Yesterday the following ships were ordered into commission:

Spencer 74 guns, Hon. Capt. Stopfore; Ruby 64 do. Hon. Capt. Gardner; Plover (sloop) 18 do, Capt. Hancock; Wasp (do.) 18 do. Aylmer.

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Two of our packets have been detained at Calais, viz. Prince of Wales, Capt. Sutton, and the Nancy, temporary packet, and the crews, we have reason to believe, have been committed to the common prison of that place.

We are concerned to find that the Batavian government are unable to resist the mandate of Bonaparte, but have been obliged to be guilty of the same gross violation of the law of nations.

The works in the harbour of Boulogne are carrying on unceasing, night and day. The men *work* by torch-light.

Few events in the history of the present times seems to have excited more regret than the suppression of Mr. Pitt's speech on Monday last, as it not only exhibited an unparallelled blaze of eloquence, but a complete exposition of all the designs of France, and an irresistible appeal to the good sense and public spirit of Englishmen.

The account transmitted a few days ago from Plymouth of so many of our artificers and seamen being employed at Brest, if true, is of the most melancholy & alarming nature. It would certainly be becoming in Parliament to investigate the original cause of this national misfortune.

On Saturday night, at twelve o'clock the Duke of Kent arrived at his apartments in Winsor Castle, in order to pay his respects as soon as possible after his arrival to his Royal Parents. His Royal Highness landed at Falmouth on Thursday night.

The Gazette of Saturday contains a proclamation for increasing the militia. The men are to be enrolled on or before the 16th July.

Major-General Moore is appointed to the command of the troops on the Kentish coast: his Head-quarters are to be at Hythe.

Lord Chatham is to command the troops to be stationed at Cantesbury.

Mr. Peltier not having been called up to receive judgement during the late term, has become discharged from the consequence of his conviction.

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May 26.

The papers which accompanied the message of the Chief Consul, occupy six supplements to the Moniteur of the 21st, of a sheet each; and when we find five of them filled with the discussions which preceded the treaty of Amiens, we cannot look for so full an account as that which this government has published of the more important discussions which have succeeded it. In fact, no one, we believe, expected that the French people should ever be entrusted with more than a garbled history of what passed. The conversation, of which Lord Whitworth gives so full an account in his letter of the 21st of February, is not much calculated to conciliate those of whose lives and treasure the Chief Consul is so prodigal. A few only of the papers are given, interspersed with remarks, which are intended to supply the hiatus. We find no complaints of any personal attacks upon the First Consul in the British newspapers; indecent and seditious publications are complained of in general terms. His Majesty's message is said to have been sent without any explanation, and any anterior note, and though more than two months have elapsed between the date of that message and the departure of Lord Whitworth, it seems to be the wish of the French government to represent us as having acted with the greatest precipitation, while no one point was gained by the delay that did actually take place, and no disposition was manifested to induce a belief that further procrastination would be attended with better consequences.

The message of the Chief Consul seems less intended to announce the rupture of negociation, than to prepare the public mind for that event. From the ambiguity of some of its expressions, it would appear doubtful, whether he considered the negociation at an end, and whether he did not yet expect to meet the same submission on the part of England, which he has found among the unfortunate and degraded nations with whom he has recently negociated. He submits to the Legislative and other bodies, his first communication with the British ministry, the negociations terminated with the treaty of Amiens, and the new discussions which appear to terminate in an absolute rupture. He informs them, that the negociations are interrupted, and that France is prepared to fight, if attacked. It seems to be his object to avoid letting France see at once the extent of the mischief to which his ambition has subjected her; but the end of the message, shews at least, that he is not himself insensible of the extent of her danger. The nation is called upon to console itself for injuries to be inflicted, which it can neither avoid nor revenge, and it is curious that its consolation for this weakness is to be derived from a sense of its strength. Perhaps the meaning of this extraordinary sentence is, that though France will too fatally experience that she is vulnerable in remote parts, the concentration of her strength is to give her confidence at home. On this subject, however, we are already in possession of the First Consul's opinion, who, while he boasts the impossibility of subjugating France, admits the possibility of her being dismembered. It is not difficult to understand, that by this phrase he means the laceration of the present form of government; and all the speeches of his obedient friends in the Legislative body and the Tribunate, are calculated only to avert it. To attribute the conduct of England to jealousy at the happiness France enjoys, to slide from this subject insensibly into the commendation of the individual to whom she is indebted for this pretended state of felicity, has been the line of conduct pursued in both those assemblies, and the discussions which took place on the signing of the preliminary treaty, were not more filled with fulsome adulation than the few speeches which are detailed in the Moniteur on the present very different occasion.

