THE HOLLY-TREE. BY ROBERT SOUTHEY.

I.

'O reader! hast thou ever stood to see
The holly tree?
The eye that contemplates it well perceives
Its glossy leaves
Ordered by an intelligence so wise
As might confound the atheist's sophistries.

II.

'Below, a circling fence, its leaves are seen
Wrinkled and keen,
No grazing cattle thro' their prickly round
Can reach to wound,
But as they grow where nothing is to fear,
Smooth and unarm'd the pointless leaves appear.

III.

'I love to view these things with curious eyes
And moralize;
And in the wisdom of the holly tree
Can emblems see
Wherewith perchance to make a pleasant rhyme,
Such as may profit in the after-time.

IV

'So, tho' abroad perchance I might appear
Harsh and austere,
To those who on my leisure would intrude
Reserved and rude,
Gentle at home amid my friends I'd be
Like the high leaves upon the holly tree.

V.

'And should my youth, as youth is apt I know
Some harshness show,
All vain asperities I day by day
Would wear away,
Till the smooth temper of my age should be
Like the high leaves upon the holly tree.

VI.

'And as when all the summer trees are seen
So bright and green,
The holly leaves their fadeless hues display
Less bright than they,
But when the bare and wintry woods we see
What then so chearful as the holly tree?

VII.

'So serious should my youth appear among
The thoughtless throng,
So would I seem amid the young and gay
More grave than they,
That in my age as chearful I might be
As the green winter of the holly tree.'

STATE PAPER.

LEIPZIC, Feb. 16.

The following is a Copy of the Note transmitted on the 13th Feb. by the Prussian Minister Count Haugwitz to Lord Carysfort, the English ambassador, at Berlin.

"The undersigned, State and Cabinet Minister, has laid before his Prussian Majesty the two Notes which Lord Carysfort, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from his Majesty the King of Great Britain and Ireland, has done him the honor to transmit to him on the 27th January and 1st of February last.

"The undersigned, having it in commission to return an explicit and circumstantial answer, is under the necessity of informing Lord Carysfort, that his Majesty cannot see, without the utmost grief and concern, the violent and hasty measures to which the Court of London has proceeded against the Northern naval powers. Error alone can have given occasion to the measures, as the assertions in the note of the 27th sufficiently shew. In that it is said that the maritime alliance 'has for its object to annul the treaties formerly concluded with England, and to prescribe laws to her with respect to the principles of them; that the neutrality is only a pretext to impose these laws on her by force, and to establish an hostile alliance against her.'

"Nothing, however, is farther from the abovementioned negociation, than the principles here supposed. It is founded in justice and moderation, and the communication of a copy of the convention to such of the belligerent powers as had the justice and patience to wait for the same, will prove this beyond the possibility of a denial.

"When in the beginning of January the Minister of his Britannic Majesty officially proposed to the undersigned the question—'Whether the Northern Courts had actually concluded the confederation which had been reported: and whether Prussia had acceded to it?'—the King conceived that the respect which Sovereigns owe to each other, and the liberty possessed by every independent State to consult its own interests, without rendering an account to any communications relative to himself and his allies, and contented himself with answering, that as he had seen, without interfering, the connections which England had entered into without consulting him, he considered himself as entitled to the same confidence: and that if the King of Great Britain thought it his duty to support the rights and interests of his kingdom, his Prussian Majesty considered it as not less his duty to employ every means in the defence of the rights and interests of his subjects.

"This answer might have sufficed a few weeks since; but in the situation in which affairs now are, the King thinks himself called upon to make an explicit declaration to the Court of London, relative to the spirit of the treaty, which has probably been attacked, because it was not known; and which is far from having the offensive views of which the contracting parties have been arbitrarily accused.—They have expressly agreed that their measures shall be neither hostile, nor tend to the detriment of any country, but only have for their object the security of the trade and navigation of their subjects. They have been attentive to adapt their new connections to present circumstances.

"The strict justice of his Majesty the Emperor of Russia has even in the detail proposed modifications which alone might be sufficient to indicate the spirit of the whole. It has since been determined that the treaty shall not be prejudicial to those treaties which had before been concluded with any of the belligerent powers. It was also resolved that this determination should be candidly communicated to these powers, to prove the purity of the motives and views of the contracting parties. But England would not allow them time for this. Had she waited this confidential communication she might have avoided those intemperate measures which threaten to spread still wider the flames of war. She might likewise have received satisfaction from the correspondence with Denmark, if, instead of dwelling on two detached passages copied into the first note of Lord Carysfort, from the note of Count Bernstoff of the 31st December, the Court of London had attended to the solemn declaration that 'it could never be for a moment imagined that Denmark entertained any hostile projects again Great Britain, or such as were inconsistent with the maintenance of a good understanding between the two powers: and that the Court of Denmark congratulated itself on having obtained an opportunity to contradict such unfounded reports in the most positive manner.

