

THE EXAMINER.

NO. 4. SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 1808.

The world in fact are so accustomed to Newspapers, that they would consider their suppression as an eclipse. It would produce a sort of public mourning. The Republic of Letters would then be deprived of a number of pieces, which are the kernel or cream of a Newspaper, and which enable us to read it with advantage.

BAYLE. Dissertation sur les Libelles Diffamatoires; Dict. Hist. et Crit. p. 1307. Edit. Rotterdam, 1697.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

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

SWIFT.

No. 4.

CHARACTER OF NAPOLEON AND PRESENT STATE OF THE CONTINENT.

THE time is past, when governments were as difficult to overthrow as to erect, when a jealous independence separated one nation from another more strongly than mountains, and when the alteration of a single feature in the face of Europe produced wonder and alarm. Palaces, princes, and states vanish before us like the visions of a puppet-show; our maps will not last us a single year; what was great yesterday is little to day, what was little is elevated into royal greatness: the world is seized with a fearful earthquake, in which not only the mountains sink and the vallies are exalted, but the minds of men are shaken, are scattered, are overthrown.

Perhaps, while I am now writing, some other power is brought to the feet of the conqueror, some other petty region has acquired a name and a master, some other prince, hitherto stretched upon down, has become a fugitive among the winds and the waters. The wonderful man, who thus sports with the affairs of the world, rests not a moment; ambition stimulates his activity, but it is not the sole motive of action; there are minds, as there are bodies, to which restlessness is necessary; a state of bodily repose would reduce them to a state of thinking too restless for their comfort: the hurry of political business, the ardour of conquest, the past bloodshed and the present, will not suffer the mind of NAPOLEON to sit down to retired recollection, to the calm collection of it's proper feelings; if it could no longer prey upon others, it would prey upon itself. Unhappy conquerors! Who neglecting the placid comforts of life and panting after dominion, are not content to quench your thirsts at a pure stream, but must drink of the salt deeps, which only make ye thirst the more insatiably! Miserable favourites of Fortune! Who bask in a splendid sunshine that irritates your enjoyments and fires your brains; who can never retreat into a shade where the world does not intrude; who are elevated above all

men merely to be deprived of the blessing of equal friends, and are masters of mankind merely to be slaves to their most tyrannical passions! The French people have given their Emperor the title of *Great*, but in spite of his vast genius and the common prostitution of this title, no man radically ambitious was ever radically great: NAPOLEON might reasonably be styled the *Conqueror*, or his soldiers might call him *Lion's Heart*, like our RICHARD the 1st, or the Monks might flatter him with the title of the *Scourge of God*, as they did ATTILA; but to be called the *Great*, a man should be great essentially as well as comparatively, great over himself as well as others, great in self-knowledge and in self-command. It is a dishonour to history that ALEXANDER should so long have enjoyed this title, for he was an absolute slave to his passions. Even PETER the 1st of Russia does not deserve it, though he raised his country from barbarism: he might be called the *Founder* or the *Father* of Russia, but who would search for a *great* soul in the intoxicated brute that delighted in cutting off the heads of criminals after dinner? FREDERICK of Prussia, one of the most sagacious, most mean, and most ungrateful of mankind, could not command himself so much as to refrain from a luxurious dish or from treating his courtiers with the most petty malice: this great conqueror would sometimes sit down with his ministers and his literati and beg them in their sociality to forget the king: the king was forgotten, but FREDERICK could not get rid of his sarcastic propensities, so that whenever he met with a rapartee in his own way, he would exhibit all the marks of a miserable temper and angrily exclaim, "You forget you are speaking to the king!" It is this badness of temper which sullies the genius of NAPOLEON: political contradiction throws him into a passion, and when we recollect his disgraceful scene with Lord WILTORTH and all the angry menaces with which he is continually insulting his enemies, one cannot but be astonished at such a want of sensible reserve in so consummate a politician. A worse trait in his character is the deadliness of his personal revenge. His inhuman destruction of D'ENGHEN, his malicious persecution of the princes he has dethroned, and above all that passionate execution of an obscure individual who had libelled him, so contemptible as it would have been in the eyes of a generous and dignified

monarch, are of themselves sufficient to deprive him forever of the title of *Great*. A great man should be slave to nothing. The most invincible conqueror has still a master, when he is slave to himself.

To deny the political and military wisdom of the French Emperor would be to confess the most hopeless blindness. He is a conqueror and a legislator, though he is not the *Great*. But it must be confessed that his fortune has thrown him into an age when he is almost literally without competitors. When we consider the rulers of the continent, one would suppose that Heaven meant to shew it's peculiar contempt for royalty, by bestowing crowns on the most contemptible heads. From Russia down to Sicily the present monarchs are very weak men with excessively weak ministers. The kingdoms are either governed by feeble princes, or they are obliged to become regencies, a state of government full of jealousies and divisions. The Emperor of RUSSIA I need not describe: we have had very late proofs of his folly. The Emperor of AUSTRIA is a very good natured prince, who was governed through all his late wars by a faction that fettered the genius of his brother CHARLES and brought Germany to the feet of NAPOLEON: it is said that he is apt to cry whenever he hears the news of a defeat. The King of PRUSSIA may be spared on account of his misfortunes. The King of DENMARK is an idiot and the Queen of PORTUGAL religiously insane: the Prince Regent of PORTUGAL is a stupid devotee, who is to be found at the head of every wax-taper procession in Lisbon. The GRAND SIGNIOR has declared himself the decided enemy of European discipline and improvements, he is the creature of the Jannissaries, who will cut off his head or put out his eyes some day or other, according to the grateful custom of those Prætorian Guards. The King of SPAIN is a robust baby of six feet, who literally passes his time in firing so many guns and shooting so many birds in a minute, and who sees the scandalous amours of his wife with the indifference of a bed-post. Lastly, to close this divine list, the King of SICILY, brother to the King of SPAIN, is another amateur of hunting, and has precisely the same elegant propensities for smoking and doing nothing as his favourites the watermen of Naples. Now let us imagine, that PETER the 1st was at the present moment Emperor of Russia, and CHARLES 12th King of Sweden; or that Prussia was governed by the celebrated FREDERIC, and the German Empire by the famous MARIA THERESA, Queen, or as the Hungarians call their female monarchs, King of Hungary. Two such contemporaries, or even one of them would most probably have changed the whole aspect of European affairs. NAPOLEON therefore owes a great deal to fortune as well as to his own genius, but it must be allowed that he has taken the advantage of both.

Europe is at this moment divided into two great powers, which, to use the forcible language of a contemporary periodical writer, are "the Leviathan of the land and the Leviathan of the waters." France, who rose from her revolutionary fever with additional strength and with a thirst for dominion, instantly overpowered the sickly governments who had attacked her in her own disorder, and the continental powers could at length find no rest but in submission. England, who has ever sacrificed her best interests to her allies, in spite of an eternal war which she injudiciously began and which she now finds it necessary to protract, maintains the dominion of the sea with a glory that increases from difficulty: her ships leave a track of brightness wherever they go, and when an enemy attacks them he merely seeks an honourable mode of dying. The English character is entirely separated from every thing continental, and its present political separation displays it in a light more determinately respectable. Alike removed from the boasting of the powerful French and the servility of the rest of the continent, it exhibits all that singleness of strength and in general all that proud propriety of thinking, which has rendered it not only the country of freemen and philosophers, but the only country in the world that reminds the historian of the dignified character of the ancient Romans. How infinitely must such a country as this be respected by such a continent as the present. From the snows of the north to the southern sunshine, from the Cattegat to the eastern extremity of the Mediterranean every continental port is in possession of France. All our allies have forsaken us but Sweden, and she only waits the pressure or the beck of the conqueror's finger. But the fact is, that all this exclusion is nothing so deplorable as people imagine either for the continent or for ourselves. I do not mean to justify the motives of NAPOLEON, for they certainly originate in nothing but ambition: but it must be confessed that a great part of Europe will be much alleviated by the destruction of that feudal system, which overthrew every true political maxim and held the interests of the majority in contempt. Italy for instance instead of being divided into a hundred distinct parts, which possessed divided interests, will gather a more massive strength from their union under one powerful ruler, who is ambitious of exalting his people in the scale of nations. Men begin to feel their importance, when they are no longer the property of obscure individuals, who have no revenue but what they grind from the very sinews of their subjects.

As to our own country, we have nothing to do but to exert our strength rather in preserving our own greatness than in fruitless endeavours to succour the weakness of the Continent. That attack upon our commerce, which has filled us with such alarm, our commerce is well able to bear: its luxuriance may be

lopped with great benefit to the internal strength of the country, for commerce is but the vigour of the extremities; and not of the trunk of the body politic: we might as well put on woollen gloves in cold weather and take off our shirt, as cultivate commerce at the expense of agriculture. Colonial and continental commerce are different things. The loss of the former might give our enemies the means of naval aggrandizement, but if the loss of our trade with Europe injures a body of our merchants, it also diminishes the strength to our enemy, and deprives the whole Continent of a thousand comforts. The disputants on this subject are apt to confound all kinds of commerce with each other, and to think that when we lose such a place as Lisbon we are about to be ruined. But if there is colonial commerce as well as continental, there is also our domestic commerce, which is the great strength of our power at sea, which promotes agriculture and trade at once, binds our counties and our best interests together, and is of itself sufficient to supply all our military marine. Let us be wise, and leave the Continent to itself.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PARIS, JAN. 1.—The annual prize of 3000 livres, founded by his Majesty the Emperor and King, for the best experiment made in the course of the year, on the Galvanic Fluid, has been decreed to Mr. Davy, Member of the Royal Society of London, in consequence of his Memoir on the Chemical Action of Electricity, of which M. Gay Lussac will give an exact account in the Sitting.—*Moniteur*.

The four sail of the line and four frigates, which the French army found at Lisbon, are fitting out for sea.

JAN. 5.—The following observations are from the *Moniteur* of this day:—

“The House of Braganza has lost Portugal—it experiences the fate of all the Powers who have put their confidence in England. It is a very important success for France to have deprived the English of the excellent ports of Lisbon and Oporto. A new portion of the ancient Continent will be purged of the English influence. If the independence of the United States have been useful to France, the new establishment of the House of Braganza in another part of the new Continent also prepares to her great advantages; the new relations of the Court of the Brazils with Portugal; the commercial connections which it will be obliged to form with Europe, will turn to the profit of France and her allies.

“What do the Brazils produce?—Cotton and other articles similar to those which are received from the colonies. Other markets must be found for them, for England already overflows with colonial produce. These markets will be looked for upon the Continent, they will be found in France for the supply of our manufactories, and for our consumption. And these operations, in place of being effected by the intermediation of Lisbon, will be done with France, and by this means will insure to us, besides so many advantages, the profits of a direct trade.

