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Foreign News.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

House of Commons.
April 10.

Calumnies of the French Government.

Lord Morpeth rose to lay a few words on a subject deeply interesting to the feelings and honor of this country. It was with pain he was compelled to advert to the disagreeable question: but the transactions that had lately taken place in France relative to it, rendered it necessary to rescue the character of the Government and of the country from the infamous charges made by the French government against one of our ministers at a Foreign Court. To justify the acts of violence which had been committed by the French government, it had been urged, that instructions had been given by our government to the Minister, to encourage and excite the subjects of France to the commission of the most abominable crimes. As long as the charges against this country had been confined as vehicles of rancour and malevolence of the French government, the noble Lord would have thought it wise to treat them with that scorn and silence such unfounded calumnies merited; but, in his opinion the case was now altered. A publication had been circulated at Paris, purporting to be the correspondence between our Minister at Munich and a Frenchman residing at Paris. By this it appeared that the Frenchman had betrayed his trust, and put the French government in possession of the correspondence. This publication had been communicated to all the Foreign Ministers at Paris; and from their replies it would appear that they had all with the single exception of the Russian Minister, prejudged the matters on allegations unproved, and he trusted unprovable. He should not dwell upon the servility with which Europe bowed to the power of France, but he should wish to see that servility confined to the Continent, and to have it proved to the world, that there was one country at least which is neither to be awed by its menaces, nor aspersed by its calumnies. As to the charges which had in this instance been made, he thought he had a right to call on his Majesty's Ministers to clear up.—He thought he had a right to call them in justice to themselves, in justice to the individual concerned (Mr. Drake) and above all in justice to the character of the country, to refute the atrocious calumnies, and to repel the iniquitous charges so unjustly made upon the honor of the country. He trusted he should be justified in calling on his Majesty's Ministers to prove to the world that they had not armed the hand of the assassin, that they had not aimed the dagger in the dark, but on the contrary, conducted their system of hostilities in the fair, open, and manly manner which belongs to legitimate warfare.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer.—“I feel myself under the highest obligations to the noble lord, for the opportunity he has afforded me of thus publicly repelling and refuting the most base and unfounded charge that has ever been bro't against the government of any civilized country. I am sure that the House will scarcely expect from me any thing more than expressions of utmost surprise, indignation and abhorrence, against the foul and atrocious calumnies of the most wicked, and tyrannical government that ever was established in the midst of a civilized people. The servants of his Majesty spun at such a charge, and will oppose to it their character and their honor. In compliance with the noble lord's request, I now affirm with a clear conscience, and with perfect truth, that no instructions have been sent by the British government to any of its residents abroad, inconsistent with the rights of nations, of honor, and of jurisprudence. I shall say nothing at present of the constitution put upon the supposed correspondence, but I assure the house, that no person can be more anxious than I am myself, to vindicate the conduct of his Majesty's ministers, and to satisfy the grossest insult upon the character of the sovereign and his government, and as a mean of wounding and degrading, through them, the feelings, the character, and the honor of the people of this empire. The government has not received any dispatches from the resident at Munich (Mr. Drake) upon this subject; but as soon as they arrive, I shall think it necessary to make such a communication, as will, I am convinced, rescue his cha-

acter as well as ours, from so foul and detestable a slander. I have perfect confidence that the more the particulars of his conduct are enquired into, the more apparent will be the propriety of it, and the vileness and falsehood of that (as I have the bear grounds to suppose) most impudent and infamous fabrication.”

LONDON, April 17.

Three or four Foreigners within the last two days have been arrested in London. We understand they are suspected of being spies; and it was yesterday afternoon reported that two of them entertained a design against the life of one of the most high and illustrious characters in the state.

It is reported, in private advices from Paris, of the 30th ult. that Buonaparte insists upon the arrest of Mr. Drake, the Minister at Munich, as soon as the Elector of Bavaria and his Minister shall have recognised his signature and hand writing.

The Hague official Gazette mentions that all the regiments in Westphalia have received orders from Berlin to call in such of their men as are absent on leave, and that a camp is to be pitched at Lipstadt, and a cordon to be drawn on the Prussian frontiers.

A band of French spies, amounting to fifty, have been sent to the vicinity of Warsaw for the purpose, it is supposed, of carrying off Louis XVIII. and the Duke of Angouleme. The missions of Generals Duroc and Rapp to Berlin, is probably connected with some design of the Usurper upon the lives of those unfortunate Princes.

April 18.