In the tribunate, indeed, a more impudent attempt, *ad captandum* was made, for the message that was to announce war, was preceded but a few moments by Rivaud laying before the members a work relative to the victory of Marengo. By such artifices the people of France are to be kept quiet, amid the injuries to which it is admitted by their chief that she is now about to expose them; and by such artifices, we suppose, Bonaparte calculates upon enlisting the hundred thousand men whom he has pledged himself to throw away in his attempts upon this country. Whether he will be successful in thus misleading and blinding the people of France, we can learn only by events, for his efforts to control the French press, have been so much more successful than his attempts upon that of England, that his subjects have neither means of information nor medium of complaint.

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PARIS, May 21.

Telegraphic dispatch.—The maritime Prefect of Brest announces, under date of this day, that two English frigates have taken two French ships in the bay of Audierre.

An arrette was this day communicated to the three assemblies.

After inserting our orders of council for laying an embargo on French and Dutch ships, and for issuing letters of marque and reprisal, and the maritime prefect's dispatch given above, it orders all French commanders to commence hostilities against English ships. It also orders as follows:—

3. All English enrolled in the militia, and not less than eighteen, nor more than sixty, or bearing his Britannic majesty's commission, who are now in France, shall be immediately made prisoners of war, to answer for the citizens of the Republic made prisoners by British ships or subjects before the declaration of war.

The arrette is followed by a reflection that we have committed hostilities without any declaration of war, and without any of the forms required by nations, following the odious principle of a public right set up for ourselves alone.

The Moniteur of the 24th attempts to prove, that we have mutilated or suppressed some important documents relative to the negociation.

The legislative assemblies have, as was to be expected, echoed the sentiments of the government—they have thanked the first consul for his moderation.

The English at Paris have been commanded to appear within 24 hours before the commandant of that place.—They were then to be sent to Fontainbleau. French funds have fallen 47 1-2.

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NEW-YORK, July 23.

A respectable commercial friend has favoured the Editor of the Mercantile Advertiser with London papers to the evening of 30th May, received by the ship Charles from Liverpool. They contain much interesting intelligence, of which the following is a brief abstract:

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London, May 25.

Last Friday, at three o'clock, the following message was delivered by several of the orators of government to the Senate, the legislative body, and the tribunate.—

MESSAGE.

Saint Cloud, May 20.

The ambassador of England has been recalled; compelled by this circumstance, the ambassador of the Republic has quitted a country where he could no longer hear the language of peace.

At this decisive moment the government submits to your view, and it will submit to the view of France and of Europe, its first relations with the Britannic ministry, the negociations which were terminated by the treaty of Amiens, and the new discussions which seem to finish by an absolute rupture.

The present age and posterity will there see all that it has done to put an end to the calamities of war, and with what moderation and what patience it has laboured to prevent their return.

Nothing has been able to interrupt the course of the projects formed to rekindle discord between the two nations. The treaty of Amiens had been negociated amidst the clamours of a party, hostile to peace. Scarcely was it concluded, when it was the object of bitter censure. It was represented as fatal to England, because it was not disgraceful to France. Soon after, alarms were disseminated; dangers were pretended, on which was established the necessity of a state of peace, such as to be a permanent signal of new hostilities. There were kept in reserve, and hired, those vile miscreants, who had torn the bosom of their country, and who were intended to tear it anew. Vain calculations of hatred! We are no longer that France which was divided by factions, and buffeted by storms; but France restored to internal tranquillity, regenerated in her administration and her laws, and ready to fall, with her whole weight, upon whatever foreign state may dare to attack her, and to unite with the banditti whom an attrocious policy would once more cast upon her shores to organize pillage and assassinations.

At length an unexpected message, all at once, terrifies England with imaginary armaments in France and Batavia, and supposes the existence of important discussions which divided the two governments, while no such discussion was known to the French government.

Immediately formidable armaments took place on the coasts, and in the ports of Great Britain; the sea is covered with her ships of war; and it is in the midst of these preparations that the cabinet of London demands of France the abrogation of a fundamental article of the treaty of Amiens.

They wanted, they said, new guarantees; and they despised the sanctity of treaties, the execution of which is the first of guarantees which nations can give to each other.

In vain did France invoke that faith which has been sworn: in vain did she consent to shut her eyes to the actual non execution of the article of the treaty of Amiens, from which England pretended to release herself: in vain was she willing to delay taking a definitive resolution until Spain and Batavia, both of them contracting parties, could have manifested their disposition: in vain, in short, did she propose to request the mediation of the powers who had been invited to guarantee, and who, in effect, did guarantee the stipulations required to be abrogated.

Every proposition was rejected, and the demands of England became more imperious and more absolute.