“The English calculators see, with the utmost grief, these new circumstances which deprive them of an auxi-

liary who is so usefully situated for them, and this recent catastrophe of the last ally which England could boast, is unanimously attributed to the awkward and blind policy of the present Administration. This policy had already been displayed in resolutions which were not less fatal.—The blockade of the Elbe and the Weser deprived England of the trade which she carried on in the countries which were not yet occupied by French custom-house officers. The horrid expedition to Copenhagen next followed to alienate from her her most powerful continental ally. This expedition drove her out of the Baltic—it shut the Sound against her. In fine, the last decrees of the English Cabinet, by which neutral nations, allies, and even friends, are submitted to unjust and vexatious measures, will no doubt draw down new enemies upon her, and by the total interruption of her trade, do much more than France could have hoped for. When the Emperor, while in Berlin, declared England in a state of blockade, he was far from expecting that the Members of the English Cabinet would, from their own impulse, have taken steps which are of so real an advantage to us; would shut themselves out from all communication with the Continent; would put an end to all the neutral flags, which are so necessary for their commerce. The English trade thought to have a resource in the flags of Kniphhausen, &c. &c. and these flags were interdicted by France. She has at the same time, by the new Decree of his Majesty, used the justest right of reprisals.

“What will be the consequence of this situation, so new for the commercial interests? Vessels from America only arrive direct to France; if they allow themselves to be visited by the English vessels; if they submit to the English taxation, they will be subjected to confiscation. But the United States have too much energy, not to do all that is necessary for the protection of their flag. If, as it must be hoped, they succeed by negotiation to obtain the renunciation on the part of England, of her pretensions in this respect; if they cease to be subjected to the absurd and tyrannical laws, which only tend to the alienation of their trade, England will have the humiliation of being obliged to revoke her inconsiderate measures. Then the American trade, carried to the highest degree of prosperity, will abundantly furnish us with all kinds of raw materials, and the necessary articles wanted for consumption, whilst they will take in exchange the produce of our manufactures which they are in want of: that justice granted by the English Government to the American flag will, at the same time, open a new market for the sale of English goods, and this crisis, so frightful for the trade of Great Britain, will be much enfeebled.

“If, on the other hand, America cannot obtain satisfaction, we have no doubt of the refusal producing a declaration of war; the crisis in which England is will increase, and the time so much wished for, of a pacification upon equitable terms, will be so much the less distant.

“If a *Mezzie Termine* be the present determination, and that the American Councils should think proper to submit to their vessels being visited, to the obligation of their touching in England, to the contribution of the payment of 25 per cent. laid on the vessels which sail under a neutral flag, we can only pity the enlightened men who conduct the American affairs, that they have not been able to succeed in surmounting these difficult circumstances. But then the American vessels having to fear, on the one hand, their being turned aside on their passage, and of having a tribute of 25 per cent. to pay for entering into an already glutted port, where they could find no sale for their cargoes, and on the other, of having the numerous ports of the Continent shut against them, will like better to run some risk in adopting the only part which is at once useful and honourable. It would only be necessary to make use of vessels which should be able to defend themselves against brigs. By means of this precaution they would almost insure their safe arrival, because the English cannot have

men of war every where. Thus, even in the supposition of America not being able to succeed in her negotiations with England, France would still find herself sufficiently supplied with all the articles which she should stand in need of.

"That country which has most consumers can always command the trade; and France, enjoying her independence in its utmost extent, the first condition of any peace to take place would be to establish such custom-house regulations, as that those who should bring cargoes should be obliged to take their returns in the produce of our soil and our industry.

"If measures so useful were not in former times adopted, it must be attributed to the influence which the Cabinet of London had obtained over that of Versailles, whose weakness made them yield to the first menace of war.

"Was it when France was obliged to destroy Dunkirk, or submit to a law of a treaty of commerce shamefully unequal in its conditions, that she should establish her navigation act, and combine her custom-house regulations in such a manner as to assure all the advantages of her happy situation? In France we have sugar and coffee sufficient for three years' consumption, and for nearly one year's consumption of manufactured cotton goods. Were we even deprived of Colonial produce, we should find an ample consumption in the present circumstances. If industry were to take another direction—if we were to attach ourselves to the manufacture of articles for which the Continent produces raw materials, we might thank England for having opened our eyes to our interests, which would have made the consumers prefer the produce of the Continent, which would have taught us to make the most of our silks, wool and flax, these raw materials which belong to our own soil, and which are sufficient for all our wants; such a revolution in our usages, would be a crisis which would be long felt by England, and which would have a most fortunate influence upon the prosperity of the Continent.

"There is a Providence which guides France, whilst in the British Councils there is nothing to be met with but a spirit of precipitancy and disorder, a spirit which is always the forerunner of the fall of nations.

"Europe will always be Europe, even when its husbandmen and women wear less cotton, and when they are dressed in linen and woollen stuffs, when the interior trade continues open for all nations, when, in fine, when that by sea will be totally annihilated. But England will no longer be England, when her colonial produce, when the produce of her manufactures and her immense trade are reduced to nothing. It may with justice be said then, that the last measures which have been taken by England, without being of any essential prejudice to the Continent, are of the most injurious tendency to England.

"It may be asked, what genius inspires the Cabinet of London? Is it not that of Chatham? Is it not that of hatred, and of those blind passions which in their delirium distinguish neither good nor evil? But let us hope, that a spirit of order and of calculation, which has carried so high the trade and the arms of England, will at last get the better of this vertigo; but let us hope at least, should she exhibit no symptoms of return to sound ideas, an end will be put to this horrible rapine by force.

"But, in case the dispute should be undecided for many years to come, the least misfortune that would be the consequence of it to England, would be her finding Europe no longer accustomed to the goods of her manufacture, and all nations united in a common interest, in order to encourage the consumption of the articles of which the raw materials are not subjected to the caprice of an unreasonable Government, and to the decisions of the Cabinet of London. Posterity, upon reading the accounts of the last six months' transactions in England, will ask, whether the country was then governed by the enemies, or most enthusiastic partizans of France.

"The Emperor Napoleon, in devising what could happen most advantageous to France, could not have hit upon any thing more so, than the expedition of Copenhagen, and the destructive measures to all neutral trade.

"Upon examining their last Decrees, we cannot help thinking, that their authors are so many workmen from Lyons, who have imbibed a spirit of fanaticism in their clubs, and who burn in one day all the looms which gave them bread, and enriched their country.

"The Government of England does not literally break in pieces the looms of the country; but it renders them inactive; it destroys the sluices of the immense canal by which the goods with which the markets are glutted might be sent—it dries up their sources. These contrivances are now more fatal to England than a sand bank would be which should all of a sudden shut up the entrance of the Thames.

"The Sans Culottes of Lyons were led on by the most silly and ungoverned passions; the Oligarchs of London appear to obey a like impulse: extremes meet; and the same causes, in different places and in different individuals, produce the same effects."

GERMANY.

VIENNA, DEC. 16.—The Declaration of our Court against England has not yet been published. The Envoy, Mr. Adair, is not yet set off, he delays his departure from day to day, under pretence of waiting for the last instructions from his Court. He has, however, no further relation with the Diplomatic Corps. There is a talk here of offensive and defensive alliance between Austria, France, and Russia; it is said to be on the eve of being concluded.

TRIESTE, DEC. 14.—Agreeably to the tenor of the new arrangements made by our Government with that of France, all commerce direct and indirect with Fiume and Trieste is prohibited to the English; and that we may not fear an expedition similar to that of Copenhagen, the most vigorous measures of defence continue to be taken. An immense number of workmen have been put in requisition to complete the works, and to erect batteries in the neighbourhood of our city. We are assured that a general embargo will soon be laid upon all English merchandize, as also upon the property of the English, Sicilian, and Maltese. The English on their part no longer respect the Austrian flag, since they learnt the political system which our Court has adopted with regard to them. We see arrive here continually numbers of English from Vienna, who embark for Malta or Sicily. Within a few weeks there will not be any English in the Austrian States.

MUNICH, DEC. 26.—After the Emperor Selim was deposed, the Turks conducted themselves with a great deal of haughtiness towards the Franks, and shewed a great deal of contempt for them: they did not even respect their own Government. The new Sovereign, however, succeeded in acquiring a certain degree of authority, but during the fete of Ramazan, excesses of all kinds were committed by the populace, a great many Franks and even Frenchmen were insulted, and one of them received a wound; an Italian merchant was near being assassinated; two Slavonians, subjects of Austria, were stopped and treated with a great deal of cruelty. Under such circumstances, General Sebastiani, who has rendered such eminent services to the Porte, conceived it his duty to interfere. He declared to the Divan, that if satisfaction for all that had

passed, as well as security for the future, were not given to him within three days, he, with all the French that were in Constantinople, would immediately quit it. At the same time demanded passports. His example was followed by the Spanish and Dutch Ministers, all the French, Spaniards, Italians, Neapolitans, Dutch, &c. prepared for their departure; the greatest consternation immediately spread through Constantinople, and every body waited with much anxiety for the answer of the Porte. After several meetings of the Divan, the Sultan Mustapha acceded to all the demands of the French Ambassador; the three first officers of the Bostangi-bachi were discharged, and all those who had dared to insult the Franks were severely punished. On the 22d November, Charoux-bachi, the first officer of the Porte, after the Reis Effendi, repaired in solemn procession to General Sebastiani's house, and declared to him that the Porte had, with the utmost displeasure, learned what had passed during the Fete of Ramazan; that it was his wish to give every possible satisfaction; that the Grand Seignior thought this deference was due to the August Emperor Napoleon, whose esteem and friendship he considered invaluable. The French Ambassador then answered, that this step fully reconciled the two High Powers, that the authors of the troubles were, for the most part, either men of the lowest class, or intriguers of the suburb of Pera, that the Porte had hopes of a speedy and durable peace with Russia, &c. The Spanish, Dutch, and Danish Ministers, together with a great number of Europeans, were present at this extraordinary audience.

HOLLAND.

