, excepting so far as related to the duration of the armistice. Sir H. Dalrymple did not mean, upon any account, to avail himself of any other means of retrieving

his character than what the established laws of the country allowed; his interest and the interest of truth were so nearly connected that they could not be separated, nor should he enter into details which could not regularly come before this tribunal. He was extremely happy that he was placed in the situation in which he now stood; but if any individual had chosen to prefer specific charges against him, he had no doubt but he could have justified his conduct with regard to the transactions in Portugal; and there was not a single Officer of whose services his Majesty had been deprived by him with a view to the present investigation.

Sir Arthur Wellesley hoped, that in delivering in his narrative to the Board, he should be justified in making a few observations upon what had just fallen from Sir Hew Dalrymple. Certain paragraphs had appeared in the newspapers which had ventured to speak upon his conduct in the late transactions in Portugal, as if the writers of them had received any authority or information from him or from his friends, as to the truth of the facts there stated. He had never authorised any person connected with him in the service, or any of his friends, to give authority to the publishers of Newspapers to state that he was compelled, or even ordered, to sign the armistice in question. It was true, that he was present when the treaty was in agitation by the Commander in Chief, and he assisted in drawing it up, and subscribed it by the desire of his superior Officer; but he never had said, and never would say, that that desire was in the shape of an order, much less in the shape of compulsion. It was a desire with which he had complied, from the wish of supporting the measures of those under whose command he was placed. However he might differ upon particular points, HE HAD MOST CORDIALLY CONCURRED IN THE OPINION THAT THE FRENCH SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO EVACUATE PORTUGAL; and when the Armistice was signed, he did not think it proper to refuse his concurrence. He thought it necessary to say thus much, and begged leave to deliver in a narrative from the time of his taking the command of the army, to the period when he resigned it on the evening of the 21st.

Sir Arthur Wellesley then delivered in his statement, and the Court adjourned till Saturday.

Sir Hew Dalrymple sat at the side of the Court. He was accompanied by General Sir Charles Green, and three Officers of his Staff. He looked extremely well; is a soldier-looking man, in the prime of life, and seemed to be in good spirits. Sir A. Wellesley sat behind the President. He was accompanied by Major Tucker, and another Officer of his Staff. The Duke of Cumberland sat within the bar. A number of Ladies were present, some of them very elegantly dressed. Among the auditory were Generals Sir T. Trigge, Phipps, Sir J. Craddock, the Hon. Capt. Legge, and many other Naval and Military Officers.

THIRD DAY—NOV. 19.

This morning, after the Board had deliberated in private for an hour, the Hall was opened to the public, when Sir A. WELLESLEY requested permission to give a more explicit answer than that which he made on Thursday to Sir H. Dalrymple's statements. Sir Arthur then read his answer in effect as follows:—“I lament that any attempts have been made, through the medium of the public prints, to injure Sir H. Dalrymple's reputation: I never authorised any publisher to state that I had been compelled to sign the Armistice. I took part in its discussion with Gen. Kellerman; but I never did or will say that I signed it by the ORDER of my superior Officer, or that it was NOT IN MY POWER TO DISOBEY. I differed in some points respecting the Armistice, but I fully concurred in the principle and the necessity of the French evacuating Portugal: When I spoke of the Commissariat being ill composed, I had no intention to complain of the want of zeal in the persons composing it.”

The Board then proceeded to read a variety of dispatches, the Protest of the Portuguese General, &c. &c. but nothing of further interest occurred before the rising of the Board.—Gen. Miranda and some of the Royal Dukes were present.

THE WOLF IN SHEEPS CLOATHING.

