NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER,

AND

WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

VOL. V. WASHINGTON CITY, PRINTED BY SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. NO. DCCLVI.

FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNUM. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1805. PAID IN ADVANCE.

Foreign Intelligence.

LONDON, June 8.

We are happy to hear from the most respectable quarter, that the Roman Catholics of Ireland are highly pleased with the very calm and temperate manner in which the prayer of their petition has been rejected by the members of administration. We are well assured, that so far from betraying any symptom of ill blood or ill temper at the issue of that discussion, that on the contrary that large and respectable class of the community never seemed more disposed to look kindly on their superiors. The only regret that appears to be expressed is at some of the assertions made by Lord Redesdale on that occasion. We understand that the Catholic Bishops in the Southern Province have been applied to on the subject of the information, stated to have been communicated to his Lordship, relative to excommunications, and that they solemnly disavow the charge; and we further understand, that it is their intention to publish an instrument to that purpose. Indeed it were as well that no such topics had been so emphatically and so authoritatively dwelt on.

June 14.

The importance of the French papers which arrived on Wednesday, is less derived from the facts they communicate, than from the hints, the insinuations, the comments and the reflections they throw out upon the situation of Great Britain and the continent, the events of the war, and the views and designs of the parties engaged in it. Though published in the form of detached notes upon the English papers, they may be fairly considered as an *official exposition* of the views and objects of the French government, and may be divided and discussed under three heads.

1. The means which France possesses of annoying our commerce and possessions, by detached squadrons and expeditions.

2. The improbability of a continental war.

3. A glance at the objects which France expects to accomplish by the war, and some hints and suggestions of a pacific tendency.

Throughout the whole of this exposition there is an air of triumph and disdain, of menace and of insolence, of superiority and dictation, which the dignity of the British character may well despise, and which, indeed, may be considered as so many tributes to the superiority of our resources, the extent of our means, and the greatness of our power.

Somewhat indeed of a more haughty and insolent tone than usual must be pardoned in a government not yet recovered from the exultation and surprise which the safe return of the first squadron they had dared to send to sea, after two years of war, was calculated to produce.

1. It is the safe return of this squadron that has made the enemy flatter themselves on a sudden, that they can cope with us; and because they can send ships to sea, which sometimes escape capture, by not falling in with our fleets, they imagine that they have become a great naval power.—It would have been better to have waited till all those blows, with which they threaten us had been struck; but as perhaps they thought it just possible that the boaster might beat, they were resolved not to lose the opportunity which might be afforded them of holding a lofty, a triumphant tone. They tell us, "that we knew not of the departure of the Rochfort squadron till it had taken Dominica, nor of the departure of the Toulon fleet till it had passed the Streights, and that we shall hear no more of it for some months; the departure of a second Rochefort squadron has not even been spoken of, and there are several large frigates which are to do great mischief upon coasts which we think are little known to their sailors."—We quote these expressions not for the purpose of paying attention to the menaces they contain, but of hazarding a conjecture upon the destination of the expeditions. When they say that we shall hear no more of the Toulon squadron for some months, do they mean from the time it passed the Streights, or from the present period! If they mean the former, upwards of two months have already elapsed, and if it be gone to the West Indies we shall hear of its operations or arrival in all probability by the end of this month. But the phrase seems applicable to a more distant voyage than the West Indies. Some time ago we supposed it very probable that the combined fleets would separate in a certain latitude, and that the French would proceed to the East Indies, and the Spaniards to the West. The intelligence we communicated yesterday seems to favour that supposition. A Spanish squadron, of four sail of the line, was spoken in lat. 18, N. long. 40, steering a S. W. course on the 8th and 9th ult.—Undoubtedly this was the Spanish squadron from Cadiz, which it seems probable, separated from the French immediately after leaving Cadiz; for on the 9th April they came out; on the 10th the French were out of sight, but on the 11th and 12th, the Spanish squadron of five sail of the line, were seen beating to the westward, having perhaps, lost sight of the French in the night of the 10th. We are still, therefore, of opinion, that the Toulon squadron is gone to the East Indies—indeed the French talk of the blows they will strike in both the Indies. The injury they are to do on those coasts which we thought were unknown to them, are said to be the coast of Canada, Hudson's Bay, and Newfoundland. Perhaps the second Rochefort squadron is gone thither. But our readers of course will not fail to see that the French, in the articles we have extracted, mix up, designedly of course, much that is absurd, a great deal of insolence and menace. We trust that we shall furnish them with a few facts in return, and that we shall have to republish their notes *with some valuable comments by Lord Nelson.*