AMSTERDAM, DECEMBER 28.—Extracts are circulated here of the Official Note by which England has given an answer to the offer of mediation, which was made by Russia.—This note, signed Canning, contains in substance, that his Britannic Majesty would have accepted, with pleasure, the mediation of Russia, if he had received information respecting the bases upon which the mediator hoped to have re-established the general peace.—But his Majesty the Emperor of Russia, after having repeatedly promised to his Britannic Majesty not to conclude any peace with France, without having assumed the independence of the German provinces, had, notwithstanding, by the Treaty of Tilsit, which, far from containing any stipulations on that head, seemed to submit the whole of Germany to the wishes of France. Now his Britannic Majesty cannot enter into any Negotiation with France, unless the complete restitution of the Electorate of Hanover be admitted as a preliminary basis. By an unconditional acceptance of the Russian mediation, his Britannic Majesty would have reason to fear lest his German States should become a French province. Therefore, his Britannic Majesty places his confidence in the efforts of his people, in order to force his implacable enemy into more conciliatory measures, &c.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

A distressing spectacle appeared at day-light on Friday se'night—all the ships in the Downs had part-

ed from their cables, and were drifting about, some with the loss of their top-masts and bowsprits, and some standing out of the Downs, without either anchor or cable. On land, however, the damage has been very great: the foundations of many houses have been undermined by the sea, and numerous warehouses, with their contents, have been swept away. During the storm, a breach of some extent was made by the sea, between Sandown Castle and the Battery, No. 1, which formed a torrent of water in the lower streets of Deal, and filled with it all the cellars. Property to a considerable amount has been destroyed; and in a row of houses near Alfred-square, the torrent was so deep, that it was found necessary to send down boats, to take the inhabitants from the windows of their houses. Several quays in the Beach-street have been totally destroyed, and the timber washed out to sea. It was reported, at the departure of the post, that a brig had foundered in the Downs, and all on board perished. It was afterwards ascertained, that a brig had drifted on board a ship, which occasioned the former to founder, and the latter to drive to sea, with only her main-mast standing. At Margate, all the bathing-rooms have been washed away, except Wood's. The Parade is washed down, as is a great part of the Pier; and a number of vessels were destroyed in the harbour. The damage at this place is estimated at upwards of 25,000l. The tide, which rose to a remarkable height, made a breach through the Pier-head, and carried away the parapet-wall, from the Pier to the Marine Parade. Three merchant ships received much damage: one of them was driven ashore,

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21.

About three o'clock the Lords Commissioners, consisting of the Archbishop of CANTERBURY, the Lord CHANCELLOR, EARLS CAMDEN, AYLESFORD and DARTMOUTH, having taken their places, Mr. QUAIN, the Deputy Usher of the Black Rod, was sent to desire the attendance of the Commons, to hear his Majesty's Commission for opening the Parliament read.

The SPEAKER, attended by the Members of the House, immediately came to the bar, attended by the Deputy Usher and their own Officers, when the LORD CHANCELLOR read his Majesty's Most Gracious Speech, which was as follows:—

“ My Lords and Gentlemen,

“ We have received his Majesty's commands to assure you, that in calling you together at this important conjuncture of affairs, he entertains the most perfect conviction that he shall find in you the same determination with which his Majesty himself is animated, to uphold the honour of his Crown, and the just rights and interests of his People.

“ We are commanded by his Majesty to inform you, that no sooner had the result of the Negotiations at Tilsit, confirmed the influence and control of France over the Powers of the Continent, than his Majesty was apprised of the intentions of the enemy to combine those Powers in one general confederacy, to be directed either to the entire subjugation of this Kingdom, or to the imposing upon his Majesty an insecure and ignominious peace.

“ That for this purpose, it was determined to force into hostility against his Majesty, States which had hitherto been allowed by France to maintain or to purchase their

neutrality: and to bring to bear against different points of his Majesty's dominions, the whole of the naval force of Europe, and specifically the fleets of Portugal and Denmark.

"To place those fleets out of the power of such a confederacy, became therefore the indispensable duty of his Majesty.

"In the execution of this duty, so far as related to the Danish fleet, his Majesty has commanded us to assure you, that it was with the deepest reluctance that his Majesty found himself compelled, after his earnest endeavours to open a negotiation with the Danish Government had failed, to authorize his Commanders to resort to the extremity of force, but that he has the greatest satisfaction in congratulating you upon the successful execution of this painful, but necessary service.

"We are commanded farther to acquaint you, that the course which his Majesty had to pursue with respect to Portugal, was happily of a nature more congenial to his Majesty's feelings; that the timely and unreserved communication by the Court of Lisbon of the demands and designs of France, while it confirmed to his Majesty the authenticity of the advices which he had received from other quarters, entitled that Court to his Majesty's confidence in the sincerity of the assurances by which that communication was accompanied.

"The fleet of Portugal was destined by France to be employed as an instrument of vengeance against Great Britain. That fleet has been secured from the grasp of France, and is now employed in conveying to its American dominions the hopes and fortunes of the Portuguese Monarchy. His Majesty implores the protection of Divine Providence upon that enterprize, rejoicing in the preservation of a power so long the Friend and Ally of Great Britain; and in the prospect of its establishment in the New World with augmented strength and splendor.

"We have it in command from his Majesty to inform you, that the determination of the enemy to excite hostilities between his Majesty and his late Allies, the Emperors of Russia and Austria, and the King of Prussia, has been but too successful: and that the Ministers from those Powers have demanded and received their passports.

"This measure, on the part of Russia, has been attempted to be justified by a statement of wrongs and grievances which have no real foundation. The Emperor of Russia had indeed proffered his Mediation between his Majesty and France. His Majesty did not refuse that Mediation, but he is confident you will feel the propriety of its not having been accepted until his Majesty should have been enabled to ascertain that Russia was in a condition to mediate impartially, and until the principles and the basis on which France was ready to negotiate were made known to his Majesty.

"No pretence of justification has been alledged for the hostile conduct of the Emperor of Austria, or for that of his Prussian Majesty. His Majesty has not given the slightest ground of complaint to either of those Sovereigns, nor even at the moment when they have respectively withdrawn their Ministers, have they assigned to his Majesty any distinct cause for that proceeding.

"His Majesty has directed that copies of the official Notes which passed between his Majesty's Ambassador and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia, pending the negotiations at Tilsit, as well as of the official Note of the Russian Minister at this Court, which contain the offer of his Imperial Majesty's Mediation, and of the Answer returned to that Note by his Majesty's command; and also copies of the official Notes of the Austrian Minister at this Court, and of the Answers which his Majesty commanded to be returned to them, shall be laid before you.

"It is with concern that his Majesty commands us to inform you, that notwithstanding his earnest wishes to terminate the war in which he is engaged with the Ottoman

Porte, his Majesty's endeavours, unhappily for the Turkish Empire, have been defeated by the machinations of France, not less the enemy of the Porte than of Great Britain.

"But while the influence of France has been thus unfortunately successful in preventing the termination of existing hostilities, and in exciting new wars against this country, his Majesty commands us to inform you, that the King of Sweden has resisted every attempt to induce him to abandon his alliance with Great Britain; and that his Majesty entertains no doubt that you will feel with him the sacredness of the duty which the firmness and fidelity of the King of Sweden impose upon his Majesty; and that you will concur in enabling his Majesty to discharge it in a manner worthy of this country.

"It remains for us, according to his Majesty's commands, to state to you, that the Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation between his Majesty and the United States of America, which was concluded and signed by Commissioners, duly authorised for that purpose, on the 31st December, 1806, has not taken effect, in consequence of the refusal of the President of the United States to ratify that instrument.

"For an unauthorised act of force committed against an American ship of war, his Majesty did not hesitate to offer immediate and spontaneous reparation. But an attempt has been made by the American Government to connect with the question which has arisen out of this act, pretensions inconsistent with the Maritime Rights of Great Britain; such pretensions his Majesty is determined never to admit. His Majesty, nevertheless, hopes that the American Government will be actuated by the same desire to preserve the relations of peace and friendship between the two countries, which has ever influenced his Majesty's conduct, and that any difficulties in the discussion now depending may be effectually removed.

"His Majesty has commanded us to state to you, that in consequence of the Decree by which France declared the whole of his Majesty's dominions in a state of blockade, and subjected to seizure and confiscation, the produce and manufactures of his kingdom, his Majesty resorted, in the first instance, to a measure of mitigated retaliation; and that this measure having proved ineffectual for its object, his Majesty has since found it necessary to adopt others of greater rigour, which he commands us to state to you, will require the aid of Parliament to give them complete and effectual operation.

"His Majesty has directed copies of the Orders which he has issued with the advice of his Privy Council upon this subject to be laid before you, and he commands us to recommend them to your early attention.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

"His Majesty has directed the Estimates for the year to be laid before you, in the fullest confidence that your loyalty and public spirit will induce you to make such provision for the public service as the urgency of affairs may require.

"His Majesty has great satisfaction in informing you, that, notwithstanding the difficulties which the enemy has endeavoured to impose upon the Commerce of his subjects, and upon their intercourse with other nations, the Resources of the Country have continued in the last year to be so abundant, as to have produced, both from the permanent and temporary revenues, a receipt considerably larger than that of the preceding year.

"The satisfaction which his Majesty feels assured you will derive, in common with his Majesty, from this proof of the solidity of these resources, cannot but be greatly increased, if, as his Majesty confidently hopes, it shall be found possible to raise the necessary supplies for the present year without any material addition to the public burthens.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

"We are especially commanded to say to you, in the

name of his Majesty, that, if ever there was a just and national war, it is that which his Majesty is now compelled to prosecute. This war is in its principle purely defensive. His Majesty looks but to the attainment of a secure and honourable peace; but such a peace can only be negotiated upon a footing of perfect equality.

“The eyes of Europe and of the world are fixed upon the British Parliament.

“If, as his Majesty confidently trusts, you display in this crisis of the fate of the country, the characteristic spirit of the British Nation, and face unappalled the unnatural combination which is gathered around us, his Majesty bids us to assure you of his firm persuasion, that under the blessing of Divine Providence, the struggle will prove ultimately successful and glorious to Great Britain.

“We are lastly commanded to assure you, that in this awful and momentous contest, you may rely upon the firmness of his Majesty, who has no cause but that of his people, and that his Majesty reciprocally relies on the wisdom, the constancy, and the affectionate support of his Parliament.”

The Speaker and the House of Commons having withdrawn,

The Earl of GALLOWAY rose to move an Address of Thanks to his Majesty: he took a review of all the topics alluded to in the Speech, which had his decided support, and hoped it would meet the unanimous approbation of their Lordships.—The Earl's motion was seconded by Lord KENYON, who made a speech of some length; but it had one fault, and that was, that scarcely a single person in the House could hear it.

The Duke of NORFOLK regretted his inability to approve of the address *in toto*. The expedition to Copenhagen, in his judgment, required explanation. No documents proving the necessity of that measure were before their Lordships, and none being promised, he should move as an Amendment to the Address, that the paragraph approving of that expedition should be omitted entirely.

The Motion for the Amendment being put,

Lord SIDMOUTH rose; he also was grieved, that at this period, when unanimity was so desirable, he could not agree with the Noble Mover of the Address. Denmark, he contended, had not manifested a hostile disposition towards this country. Her army was in Holstein, and her navy in ordinary: she was not at the mercy of France.—The attack upon her, therefore, was not only dishonourable, but impolitic. It had thrown her into the arms of France for ever; and we had enabled our enemy to man his ships with a hardy race of sailors, an acquisition to him of great importance, while all we had obtained was an increase of shipping we did not want. The Noble Viscount animadverted with much spirit on the baneful consequences of this proceeding: it lessened the moral dignity of the nation, so long its pride and glory. Nothing could compensate the loss of national honour. He deprecated the argument that because France was unjust, Britain might also substitute violence for right. This single act had assisted the views of Bonaparte in rousing the Continent against us. Let our navy, said his Lordship, be made equal to the army of France;—let us act justly to all nations, and we shall have the good wishes of the world, though we may be partially deprived of their co-operation. He wished for peace, if it could be obtained with honour; and the best mode to attain it, was by conducting ourselves with firmness, justice, and moderation. He supported the Amendment.

