

in the greater importance to us, than all our foreign commerce put together. In, or instance, only one year's interruption were to take place in the exchange of coal for timber between Cumberland, on the one part, and Hampshire and Dorset, on the other part, the woods of these latter countries, would be burnt to keep the people from perishing, whereas by the exchange now going on, these woods are preserved, the people have food in plenty, and that fuel, after having given service in that capacity, becomes a valuable manure for the land. One year's interruption of this exchange, would do England more harm than would be done by the sinking of all foreign countries to the bottom of the sea. This is however, only one instance out of hundreds which might be enumerated; and, without any thing more being said, it must, I think, be as clear as the sun at noon-day, that if the enemy were able to put a stop to our coasting trade, it might at once be asserted, that he had it in his power to reduce us to his own terms, be they what they might.

It is then worth the while of your majesty's servants—it is not worth the while of those, who are intrusted with the conducting of the war, to enquire what is the extent of the coasting trade of the French empire, and to inform themselves as to the means of destroying, or, at least, interrupting that trade. To attack, or to oppose Napoleon in Spain, Naples, Sicily, Sweden, Denmark, Hanover or in the East or West Indies, is what it would be for an enemy to attack us in Nova Scotia, Canada, or in any of our colonies where, though a defeat might produce mortification, it would not seriously affect either in our comforts or in the sources of our national strength. We should regret the loss of Canada, perhaps, or of a West India island; but the loss, like that of a child out of a numerous family, would not be felt in our affairs. We should still be as rich and as strong as before; but cut off the means of sending corn and timber, and iron, and tin, and coal, along our coast, from one part of the kingdom to the other, and the distress is instantly felt. In fact, the different parts of the kingdom can no more dispense with the coasting trade, than the army can dispense with the aid of the blacksmith and the gunsmith.

"This, it will, perhaps, be said, is not the case with the countries under the dominion of Napoleon. But will it then be asserted that those countries, though extending almost across the whole of the European continent, and including such a variety of climates, are nevertheless, so circumstanced as to be able to commerce with each other; that is to say, without any exchange of natural productions, or of manufactures?—The truth is, that the commerce between the several parts of that empire is so great that convoys of eighty, a hundred and even two hundred vessels are daily seen and by your majesty's orders, carrying on this trade in perfect safety. These consist entirely of lugger, small boats, of a light draught of water, from 8 to 12 tons burthen, and are navigated by a proportionate number of seamen. They are employed in this commerce from the river of Bordeaux alone *thirty thousand* women and upwards. The coasts of the Mediterranean team with this commerce. Its ports, harbors and bays swarm with vessels; and, at no time was the commerce so great between France and Italy on the one side, and between France and Holland and the North, on the other side; as it is at this moment, while your majesty's servants are boasting, that they have a navy that scour the ocean, and that "England engrosses the commerce of the world." While they amuse themselves, and the nation, with this empty vanity, the commerce of France, and her vast states, carried on almost within the reach of the naked eye of our Admirals, far exceeds, in the means of contributing towards national strength, the commerce of England and of all her allies.

The general persuasion here is, that the people under the sway of France are suffering from causes almost similar to those which effect the inhabitants of besieged towns; that the people of the North can get no corn; that there are no materials to make goods of any sort, and that all is decay and misery; and that, surely, the poor beggars, pinched people must, surely, must soon be pushed to desperation; must revolt, and must tear Napoleon and his government to morsels. This has been the expectation for years, in this manner; as, for years before Mr. Pitt, and the foreign minister Sir Frédéric D'Ivry, kept alive the constant expectation, that France would become a *desert*, and would then be compelled to submit to her enemies. As the nation was deceived then, so it is deceived now; and so, I greatly fear, it will continue to be deceived, until a knowledge and belief of the truth will come the late. One thing, indeed, has staggered many of even the credulous part of the nation; and that is the fact of France being able still to renew her squadrons and her maritime expeditions. For this astonishing power of creating a maritime force is far, far incompatible with the assertions of your majesty's servants respect-