It was not in the principles of the government to yield to menace; it was not in their power to bend the majesty of the French people to laws prescribed to them with forms so haughty and so new. Had they done so, they would have consecrated in favour of England the right of annulling, at her sole pleasure, all the stipulations which bind her towards France. It would have authorized her to demand from France new guarantees on the slightest alarm, which she might have thought proper to pretend; and hence two new principles would have been placed in the public code of Great Britain, by the side of that by which she has disinherited the other nations of the common sovereignty of the seas, and submitted to her laws and to her regulations the independence of their flag.

The government stopt at the limit traced out by its principles and its duties. The negociation is interrupted, and we are ready to fight, if we are attacked.

We shall at least fight for maintaining the faith of treaties, and for the honour of the French name.

Had we yielded to a vain error, we should soon have had to fight to repel new pretensions; but we should have fought dishonoured by a previous weakness, fallen in our own eyes, and degraded in the eyes of an enemy which should have once made us bend to her unjust pretensions.

The nation will repose itself in the consciousness of its strength, whatever injuries the enemy do us in places where we shall not have been able to prevent them or to reach them. The result of this contest will be such as we have a right to expect from the justice of our cause and the courage of our warriors.

The First Consul,
(Signed) BONAPARTE.
The Secretary of State,
(Signed) MARET.

May 28.

In the House of Commons yesterday, Mr. Fox delivered an animated address (which we shall give the first opportunity) on the proposition which he understood had been made to England by the Emperor of Russia, to interpose his mediation for the adjustment of differences; and concluded by moving an address to his Majesty, to avail himself of that disposition.

Lord Hawkesbury and Mr. Pitt objected to the motion, as betraying indecision. The former observed, that as to any proposal which might have been made by the court of Petersburg, the very way in which it came, and even the nature of it, must necessarily be such as to render it impossible for his majesty's government to act upon it. The house must recollect the distance between Petersburgh and London, and consequently the length of time it would take a person to travel from one place to another, so that when a messenger left Petersburgh, very little could have been known there of the state of things passing in this country. The proposition that came from the court of Petersburgh was made with a reference to the conferences going on between England and France, and the reluctance which appeared in the two governments to bring them to a speedy conclusion. The proposition was that the two ministers of his imperial majesty should give every assistance in their power to the negociating parties; and the Emperor would give his good offices in concluding and establishing any arrangement which might be thought necessary. Under all the circumstances of the case, considering that the intervention came in a loose and general way, and at a time when every thing had been fully and fairly laid before the French government, and perhaps at the very time when the British Ambassador was leaving Paris, his Majesty's ministers, considering all these things, did not think that a proposal so general and undefined was one which could at that time be acted upon. But it was not to be concluded from this that they objected to listen to any proposition coming from Russia in the shape of mediation. He could assure the house and the hon. gentleman opposite to him, that they would at any time be ready, either to receive from the court of Petersburgh its ideas, as to the grounds on which an adjustment might be entered into between Great Britain and France, or to state to the court of Petersburgh the grounds on which the British government would agree to such an adjustment. His Majesty's minister would not avoid entering into a business of this kind from any want of etiquette or forms, but would be ready, even through the channel of the Russian minister at Paris, to state the views of the British government. But until some proposal was made, upon which they could act with propriety, they did not think it would be consistent with their duty, to advise his Majesty to withdraw any of his exertions in the prosecution of the contest which was already begun.

Mr. Fox then rose and said, that as the noble Lord had declared it to be the intention of his Majesty's Government to consent to any mediation which might be proposed by the Emperor of Russia between Great Britain and France, he was ready to withdraw his motion—The motion was accordingly withdrawn.

Every bench was immediately deserted. The Members crowded from all parts of the House round the table, and all seemed to feel the importance of having gained the support of the authority of this great character. Several Members offered themselves to the attention of the House, but no one could be listened to.

After the agitation had subsided, the House proceeded with the Orders of the Day.

We have to congratulate our country on the temper and spirit which seemed to actuate all parties in the proceedings which took place last night in the house of Commons. Mr. Fox's promised motion was made respecting the mediation of Russia, and the explanation which followed shewed, that ministers had already been following that line of conduct which it was the object of his motion to make them adopt. It was creditable both to Mr. Fox and to ministers, that in a point of so much magnitude, there had been a coincidence of opinion, and we never saw the members of all parties so ardent in their congratulations as on this occasion, when a real unanimity and an almost unexampled cordiality appeared.

What may be the issue no one can possibly foresee. But that no relaxation in the means we have already resorted to for our own security ought to take place, seems to be the general opinion.

After Mr. Fox withdrew his motion yesterday in the house of commons, he went over to the treasury bench, and shook hands with Mr. Addington and lord Hawkesbury.