Lord ABERDEEN defended the attack on Copenhagen, on the ground of necessity.

Lord GRENVILLE agreed in the terms of the King's Speech, that we were, “in the crisis of the fate of the country, and that the eyes of the world were fixed upon the British Parliament;” for upon their wisdom depended the existence of the British Empire, which had stood a thousand years, and of the British Constitution; the pride

and boast of human wisdom; both had ripened and grown together, and could only be maintained and preserved by the prudence of Parliament. The points alluded to in the Speech were those on which Parliament were called upon to decide before any information was submitted to them that could guide their decision. Of these points, the seizure of the Danish fleet and the bombardment of Copenhagen were far the most prominent. On the justice and necessity of that measure it was difficult for him to pronounce, because he was ignorant of the grounds upon which it was to be justified. He had first to complain, that the assertions in the Declaration and those contained in the Speech of this day, were wholly at variance. Even that declaration was not laid before the House. The Declaration supposed the existence of secret articles entered into at Tilsit, by virtue of which a general confederacy was to be formed against this country. These articles are the acts of hostility that are set up as a justification of our conduct towards Denmark: Where are those secret articles? The enemy denies their existence, and calls on us to prove it. What does the Speech say;—we see nothing in it of those secret articles and arrangements—it speaks only of information of the designs of the enemy to raise a confederacy against us. Was Denmark a party to the secret articles we complain of? Why not attack Russia on the same grounds? But the House has only the assertions of Ministers that such were the sentiments of Denmark. It is not enough to prove that France meditated such hostile intentions against us; it should likewise be proved, that she had the means of executing her designs. It is said Denmark had not the means of resisting France; and France once in possession of Holstein, must soon be in possession of Zealand; and therefore of Copenhagen, and of the Danish fleet. But is not Zealand an island? Is that island not secured by two branches of the sea? one of six miles broad, the other of sixteen miles. The Channel that divides England from France is only five miles broader. God forbid it could therefore be said, that because the French were in possession of Calais, they would soon have possession of England. In heart and conscience we cannot justify the measure on the grounds laid before us. It were to be wished that a better case were made out; and if it can, let it be submitted to Parliament.—The Noble Lord disapproved of the rejection of the mediation of Russia. He never would admit the doctrine, that in order to be a proper mediator, the mediating power must be perfectly impartial: The language of the Speech on the subject of peace, was also inconsistent. In one place the Speech said his Majesty was ready to negotiate on safe and honourable terms, and immediately after, that peace could only be negotiated upon a footing of perfect equality. Never could he wish that England should proceed to negotiate but on the footing of equality: but this perfect equality might be too nicely weighed—and in the present state of Europe, the door should not be shut against peace upon honourable terms. The Noble Lord next adverted to our dispute with America, and the Orders in Council restricting the trade of Neutrals. He contended that the latter would involve us in a war with America; that France had assured America she would never put her decrees in force against American ships; and by that declaration we are placed in the light in which France would have stood, if the late Orders in Council had not been issued. France has not the means of putting in force her own decrees; it is England that has lent her the aid of the British Navy to give them full effect, and thereby to annoy and distress British commerce. As to Portugal, what have we done? we are excluded from the two most important ports in Europe; and the change is, that the Brazils are now governed by the Prince Regent of Portugal instead of being governed by his Viceroy. Does that advantage compensate the great losses which we otherwise sustain by the fate that has fallen upon Portugal, and which we had taken no means to pre-

vept. His Lordship concluded by blaming Ministers for not having done something to promote unanimity in Ireland, and expressing himself in terms of dissatisfaction at the whole of their conduct.

Lord HAWKESBURY defended the attack on Copenhagen. They could not state their authority from obvious motives; but they had information that justified their proceeding. He stated the heads of information. First, they learned that there were secret engagements at the Treaty of Tilsit; that the view of the parties was to confederate all the Powers of Europe, and particularly to engage or seize on the fleets of Denmark and Portugal to annoy this country. They heard this from their public Ministers then abroad. They heard it from their faithful ally, Portugal. They also received information of the hostile intentions of Denmark from a quarter to which they had often been indebted for the first knowledge of the designs of Bonaparte; from, or rather through the disaffected in Ireland. They learned that Ireland was to be attacked from two points—Lisbon and Copenhagen; and they never found the information of these persons, however they came by it, false. And, finally, they had a confidential communication, that in the council of the highest authorities in Copenhagen the matter was discussed, whether, on an option that they should join either England or France, an option which they understood was to be put to them, they resolved to join France. Having learnt this, Ministers would have been traitors if they had not secured the fleet. He then went over the other topics of Lord Grenville's speech—Portugal, America, the Orders in Council, and the State of Ireland. On the two last he declined saying much. The one would come regularly before them on a future day, and the less that was said of the other the better.

Lord BUCKINGHAMSHIRE explained the measure of our sending a force to Madeira, in 1800, which had been alluded to by Lord Hawkesbury, as similar in principle to that of seizing the Danish fleet.

The Earl of LAUDERDALE, in a most argumentative speech, urged the constitutional necessity of a Bill of Indemnity for the Orders of Council.

Lord MULGRAVE said, that neither at the time of rejecting the Russian mediation, nor at this moment, had Government any Copy of the Secret Articles of the Treaty of Tilsit.—(Loud cries of hear! hear! from the Opposition). They were in possession of secret projects—(hear! hear!) but could only assert, not adduce proof of their nature.

The Amendment, and another Amendment by Lord GRENVILLE, declaratory of the opinion of the House, that it would neither be respectful to his Majesty, nor becoming the dignity of the House, to give opinion as to the propriety of rejecting the Russian mediation, till the papers relative to that question was before the House—were both negatived without a division.

The Address was then agreed to, and ordered to be presented.—Adjourned at Three o'Clock in the morning, till Wednesday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, JAN. 21.

The House having returned from hearing his MAJESTY'S Speech read in the House of Lords, and the SPEAKER having read it from the Chair,

Lord HAMILTON, in a speech of some length, but which did not contain any thing new, moved an Address of Thanks to his Majesty, which, as usual, was merely an echo of the Speech.

Mr. ELLIS seconded the motion, and animadverted on the flourishing state of the country.

Lord MILTON did not mean to give an opinion on his Majesty's Speech till the necessary documents were before the House. He had, however, to express his sorrow and

disappointment at hearing nothing in the Speech that indicated a disposition for the restoration of peace as soon as practicable.

Mr. PONSONBY also expressed his intention of reserving his arguments on the Speech till the various documents were brought forward. He could not however but remark that if it was in contemplation to grant pecuniary subsidies to the King of Sweden, he thought the House ought to pause before it sanctioned such an application of the public money. For in the course of two or three months they might see Gentlemen rising up on the opposite side, and speaking of him in terms similar to those which they had heard this evening applied to the Emperor of Russia. It was in the recollection of every one present, that a very short time ago panegyrics quite as highly coloured as those now bestowed on the King of Sweden, had been lavished upon the Emperor Alexander, when he was represented as magnanimous, generous, disinterested, in short, every thing that is great and good!

Mr. MILNES defended the conduct of Ministers, particularly with regard to Denmark, and quoted a passage from Vattel to show that it was conformable to the principles of the law of nations.

Mr. WHITBREAD said, that if there was no other justification of the attack upon Denmark than what had been given this evening, he had no hesitation in declaring it base and treacherous. Are we really, Mr. Whitbread asked, come to this pass, that it is announced, in a public declaration, given in the name of the King, that we, who have been always bowing at the altar of the living God, acknowledging his superintending providence, and professing obedience to his laws, have been always in the wrong, and that Bonaparte, that worshipper of Baal, has been always in the right? We had, in the course of the last summer, taken sixteen hulks (for this was the only name by which he could call them) from Denmark, so many tons of hemp, and a quantity, he knew not how many, of spars, masts, &c. And what had we paid for these? We had given the whole maritime population of Denmark to France; we had given to France the hearts of all her people. Mr. Whitbread declared, that he would rather have seen the fleet of Denmark in forced hostility against us, manned by our sailors, acting under compulsion, than he would, after what has happened, see them moored in our own ports. An inference had been attempted to be drawn of the hostile intentions of the Danes, from the circumstance of their having assembled their army upon the frontiers of Holstein. But, in his mind, this circumstance told quite the other way. If the Court of Denmark had known that there were any secret articles signed at Tilsit, of the nature and tendency described, would it not have occurred to it, that this country might be acquainted with them, by some means or other, and that an attack upon her would be the consequence? Instead however of concentrating her army in Zealand, to oppose the attack which, upon the supposition stated, she had so much occasion to apprehend, she assembled her force in a position to oppose France, from whom, as is pretended, she had nothing to fear. As to the fact itself we have assertion against assertion—the assertion of the Crown Prince of Denmark on the one hand, and an assertion which Ministers had put into the mouth of their Sovereign on the other; and for his own part he had no hesitation in saying, that he gave credit to the former in preference to the latter. From the subject of the expedition to Copenhagen, the Hon. Member passed to the emigration of the Court of Lisbon, from which Ministers had the countenance to claim great merit. That this had turned out fortunately he was ready to admit; but that they had any thing to do with it, he utterly and entirely denied. Did they forget that the Prince Regent had published a Proclamation in the first place, telling all the English to get out of the way as fast as they could, and in the next place announcing his determination to join the Continental confederacy against this

country. In the mean time, however, Bonaparte's injudicious, cruel, and wicked proclamation (they might call it by what epithets they would) appeared, and in the absence of Lord Strangford, the Prince Regent had changed his mind. At length Lord Strangford returned, finding very unexpectedly that the Court had embarked, he assured it of the forgiveness of his Sovereign, and fortunately the fleet set sail to the Brazils. This was the plain matter of fact. As to the commercial prospect which this event was represented as opening to us, all he would say was, that the Gentlemen on the other side, who had drawn such a lively picture of what might be expected from it, were very young, and might live to see their prophecies realized, but for himself he had no such hope. He could neither, therefore, approve of thanking Ministers for getting off the Court of Portugal to the Brazils, nor for their expedition to Denmark. It had been his constant object, from the beginning of the contest, to bring about peace, and he had no hesitation in now giving it as his opinion that negotiation had not always failed because France was in the wrong, and the powers with which he negotiated in the right. He was not sure that peace could be obtained, but at any rate negotiation ought to be tried. He wished rather that the country should perish, than that it should submit to ignominious terms; but he deprecated all attempts to shew our capacity to carry on endless war. If we must die, said Mr. Whitbread, let us die manfully and with glory; but do not let us be told that death is impossible. He concluded by pressing the state of Ireland on the attention of Ministers.