"This open and explicit declaration accorded with the assurances which the undersigned had more than once given to Lord Carysfort on the same subject; and it is difficult to conceive, how the English Court could conclude, as it afterwards appeared that it did from the note of the Danish Minister, 'that the Convention of the contracting Powers went to establish new principles of maritime law, which had never been acknowledged by the Tribunals of Europe, and the object of which was hostile to England.'

"The conclusion is totally false, and is as little authorized by the answer of the Danish Court as the undeserved accusation, that it proposed 'to excite a hostile confederacy against Great Britain, and with that view was employed in active preparations.'

"Never were measures more incontestibly merely defensive than those of the Court of Copenhagen; and the spirit of them will be less mistaken when it is recollected what menacing demonstrations that Court experienced on the part of the British Government, in consequence of the affair of the frigate Freya before it adopted those measures.

"The arbitrary conduct of England on this occasion is naturally explained by the lofty pretensions she has so long advanced, and which have been several times renewed in the notes of Lord Carysfort, at the expence of all the maritime and commercial powers. The British government has, in the present, more than in any former war, assumed to itself the sovereignty of the sea, and has arbitrarily formed a maritime code, which it is extremely difficult to reconcile with the true principles of the law of nations; it exercises over friendly and neutral powers a usurped jurisdiction, which it maintains to be just, and endeavors to represent as an indefeasible law sanctioned by the tribunals of Europe.

"Never have the sovereigns of England permitted their subjects to be amenable to this law, in the numerous cases when the abuse of power has transgressed the limits of justice. The neutral powers have made the strongest remonstrances and protestations; but experience has shewn that these are generally without effect. It is not therefore surprising, that after so many and repeated injuries they should have had recourse to a measure which may prevent them in future, and with that view have entered into a well concerted alliance, which may define their rights, and place them in a proper relation to the belligerent powers.

"The maritime alliance, as it has been consolidated, will lead to this salutary object, and the king makes no difficulty to declare to his Britannic majesty, that he has found in it his own principles, that he is ultimately convinced of its necessity and utility, and that he has formally acceded to the convention which was concluded between the courts of Russia, Denmark and Sweden, on the 16th Dec. last: His majesty is, therefore, among the number of the contracting powers, and as such he is obliged not only to take a direct part in all events which may interest the affair of the neutral states, but is bound to support that convention by such vigorous measures as the course of circumstances may require.

"The note of Lord Carysfort refers to a subject relative to which his majesty conceives he is not obliged to answer, nor even has a right to form an opinion; disputes exist between the courts of London and Petersburgh, which in no manner have connection with that with which the abovementioned minister has endeavored to unite them. But inasmuch as the conduct of Prussia has been hitherto guided by the most unexceptionable impartiality, it will be equally guided by a respect for the alliances which are a proof of it. Stipulations which contain in themselves nothing hostile, and which the security of his subjects prescribed to him, bind him to have recourse to all the means which Providence has placed in his power.

"As unpleasant as the extremities are to which England has proceeded, the king entertains no doubt of the possibility of a speedy return to conciliatory and pacific dispositions; and in this respect confides in the sentiments of justice which he has so often had the happiness to experience on other occasions from his Britannic majesty.

"*Only by the recal and entire taking off of the embargo* can things be restored to their former state; and England must judge whether she will consent to afford the neutral powers this means of proceeding to the overtures which they are ready to make. But as long as those measures shall continue, which were adopted from hatred to a common principle, and against an alliance no longer to be feared, the hostile determination which must be the consequence will be the necessary result of the treaty, and the undersigned has it in command to declare to the minister of his Britannic majesty, that the king, while he testifies his concern at the circumstances that have occurred, and which he has never occasioned, will fulfil in the most sacred manner, the obligations imposed on him by treaties.

"The undersigned, while he executes this command, has the honor to assure Lord Carysfort of his high esteem.

(Signed) HAUGWITZ."

"Berlin, Feb. 12."

LONDON, February 19.

The reader need hardly be told, that it can seldom be instantly possible for us in our present situation, to accompany with remarks, intelligence which reaches us on the spur of an hurried moment, of which the details may happen to be as extended as the importance is immense—When we yesterday received the French official journal, containing a copy of the treaty of Luneville, and some report of the proceedings of the Consulate, and other public bodies, in consequence of that event, our labours were as anxious as they were severe and solemn. We were engaged in collecting evidence of the treason of Mr. Pitt. A treaty which has prepared for the ultimate and not remote extinction of the power of the imperial house of Austria, were itself no trivial proof of the kind of treason we impute to the dismissed minister, and of which the proof shall be in a few days exhibited to the British nation and to all Europe.