An order from government was received on Tuesday by M. Coquebert de Monbret, the French commercial commissioner, to leave London within twenty-four hours, and quit the kingdom with all possible dispatch. He accordingly set out on his return to Paris last Wednesday.

The embargo has been ordered to be taken off all vessels that are bound to Russia.

A great alteration is said to have taken place in the political system of his Prussian majesty, who appears inclined to act in concert with the emperor Alexander, and the emperor of Germany. The Prussian troops are on their march to the Electorate of Hanover, but altho' their object is stated to be the protection of that territory, we have little doubt that the measure has been occasioned by the apprehension of the cabinet of Berlin, lest France should anticipate their entrance, and obtain possession of the Electorate.

An attempt has been made by Gen. Brune, the French ambassador, at Constantinople, to have the ports of Turkey shut against our shipping. The Porte continues firm to its true interests, and all his exertions and intrigues have proved fruitless.

May 30.

According to the last letters received from Constantinople it appears that the Arabian rebel, Abdul Wechab, is making great progress, and that he has actually made himself master of the city of Mecca.

The first act of the war on the part of the first consul has been, not to meet us manfully at sea, not to carry on hostilities in the way adopted between civilized nations; but to make an attack upon the persons and liberty of those whom he was bound by all the laws of hospitality to respect. He has seized and imprisoned all our countrymen and women in France!!!

The mails between the two countries having been stopped, a packet sailed on Friday from Dover as a flag of truce.—When she arrived at Calais, she found that two of the English packet boats had been seized, and the men imprisoned.—She was informed also, that the first consul had issued a decree to the following effect:—

"That every British subject of an age not under 18 nor exceeding 60, or bearing a commission under his Britannic majesty, who is at present in France, shall immediately be considered prisoners of war, to answer for such citizens of the French Republic as shall have been detained and made prisoners by the vessels and subjects of his Britannic majesty."

In consequence of the above decree, Mr. Talbot, the secretary to the British legation, who had arrived at Calais on his return to this country, was not allowed to embark. The Earl of Yarmouth, sir James Crawford, Mr. Cobourn, and two other Englishmen, are also detained at Calais. We have not heard whether they have been sent to prison or not. The captain of the Aukland packet, which returned on Saturday afternoon from Calais, brought over dispatches from Mr. Talbot, informing his majesty's ministers of his detention.

At Paris, it is said by some, that the English gentlemen have been sent to the temple, the Conciergerie, and other prisons, and the ladies to Fontainebleau.—Other accounts state, that both men and women have been ordered to repair to Fontainebleau. At Dunkirk, all the English, we understand, have been put in prison.

Nor has this tyrannical measure been confined to France. The Dutch government have been compelled by this consul, who boasts of fighting for the independance of nations, to execute in Holland the decree issued at Paris, and to arrest and imprison our countrymen with great severity. Mr. Liston, our ambassador, has been made a prisoner of war, and has actually, it is said, been thrown into the Brille prison. One of our messengers, Mr. East, has experienced the same fate. He and Mr. Wagstaff, the messenger, left the Hague together, for England, but receiving an intimation that their sailing from Helvoetsluys might be opposed, they resolved that Mr. East should proceed to Helvoetsluys, and should the latter find that the former had been detained, he might adopt the best method he could for leaving the country. When Mr. East reached Helvoetsluys, he found that the two English packets, which had been waiting there for some time, had been detained, and the captains and crews made prisoners. As soon as it was known that he was an English messenger, he was also sent to the Brille prison. Mr. Wagstaff, who was apprised of what had passed, made the best of his way for Scheveling, where he got an open boat, and arrived safe with his dispatches in England.

The consular decree is said to have been issued on account of our having made captures at sea without a previous declaration of war. But this is not a new conduct on our part; and besides, by what right can Bonaparte find fault with it, he who commenced hostilities against the Porte by invading Egypt, without alledging that any ground of offence had been given against France? The recall of the respective ambassadors is a sufficient declaration of war.

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May 31.

A Proclamation has been issued by His Majesty, at Hanover, on the 16th inst. It declares that His Majesty, in his capacity of a state of the Empire, will preserve the strictest neutrality; but as from the obvious movements of the French troops in Holland, there is a probability of His Majesty's German States being exposed to danger, it commands an account to be taken of all the inhabitants of these States capable of bearing arms, and calls upon them in the strongest terms, for unanimity in the defence of their country, in the event of any such attack.

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A few weeks ago dispatches were received at Naples from England, which were doubtless very important, as the Council of State was immediately summoned, and continued to sit for a considerable time. It does not appear that their decision was in the least favorable to England; but on the contrary it is stated, that, in case of war, Naples consents that France shall send troops into her dominions, and that no supplies shall be furnished the English forces.