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Conservative Senate.

PARIS, February 4.

M. Talleyrand's report continued from our last.

In estimating the advantages of our position, and reflecting upon that unanimous burst of affection and of respect which in the late circumstances has exhibited to all France disposed to devote itself to maintain the honor of the French name, the glory of the throne, and the dignity of the empire, I shall not conceal that being the only one admitted, as minister, to the confidence of such determination, it was my duty to appreciate it fully, considering it less in itself than in its heroic principle, and viewing it rather as the effect of character than as the result of a maxim of state. Had any other prince manifested to me such a disposition, I would have thought that the honor of my place, and my personal devotedness, would have indispensably required me to oppose it by my counsels.

And, in truth, what is our position? and on which side are the advantages of war? We have lost nothing either abroad or at home; every thing has improved amongst us. Our flotillas, whose creation appeared a chimera, whose assemblage seemed impossible, have been created and collected as if by magic. Our soldiers have become sailors; it seems as if the ports and the coasts of the ocean had transformed themselves into cities, where our soldiers of land and sea, in full security, as during a time of peace, devote themselves to the terrible and perilous exercises of war. We have without count, a smaller navy than England; but its number, when united and wisely directed, is sufficient to give a mortal blow to the enemy.

Spain thrown into the contest by provocations without pretext or excuse, has given to us for auxiliaries the disapprobation of Europe against an unjust aggression, the indignation of a generous people, and the forces of a great kingdom. Invulnerable upon our own territory, we have experienced that vigilance, and an energy never at war with itself, are sufficient for our security. Our colonies are sheltered from all attack; Guadaloupe, Martinique, and the Isle of France, would resist an expedition of twenty thousand men.

Our cities, our fields, our manufactories, are prospering; the regular and easy collection of the taxes attest the never failing resources of agriculture and of industry; commerce, accustomed during the last ten years to dispense with the costly intercourse with England, has taken another direction, and finds in it communications more profitable, more independent and more safe. No new imposts; no loans; a debt which cannot increase, but must diminish; an accumulation of means sufficient to maintain during ten years the present state of the war. Such is the position of France.

This war has been very little on the offensive; but it has been far from inactive. France has been secure. She has raised up a force until this day unknown. She has planted in the very bosom of the enemy's country a principle of impetuosity without remedy; and by an unceasing presence and energy she has secured for her the confidence of the continent, a little shaken at the outset of an incendiary war which might have set Europe in a blaze, and whose progress has been arrested by the assiduous efforts of watchfulness, moderation, firmness and wisdom.

What is the situation of the enemy? The people is in arms; and their war, animated by genius, has prompted us to invent a new species of machine, want and fear have compelled the English cabinet to substitute every where pikas in place of the ordinary weapons of war. The cabinet is divided between two projects, those of invasion and defence. It is prodigal of useless trenchments; it covers the coasts with fortresses; it incessantly builds up and takes down its batteries; it searches for some method to arrest or turn aside the course of rivers. It projects inundations of its own fields. The indolence of cities is transferred to its camps, and the turbulence of camps to its cities.

Ireland, the Indies, even the shores of England, are objects of perpetual and endless disquietude. Whatever appetitions to England is incessantly menaced by 1500 vessels which compose our flotilla, by 60 ships of the line, and by a valiant army commanded by the first generals in the universe. The most threatening of all menaces would arise from that forbearing patience, which would enable us during a term of ten years to maintain a state of rest and confidence by which we should command a choice of time and place, and furnish us with the means of annoying our enemy.

These considerations, and this contrast, might, in my opinion, to have inspired the English government with the wise resolution of making the first advances to prevent hostilities; it has not done it. It has left to the emperor all the advantages derivable from the honor of commencing it. It has, however, replied to the proposition which have been made; and if we compare this

reply with the disgracefully celebrated declamations of lord Grenville in the year 8, I must acknowledge it is not destitute of moderation and of wisdom. I have now the honor of reading it to you.