LAUNCELOT ATKINSON, one of the Collectors of King's Taxes for the parish of St. James, lately decamped with 6000l. of the public money. This man was a few years back a Cheesemonger in St. James's Market, in a large way of business, in which, to the astonishment of the neighbourhood, he failed. Not contented with administering to the appetites, he dealt out comfort to the souls of his fellow creatures, by exercising the godly profession of a Methodist Preacher, which no doubt had its intended good effect, for what flock could behave so ungraciously as not to support their Shepherd as well in his shop as in his Pulpit. In short, to sum up the virtues and the hopefulness of Mr. Launcelot, he was a Member of the Society for the Profession (we beg pardon, the Suppression) of Vice. The swirking, divine-looking appearance of this inspired dealer in Butter and Bacon, introduced him, after his failure, to the commiseration of the Commissioners of Taxes (probably his associates in better times) who little suspecting that a Member of the above named laudable Institution, and one of the cherubic choir, could be otherwise than immaculate, employed him as a Collector. A few days ago he decamped, and hid himself at Truro, in Cornwall; but the Clerk to the Commissioners, with two Bow-street Officers, traced the knave to his hiding-place, where he had assumed the disguise of an honest farmer:—he had even the impudence, though his person was well known, stoutly to affirm that it was not the man they sought for. His effrontery, however, did not avail him; he was brought to London, and has been made to disgorge a part of the money.—The mode by which this arch hypocrite wasted his money (for his wife brought him 8000l.) as well as that of the parish, is now plain enough: he kept a woman in the New Road, by whom he has four children, who accompanied him in his flight, and whose name (Ward) he assumed. Thus, in addition to his dishonesty, he had abandoned his lawful wife and family; yet the miscreant could mount the pulpit and preach of the judgments of Heaven!—Why, compared with his villainies, Abersham's vices were trifles; for it is the very climax of wickedness to put on the appearance of sanctity for the purposes of debauchery and fraud:—but his elevation to the pillory in Piccadilly is shortly to be expected, where, it is to be hoped, his brothers of the Vice Society will attend in a body, in order to take a salutary hint of the sad consequences resulting from the basest of all vices,—hypocrisy. The sight might likewise much benefit the Rev. Mr. HUNTINGDON, of Providence Chapel, of breeches-finding and money-getting memory, of whom the columns of this Paper, on some open day, shall exhibit some very edifying and amusing anecdotes.

LAW.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH.

Friday, Nov. 18.

THE KING v. THE REV. ABRAHAM ASHWORTH.

The Defendant was brought up to receive judgment upon two indictments, at Lancaster Assizes, on which he had been found guilty, of committing indecent assaults upon Mary Ann Gillibrand and Mary Barlow. The Defendant had been a schoolmaster at Preston in Lancashire, and these were two of his pupils; the former of the age of fourteen, and the latter only nine years. The case was attended with every circumstance of aggravation, the Defendant being an elderly Clergyman, and having a wife

and eight children, six of whom were females!! Affidavits were put in, in mitigation of his punishment, stating that he had educated several children to whom he had never shown any indecent conduct.

Mr. Justice GOSZ, in passing the sentence of the law, reprobated the conduct of the Defendant in those severe terms which it deserved; and pronounced the judgment of the Court, that he should be imprisoned in Lancaster gaol, 18 months for the first offence, and at the expiration of that time, 18 months more for the second.

POLICE.

MARLBOROUGH-STREET.

On Tuesday, a respectable jeweller, of Mary-la-bonne-street, named B——, was charged by a person named Hayes, a butcher, of Kilburne, with a violent assault upon his wife the preceding day, at the Defendant's house, in Mary-la-bonne-street. The Defendant, who is a married man, had become the father of an illegitimate child; but apprehensive that a discovery at home might interrupt his domestic peace, and unwilling to let his offspring go to the workhouse, he placed it at nurse with the butcher's wife, and paid amply for her care. But the butcher, understanding the apprehensions of a discovery which Mr. B. felt, urged his wife to make more frequent demands. Tired, therefore, with her importunities, Mr. B. agreed to give the nurse 100l. to take the child entirely off his hands. To this she agreed, and the bargain was duly ratified; but the butcher still urged his wife to further demands. Mr. B. refused to give any more money, but agreed to lend Hayes 60l. upon his bond, which was done; but not satisfied with this, new demands were made; and on Monday, both husband and wife went to Mr. B.'s house. The husband first entered, but being unable to succeed, sent in his wife as the abler advocate, and she refused to quit the house, without either receiving her demand, or making the threatened discovery. Mr. B. finding persuasion ineffectual for the lady's departure, endeavoured gently to shove her out; but provoked by a steady resistance, he felt it necessary to proceed a little more roughly, and to push her into the street by main force; and in this rencontre she received the injuries complained of.—The Magistrate told the Defendant he had made a very improvident bargain; however, as under the circumstances of the case it was clear the tables must be turned against the Prosecutor, he advised him to stand committed for the assault, and enter bail for his appearance, which was accordingly done.

MARRIAGES.

On Wednesday, at Mary-le-bone, the Rev. J. S. Freeman, D.D. of St. John's, Oxford, Prebendary of Leckford, Hants, to Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Richter, of Newman-street.

DEATHS.

On Friday evening, at Bath, Sir Henry Paulet St. John Mildmay, in the 4th year of his age. His complaint was a diseased liver, with which he had been afflicted for many years. Sir Henry has left a wife and 16 children. He is succeeded in his title and paternal estates by his eldest son, now Sir Henry Mildmay, a young gentleman of 22 years of age. The more valuable estates which he received with Lady Mildmay, go to his second son.

Last week, in Granby-row, Dublin, aged 84, the Rev. Dr. Blundell, Dean of Kildare.

On the 3d inst. in Edinburgh, the Right Hon. Isabella Countess of Errol, mother of the late and present Earl of Errol.