Respecting the intelligence by the Paris mails it is to be observed that it has been anticipated in all the material points for months past. Francis could not maintain his cause against the forces of the republic. Every moral, political, and physical advantage was decidedly in favor of his antagonist. From the moment when Buonaparte acquired power to will the resources of France, to will it according to the inspirations of his own great mind, the fall of the House of Austria appeared to us to be inevitably in the train of the victories of the republicans. Whatever the directory lost, he was obviously destined to regain, whether in popularity at home, or in consequence and illustrious fame abroad.

A different opinion was, we know, entertained on this subject. Several deemed his enterprise not free from peril, nor his cause unallied to danger. During the opening scenes, indeed, of his sublime drama, to some the catastrophe seemed enveloped in mystery, and it was not thought certain, at least only by very few, that France could be restored to the high place she had held in the years 1796 and 1797, in the ranks of nations. Suwarrow was not quite subdued, and Paul was not even disposed to friendship. How altered the times at the moment of this writing?

There would be no justice in suppressing, in this place, those emotions of satisfaction which we feel in being enabled to retrace our opinions from stage to stage, authorised and confirmed by the events of the last campaigns of Italy and Germany. Uniformly we held the belief that, the republicans must prevail, whilst other public writers have not been less unsteady in the support of their creeds, than the winds are in their adherence to single points of the compass. Echoing the nonsense of priests and royalist chiefs, the ministerialists were uniform in nothing but asserting the justness of their well known predictions of the overthrow of the republic, and the subversion of the consular government. That prediction once formed the political creed of even the journalist's whose opposition to those writers is pretty systematical, changing only with a tale about a *challenge* of a regency. But it is almost unworthy of us to occupy our time and our columns with such stuff as the ephemeral croaking of ephemeral scribblers!

In this sentence pronounced on those mole-eyed prophets, nothing unjustly severe is to be discovered. They have supported a cause of which they might have easily perceived the iniquity, but being the mere slaves of selfish sordid ambition, they criminally lent the aid of whatever of talent they possess to a minister, whose project was the extermination of thirty millions of people and along with them, of freedom throughout the world. We state these things, because we set out from this hour on a political progress, in the whole of which our constant aim and end shall be to draw our country back to the affections of the ancient principles of her constitution and liberties, and to hasten a connection, an union of mind and of opinions between that nation and people to extinguish whom our gold has been lavished, our blood spilt, through nine years of a war, the expences, losses, disgraces, defeats, and disasters of which, to some countries and foreigners, are as yet, and may ever remain, unparalleled in the annals of all history.

In pursuance of this our fully considered purpose, it now belongs to us to take a view of that treaty of peace which already we have shortly noticed. The conditions of the peace are moderate, under the ruling circumstances at the period of its definitive conclusion. Francis was, as it were, dragged into the field to assert with the sword the preliminaries of Paris, signed by the Comte St. Julien and authorised by the Court of Vienna. Nothing hardly is conceded by the Emperor in the peace at Luneville which had not either been conceded or implied by those preliminaries. The Republic was to retain her boundary of the Rhine; and the house of Austria to be rounded in Territory both in Italy and the Germanic empire. Secularization was a recognized principle; and if the dukes of Tuscany and Modena are not named in the peace of Paris, we find it there stipulated that the Austrians "evacuate the territory of Tuscany." The stipulation anticipates the changes for which subsequent events have so inevitably prepared. It is the right of the conqueror to trace the line of the possessions to be retained by the conquered.

As we observed yesterday, Austria still retains possessions at once ample, compact, and highly susceptible of improvement. All the Venetian islands, not previously otherwise possessed, have been given to the Emperor; he is confirmed in his sovereignty over Venice and Istria, and Dalmatia is secured to his house; he ceases to be powerful in Italy, and hence ceases to command the means of desolating or disturbing Europe with his wars of aggrandizement and despoliation; or, as it is so well expressed in the message of the Consuls to the Tribunate—"Austria, and in this consists the pledge of peace—Austria henceforth, separated from France by extensive regions, will no longer entertain the rivalship and those resentments which, for so many ages, have been the torment of these two powers, and produced the calamities of Europe? It might here have been added, "of which however, the far greater portion have been caused in late years by the closet cabinets of Downing-street!"

The declarations of the future independence of the Cisalpine and Ligurian Republics are peculiarly interesting, as they manifest the devotion of the Consular Government to the cause of universal freedom.

We would willingly here proceed in a detailed view of the general policy, as well as some of the special provisions of that treaty, but are precluded for this day, by the state of our preparations, and particularly by the difficulties of that situation hinted at above.