ing the ruined state of the commerce of France. The commerce of France being "annihilated," we cannot help wondering that the ports of Brest and Rochefort should be continually sending forth their squadrons; we cannot help being surprised and somewhat vexed at seeing a squadron of ten or twelve sail of the line come out of the ports of France in the space of a few months, after we have been congratulated upon the destruction of the last of the enemy's ships. The fleet in Basque Roads is said by one of your majesty's servants, to have been worth several millions of pounds sterling, and that the Calcutta alone was worth six hundred thousand pounds being full of military and naval stores. To have effected the destruction of the whole of this fleet would have been a subject of great joy; to have effected the destruction of part of it was a subject of joy; but, in our haste to express such joy, we forgot to tell, how all these stores came to be found in the port of Rochefort so many years after we had "so completely annihilated" the commerce of France," agreeably to the ten thousand times repeated assurances of your majesty's servants. The fact is, that not only from the Elbe and the Scheldt are the ports of France supplied, by the means of the coasting trade, with an abundance of naval stores, but also from that part of Spain lying near the Atlantic coast; whence they receive iron, pitch, tar, resin and ship timber of various sorts, and in vast quantities, at a rate much cheaper than some of these articles can possibly be brought to the arsenals of Portsmouth and Plymouth. If this be the case and I scruple not to assert that it is the case, what are we doing?—What is the use which your majesty's servants are making of the immense means which the industry and patience of your people put into their hands? If there be a commerce, such as I have described, carried on between the different ports of Napoleon, of what use, as the means of keeping him in check are the thousand ships of war now employed? Of what use is it, if this commerce is to go on uninterrupted; and of what use is it that the sea is covered with your majesty's ships, and that history will record the victory of your seamens? Of what avail is it, that we destroy French ships of war, while we leave in full vigor, all the means of crowding others to supply their place? If this be the way of making war, it must be clear to every one that we can never have peace, without being exposed to imminent danger; for it will require but a short space of time for France to raise a navy equal, in number at least, to any that we can possess.

The security of this extensive and most valuable commerce of the French dominions arises in great part from the use of hand signals, or telegraphs contrivances, placed and managed, as to keep the vessels upon the coast at all times correctly informed, passing upon the whole line of coast. From Flushing to Bayonne, a report is exchanged four times a day; at eight, ten o'clock in the forenoon, two o'clock, and just before sun set. So that at Flushing they know, four times during the day, what is passing at sea, within sight of the highest hill in the neighborhood of Bayonne, and of course they are informed of what is passing at all the intermediate ports of the coast. The same system is established along the coast of the Mediterranean, from the Gulf of Spezia to Rossa. The coasting vessels thus instructed how to move; thus kept constantly in a state of perfect knowledge as to the situation of our fleets or cruisers, are able to sail in safety, carrying on their trade in as much security, as if those ships were not in existence; and this only as I shall hereafter prove to your majesty, from causes which prevent the necessary exertions from being made, and which causes may inherently and easily be removed.

The advantages to the nations (for they are many) which carry on this commerce, are greater than they are to Napoleon himself in his views of conquest and dominion. From this commerce, notwithstanding our opinions to the contrary, he derives no small part of his revenue through the means of a stamp tax, imposed on every article exported or imported; and hence he is able to dispense with *direct taxes*, which are always odious, and which have uniformly ended in exciting the feelings and producing the acts, under which so many governments have perished. This is a great point. By the means of this commerce, he disengages from his people the burdens which they bear. It is indeed, a gross imposition to tell a people, that *they* pay taxes, the last being that their taxes still fall upon the people themselves; but as your majesty must have observed, it is an imposition; it is a fraud, it is an act of simplicity and knavery, the success of which, in *other countries*, warrants the belief that it must be greatly useful to your majesty's impulsive and powerful enemy.