Mr. CANNING contended that there were ample documents by which Gentlemen could make up their minds on the various subjects introduced into the Speech. Government had acted upon secret intelligence, as well as upon open and well known facts. But was this a time to betray their sources of intelligence, when the whole Continent was in the grasp of Bonaparte? Was this a time to give up to death those persons who had been induced to give us information? Surely not. Ministers were resolved not to betray the confidence reposed in them, however great the responsibility. It was curious that those who assailed Ministers on the ground of violence with regard to Denmark, should attack them on the ground of delusion respecting Portugal. Ministers employed force where there was enmity, and gave their confidence where there was every reason to believe that all was truth and fidelity. The situations of Portugal and Denmark were extremely different—it would have taken six weeks at least to have brought an army to Lisbon. But the French were ready to fall upon Holstein, and the result would have been a compromise to deliver up the Danish fleet to Bonaparte. It was impossible to negotiate without a force at hand, to counteract the force of France. They were therefore under the necessity of committing what was called an act of hostility, because it had been declared that the first ship of war that appeared in the passage between Zealand and the main land, would be considered as such. With regard to the mediation of Russia, he was ready to enter upon that topic either now or at a future opportunity. Neither the temper, the power, nor the means of Russia, were suited to such a purpose. Ministers even thought that they had a just ground of hostility against her, but with a feeling very different from what had been imputed to them, they resolved first to exhaust all methods of conciliation with regard to powers which had so long made common cause with this country. No angry discussion had taken place with the Court of Vienna. Strictly speaking, there was no negotiation through the medium of Austria, nor any distinct offer from Talleyrand; and, however great his respect for Count Stahrenberg, something more than his personal authority was required. The Right Hon. Secretary then proceeded to state, that no remonstrances had been received from Prussia. Every hostile appearance on her part was extorted by France, and he should be sorry

that any acrimonious expressions should be used with respect to her. An insinuation had been made in the *Monitor*, that Prussia must have given the secret intelligence to this Country. In justice to Prussia, he felt himself called upon publicly to declare, that the idea was wholly void of foundation. In justice to the late Ministers, he stated, that the expedition to the Dardanelles had been undertaken at the request of Russia. As that had not succeeded, the cause of war with the Porte had ceased. A negotiation with the Porte was entered upon, and the only difficulty was the admission of Russia into the treaty. In the middle of this, the Russian Minister left Constantinople, and then a treaty was concluded by the Porte with France. As to Sweden, subsidiary negotiations were carrying on with that Power, which would be laid before the House when finished. With regard to America, as no right had been claimed by Great Britain, of searching ships of war, satisfaction was offered for the affair of the Chesapeake. But Ministers had kept that affair distinct from other matters in dispute, while the Americans endeavoured to blend them. He at the same time acquitted of any serious blame the gallant Officer who had the command on the American station, as his provocation was extreme. As to the policy of the Orders in Council, all agreed that there must be something of that sort, and the difference was only as to the degree, which was a question of inferior importance. It was proper to shew other powers that Great Britain might be as formidable as Bonaparte in some instances, though he admitted that our having a giant's strength was not a reason why we should use it like a giant. It was good policy also, to prove to Bonaparte, that the separation from the Continent, which he thought must be annihilation to Great Britain, would only be the source of more formidable efforts. This much he considered himself called upon to state, even in the present state of the discussion.

Lord H. PETTY observed, that though he should not enter into details at present, yet he thought it his duty to enter his protest against the attack on Denmark, in the absence of all information which could throw light on the transaction.

Mr. B. BATHURST thought that Ministers were bound to shew a good cause, or produce some document or information which might lead the House to discover that there was good ground for the expedition to Copenhagen.

Mr. WINDHAM could not help observing, that the conduct of Ministers was as unaccountable as the Expedition, which formed the prominent subject of debate this night. If there were no ground for supposing that Denmark was hostile to this Country, if no proof could be adduced to shew that the charges made against that Power were unquestionable, then, indeed, the Country was reduced to a most deplorable condition. Under such circumstances, he had rather that Bonaparte was in possession of the Danish Fleet, than that we should have it with the loss of our national character, dignity, and honour.

Mr. SHERIDAN reprobated the miserable, pettifogging subterfuge to which the Right Honourable Gentleman had recourse. If Ministers had the substance, why not give that substance? Precise legal evidence was not to be expected in that case. If it appeared that there was a collusion between the Danes and the French, and the former were unable to defend themselves, then, in justice to ourselves, *fiat justitia, ruat cælum*, might be a very excellent maxim; but it would be a monstrous proposition if we were to say, *fiat stultitia, ruat patria*; if for any folly or absurdity of Ministers, we were to say that we ought to suffer the honour and character of the nation to be destroyed. But then it was said, towards the close of the debate, that Ireland was in danger of being invaded, and that there was a party there ready to assist the invaders. If so, if you will make peace with Bonaparte, why not make peace with Ireland? Why not reconcile

them to this country, instead of investing them with two arbitrary Acts of Parliament? The Right Hon. Gentleman concluded with giving notice, that he should bring forward that question in the course of the Session.

The Hon. Colonel MONTAGUE MATTHEW expressed, in strong terms, his mistrust of a set of Ministers, that had come into office with an avowed hostility against five million of his Majesty's subjects in Ireland, and said, that he hoped in God he should not see them in their situation this day six months.

The question was then carried without a division, and the House adjourned.

FRIDAY, JAN. 22.

Sir F. BURDETT took the usual oaths, and his seat on the opposition bench.

Mr. PONSEY said he should on Tuesday move for various papers relative to the Copenhagen Expedition.

Mr. BANKES gave notice for a motion on Tuesday to prevent the disposal of places or pensions in reversion.

On the Report of the Address to his Majesty being brought up, a debate ensued.

Mr. M. A. TAYLOR forcibly censured the attack on Copenhagen. The Yorkshire manufacturers, he said, were starving, and it was therefore no wonder they petitioned for peace. This was owing to the late Orders of Council. He hoped the country would petition for the dismissal of the present Ministers.

Mr. EDEN and Mr. HERBERT followed on the same side.

Mr. C. YORKE defended Ministers. Peace, he said, was desirable, but whenever it arrived, it must be an armed one. Petitions for that object would only embarrass Government and raise the demands of our enemies. Ministers could not divulge their sources of intelligence, but they had been fully apprised of the course Denmark meant to pursue.

Mr. WINDHAM perfectly agreed with the Hon. Gentleman that we could only look for an armed peace: he had long thought so. He did not think we could obtain an honourable peace: all we could look for now was safety. He disapproved of the new system of political morality introduced by Ministers,—a system that if persevered in would end in infamy and ruin.

Mr. MONTAGUE vindicated Ministers in withholding information upon the ground of the King's prerogative, which made him sole judge of the propriety of war or peace.

Mr. W. SMITH said he had discouraged petitions for peace from Norwich, much as that city suffered by the war; but if Ministers were resolutely bent on war, he should encourage such petitions.

Mr. CANNING admitted that though Lord Gambler had sailed from the Downs on the 26th of July, it was not till the 8th of August that they received intelligence of the signing of the Treaty of Tilsit. Ministers had not said they had any one secret article of that Treaty in their possession; they said they had received the substance by a confidential communication a long time previous to that date. The armament used against Copenhagen was not originally fitted out for that object.

Mr. WHITBREAD asked why, if Ministers were in possession of the substance of the Tilsit Treaty, they did not state it to the House? They need not state their source of intelligence. Mr. Whitbread wished that petitions for peace would flow in from all parts, unless Ministers would satisfy the Country of their willingness to treat on secure and honourable terms, which he believed were still to be had. He should conclude with stating his firm opinion, that Ministers had never received, either in substance or form, the secret information they pretended to have in their possession, and upon which they defended the fatal and disgraceful attack of a neutral friend.

The Report was then brought up, and the further con-

sideration of the Speech was ordered for Monday, to which day the House adjourned.

PROTEST.

Die Veneris, 21 Jan. 1808.

A motion was made to omit the fourth paragraph in the motion for an Address to the Throne (viz. the paragraph respecting the seizure of the Danish fleet) and the question being put, "That the said paragraph do stand part of the motion," the same was carried in the affirmative.

"DISSENTIENT,

"Because no proof of hostile intention on the part of Denmark has been adduced, nor any case of necessity made out, to justify the attack upon Copenhagen, without which the measure is in our conception discreditable to the character and injurious to the interests of this Country."

W. FREDERICK.	VASSAL HOLLAND.
RAWDON.	NORFOLK.
LAUDERDALE.	SIDMOUTH.
GREY.	ERSKINE.

THE LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.

THURSDAY, JAN. 21, 1808.

Downing-street, January 20, 1808.

Captain Murphy, of the 88th Regiment, Brigade-Major of his Majesty's forces at Madeira, has arrived at the Office of Lord Viscount Castlereagh, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, with a dispatch, of which the following is an extract, from Major-General Beresford, dated Madeira, December 29, 1807.

Extract of a Dispatch from Major-General Beresford to Viscount Castlereagh, dated Madeira, Funchal, Dec. 29, 1807.

I have the satisfaction to communicate to your Lordship the surrender of the Island of Madeira, on the 24th inst. to his Majesty's arms.

We had, previously to the ships coming to anchor, sent to the Governor to surrender the island to his Britannic Majesty, offering the terms we were authorized, which were acceded to. The troops were immediately landed; and before dark were in possession of all the forts, and had the 3d and 11th regiments encamped, with their field-pieces, a little to the west of the town.

In regard to unanimity and cordial co-operation, it is sufficient to say, it was Sir Samuel Hood I had to act with; and the object, the service of his country. His ardent zeal communicated to all the same sentiments, and the utmost unanimity prevailed.

I had the fullest reason to be satisfied with the zeal and ardour of all the officers and troops under my orders.

I have the honour to enclose the Articles of Capitulation which have been agreed upon.

Captain Murphy, of the 88th regiment, Brigade-Major to the forces, will be the bearer, and can communicate any further particulars your Lordship may be desirous of knowing; and I humbly recommend him to his Majesty's most gracious consideration.

TERMS OF CAPITULATION.

ART. I. That on the signing of the present Treaty, the Island of Madeira and its dependencies shall be delivered up to the Commanders of his Britannic Majesty's forces, and to be held and enjoyed by his said Majesty, with all the right, and privileges, and jurisdictions which heretofore belonged to the Crown of Portugal.

II. That it is agreed the said Island shall be evacuated and redelivered to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal, or to his heirs and successors, when the free ingress and egress to the ports of Portugal and its colonies shall be re-established as heretofore; and when the Sovereignty of Portugal shall be emancipated from the controul or influence of France.

III. For the present, the arms and ammunition of all kinds to be delivered and placed under the possession of the British.

IV. Public property shall be respected and redelivered at the same time, and under the same circumstances, with the Island. His Britannic Majesty, during the period his troops shall occupy the Island, reserving the use of all such property, and the revenues of the Island, to be applied to the maintenance of its religious, civil, and military establishments. For the above purpose all the public property, of whatever description, to be formally delivered up, and received by the Commissaries respectively appointed for that object.

V. All private property on the Island of Madeira, belonging to the subjects of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal, to be respected.

VI. The free exercise of religious worship to be maintained and protected as at present established.

VII. The inhabitants to remain in the enjoyment of the civil constitution, and of their laws, as at present established and administered.