Sweden is stated to have made some strong remonstrances against the late outrageous proceedings of the French government; and it is expected that in this spirited conduct his Swedish Majesty is likely to be supported by the Emperor of Russia.

April 20.

We have already stated, that Meppen, near Embden, which belongs to the Duke of Ahrenberg, has been taken possession of by a detachment of French troops. Hitherto, all goods that had to go to the interior of Germany by Embden were obliged to pass that place, the passage of which, says a letter from Amsterdam, being now stopped, the only way of introducing goods now into Germany is through Holstein, and the Baltic ports. “The French troops passed through Meppen in Hanover, and there was in general a French commander in it, but, till now, they never interfered with the goods which passed through it.”

April 21.

The Bavarian minister at our court, has, we understand, presented a remonstrance, founded upon the *ex parte* evidence of the French spy, Mahee de la Touche, against the conduct imputed by him to Mr. Drake, in which he requests in the name of the elector, his matter, the recall of that gentleman from the court of Munich. It is added, that in the event of a refusal on the part of our government, he has received instructions to demand the necessary passports to enable him to return home with all possible expedition. Such is the abject and deplorable state to which, under the domination of the Gallic Tyrant, the petty states of the Continent are now reduced!

THERE was no arrival from the Continent yesterday; but a gentleman who lately effected his escape from France, states, from his own knowledge, that the army encamped along the coast of Picardy, have begun to manifest great discontent at the delay of the projected expedition against this country, which they had so often been assured by their principal officers, was to be put into execution before this time.” He adds that the preparations have of late considerably relaxed and that within the last fortnight about twenty battalions have been marched back into the interior. The frequent rumours of insurrections at Paris, though altogether unfounded, he fairly considers as strongly expressive of the wishes of the people, whose sentiments, as far as he could collect them, were decidedly averse to the continuance of the war with Great-Britain.

April 23.

WE learn from Nantz, by a letter of the 27th ult. that, with other couriers who had passed through that place, was Prince Gallitzin, Chamberlain to the Emperor of Russia, on his way to Paris,

Another letter received from the North of Germany, confirms the account inserted in our last number, of the stoppage by the French of the neutral passage by Embden into the interior of Germany. A mercantile house in Birmingham has received the following letter from Embden, dated April 3: “We are sorry to inform you, that a few days since the French stopped the neutral passage of goods for Germany. Several couriers have been dispatched to Berlin, to inform the king of this unexpected business; and we hope that, in a short time, the free passage will be opened again; but at present not a single package can go from hence to any part of Germany, and all the goods for the Fair will consequently be too late.—It is true we may still send goods by Holstein and the Baltic into the interior of Germany, but it is impossible that they should arrive in time enough for the great Fair at Frankfort. It is to prevent our rendering the French manufactures a drug at the Fair, by the superiority of our manufactures, that the French have shut up the neutral passage.”

Government, it is said, have refused the passports demanded by the Bavarian minister, being resolved to detain him as a hostage for the safety of Mr. Drake.

April 28.

This morning the arrival of the brig Waller, from Bengal, was announced at the East-India House. She sailed from thence eight days after the Belle packet, the 8th of January, and did not go into St. Helena, but saw six sail of Indiamen lying there. The Tigress had arrived in Bengal the 15th of December. When the Waller sailed negotiations for Peace were pending.

It has been rumoured this morning that should the strength and number of the united oppositions increase, and a majority be obtained against ministers, Mr. Addington imitating the example of Mr. Pitt when he had a majority against him, will advise his Majesty to dissolve the Parliament.

The journey of Madame Buonaparte, mother of the First Consul, to Rome, at the present conjuncture, is a circumstance which may give rise to various conjectures, especially as she was attended with a strong guard, and seemed in such haste that she would not stop to receive the congratulations of the public functionaries. A letter from Rome in the *Clef de Cabinet*, of April 5th, says, “Madame Buonaparte mother of the Princes Borghese, was soon expected in that city.” The object of the old lady's journey may indeed be merely a visit to her daughter; but we recollect that at the commencement of the French revolution, the aunt of Louis the XVI. when they observed the storm gathering, wisely withdrew in time, and took up their abode in a state of greater tranquillity. By these means they escaped the melancholy fate which had awaited many of their friends and relations. Diamonds and jewels are easily carried, and would no doubt be perfectly safe under a guard of Cossaks and gens d'armes.

