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PARIS, Nov. 29.

THE Messenger sent to London by Lord Malmesbury is returned, and the negotiations are resumed. They have at last made a step forwards: for after childishly refusing to explain himself on the principle of compensation, set forth by Lord Malmesbury our learned Minister assumes in the most positive manner, enlightened, no doubt, by a fortnight study, and also a little by the lesson of the writer, who proved to him that there was no impropriety in acknowledging this principle, and that it was indeed pledging ourselves for very little: because we reserved still the full power of showing ourselves as difficult as we please respecting the nature and the extent of the exchanges and proportionate compensations. At least the first difficulty of formality has been done away, which is certainly something, as the official diplomatic notes will show.

If our Plenipotentiary, instead of his last insignificant answer, had returned that which he now gives, and formerly admitted, as he now does, the principle of compensation, he would have accelerated the issue of the negotiation by a fortnight, and would have not appeared to be a man who quibbles and recedes, and pretends to have already said, what in fact he had not said. We might go on and ask of him a little less dryness and asperity of language; but his diplomatic education cannot be perfected all at once.

By Lord Malmesbury's answer, which we do not suppose he will send to his Cabinet by a Courier, as the question addressed by the Directory must have been foreseen, we shall see, whether he will also make use of more frankness in his overtures; whether he will relinquish his perplexing and dictating course, with men who despise and cannot patiently bear the delay of formalities.

That of the two Governments which, without losing itself in the labyrinth of formalities shall announce with precision and moderation, the principal condition upon which it wishes to negotiate, will prove the sincerity of its pacific intentions, conciliate the general opinion, and make it a terrible weapon against its enemy. It would be worthy of the Directory to set this great and fine example of loyalty and good faith.

LONDON, DEC. 2.
HOUSE OF COMMONS.

DEC. 2.

BUDGET.

Mr. Pitt gave notice, he would defer what he intended to offer on the ways and means to Wednesday next.

Mr. Fox, considering that the subject of Finance would lead into much discussion, was desirous that estimates of the navy debt up to the end of November, should be laid before the house. The present accounts were made up only to the end of October.

Mr. Pitt said it was his wish, that those as well as all other accounts, should be made up to the latest date possible.

SUPPLY.

The Secretary at War having moved the estimates of the army—

Mr. Grey wished to know when the extraordinary would be brought forward?

Mr. Pitt and Mr. Windham explained, that it was usual to make them up to the 21st of February, before which it could not be done without deranging the customary business of the office.

Mr. Grey then expressed his disapprobation of a Chancellor of the Exchequer proposing ways and means for the ensuing year, before he could make up the accounts of the current year.

Mr. M. A. Taylor wished to know whether under Secretary at War, there was such a new officer as Inspector General of Emigrant

corps? And what was the expence of that appointment?

Mr. Windham replied that the service alluded to was important as well as new—that it was performed by a person who held another office, and that he was not prepared to say what was the amount of the salaries.

General Tarleton combated some of the statements in the estimates, after which he went into some general topics respecting the new arrangements about to be made in the island of St. Domingo. He understood, he said, that a corps of 10 or 12 thousand men was to be sent to Portugal, and if we had such a number to spare, it was a great hardship to harrass every gentleman who kept a horse with such inconveniences as were felt from the cavalry tax. He apprehended that it would be very difficult for any officer with such troops as could now be spared him, to gain any reputation in the defence of Portugal, and was afraid that they would fare just as well as Holland and our allies in the Mediterranean.

Mr. Perjeant moved the sum of one million nine thousand pounds for the service of the Ordnance.

Mr. Fox asked whether in that sum was included the expence of arms for the additional cavalry. A rumour, he said, had gone abroad hitherto uncontradicted, that, either from an alteration in the situation of the country or the impracticability of carrying it into execution, that act was soon to be repealed, or, at least would not be acted upon.