Very much then, are your majesty's servants deceives, when they suppose, that the Emperor Napoleon has no custom house, whence to collect duties. His sole may not be so noble as to afford him Dukes for receivers, Barons for wharfers, and Knights of the Eagle for wine tasters; but I am of opinion that his custom house yields him a much greater clear revenue than is derived from any similar establishment in the world—and that it affords him the means of drawing upon other sources of taxation with so sparing a hand, that his people, especially within the

ancient boundaries of France, have reason to congratulate themselves upon the comparative lightness of their burthens. A great many of your majesty's subjects, including some in high station, have at different times expressed their astonishment, & indeed their vexation, that the people of France should be slow in rebelling against their Emperor with whom your majesty made a treaty of peace and "unity" only about seven or eight years ago; but if they had been informed of the facts here stated, relative to the commerce of France, and especially relative to the revenue yielded by that commerce, together with the relief given thereby to all the other sources of taxation, itself not appearing as a tax; if they had been duly informed of these facts, and had been possessed of but a very moderate portion of that sort of knowledge which enables men to trace popular discontent to their real causes—they never would have entertained a hope of seeing a rebellion in France.

But great as are the financial advantages of this commerce, Napoleon derives from it the still greater advantages attending such a navy of seamen. It has been most clearly proved, over and over again, that for our navy the nursery is our coasting trade.—There requires therefore, nothing more to satisfy us that from a coasting trade such as I have described, the advantage to Napoleon is so great as to excite well grounded alarm in the mind of every reflecting Englishman. It is from this copious source that the Emperor of France has drawn those hundreds of thousands of seamen with whom he has manned his fleets and squadrons for many years past, and which fleets and squadrons, though always hitherto defeated, and in many instances captured and destroyed, by the superior skill and valour of your majesty's fleets, answer the terrible purpose of causing us to keep up a force by land as well as sea, so immense, so disproportionate to our naval force, and our pecuniary means, that the country is stripped of its youth and vigor—the fields are left to be tilled by the poor and the decrepit—and the taxes are so general and so heavy, and the anticipations upon them so great—that Hope, which alleviates all other burthens, here refuses her sustaining hand. Year after year, we not only see the taxes and tax-gatherers increase—we not only feel their immediate pressure, but we see mortgaged, deeper and deeper, the very seeds of property, we see taken from us, for the purposes of current expence, that which was held out to us as the sure pledge of permanent relief. Could we once be sure that it was out of the power of Napoleon to send a fleet to sea, how different would be our situation! But this assurance we can never have, so long as he has the command of seamen necessarily employed in such a commerce. How often, within the last three years, we *announced* the navy of France! how often have we swept the ocean? But still France, in the midst of all this humiliation, finds the means of sending out fresh squadrons and fleets, and proves beyond a doubt, that she possesses, in spite of all we have hitherto done, the means of forming a navy in a very short space of time.

(To be continued.)

Foreign Intelligence.

Moscow, Aug. 14.

PROCLAMATION OF THE KING.

Soldiers!—It is scarcely 15 days since 120,000 men, consisting of English, Portuguese and Spaniards, who marched from different points, rendezvoused under the walls of my capital; but I united on the 10th of July, at the bridge of Gondarana, the 1st and fourth corps, and the reserve, defeated that day the enemy. On the 27th, I repassed in great haste the Alberche. On the 28th, attacked in a position judged unassailable, 30,000 men have not been able to contend against 40,000 French—from that time, renouncing their chimerical project of conquest, they have though, but of safety, and have abandoned the field of battle. More than 6000 English, wounded, are in our hospitals.

The loss of our corps, the 1st, was judged sufficient to observe and keep in check this army, still so numerous, in spite of its losses. It remained upon the Alberche, whilst the fourth corps and the reserve set out on the 29th to seize on Toledo, besieged by the army of La Mancha; and that of Madrid; menaced by the same army, have forced the enemy, already within four miles of the capital, to relinquish its prey. It has passed the Tagus in the greatest haste, and thence towards the Sierra Morena, after having abandoned some thousands of killed, wounded and prisoners. The second, fifth and sixth corps are following the rear guard of the enemy's army—These corps formed a junction with the first corps of Crepsos, the 9th August.