2. It is with reluctance that we abandon the idea of producing a confederacy of continental powers against France, but the hopes of any powerful co-operation on the part of Russia, grow fainter and fainter every day.—We might have disbelieved the articles from Petersburgh in the *Moniteur:* but the fact of a Russian negociator being on the point of proceeding to Paris, cannot be doubted.—That the object of his mission is to notify an *ultimatum* agreed to by Russia and Great Britain conjointly, we do not believe. We do not believe it, because we know that the approximation between Russia and France has been produced by the king of Prussia, who would not have interfered had he suspected that Russia had an intention of notifying, through an ambassador, for whom he had procured passports, that unless certain conditions were acceded to, the courts of Petersburgh, London and Stockholm, would make common cause against France. That the sentiments of Russia have experienced a change within these three months is not to be doubted. If it were worth while to enter much into an investigation of the causes of that change, it would not, we believe, be difficult to prove that it has been produced in a great degree by the belief so industriously circulated throughout Europe, that parties were too equally balanced in this country to render it likely that Mr. Pitt's power would be permanent, and that a change of administration would in all probability lead to the adoption of a diametrically opposite system of politics with respect to France. Russia and the other powers were not to learn that Mr. Fox had reprobated the war as unnecessary and unjust, and had approved of the treaty of Amiens. To have made a common cause therefore with a country whose system towards France might have changed with a change of ministry, was a policy which under such circumstances, they must have felt disinclined to adopt.

Yet at the time we are expressing our disbelief, at least our strong doubts, whether Russia or any of the continental powers, will co-operate with us against France, it is proper we should state that the last accounts from Vienna, are by no means pacific in their language towards France; and it is a fact that the funds at Vienna fell, within this month, *four per cent. in one day.* But we hardly think that the Austrian government will yet depart from its system of neutrality.

3. The chances of a continental war being so feeble, it remains to be enquired whether there is any stronger chance of peace being established between this country and France? The *Moniteur* says, the object of Russia is to interfere as far as she can, for the purpose of restoring general peace. If, indeed we thought the *Moniteur* serious in the angry tone it assumes, and insolent pretensions it sets forth, we should abandon every idea of peace. But we find that these pretensions vary almost daily, and that one day the *Moniteur* insists upon nothing but the treaty of Amiens, and the next insinuates, that if that treaty be departed from, there must be reciprocal restitutions.—Upon the nature and object of these restitutions, the *Moniteur* has thrown out some ideas which shall be the subject of a separate article on a future day. At present we shall conclude by saying, if France expects that we shall consent to such restitutions as she hints at, she will find herself completely mistaken; she will find herself equally mistaken if she supposes that we shall accept the treaty of Amiens, the whole treaty of Amiens, and nothing but the treaty of Amiens.

JUNE 15.

A Danish ship, the Holstein, arrived off Plymouth the day before yesterday, in four months from Madras, and landed a passenger with dispatches for the East India company. The Star Whaler from St. Helena, arrived at Plymouth on Wednesday evening. The dispatches are said to be of great importance. Lord Lake is reported to have pursued Holkar, after the dispersion of his cavalry to one of his forts, into which he threw himself with the remnant of his army, and it was expected would be forced to surrender. Our loss is stated to have been great, but that of Holkar to have been immense.

JUNE 17.

Another mail from Hamburgh arrived on Saturday afternoon. A private letter says, that the court of Berlin has not yet formally acknowledged Bonaparte as king of Italy, having contented itself with a cool acknowledgment of the receipt of the letter, announcing Napoleon's assumption of that title.

The statement of M. Novozilzoff having received passports to proceed from Petersburgh to Paris, or Brussels, continues to be repeated in terms the most confident and positive. Upon the subject of the delusive overture which has been made, we have derived the following information from a quarter the most authentic and respectable. Bonaparte's first proposition to the British Government, we are assured, was made with the sole view of frustrating its endeavors to form a continental alliance against France. The reference to the emperor of Russia disappointed for a time his expectations; though, by the delay, which necessarily occurred, he so far succeeded as to prevent any concert of hostile preparations for the present year. He has now renewed his overture to the court of Petersburgh, through the medium of those of Vienna and Berlin, and his explanation of the letter lately addressed by him to the king of Great Britain has at length been heard. His professions are specious, but he still confines himself to general terms. In the mean time, a *conditional* treaty between the courts of London and Petersburgh has been concluded, by which Russia binds herself to take up arms against France in the event only of Bonaparte's refusing to accept of equitable terms of peace. Of the nature of this treaty he has been fully informed by the court of Berlin, but his replies have hitherto been evasive and unsatisfactory. The representations of the British government upon the subject are of the most dignified description, and Russia has called upon France, through the medium of Prussia, for a final and specific declaration. Thus situated, he can no longer evade the question, and of his disposition, no possible doubt can be entertained from the furious language which has lately appeared in the Moniteur, and the explicit and unequivocal declaration that nothing but the treaty of Amiens will be accepted by France. Whether this demand will be considered just or equitable by the court of Petersburgh, a very short time will determine. We hope, notwithstanding the assertion of the enemy, it will not. If it should, all hopes of continental aid on our part will, of course, be disappointed: and our only allies, in that case, will be our own courage, our patriotism and unanimity; nor do we over-rate their value, by deeming them, in the hour of danger, superior to any force however numerous and disciplined, which might be allured by our subsidies from the regions of the north. We repeat that the signing of another treaty of Amiens would be the sealing of the disgrace, if not the ultimate destruction of Great Britain; and no Englishman, we are well persuaded, is prepared to prostrate his country at the feet of France.