Mr. Pitt replied, that arms for the additional cavalry were included in the present estimate. As to the rumour mentioned by the Right Hon. Gentleman, it was the first time it had come to his ears. He had indeed heard that some difficulties had arisen in the detail of the provisions, which may render an explanatory act proper in the course of the session;—but he apprehended, there was nothing that could obstruct the execution of a measure, which he considered as necessary at this moment, for the welfare and security of the country, as he did when he first moved for it.

Mr. M. A. Taylor expressed his joy at finding that there would be another opportunity of discussing this act, the provisions of which he pronounced to be absolutely impracticable. The gentlemen who attended the meetings upon it, interpreted it variously; and he would defy the minister himself, or any man that sat near him, or any man in the kingdom to contrive it.

Mr. Pitt ironically admitted, that if that hon. gentleman professed himself unequal to the construction of the act, it would be highly presumptuous to him, or any other person, to arrogate the capacity to do so. Still, however, he hoped that he might be excused if even after this discouragement he should venture to attempt it.

Gen. Tarleton objected to the sum of 17,000l. for fortifications at Dover and the places adjacent. There was no part of the kingdom so well defended by nature from an invasion of the enemy, as the coast of Kent; but if it were otherwise, every military man must see that Dover Castle was little calculated to resist the attack of an enemy, and if they landed elsewhere, it could make little defence when they would assail it in reverse.

Mr. Perjeant explained, that the strengthening of Dover became more necessary now, when the French, by the possession of Holland, had so extended a line of coast. The enemy must first become masters of the castle before they could enter the harbour, and the additional fortifications, which must be no more than 12000l. were recommended by the noble lord at the head of the Ordnance department, with all the military assistance

he required, and the general who commanded in that district, recommended still farther fortifications.

Gen. Tarleton thought even 12,000l. too much for the protection of a few fishing boats.

Capt. Berkely reminded him that Dover was a great depot for naval and military stores.

DUBLIN Dec. 6.

By a gentleman just arrived from Belfast, we are happy to learn, that the inhabitants of that wealthy town are in a state of the most perfect tranquillity; that the pursuits of commerce and manufacture were at no former period more sedulously followed, and that every thing carries the air of peace and industry.

The whole of the county of Antrim we are pleased to find enjoys the same uninterrupted tranquillity; not a parish in it has been disturbed, even for a day, of course not one has been proclaimed.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 16.

In the Senate of the United States—
February 15.

On request, the Vice President of the United States being excused from further attendance in Senate during the session, addressed them as follows:

Gentlemen of the Senate.

If, in the general apprehension of an intention to retire in that most eminent citizen, to whom all eyes had been directed, as the center of our union for so long a period; the public opinion had exhibited any clear indications of another, in whom our fellow citizens would have generally united; as soon as I read that excellent address which announced the necessity of deliberation in the choice of a President, I should have imitated the example of a character, with which I had co-operated, though in less conspicuous and important stations, and maintained an uninterrupted friendship for two and twenty years. But as a number of characters appeared to stand in the general estimation, so nearly on a level, as to render it difficult to conjecture, on which the majority would fall; considering the relation in which I stood to the people of America, I thought it most respectful to them, and most conducive to the tranquillity of the public mind to resign myself with others, a silent spectator of the general deliberation and a passive subject of public discussions.

Deeply penetrated with gratitude to my countrymen in general, for their long continued kindness to me, and for their long continued steady and affecting confidence, with which those who have most intimately known me, from early life, have on so many great occasions, entrusted to me, the care of their dearest interests: since a majority of their electors, tho' a very small one, have declared in my favor, and since, in a republican government, the majority though ever so small must of necessity decide, I have determined at every hazard of a high but just responsibility, though with much anxiety and diffidence, once more to engage in their service.—Their confidence which has been the chief consolation of my life, is too precious and sacred a deposit ever to be considered lightly. As it has been founded only on the qualities of the heart, it never has been, it never can be, deceived, betrayed, or frustrated by me.

It is with reluctance, and with all those emotions of gratitude and affection, which a long experience of your goodness ought to inspire that I now retire from my seat in this I care and take my leave of the members of the Senate.

I ought not to declare, for the last time, your adjournment, before I have profited