

# WILMINGTON GAZETTE.

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Europe has not for many years, amid all its revolutions and convulsions, presented itself in a more interesting or awful point of view than at this moment. All the recent occurrences there seem to indicate the near approach of some event of immense magnitude and importance to the world: which nothing can avert except a peace between its two great contending powers, France and England; a circumstance not to be expected.

It must be no less unlooked-for and mortifying to England, than it is novel in itself, to find her possessions assailed by the fleets of France, which she has been so long accustomed not only to conquer but despise. This change in the nature of the hostilities cannot fail of producing the double effect, of augmenting the insolence of the one, and inflaming the resentment of the other power. Wrapt up in one object, the protection of the European possessions from invasion, and believing it next to impossible that the French navy, or any part of it, would or durst venture to sea, Great-Britain has shamefully neglected the defence of her West-India colonies, as may be seen by the list of her force there, which we published a few days ago; the consequence has been such insult to her dignity, injury to her subjects, and disgrace to her councils, as cannot fail to exasperate her to a desire of vengeance even greater than what she has hitherto experienced: and hence we may place the prospect of peace at a much greater distance than it has at any period since the commencement of the present war appeared to have been removed from the world.

The difference between the conduct of the two governments is, in the present instance, peculiarly striking. England, participating her councils and knowledge of her designs among such numbers, can never form, at least we believe never has formed and executed, any plan without suffering a knowledge of it first to transpire; thereby placing the enemy so completely on his guard, as to enable him to disconcert all her enterprizes against him. Ever since the commencement of the present war the English newspapers have talked of secret expeditions being in an advanced state of preparation; but in this talk all their schemes have vanished. France on the other hand has been profoundly silent as to any design of secret warfare, until the moment of execution arrived; when, with the celerity of lightning, the blaze is scarcely discovered before the blow is felt: a blow, too, which, let it be disguised as it may, deeply affects the interest and the glory of England.

The secrecy with which Buonaparte meditates his measures, and the promptitude with which he executes them, are the strongest proofs that can be adduced of his high qualification for the eminent and hazardous duties of Minister of the resources of a nation. Whatever of passion, whatever of ostentation, whatever of rashness, and whatever of violence, he may have displayed in many parts of his diplomatick conduct, at different periods since his elevation to power, we are more inclined to ascribe to a haughty consciousness of the extent of that power, to a proud conviction of his complete knowledge, not only of the immense physical force of the machine placed in his hands, but also of his own thorough command over all its movements, than to any deficiency of political skill, or, indeed, of political prudence. Where has he yet failed of success in any measure, the planning of which and the means of executing it were submitted entirely to himself, or were altogether under his own control. To signalize the present war he has conceived one mighty project; a project which must either end in the disgrace of his arms, or in the absolute ruin of his enemy, and the consequent uncontrollable command over all Europe. Such a project once matured in the mind of Buonaparte, we know enough of that mind to authorize us to discredit any idea that, while there is the slightest shadow of probability to justify hopes of success, it ever will be abandoned. Even though peace should for the present put its execution aside, it has been too long cherished, to be at once relinquished. Long before his Egyptian expedition he had submitted to the Directory a plan for the invasion and conquest of England: on his accession to the Consulate, the idea was restored to his hopes; but at both these periods the nation was too weak, too much exhausted, to afford the means of carrying into operation a plan so expensive, requiring so great an appropriation both of men and of treasure. The first object that engaged his attention, at the commencement of the present war, was this much wished-for conquest. All his resources have been devoted to the perfecting of the means by which it was to be accomplished, with a zeal and industry unexampled; and in less than two years we behold those means increased not merely beyond any thing which the fears of the enemy could have suggested, but even to that point beyond which it is probably his own hopes or intentions did not mean to carry them.

After expending so much time, so much money, in bringing the means of invading England to that state which was requisite to enable him to make the attempt, it is not to be expected that he will all at once forego the object of those preparations, and proclaim to the world his own unfruitful prodigality. Doubtless the desire of subduing England is not less ardent this day than it was two years ago, when, in the presence of Lord Whitworth, he issued his insolent fulminations; when in his official communications he menaced her with the fate of Carthage. That this darling object has not been abandoned, the late and present occurrences prove to demonstration.