Done at the Palace of St. Lorenzo Funchal, Madeira, 26th December, 1807.

PEDRO FAGUNDES BACELLAR D'ANTAS
E MENERES, O Governadore e Capitao
General da Ilha da Madeira.

SAM. HOOD, Rear-Admiral, K. B.
W. C. BERESFORD, Major-General.

Admiralty-Office, Jan. 20, 1808.

A Dispatch, of which the following is an extract, has been received at this Office from Rear-Admiral Sir Samuel Hood, K. B. &c. &c. addressed to the Hon. Wm. Wellesley Pole, dated on board his Majesty's ship Centaur, Funchal Bay, Madeira, 29th December, 1807.

Extract of a Dispatch from Rear-Admiral Sir S. Hood, K. B. &c. &c. dated Centaur, Funchal Bay, Madeira, 29th December, 1807.

SIR,—I have the pleasure to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the Island of Madeira has surrendered to his Majesty's forces confided to the command of Major-General Beresford and myself; and I have the honour to inclose you a copy of the articles of capitulation.

The squadron named in the margin and transports, arrived on the 23d off the Island of Porto Santo, and off this bay in the forenoon of the 24th; and though the ships were rather baffled by the light winds under the land, on entering the bay, every ship was anchored conformable to my wishes; and being placed within a cable's length of the forts, and the army ready to disembark, the troops were immediately allowed to land and take possession of the principal forts. Next day we met the Governor at the Palace of St. Lorenzo, and arranged the articles of capitulation, which were signed on the 26th, in presence of the civil and military officers of the island.

* Centaur, York, Captain, Intrepid, Africaine, Shannon, Alceste, and Success.

As Major-General Beresford will give all other particulars relative to the island to his Majesty's Secretary of State, I shall only add, from the cordial good understanding that has subsisted between us, as well as between the whole of the army and navy, had there been a resistance, every thing we could have desired was to have been expected from both services.

I have to express my entire satisfaction of the Captains, Officers, and men of his Majesty's ships on this service; and send my First Lieutenant, George Henderson, with this dispatch. He is a very excellent Officer, and I must refer their Lordships to him for any further information; and I beg leave to recommend him to their Lordships' notice.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTS.

John Morris Elworthy, St. James's-street, goldsmith, to surrender Jan. 26, Feb. 2, March 1, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Davies, Warwick-street, Golden-square.

Samuel Abrams, Sandwich, linen-draper, Jan. 23, 30, March 1, at ten, at Guildhall, London. Attorney, Mr. Anthony, Earl-street, Blackfriars.

Joseph Tidmarsh, New County-terrace, New Kent-road, builder, Jan. 26, 30, March 1, at ten, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Phillips and Ward, Howard-street, Strand.

Anthony Thomas Bowles and Thomas Williams, Kent-street, Southwark, grocers, Jan. 23, at twelve, Feb. 2, at one, March 1, at eleven, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Speck, St. John's, Southwark.

Thomas Pettitt, Witney, leather-dresser, Feb. 10, 11, March 1, at twelve, at the Shakespear Tavern, Birmingham. Attorney, Mr. Webb, Birmingham.

Houghton Spencer, West Wrattling, Cambridgeshire, maltster, Jan. 23, Feb. 2, and March 1, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Walton, Saffron-Walden, Essex.

James Betts, Mistley, Essex, ship-builder, Jan. 26, 27, March 1, at ten, at the Thorn Inn, Mistley. Attorney, Mr. Ambrose, Mistley.

Joseph Rodrigues Peynado, Bevis Marks, merchant, Jan. 21, Feb. 2, March 1, at eleven, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Sudlow, Monument-yard.

Thomas Maxfield, Lewes, grocer, Jan. 21, Feb. 2, March 1, at eleven, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Sudlow, Monument-yard.

Anthony Davis, Stroud-green, dealer in cattle, Jan. 21, at twelve, 28, at one, March 1, at ten, at Guildhall.—Attorney, Mr. Robinson, Charter-house-square.

DIVIDENDS.

Feb. 15: W. Creed, jun. Finch-lane, Cornhill, taylor.—

Feb. 14: W. Middleton; J. H. Pemberton, and G.

Felton, Liverpool, merchants.—Feb. 10: T. Booker,

Birmingham, button-maker.—Feb. 15: J. Collins, Gos-

port, builder.—Feb. 27: C. Horne, Portland-street,

Ratcliffe-highway, glass-maker.—Feb. 15: A. Macau-

ley, London, merchant.—March 1: J. M'Clary, Salis-

bury-street, Strand, merchant.—Feb. 13: J. Cause,

Great Wakering, Essex, shopkeeper.—March 1: J.

German, Aldermanbury, hosier.—Feb. 15: R. W. U.

Schnieder, White Lion-court, Birchin-lane, merchant.

—Feb. 16: J. Gulley, Frome-Selwood, Somerset, mer-

chant.

CERTIFICATES—FEB. 9.

J. Crossley, Halifax, York, and King-street, London,

merchant.—C. Blizard, Fenchurch-street, wine-mer-

chant.—F. P. Palmer, Sidbury, Worcester, money-

scrivener.]

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

This Gazette contains an account of the capture of the Entreprenant French privateer, of 16 guns and 58 men, by the Pandora sloop of war, Capt. Spence. The Captain of the privateer and five men were wounded before she struck. Likewise an account of the capture of La Courier French privateer, of 18 guns and 60 men, by the Linnet brig, Capt. Tracey. The privateer, though she had several killed and wounded, did not strike till she was in a sinking state. The Linnet was not injured.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

William Harris, Drury-lane, London, Woolien-draper.

BANKRUPTS.

William Barker, Bread-street, warehouseman, to surrender Jan. 25, at eleven, Feb. 6, at one, March 5, at twelve, at Guildhall, London. Attorney, Mr. Adams, Old Jewry, London.

John Thornton, Lawrence-Pountney-lane, London, merchant, Jan. 26, 30, March 5, at ten, at Guildhall, London. Attornies, Messrs. Palmer, Tomlinsons, and Thomson, Cophthall-court, Throgmorton-street.

William Broom, Long-alley Shoreditch, victualler, Jan. 25, at eleven, Feb. 6, at two, March 5, at one, at Guildhall.

Thomas Lee, Holborn, glover, Jan. 26, Feb. 9, March 5, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Street and Woolfe, Philpot-lane.

Edward Roser, Lindfield, Sussex, soap-manufacturer, Feb. 2, 6, March 5, at Guildhall, London. Attorney, Mr. Reilly, Stafford-row, Buckingham-gate.

Thomas Cassidy, Waltham Abbey, Essex, shop-keeper, Jan. 26, 30, March 5, at Guildhall, London. Attorney, Mr. Syddall, Aldersgate-street.

William Winter, the younger, Blackfriar's-road, Surrey, painter and glazier, Jan. 26, Feb. 2, at two, March 5, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Meymott, Charlotte-street, Blackfriar's-road.

John Seecombe, Horrabridge, Devonshire, John Lewarne, Truro, Cornwall, William Hore, Grampond, Cornwall, Catherine Hoyte, same place, Charles Burley, Horrabridge, Devonshire, Richard Searle, Launceston, Corawall, woollen-manufacturers, Feb. 27, at ten, March 4, 5, at eleven, at the Pope's Head Inn, Plymouth. Attorney, Mr. Bray, Tavistock, Devon.

John Wrae, Ferrybridge, Yorkshire, coal-merchant, Jan. 27, at six, 28, at ten, at the Angel Inn, Ferrybridge, March 5, at ten, at the Hotel, Leeds. Attorney, Mr. Scott, Leeds.

Charles Stokes Dudley, Gracechurch-street, London, merchant, Feb. 2, 15, at two, March 5, at one, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Eaton and Hardy, Birch-lane.

John Brooke, Hartshhead, Yorkshire, merchant, Feb. 10, at five, 11, March 5, at ten, at the Man and Saddle Inn, Dewsbury. Attorney, Mr. Sykes, Dewsbury.

Charles Mills, Hoxton, Middlesex, baker, Jan. 26, Feb. 3, March 5, at twelve, at Guildhall, London. Attornies, Messrs. Minshull and Veal, Abingdon-street.

Hargraves Hudson, Salford, Lancashire, manufacturer, Feb. 16, 17, March 5, at eleven, at the Dog Tavern, Deansgate, Manchester. Attornies, Messrs. Halstead and Ainsworth, Manchester.

John James Fuller, Yoxford, Suffolk, draper, Feb. 1, 2, March 5, at ten, at the Bell Inn, Saxmundham. Attorney, Mr. Rabett, Carlton, Suffolk.

Robert Hurren, Kelsale, Suffolk, cordwainer, Feb. 1, 2, March 5, at ten, at the Bell Inn, Saxmundham. Attorney, Mr. Rabett, Carlton, Suffolk.

John Turner, Swelling, Suffolk, draper, Feb. 1, 2, March 5, at ten, at the Bell Inn, Saxmundham. Attorney, Mr. Rabett, Carlton, Suffolk.

William Daniel Halliday, Bath-street, City Road, Middlesex, livery stable-keeper, Feb. 2, at ten, 9, March 5, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Pellati, Ironmongers' Hall, Fenchurch-street.

George Eadon, Bermondsey-street, Surrey, leather-dresser, Feb. 6, at twelve, 13, March 5, at one, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Pearce and Son, Swithip's-lane.

DIVIDENDS.

Feb. 20. T. Berkeley, Cornhill, merchant.—Feb. 15. J. Collins, Gosport, builder.—Jan. 26. W. M. Evans, Mark-lane, broker.—May 21. W. Horn and R. Jackson, Red-Cross-street, rectifying distillers.—Feb. 27. G. Whitaker, St. Columb, Cornwall, linen-draper.—Feb. 13. R. and J. Houlding, Preston, dealers in liquors.—Feb. 15. W. Richardson, Wrotham, Kent, inn-keeper.—Feb. 16. T. Heseltine and W. Lee, Bridge-street, Blackfriars, grocers.—Feb. 1. J. Smith, Broughton, Lancashire, calico-printer.—Feb. 15. S. Kempson, Fleet-street, linen-draper.—Feb. 17. W. Thornily, Adlington, Cheshire, carrier.—Feb. 16. C. and A. Hodgson, Sunderland, Durham, linen-draper.—Feb. 18. H. L. Hodson, Huntingdon, merchant.—Feb. 19. H. Bradley, Birmingham, merchant.—Feb. 13. J. Colville, Cheapside, linen-draper.—Feb. 27. J. Potter and W. Monkman, Silver-street, Wood-street, warehousemen.

CERTIFICATES—FEB. 13.

J. White, Craven-buildings, City-road, merchant.—I. Pitt, Birmingham, factor.—J. Hale, Bedminster, Somersetshire, victualler.—P. Moore, Lestock Gramam, Cheshire, corn-dealer.—S. Turner, Manchester, inn-keeper.—J. A. Rowe, Paul's-court, Huggin-lane, Wood-street, linen-draper.—G. Hassall, Birmingham, perfumer.—H. Fox, Kingston-upon-Hull, clock and watch-maker.—W. Stevens, Little St. Thomas Apostle, money scrivener.