The English fly every way in disorder, and in this hitherto judged impracticable to artillery. The second and fifth corps are now pursuing them.

Soldiers, you have saved my capital. The King of Spain thank you. You have done more, in brother of your Emperor sets by before your Eagle the eternal enemy of the French name.

The Empress will know all that you

have done. He will acknowledge the brave who have made themselves conspicuous among the brave, those who have deserved honorable mention, and if necessary—I am content with you we shall be fully rewarded.

Head Quarters, Toledo, Aug. 9.

Vienna, Aug. 19.

We witness at present some arrangements which seem to indicate, that the Empire of Austria means in future to reside at Buda, in Hungary, will the officers of the different public departments have received orders to proceed thither, and the public archives are also, to be removed to that place. This circumstance, and the resignation of the Archduke Charles, have made here the most painful impression; the latter is generally considered as an event of the utmost importance for the Austrian empire.

Paris, Aug. 24.

Letters from Vienna afford us reason to hope that peace will be speedily concluded. It is said that all the leading points were agreed upon between Austria and France, before the negotiations at Altenburgh commenced. The party which so strenuously and ably asserted the necessity of continuing a ruinous war, is now, since the disgrace of the Archduke Charles, generally espised. The report of Russia having sent a Minister Plenipotentiary to the Congress in Altenburgh, is confirmed; and the best understanding still prevails between the Emperors Napoleon and Alexander. The ministers of justice, war, finances, general of police, and for foreign affairs, and Marshals Oudinot and Macdonald, have been created Dukes. The Duke of Auerstadt has obtained the title of Prince of Eckmühl; the Duke of Rivoli, that of Prince of Easing; and the Prince of Neuschatel has been nominated Prince of Wagram.

Philadelphia, Oct. 19, 1809.

We have been favored with the following extracts of letters, which exhibit, in colors of too much truth, the deplorable condition of American commerce.

Göttingen, June 25.

The court in Christiania is only an inferior court, and therefore I have directed to appeal to the highest court in Christiania; in which appeal I suppose I shall and myself fully justified, when I state to you, that there are only two judges, the one a privateer knowing, the other is interested secretly: besides, the highest brine is always victorious. How the business will end, I am unable to tell; however, I hear that the court in Christiania, as well as the government at Copenhagen entirely approved of their steps. But according to private information, I believe it is their intention to detain American vessels here till they see what part America is going to take, and accordingly either condemn or release them. We shall have to wait at least three months before our case will be decided in Christiania.

Copenhagen, July 4.—The American consul here has asked the government whether the relations between the U. States were friendly or not. They have answered they were friendly. He has also asked whether vessels bound to Sweden had been boarded by English cruisers, would be condemned according to present existing laws in Denmark; and they have answered they could not be condemned.

Tomorrow I shall present a memorial to the Minister for Foreign affairs, count Bernstorff, which perhaps may have some good effect. Captain How and Foster, who have both been condemned at Christiania, and who are now gone from hence, have had an audience with the king. He has promised them to send an order to the government of Christiania that the strictest justice shall be done to their cause; but if justice is sold as cheap at Christiania as at Christiana, and we can hope for very little. There are now to the number of 25 American vessels in Norway and the rare every day bringing in more. I think it worthy the serious consideration of government, whether they will suffer this property to be condemned.

Göttingen, July 21.—I had a conversation with count Bernstorff, minister of Foreign affairs—I asked him if it was the intention of the Danish government to respect real American property? He said, as yet, it would be respected, but Denmark did not know what France was going to do. I know for certain that an express is sent from the king to Bonaparte, to ask him how to proceed with the Americans.

I have also had an audience with the king of Denmark. He appeared to be a very well disposed man. He promised to send an order to Christiania for the court to proceed with the greatest circumspection.

Extracts from letters from the Supercargo of a ship belonging to this port dated, Copenhagen, August 11, 12.—The privateers of this nation are very numerous, and capture every American vessel they