According to letters from Paris, an address has been presented to the First Consul, by the Conservative senate, praying him not only to name a successor, but to take upon himself a higher title than he has yet assumed, and to make the same hereditary in his family. The title of King or of Emperor, is what he is known to have long sighed for, and now it appears that an attempt is to be made to assume it.

The Gazette de France, of April 8, says, “the public funds have risen since the day on which the Senate in a body presented an address to the First Consul; though the object of it is not exactly known.”

By the Hamburg Mail which arrived yesterday, we learn, that a great part of Switzerland is in a state of insurrection against the constituted authorities imposed upon that once happy country, by the common scourge of Europe. The absence of the French troops was made the signal of revolt. In the cantons of Berne, Soleure, Argon, Fryeburg, &c. the temerity of the insurgents had reached the highest pitch. They every where prevent the people from taking the Oath of Allegiance to the new constitution. In the night of the 27th ult. some of the disaffected, set fire to the Castle of Widenstueed, on the lake of Zurich, and the last letters state that the Landmann, unable to resist the torrent, had solicited the return of the French army. So much for the

boast of the Consular official scribe, of the happy and independent. Rate of regenerated Helvetia!

PARIS, April 7.

The Ex-General Charles Pichegru has hanged himself in prison. The following are the particulars of the suicide:

On the repeated requests he made, and on giving his word and honor that he would not make any attempt on his life, Pichegru had obtained the dismissal of his guards during the night. Every morning an attendant in waiting came to light his fire with a bundle of wood. Pichegru on one of the preceding mornings had cut aside a part of a faggot, by which he might put an end to his existence. In short, on the 7th inst. Pichegru, after having supped very heartily at 11 o'clock, went to bed about 12. The attendant in waiting having retired, Pichegru drew from under his pillow, where he had placed it, a black handkerchief, which he tied tight around his neck; the piece of wood which he had kept in reserve he then made use of to assist him in the project of suicide; he introduced this piece of wood into the two ends of the handkerchief where it was tied; he turns this little stick close to the glands of the neck as often as he thinks necessary to put a stop to respiration. When on the point of losing respiration, he draws the stick behind his ear, and throws himself on the same side of his head, in order to prevent its shifting. Pichegru naturally fat, full of blood, suffocated by the full meal which he had just taken, and by the great pressure which he made, expired during the night.

Next day, in the morning, the attendant came to kindle his fire; he looked towards Pichegru's bed; saw him, as he supposed, in a profound sleep, and retired to do his work. About half past 7 the attendant again went up, again saw the head of Pichegru quietly resting on his pillow, and again went away still fearing to interrupt his sleep. At nine o'clock he went up a third time and observed no alteration in the posture of the prisoner, who usually spoke to him when he was awake. The attendant began to be surprised at his sleeping so long, went up to his bed and fees his face pale and distorted; he then moved his body and found it lifeless, and without motion. He immediately gives information to the goaler, who went that instant to inform *Thulot*, the Judge and Solicitor in this important trial. Eight physicians and surgeons were employed to draw up the *proces verbal* of the state in which the body was found, and this *proces verbal* and the corpse were brought before the Criminal Tribunal on the 8th, about one o'clock in the afternoon.

After the report was concluded, Citizen General, Commissary to the government, spoke to the following purpose, addressing himself to the Magistrates and the Tribunal:—“The publicity which you give to every thing connected with the conspiracy, formed against the life of the First Consul completes the arrangements which you have instituted. These arrangements have been pursued with all the activity and zeal of which we are capable. No effort has been spared to disappoint the success of a scheme of the most abominable nature; though the forms of legal proceeding have not been observed; you will have the most conclusive evidence of the conspiracy itself. One of the principal agents of the projected assassination dispatched himself in a manner contrary to all human laws. The evidence of his guilt, however, must forever affix a stigma on his memory. His contemporaries and posterity will say, Pichegru saw no distinction betwixt his guilt and his infamy. He became a suicide. The magistrates appointed to enquire into the evidences of his crime, and to submit them to the proper tribunal, have done their duty. I require that the body of Charles Pichegru be buried in the place usually appointed for the burial of the corpses of persons taken from the Temple, where there have been instances of suicide. His burial is to be made in presence of a public officer and two servants of the Tribunal. I require further that the *proces verbal* of the opening of the body and the burial shall be communicated to every part of the republic, where it may be necessary.”

[On the above, the editor of the London courier, of April 17, remarks:—“No one here believes this statement. He was known to be a man of great piety, and morality, and to wish to be tried in