PRICE OF STOCKS YESTERDAY.

3 per Ct. Cons. 63½ ex. div.—Ditto for Feb. 64½.
3 per Cent. Red. 0.—Omnium 2½ prem.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The wish of AMICUS cannot be complied with.

Mr. T. of Wanstead, is informed that the EXAMINER is always published at a very early hour. He must be right in his conjecture that his being served with another Paper originated in mistake. The Proprietors are well convinced that there is not a single News Vender who would *designedly* substitute another Paper for the EXAMINER.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24.

A LETTER from Antwerp announces an Embargo, in the French ports, upon all foreign vessels, neutral and allied. This is one of those violent measures which originate in the anger, rather than the policy of the French Emperor, who is punished, in spite of himself, by his own passions. To cut off all communication between the Continent and this Country would be doing us an essential service, for it would hinder us from wasting our money and strength upon the future slaves of NAPOLEON. It is impossible to contemplate without a mixture of sorrow and ludicrous surprise the new loans which are said to be in preparation for our allies. Who are these allies? One of them is the

magnanimous King of Sweden, who vowed to die in the ruins of Stralsund and was the first to run away. This Monarch will take our money to be plundered by the first French army who shall think it worth their while to attack him; he merely waits the stroke of the great Harlequin-sword to be converted into a footstool. The other is the magnanimous PRINCE REGENT of Portugal, who has declared himself the most obliged and most obedient servant of NAPOLEON, who has requested all his subjects to be perfectly civil to the Gentlemen that were coming to knock them down, and who has shewn himself ready on every little impulse of fear to sacrifice the British interest to France. So much for our rational generosity. Will a long course of disastrous subsidies never teach us economy? We might as well load a hundred waggons with money and empty them into the Thames.

The Russians are said to be forming large camps on the Polish territory. The fate of Turkey is then drawing to a crisis, and it will be contemplated by Europe without a sigh. That dastardly and stupid nation, which has so long oppressed the descendants of the Greeks, and which has no business in this civilized quarter of the world, will fall like a leaden statue, without an echo. If the Russians are the instruments of this overthrow, it will be curious that the destroyers of the Western Roman Empire should revenge the destruction of the Eastern.

The French Emperor, they say, intends to do away the celibacy of the Roman Catholic clergy. This war with bigotry is worthy of a great conqueror, not to mention that the encouragement of population is a debt which conquerors owe to mankind. The papal priesthood itself, for centuries past, has been bringing the most convincing arguments against celibacy by the lives of its members; LUTHER gave it a violent blow by his invectives, his reasons, and his example; most of the Popes, down to LAMBERTINI and GANGANELLI exclusively, have contributed their powerful examples also; and yet it has remained for absolute force to do an act of justice, which neither reason nor necessity could establish. So inconsistent, so deaf, and so powerful is superstition.

It is rumoured that a general embargo is to take place in the American ports. What is this embargo to do? One cannot help wishing that Mr. G. ROSE would arrive in the United States, that we might gain some small insight into American meaning.

The Austrian Ambassador left us on Wednesday last, and the Prussian the day after. There are at least two of our old allies, who cannot ask us for money just now.

General BERESFORD and Sir SAMUEL HOOD have taken possession of the island of Madeira with a declaration, that they would deliver it up to Portugal the instant she was out of the influence of France. This is an original mode of fixing its possession to themselves. They might have given England itself to the Portuguese under the same provision.

Parliament opened its session on Thursday last with a royal Speech from the Lords Commissioners. This

Speech is written with much unaffected strength, but every candid Englishman must have been sorry to find that neither in his Majesty's reasoning nor in that of his Ministers, during the subsequent debate, has there been any further elucidation or justification of the attack on Copenhagen. The fact is, that it was nothing but strong supposition which influenced that violent measure, for it is not customary for any man or set of men to keep a set of excellent reasons to themselves when all the world is accusing them of having none. They who defend the measure on the plea of what is called *vigour*, pay a consummate compliment to the French Emperor, who has been acting vigorously during the whole war, and who has now the satisfaction of seeing his enemies rush headlong into an imitation of his own principles. The Ministry wish us to take them at their word, that the measure was excellent and well-grounded, but has it ever been customary to treat Ministers with this implicit reliance? *Would they treat a rival Ministry with the same confidence?* No, no: the measure was neither necessary nor just: it could not be necessary, for nobody will attempt to persuade us that the seduction of Denmark could have put France in the possession of this country; it could not be just, because it was not founded upon that sublimest and simplest of moral laws, "Do as ye would be done by." Every man who has been indignant at NAPOLEON must now, for the same reason, be ashamed of his country.

Lord GRENVILLE stated the various objections to the measure with much force though with that cold stiffness of calculation so peculiar to this Statesman. But it was contradictory enough to his Lordship's candour to see him arraigning the Ministers with a party-anxiety that caught hold of every petty subject of dispute. His Lordship evidently betrayed that true valour of opposition, which is determined to submit to no persuasion, to no truce of hostilities. The Ministers deserve every credit for their behaviour to the RUSSIAN EMPEROR, who became our fixed enemy the moment he was clasped in the arms of NAPOLEON. How humiliating should it be to Lord GRENVILLE and to every violent partizan to feel convinced, that he should approve the very measures he reprobates, had they proceeded from his own party! The truth is, that he who fixes his judgment exactly in the middle of two contending parties will generally fix it in the most judicious spot he could discover.

Hamburgh and Altona Papers have arrived to the 19th.—BONAPARTE is about to change the form of the Government of Switzerland, and BERTHIER, to whom some time ago the Principality of Neuchatel was given, is to be the King.—Another of BONAPARTE'S Ministers is to be rewarded with a Crown, and TALLEYRAND, for whom the Crown of Holland was at first said to be destined, is to be the new King of Portugal.—CAULAINCOURT is arrived at Petersburg.

It was rumoured yesterday that the Brest fleet had put to sea.—No such intelligence has been received at the Admiralty.

The base conduct of the wife of a Field Officer of considerable rank, will afford another lamentable opportunity for the display of eloquence amongst the lawyers in Westminster-hall; and it will also disclose some curious particulars relative to the lady's paramour, who is a Surrey Squire. The husband of the lady had been absent for three months previous to the 20th instant, on his duty as an officer, and his lady occupied apartments in Wigmore-street. By the vigilance of an old servant, who had served in the army 30 years, and who had strong grounds to suspect that her conduct amounted to adultery, and some incidents having given him a full conviction of that fact, he made his master full acquainted with his suspicions. The lady has one child, and she now lives apart from her injured husband.

A shocking murder was perpetrated on Tuesday night last, at a place called Newton-bottom, in the New Forest, on Margaret Howard, the daughter of a little farmer, by a fellow of the name of Isaac Brizzard, a pig dealer, of which the following is an outline:—The fellow had been admitted to the house of Farmer Howard, as a suitor to his daughter, a fine girl of 22 years of age, and after a short acquaintance the girl proved pregnant. It was proposed by Brizzard that she should accompany him to a merry-making, about two miles from her house, on Thursday night, to which she consented, but the poor girl never returned, the disguised assassin, in the shape of a lover, having stabbed her in several places, and she was found dead, in a lacerated state, on the ensuing morning, and the monster had escaped. He had signified his intentions of depriving the unfortunate woman of existence, rather than have any trouble with her child. The monster was taken on Thursday, working on a navigation cut, about 30 miles from Newton-bottom, after a stout resistance, and he confessed himself the perpetrator of the horrid crime.

Last Monday, the Royal Academy held its annual dinner in honour of the Queen's birth-day. After dinner they had some excellent singing from its professors. Mr. WEST, the President, then gave the King, Queen, and the rest of the Royal Family; the navy and army. He then gave the Institution of the Royal Academy. His next toast he prefaced by saying it was impossible to drink prosperity to the Academy without recollecting the able man who first filled its chair: he therefore proposed the memory of Sir J. REYNOLDS, judiciously observing, that such a toast should not be marked with the tone of rejoicing which accompanied the others. The feeling with which this was received was highly honourable to the exalted character of him who gave, and him who was the subject of it. The British Institution, Marquis of Stafford, and other generous patrons of Art, were given by the Chairman. Mr. CALEB WHITEFOORD proposed the health of the President, and it obtained the most flattering reception. For this universal respect Mr. WEST testified his gratitude. He modestly expressed his hopes that his efforts had been useful to the Arts, efforts which he should always continue; fervently declaring, that though he had the honour of belonging to nearly all the dignified societies of the civilized world, he was most proud of being President of the Royal Academy.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 4.

MRS. EYRE AND MR. ELLISTON IN THE CASTLE SPECTRE.
MR. SMITH AND MR. BRAHAM IN THE CABINET. THE
NEW COMEDY OF SOMETHING TO DO. ITS FAULTS
AND CONDEMNATION. A WORD OR TWO ON GERMAN
SENSIBILITY. THE LADIES OF MRS. JORDAN.

DRURY-LANE.

On Monday evening a Mrs. EYRE appeared in the character of *Angela* in the *Castle Spectre*. There was nothing prominent or peculiar in her style of acting; her delivery was that of a sensible woman who, in the general opinion, would be called a good reader; but it wanted the natural emphasis of conversation, it wanted the variety of feeling, and the command of instantaneous acknowledgment. Mrs. EYRE exhibited the general injudiciousness of performers in choosing an unsuitable character for her first appearance. *Angela* is a beautiful young woman, full of the ardent sensibility of youth. Mrs. EYRE is matronly, rather than youthful; and her general style is of that staid, reflective character, which announces a matronliness of mind. In short, this actress is what the daily newspapers would call *respectable*, that is, she would make a much happier figure in reading to her friends or her children over a work-table, than in meeting the ardour of an expectant audience.

Mr. ELLISTON performed the terrific *Osmond* with much force and agitation; but his vivacious habits of action are not perfectly adapted to the decline of life. Habitual vivacity will preserve the youthfulness of an actor, just as habitual seriousness is of the reverse effect; and though Mr. ELLISTON is generally happier in vehement, than in reflective tragedy, yet he is too apt to overwork his fermentation. He is in this respect like those warm-hearted friends, who, when you expect them to give you a hearty shake of the hand, squeeze your fingers into one miserable mass of stinging.

A new Singer, named SMITH, from the Liverpool Theatre, appeared on Wednesday as *Lorenzo*, in the miserable puppet-shew of the *Cabinet*. He has considerable power, and occasional melodiousness of voice, but his tones are uncertain and wavering. The ear may detect this deficiency, when he endeavours to hold a high note, for he drops unconsciously through a number of divided tones. His appearance is fat, and, if I may use the expression, his voice is so too: it possesses that sort of inward oiliness, which would induce a blind man to suppose the singer a very jolly personage. He is at a great distance from INCLEDON and from HILL, but he met with great encouragement, and may become a good subordinate singer.