Letter from lord Mulgrave to his excellency M. de Talleyrand, minister of foreign affairs.

"His majesty has received the letter which has been addressed to him by the chief of the French government, dated the 2d of the present month.

"There is no object which his majesty had more at heart than to seize the first opportunity of procuring anew to his subjects the advantages of a peace founded on a basis not incompatible with the permanent security and the essential interests of his states. His majesty is persuaded this object cannot be attained but by arrangements which must at the same time provide for the future safety and tranquility of Europe, and prevent the renewal of those dangers and misfortunes by which she has found herself surrounded. Conformable to this sentiment, his majesty feels it impossible to reply more particularly to the overture which has been made to him until he has had time to communicate with those powers of the continent, with whom he is engaged in confidential intercourse and connection; and especially with the emperor of Russia, who has given the strongest proofs of the wise and dignified sentiments with which he is animated, and of the lively interest he takes in the safety and independence of Europe.

Signed,

MULGRAVE.

Downing-street, 14 Jan. 1805.

The character which prevails in this reply is vague and indeterminate. One idea only presents itself with precision, that of recourse to foreign powers; and that idea is not of a pacific nature; a superfluous intervention ought not to be required, if there is no wish to embarrass the discussions and to render them endless. The ordinary result of all complicated negotiations is to sour the mind, to weary good intentions, and to throw the parties again into a war become more violent by the disappointment of not having succeeded in bringing about a reconciliation.

In a question, however, which embraces a multitude of interests and of passions, which have not always been at variance, it would not be proper to stop at one single point.

Time will soon unfold to us the secret of the resolutions of the English government. If these resolutions are just and moderate, we shall see an end to the calamities of war; if on the contrary, this last appearance of reconciliation should prove a feint calculated only to serve speculations of credit, to facilitate a loan, to give time to collect money from abroad, to make purchases and enterprises, then we should know with certainty how far the dispositions of the enemy are implacable and obstinate, and we should have no other alternative than to reject with disdain the hopes of a dangerous allurement, and to commit ourselves, to the goodness of our cause, the justice of Providence, and the genius of the Emperor.

Until new light shall brighten the obscurity of the present situation of affairs, his majesty the Emperor has thought that the imperfect disclosure which his majesty the king of England has judged proper to make of the first advances of France, required on his part a complete exposition of what he wished, of what he has done, and the answer of the English government.

In the mean time he has charged me to announce that he will find a satisfaction real and dear to his heart in reconciling the Senate and his people by frank communications, full and free from doubt, with every thing which concerns the great interests of their prosperity and glory, whenever such communication shall be compatible with the principles of policy and the rules of prudence.

After this report a member moved an address to his Imperial majesty, thanking him for this new testimony of confidence which the senate had just received, by the communication of a report so remarkable and so important; which was referred to a special committee, consisting of Messrs. Barthelemy, Cacault, Hedouville, their excellencies M. le Marshal, Perignon and Francois Neufchateau, president of the senate.

DISTRESSING NARRATIVE.

The following distressing account of the loss of the Earl of Abergavenny English East-Indiaman, is from the London Star of the 8th February:

"On the 1st inst. the Abergavenny, captain Wadsworth, sailed from Portsmouth, in company with the Royal George, Henry Addington, Wexford, and Bombay Castle, for the East-Indies, under convoy of the Weymouth frigate. The weather proving very unfavorable, after their sailing, and the wind being strongly adverse, induced them to make the best of their way for Portland Roads. After encountering a severe gale