About the end of November the preparations for the invasion of England, were supposed to be completed; and no sooner was that the case than the idea of employing those preparations seemed to have been dropped; and the design of crossing the channel was spoken of in such a manner as to induce the belief that the Emperor had no longer any such scheme in contemplation, without positively saying that he had resolved against it. The same idea is seemingly held out by Talleyrand, when he tells the French Senate that France may, as at present, continue for ten years a dangerous war of menaces against England, which must gradually waste the strength of the latter, and render her in the end the prey of internal discord or of foreign hostility.—That this procrastinating conduct is neither consistent with the temper, with the interests, nor with the actual determination of Buonaparte, no man of observation need be told. The offer of peace at the same time that the preparations for invasion were apparently relaxed, can only be considered as a bait, to catch those of the continental powers, for whom the Emperor has been so long angling.—It may succeed in detaching them from their own true interest, and in facilitating the execution of his favorite scheme.

The war provoked by Spain, the expectation of war, or perhaps the actual existence of hostilities with Portugal, the sailing of the detachments from Toulon and Brest (if indeed they have sailed, or the report of their escape if they have not), the actual invasion of the West-Indies, and the threat of besieging Gibraltar; are all parts of, or subservient to, the principal design, the invasion of England. Without any certainty of the arrival of a second squadron in the West-Indies, we cannot but regard such a thing as possible; and if it be the case, to such extent as reported, or if there is a probability that it may be the case, the British cabinet will be obliged to detach a fleet from Europe, not merely adequate to the defence of the islands but to the chastisement of the invaders; if Gibraltar be besieged they will be compelled to increase their force in the Mediterranean, in order to prevent any co-operation between the land and sea forces of the enemy; an actual state of hostility with Spain, will render an augmentation of the blockading squadrons indispensable; while the expectation of a war with Portugal, will require another portion of the British navy to watch her ports, and to guard against injury from her ships.

Each of these circumstances tends to weaken the external defence of England, and to open new hopes of success in the attempt to invade it, inasmuch as all these detachments must be made from the fleets now stationed round the island, or on the coasts of France. To effect this reduction of the channel force was evidently the object of the West-India expedition, for its whole progress has shewn that permanent conquest was not in view; to distract the attention and divide the strength of England is the only reason which can be found to justify France in forcing Spain into the war, as, in every other point of view she must have been more benefited by a neutral than by a belligerent ally.

Experience shews that Buonaparte has no regard for human blood: he cares not how large the current which may flow from the breast of his country, provided it be strong enough to float him to the accomplishment of some favorite wish. He knows that England is not to be invaded but by crossing a bloody sea; but he knows that its invasion is, through such a channel, practicable; let the subsequent success be what it may. If therefore, his present scheme for so diverting the strength of England from the channel as to render his fleet more equal to a contest with that which remains, should succeed, we shall not be surprized to hear, as we are much inclined to believe, that the present campaign will be distinguished by an early, if not a successful attempt to invade Great-Britain; should not a continental war give other employment to the troops of France.

PARIS, January 20.

A division of the grenadiers and chasseurs of the Imperial Body guard, has marched to Lyons; from thence they will proceed to Milan, whither a detachment from the corps of Mamelukes is already gone.

The last advices from Guadaloupe and

Martinique, of the 9th November, state the arrival of the frigates La Ville de Milan, and Le President, with ammunition and provisions; and that both islands were, in consequence of such arrivals, in the best state of defence.

Letters from Cadiz, of Dec. 25, mention the arrival in that port, of the frigate Le Vegona, from Monte Video, with a rich cargo. Several ships, which the English had sent into Gibraltar, have availed themselves of the late storm, cut their cables, and escaped to Algeziras, as did a French corvette; the crew of which, after killing an officer and ten or twelve seamen of the enemy, got off with sixty Englishmen on board, and was carried into Algeziras by three Spanish gun-boats.

There is no inland intelligence of importance; but our papers of the 20th, give some foreign intelligence, which deserves attention, especially if it should prove true. It is as follows:

Letters from Vienna, dated January, mention that a report was current there, that the Grand Seigneur, who was perfectly ignorant of the passage of the Russians to the Mediterranean, required an account of that occurrence, with every particular; which being communicated to him, he flew into such a violent passion, that he had the Grand Vizier's head struck off, changed a part of his ministry, and gave complete satisfaction to gen. Brune, the French ambassador to his Highness. It is evident, however, that news of such importance requires the strongest confirmation.