A letter from Vienna repeats the statement that Bonaparte had signified his wish to occupy Dolmaria and the Venetian territory during the war. It is added, that he had offered to give the Island of Sardinia to the King of Naples in exchange for his continental dominions. We do not pledge ourselves for the truth of this intelligence, but if it be true, the emperor of Germany will have no alternative but that of war or abject submission to the Corsican usurper.

A considerable degree of alarm was on Saturday excited among the mercantile interest in the city, in consequence of the receipt of intelligence that two American ships, bound from New-Orleans to Liverpool, had been captured by Spanish privateers, and carried into the Island of Cuba. It is confidently reported, that orders have been issued by the court of Madrid, to capture all American vessels freighted with goods from British ports, upon the principle that the merchandize being insured here, the loss will fall upon this country. This unquestionably is a principle as singular as any yet hazarded by the most extravagant innovator of the age.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

JUNE 12.

IMPEACHMENT OF LORD MELVILLE

The Speaker said, he had just received a letter from Lord Viscount Melville, the contents of which he was requested to communicate to the house. The letter was dated from Wimbledon, the 11th of June, and stated that his Lordship had been apprized of that house having appointed a committee, to take into consideration the tenth report of the commissioners of naval enquiry, in which his conduct, while treasurer of the navy, was arraigned—and that he had also been informed, that some proceedings on the report of that committee were to be agitated in the house that day—he, therefore, requested permission to attend them, for the purpose of being heard in his own justification.

Mr. R. S. Dundas (son of Viscount Melville) then rose pursuant to notice, and said, that, understanding there would be no opposition to the motion he was about to submit, he should detain the house no longer, than by moving, "that Lord Viscount Melville be now admitted, and heard;" which being agreed to, *nem. con.* the speaker order the serjeant to take the Mace, and acquaint Viscount Melville that he may come in.

The serjeant met his lordship at the door, and conducted him within the bar, making the usual reverence to the chair; by which he was informed, that there was a chair in which he might repose himself. The chair was on the left side, just within the bar, on which his Lordship seated himself for about a minute, with his hat on—after which, he rose uncovered, and addressed the house to the following effect:

"Sir, since the first agitation of this subject, in or out of Parliament, every attempt I made to obtain a fair hearing in my own vindication, has hitherto failed of producing any effect. When called before the commissioners of naval enquiry, I was perfectly ignorant of the objects of their examination. They had before them, and had been some time in possession of the accounts between Alexander Trotter and the house of Messrs. Coutts which I had never any opportunity of seeing, of the nature of which I was wholly uninformed, and not one item of which had they at the time communicated to me. I never, indeed, had any opportunity of looking at them at all, till I saw them in the appendix to the commissioners' report. Previously to the discussion which took place in this house, I applied to the commissioners, requesting an opportunity of making fuller explanations. This application was made on the 28th of March, and the answer I received was, that their report and proceedings were now before Parliament, and that they did not think it necessary to revise or alter what had been already done. On the 8th of May, the question under the discussion of this house was, whether any previous enquiry should be instituted, before resolutions should be adopted against me? and as it would be presumptuous in me to attempt to anticipate what line of conduct the house might think proper to adopt, I contented myself with the hopes, that, should a committee be appointed, I might have an opportunity of being heard before them. In this, however, I was again disappointed, from a difficulty which arose in the other house of Parliament. For my own part, I left no endeavour untried, to induce their lordships to permit my free and unrestrained appearance before the committee of this house—but, from what was, no doubt, a very proper sense of their lordships own dignity and privileges, they thought proper to put a negative upon that, and refused to permit my attendance before that committee, but under such restrictions and limitations, as induced the committee to decline examining me; and I come now to offer myself before this house in which I had the honor to sit for so many years, in a very different situation from what I appear in now, under a most singular predicament. I heard of a rumour, which, from some quarter or other, had reached the house of Peers, that I meant to come here, with your permission, to vindicate myself against charges preferred against me—and I now come under such restrictions, as will not allow me to enter upon my own defence. But, though I think it my duty to pay due deference and obedience to that paramount authority, and abstain from any thing like a formal justification, I hope I may be permitted, notwithstanding those bounds prescribed me, to offer some preliminary observations—first, however, returning my humble thanks for the indulgence which this house has been pleased to grant me. On the 8th of May last, this house came to fourteen resolutions, to which two more were afterwards added. On the ten first of these, I shall make no observations at present, but come first to that which states, that the act of the 25th Geo. III. was for several years suspended; and large sums of money were drawn from the bank, by Mr. Trotter, under the pretence of being for naval purposes. That resolution certainly may be considered as not strictly applying personally to me, except in asmuch as it was connected with the 13th and 14th resolutions, which stated, that these sums had been applied to the purchase of India stock, the discount of bills, and other objects of private emolument, with my knowledge and consent. It is evident, that, though it has not been distinctly so stated, in terms, the resolutions must clearly imply, that I suffered, or directed this to be done for my own private use and benefit. These resolutions, without being accompanied with any vindication, have been industriously circulated in every corner of the kingdom, and every gentleman who now hears me must have been sensible of, and a witness to the impression conveyed by such a circulation, which represented me as criminal in every part of the country. Thus circumstanced, sir, if I happened to be present in any other place or company, where such libels were propagated, my answer would be, as it is now, that I most solemnly protest these resolutions are perfectly erroneous. I never had any knowledge of Mr. Trotter's investing any navy money in the stocks, of his discounting bills with it, of his turning it to purposes of private advantage, and that if any such practice had existence, it was altogether without my privity or consent. I am, however, aware that my statement would be incomplete, if I did not advert to other representations made out of doors which said that I was myself a participator of those alledged emoluments. I denied my ever having done so, in my letter to the naval commissioners, and I am positively persuaded, that if the same question, fairly put, now or at any other time, to Mr. Trotter himself, he would not hesitate to contradict any representations of that kind. I am fully convinced that he would readily acquit me of having derived any benefit or profit whatever from transactions of that nature. I know not whether this charge will again be revived or repeated, either here or elsewhere; but I do now confidently assert, that the evidence of the only two persons, Mr. Trotter and Mr. Wilson, who could be supposed to be privy to the whole, does not contain one tittle which could lay any foundation for this charge. Much stress has been laid both in argument and in the resolutions, upon the confidence and intimate connection between Mr. Trotter and myself, upon which I trust I may be allowed to make a few remarks. When I first came into the Navy Office, I found Mr. Trotter, who was introduced and recommended to me by Sir Gilbert Elliott and Mr. Coutts, with the latter of whom he had connection in the way of business, I soon distinguished him for his uncommon activity and diligence. He was indefatigable in detecting and disclosing to me a variety of frauds before committed in withholding the pay of seamen, and different emoluments to which they are justly entitled. I encouraged and supported him in the prosecution of the parties guilty of these mal practices. I was desirous of going farther, and instead of confining the protection of government to the sailors themselves, I was desirous of extending it also to their wives, children, and families. In my endeavours to effect this, Mr. Trotter made himself so useful, in laying before me the best arranged plans for producing the effect, that I thought him worthy of being trusted; and for his great and unwearied exertions, on the death of Mr. Douglas, I promoted him to his late situation in the office, and I am even now ready to say of him, that, for a great length of years, no public office could have been better conducted; that during the whole of that time, there was not a single instance of any stoppage or delay of payment to the seamen, and that all the balances were fairly accounted for, and transferred, without the loss of a single shilling to the public. He received, it is true, an additional salary; but that I thought him fully entitled to for his additional exertions. Sir, as I have no regular means of knowing the proceedings of this house on the grounds of any motions or resolutions proposed to it, I have been obliged to adopt the obvious construction which my judgment enables me to form on them. It is certainly possible for me to misunderstand some preceding ones, which I cannot reasonably reconcile to the evidence on which they have been professedly founded—and if I should be erroneous in any of the future observations, I hope the house will bear in mind, that all I can do is, to present what is my own view of them. In the 14th resolution, I find it stated, that drawing money from the bank of England, or allowing it to be so drawn and lodged at a private banker's, was a gross violation of the law, and a breach of public duty. In touching upon this subject, I feel myself considerably embarrassed by the limitations imposed upon me by the other house; but even that, I hope,