of wind on Friday night, (during which they parted convoy) the five Indiamen reached the entrance of the Roads on Tuesday, about noon, when the Wexford, having been appointed commodore, made signal for those ships which had pilots on board, to run for port. At this period the Abergavenny had not been supplied with a pilot, and, therefore, was compelled to wait a few hours for that purpose. About 3 p. m. having obtained one, she bore up for Portland Roads. The weather had become tolerable moderate, and, notwithstanding a strong ebb tide was setting in, no disaster was at this time apprehended, it being conceived that the pilot knew the coast well. In a few minutes, however, the ship's company learned their dangerous situation, the ship having struck on the shoals of the Bill of Portland, about two miles from the shore. Capt. Wadsworth and his officers were, notwithstanding, of opinion, that the ship might be got off without sustaining any material damage, and accordingly no signal guns of distress were ordered to be fired for upwards of an hour and a half afterwards, when twenty were discharged. All this time the people were free from alarm, and no idea prevailed that it would be necessary to hoist out the boats to be ready to take the crew on shore in case of necessity. About 5 p. m. things bore a still more unfavorable aspect; the carpenter announced that a considerable leak was discovered near the bottom of the chain pumps, which it was not in his power to stop, the water rushed in so fast. The pumps being all in readiness, were set a-going, and a part of the crew endeavored to bail her at the fore hatch, but all attempts to keep the water under, were in vain.

"At 6 p. m. the inevitable loss of the ship became more and more apparent; other leaks were discovered, the wind had increased to a gale, and the severe breaking of the vessel upon the rocks, threatened immediate destruction. The captain and officers were far from shrinking from the perils around them. They gave their orders with the greatest firmness and coolness, and by their proper conduct were enabled to preserve subordination. As the night advanced, the situation of all on board became the more terrible; the Misses Evans, and several other passengers, entreated to be sent on shore; but this was impossible. It was as much as all the ship's company could do to keep the vessel afloat. In order to tempt the men to exert their utmost powers at the pumps, the officers stood by cheering them, and encouraging them, by giving them allowances of liquor. At 7 p. m. the ship's company being almost exhausted, it was thought advisable to fire the signal guns, in hopes of obtaining help from the shore to save as many of the people as possible. In the mean time, Mr. Mortimer, the purser, was dispatched in one of the ship's boats, with the papers and dispatches, in order to save them. The third mate, a cousin to the captain, and of the same name, accompanied the purser, with about six seamen.

"One boat came off from the shore, which took on board the Miss Evans's, Miss Jackson, Mr. Rudedge, and Mr. Taylor, a cadet, all passengers. Mrs. Blair, companion to the Miss Evans's chose, in spite of all entreaties, to remain on board, indeed there were many who would have made the same choice, so little hope was there of the boat contending successfully against the high sea, in so dark a night.

"It was now about 9 o'clock, and several boats were heard at a short distance from the ship, but they rendered no assistance to the distressed on board. Whether this was owing to their being employed in the humane purpose of saving those who had clung to pieces of the wreck, (upon which many had ventured from the vessel) or because they were engaged in plunder, is a matter which has not been ascertained.

"The dreadful crisis was now approaching—every one on board seemed assured of his fate, some gave themselves up to despair, whilst others endeavored to collect themselves, and employed the few minutes they had left to the best of purposes—that of imploring the mercy of their Creator. At 10 o'clock the ship was nearly full of water, and as she began gradually to sink, confusion commenced on board. A number of the sailors begged ardently for more liquor, and when it was refused, they attacked the spirit-room, but were repulsed by their officers, who never once lost sight of their character, and continued to conduct themselves with the utmost fortitude. One of them was stationed at the spirit-room door, with a brace of pistols, to guard against surprise, and there remained even whilst the ship was sinking. A sailor was extremely solicitous to obtain some liquor from him, saying, "it will be all one an hour hence." "Be that as it may," replied the officer, "let us die like men." It is a circumstance hardly to be accounted for, that in the midst of all this distress, the boats were never attempted to be hoisted out. About two minutes before the ship went down, Mr. Baggot, the chief mate, went to Capt. Wadsworth, and said, "We have done all we can, Sir, she will

sink in a moment." The Captain replied, "it cannot be helped—God's will be done."