Mr. BRAHAM was in all his glory of flourish and demisemi-quaver. It is surprising that this beautiful singer exhibits so bad a taste as to scatter his voice into atoms when he might present us with a noble solidity. He has certainly contributed to deprave the musical taste of this country, for he has substituted mere admiration for feeling; he has opened our eyes to shut our hearts. The air of *Fair Ellen*, that exquisite piece of poetry that ends with so exquisite a

bull, was literally lost in his ornament. The Greeks had a phrase, *you speak roses*, which may be applied to Mr. BRAHAM'S style, for he really gives us nothing but flowers. He is like an exhibitor of fire-works, totally employed in sudden shoots, and whirls, and a scatter of brilliant nothings.

A new Comedy, called *Something To Do*, was produced on Friday. The Papers tell me that it is a translation from the German by a Lady, and others have given it's invention to Mr. CUMBERLAND; but, from internal evidence, I could not but attribute it to Mr. HOLCROFT. There is the same occasional force, the same unfortunate prolixity, the same extremes of character, and the same fondness for describing the frenzy of jockeyship, that so peculiarly distinguish the Dramas of that Gentleman. The scene is laid in Germany, a country which has been long studied by Mr. HOLCROFT, and the plot turns upon the devices of *Janus Mem*, a young Barrister in search of his first fee. This merry lawyer attaches himself to the service of a young lover, whose mistress is a great coquette and sports with his passion. Her two guardians wish to force her into marriage with their respective son and nephew; but *Janus Mem* tricks them in his management of their contracts, the affair is referred to a magistrate, and the lover obtains possession of his lady. The scene with the magistrate completely ruined the Play, which had awakened the dissatisfaction of the audience by its occasionally long speeches. The studious depositions of the trial exhausted every body's patience, and the house became a chaos of hissing, coughing, and groaning. The Piece was not given out for a second representation.

The long speeches, which condemned this play, are always the stumbling block of a dramatist, who has drawn a hasty heterogeneous set of characters, that have no lasting effect or variety. You become tired of eccentricities in five long acts, you want nature and wit, something in short that shall leave you matter for reflection. The worst of it was, that the characters of *Something to Do* had all the extravagance without the merriment of farce, and the two principal ones were addressed to men of reading, who are a very small minority in all public assemblies. *Janus Mem* was a pedantic lawyer, who indulged himself in the vile cant of his profession, and fought his opponents with unintelligibility. ELLISTON, with his dry humour and rapid varieties of meaning, made as much as possible of his legal nonsense, but really and truly, as people say in the last hopelessness of expostulation, a character in a comedy should not found all his wit upon making memorandums and *ponying down* every unmeaning sentence he hears: a black-lead pencil has no essential point but what the penknife makes, nor is there any co-existing humour in the nature of a memorandum-book. Old age always makes error more hideous, and really this trick is very bad and very old.

The other principal attempt at character was something more original, but it was not addressed to one-tenth of the house. *Mr. Pamby* was the representative of those simple enthusiasts, who affect a great deal of what is called German sensibility, a folly that has been already ridiculed and annihilated. He pre-

tended to act upon nothing but pure nature, or what is called the *heart*, that is upon something abstracted from reason and therefore from common sense. This folly, which was originally honoured by the opinion of SHAFTSBURY and HUTCHESON in their doctrine of an *unreasoning moral sense*, was the same principle which became such a desperate sensibility in the extravagancies of ANACHARSIS CLOOTS, of the Marquis VALADY, and other madmen of the French Revolution. To neglect your wife or your family and to become a sloven and a brute, announced a soul superior to common feelings; to run a man through the body for some convenient end became a *daring emotion*, but excessively noble and elevated; and the tenderness of the human heart was converted into an excuse for every thing savage, senseless, and selfish. The best refutation of all this stupidity is the anarchy of the French Revolution itself, and an English audience does not want to be presented with foolish enthusiasts, whose example has long ceased to influence, and whose nonsense has become still more unintelligible, because it is out of date.

There was no particular prominence of acting in the piece, but the performance of ELLISTON. Mrs. JORDAN, who is so bewitching when she need not be reserved, loses all her genius in the lady, and I was surprised to see her substituted for Miss DUNCAN as the young heroine of the comedy. When Mrs. JORDAN was young, she should have fixed at once either upon the lady or upon the romping girl as her future character; for these two characters will never unite in the same actress. Broadness destroys reserve, and reserve will not allow broadness. A female performer cannot excel in all the variety of an actor, for a certain singleness of thinking and of habits seems to be one of the distinctions between female and male character. She will never represent the lady to perfection, unless she habituates herself to a comparative reserve of manner, and if Miss DUNCAN wishes to secure her reputation for lively gentility, she is again warned not to indulge herself in the representation of romps and in the assumption of male attire.

COURT AND FASHIONABLES.

HER MAJESTY'S BIRTH DAY.

Her Majesty completed her 63d year, the 19th of May last. This event was celebrated last Monday by the Court, and by dinners of a great number of the Nobility and Gentry. The Queen's tradesmen dined together, the Tower and Park guns fired, and the Guards of the day wore new dresses. The presence-chamber, and the rooms leading to the drawing-room, were crowded to see the Royal Family. Their Majesties, Princesses, and Royal Dukes, breakfasted together. The Princess Charlotte of Wales and a number of the dignified Clergy, paid their early respects at Buckingham House. Between one and two, the Queen and Princesses went to St. James's, and were decorated with their elegant Court dresses and costly jewels. Previously to her Majesty's entering the drawing-room, the Cabinet Ministers, some of those who have been in office, his Majesty's Officers of State, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, waited in

adjoining rooms to pay their respects. The latter delivered a suitable oration to her Majesty. Agreeably to the Charter of Charles II. 40 boys of Christ's Hospital, with Mr. Gwynne, their master, attended in the presence-chamber, with drawings and specimens of their progress in nautical mathematics. Alderman Shaw presented these fine boys to her Majesty and the Princesses. The boys were attended by the Treasurer, Drawing-master, Steward, and Receiver. Her Majesty and the Royal Sisters minutely examined the specimens, and expressed much approbation at their proficiency. This must be very gratifying to youth emulous of excellence, not because of the royal rank, but the refined tastes and cultivated judgments of these Ladies in the sciences, in the Belle Lettre, and polite Arts. It must have been highly pleasing to the Queen to behold 40 boys who were initiating themselves in the theory of a science, which practice would shortly render them proficient in, for perpetuating the glory and prosperity of a mighty empire, over which her royal consort had the honour of reigning. Indeed, it must have produced one of the first pleasures of the day to a royal mind which could separate the truly useful from that shewy nothingness, that false dazzle which hovers round a Court like gilded flies in sunshine round a honey jar; that pomp and vanity of wealth, and the assumed loyalty of self-interest.—To receive the congratulations of the company, her Majesty took her station with her back to a looking-glass; her train being placed on a marble slab. The Princesses arranged themselves on her Majesty's left hand according to their ages. The Lord Chamberlain then waved his wand of office to Sir W. Parsons, who attended with his Majesty's hand, to perform the following New Year's Ode, in music adapted to it by Sir W. from Handel.

ODE FOR THE NEW YEAR.

BY H. J. PYE, P. L.

Behold yon lurid Orb, that seems
Devious thro' æther's paths to stray,
And, while with baleful light it gleams,
Appears to trace no certain way;
No influence mild, with genial force,
Waits on its desultory course;
But myriads view its streaming hair
Shed death and horror thro' the air,
While even Science' piercing sight,
Clear from the mists of visionary fears,
Anxious beholds the erratic Stranger's flight,
Lest mingling with the planetary spheres,
It shake the order of the mighty frame,
Destroy with ponderous shock, or melt with sulphurous flame.

Such is, alas! the dread that waits
On savage Inroad's wild career,
While trembling round, the peaceful states
Survey its meteor course with fear,
And as the immortal mandate guides,
And points the Comet where to stray:
So thro' the battle's crimson tides
It points Ambition's fatal way;
Submit to both th' Eternal will perform,
As act his high behest, the earthquake and the storm.

But as with ray benign and bland
The radiant Haler of the Year
Shed plenty on the smiling land,
Where'er his vivifying beams appear

Now wakes the roseate bloom of spring,
Fann'd by young Zephyr's tepid wing,
Or clothes the wide expanding plain
With Summer's fruits and Autumn's grain;
Or gathering from the watery shores
Sources of vegetable stores,
Renews scorch'd Earth's exhausted powers
With balmy dews and gentle showers;
So from the patriot Monarch's care,
Whose breast no dreams of conquest move,
Founding his glory on his people's love,
And proud to boast unbounded empire there,
The copious rills of Peace, domestic stream,
Warm glows fair Virtue's flame, and bright Religion's beam.

O BRITAIN, may thy happy coast,
Tho' loud oppression rage around,
To the applauding nations boast
One shore with peace, with mercy crown'd;
Still may thy hospitable seat
To suffering greatness yield a safe retreat;
For when the sacred fiat of the skies
First caus'd thy sea-encircled Realm to rise,
* It bade it an eternal column stand,
Sacred to want and woe from every clime and land,
* Pind. Olymp. VIII. Strophe 2.

This was followed by Selections from the Oratorio of *Belshazzar* and Opera of *Otho*. The Prince of Wales entered soon after her Majesty, who enjoys excellent health, except an infirmity in her feet. The Queen as usual on her Birth-day, was not as splendidly dressed as on the King's. The Duchess of York was at Court, and the Princess of Wales, who displayed her usual elegance in a dress of amethyst coloured velvet. She wore a profusion of diamonds, whose attractions were heightened by her own. In the dress of the Princess Mary was tastefully blended the cheerful colours of spring, with the rich *costume* of the present season.—The dresses in general exhibited less splendour, and a greater number of old ones newly burnished up, than usual. Economy was sadly at variance with vanity and taste, therefore, we do not regret that more important matter prevents us from detailing the dresses. The attendance was unusually thin. His Majesty was not present, nor was the Duchess of Brunswick. The Prince of Wales, the Princess Charlotte, and the Duchess of York, dined with their Majesties and the Princesses at Buckingham House.

Mrs. Howe generally plays at chess with his Majesty; the sum played for never exceeds a guinea a game. This Lady is the only visitor who has a privilege of entering the Palace by the same door as the Royal Family.

MARRIAGES.

On Friday se'nnight, at Lord Beauchamp's seat, in Worcestershire, the Hon. George Wm. Coventry, eldest son of Lord Deerhurst, and grandson of the Earl of Coventry, to the Hon. Emma Susanna Lygon.

DEATHS.

Lately, at the Island of Jamaica, Horatio Noell, Esq. Major of the 18th Regiment of Infantry, and third son of G. N. Noell, Esq. M. P. for the county of Rutland.

On Sunday night, between ten and eleven o'clock, Lord Trafalgar, the only son of Earl Nelson, of a typhus fever,

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