"When the passengers and crew were acquainted with their situation, they made several efforts to save their lives; some had hold of pieces of wreck, and caught at themselves to the mercy of the waves. A Mr. Forbes stripped off his cloths, and being an excellent swimmer, plunged into the sea, and was one of those who was picked up by a boat from the shore. A great number ran up the shrouds. At about 11 o'clock a heavy sea gave the vessel a sudden shock, and in an instant she sunk to the bottom, in 12 fathoms water. Many of these unfortunate persons who ran up the shrouds for safety, were unable to sustain the motion of the vessel in going down, and suffered with their unfortunate companions below. Between 80 and 90 persons, however, were still able to maintain their situation, and were ultimately saved. For some time after the vessel had gone down, she kept gradually sinking deeper in the sand, inasmuch that several persons were under the necessity of climbing higher up the mast. The highest mast was estimated to be above the water about 25 feet and the persons aloft could plainly discover the end of the bowsprit. She had 70000l. in specie on board, and nearly 600 persons."

An arrival at Nassau, (New-Province) furnishes London dates three days later than before received.

The following paragraphs are extracted from a file of the Star to the 12th of February.

Saturday Feb. 9, Channel Fleet under Admiral Cornwallis, consisting of Ville de Paris, Dreadnought, San Joseph, Britannia, Temeraire, Windsor Castle, Queen, Eagle, Warrior, Defence, Pellicophon, Mars, and Veteran, returned to Torbay.

By account received in town it appears that the Rochefort squadron had got safe into Brest.

It is understood that the loan will be for a sum not less than 20,000,000l. It was Mr. Pitt's original intention to have raised Mr. Addington's war taxes to 15,000,000l. thereby raising 25,000,000 within the year; and for this purpose a new assessment was to be made of houses and lands generally throughout the kingdom. The unexpected entry however, with which the budget is to be opened, makes it impossible for him to wait for the returns necessary to this plan, and so he recurs to the easier and more practicable system of a large loan.

There are three distinct and unconnected lists now making for the loan.

1. Messrs. B. and A. Gokhamin by themselves.

2. Messrs. Roberts, Curtis & Co. with Messrs. Theilsons, Mr. Ward, &c.

3. Sir Francis Baring & Co.; Mr. Angerstein, Messrs. Baire, Axton & Co.

And there will probably be a stock exchange list.

It appears from an account laid before the house of commons, that the funded debt in Exchequer bills, outstanding on the 31st of January, 1805, amounted to 25,235,300l.

News was received at the Admiralty of the loss of his Majesty's frigate *Doris*, of 36 guns, Captain P. Campbell. She had taken a French brig, and was in chase of several others when she struck on a rock, on the Coast of France, near Rochefort, which proved fatal to her. The accounts respecting the crew are various, but we are inclined to believe that the greater part if not the whole have been saved.

Yesterday Earl St. Vincent received the melancholy intelligence, that his Lordship's nephew, Captain Jervis of his Majesty's ship *Tonant*, of 84 guns, was unfortunately drowned, in passing in his longboat from his own to the *San Josef*; all the boats crew were saved except one man, who swam to the assistance of his captain.—Captain Jervis was treasurer of the Greenwich Hospital.

The king has been pleased to grant to the right hon. William Hay, earl of Errol, the place and office of Knight Marshal of Scotland, in the room of Sir Robert Laurie, deceased.

The following, we understand, are the numbers of men obtained by Mr. Pitt's additional defence bills:—England 1162—Scotland, 244—Ireland, 1026—Total 2432.

Government have contracted for a depot for 20,000 stand of arms, to be erected on the Gloucester road, without Lawford's gate.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Calcutta to his friend in Philadelphia, dated Dec. 15.

"For political matters I refer you to the papers, by which you will find, that we have had some desperate fighting in this country, but I believe we have now got the better of all the native powers, who at one time were about to combine against us. Generals Lake, Wellesly, and Frazer have behaved like heroes, and indeed so have all our troops.

"Holkar has given us much trouble, but he has met with a check, in the last business."