Another report is also related in our papers; it is contained in an article, dated Vienna, Jan. 2, viz. "The English minister, Mr. Paget, on being with Count Cobenzel last night, testified to the Count his astonishment that, in the audience given by the Count in the morning, the foreign ministers were not received in the Emperor's cabinet, whilst the Privy Council enjoyed that distinction. He complained bitterly. The Vice-Chancellor replied that custom did not permit it, and he wondered Mr. Paget should make such observations at that time, when the same etiquette had been constantly observed by the Court, ever since he had been at Vienna. Mr. Paget stamped with his foot, and told Count Cobenzel, that if he (the Count) did not know his duty, he would know how to teach him; and presently quitted the assembly, with every appearance of madness. This occurrence, which was witnessed by many members of the Corps Diplomatique, and other courtiers, has become the talk of all Vienna, and every body is surprized at the tone assumed by the British Envoy on the occasion."

The march of troops from this capital, and our Emperor's intended journey to Italy, (which however, is not yet officially known,) furnish matter of speculation. The best informed persons, however, still think, that there will be no war on the continent with Russia, much less that there is any possibility of a dispute with Austria. Nay, many politicians speak rather of a general peace, which, giving satisfaction to all the powers, would restore the political balance of Europe. The plan of such an agreement is ascribed to the Elector Arch-Chancellor.

LONDON, February 4.

On Saturday the two mails which were due arrived from Hamburgh. Their contents are extremely important.

A deputation from the Italian Republic has made a formal proffer of the crown of Lombardy to his Imperial Highness Prince Joseph Buonaparte; and the Emperor Napoleon Buonaparte has graciously been pleased to condescend to be willing to divest himself of the Presidency of that Republic in favour of King Joseph, upon the express conditions reserved, that his Majesty-Elect shall renounce all claim to the succession of France, it being clearly stipulated that Italy is to be independent of France, and the respective Sovereignties never to be united in the same person.

This condition, it is stated, has been inserted by Buonaparte, in order to tranquillize the alarms and jealousies of other states; and, in fact, it would be certainly in no small degree absurd and contentious for the great powers of Europe to make triple leagues, or succession wars, in order to prevent the contingency of two crowns being united in the posterity of Signor Giuseppe Buonaparte, Attorney at Ajaccio, in the Island of Corsica!

Whether the cabinets of the continent will be tranquillized by the care and prevention of the French government, we are not, however, prepared to decide. That the French government is itself assured and tranquil, we have better reasons and evidence altogether to discredit. The mails inform us, that couriers had arrived at Vienna, bearing the important intelligence of this new coronation, and the renouncing clause, both from the Count de Cobenzel, and the minister Talleyrand; and that upon receipt of it, the court of Vienna despatch-

ed immediately a messenger of its own to that of Berlin.

February 6.

It is positively asserted in private letters received by the last Hamburgh mails, that Buonaparte's proposal to constitute the King of Prussia sole umpire between France and Russia has been accepted, though not without much hesitation and difficulty by the latter.

On Friday last, the Immortalite frigate, in company with several other of our cruizers, fell in with six of the enemy's gun-boats, going towards Boulogne, from the eastward. Our squadron immediately attacked them and drove five out of six on shore. In this affair the Immortalite had one man killed, and four wounded, by the heavy fire from the enemy's batteries, and the Archer and Watchful gun-boats, had received several shot in their masts.

The exchange of couriers between Vienna and Paris, has of late been very frequent; and it is not concealed that the subject of their despatches relate to Italy, where the Austrian army, amounts at present to nearly 100,000 men. A considerable body has even received orders to encamp on the banks of the Adige, and fresh forces from the hereditary dominions continue to pour into Italy. The court of Vienna is said to have expressed its firm determination to support the king of Naples against the meditated encroachments of the French. Of the military strength of Austria, the accounts by the mail speak in very lofty terms. It consists at present of sixty-three full regiments of dragoons; six regiments of light-horse; twelve regiments of hussars; three regiments of Uhlans; one regiment of chassers; four regiments of Tyrolese militia; one corps of bombardiers; one corps of pioneers; one corps of miners; one corps of sappers; and one corps of pontooners; the whole constituting an effective force of 300,000 men ready for service.

To this army are appointed 9 field marshals, 35 generals of artillery, and generals of cavalry, 196 field marshals lieutenants, and 253 major-generals.

In the mean time Buonaparte displays his usual activity and foresight in concentrating his resources, and preparing for any event which might, by a sudden stroke of fortune, prove fatal to his empire in Italy.—He is evidently aware that, should Austria be inclined to brave his power, and try the hazard of a campaign, he must not give Russia time to muster her legions, and form a junction with the Austrian troops. We accordingly find that large detachments of the army destined to invade this country, have been marched from the coasts into the interior, on their way to reinforce the troops in Italy. The amount of these detachments are stated at no less than 40,000 men. The artillery of the imperial guard, left Paris on the 9th ult. for Milan; the horse grenadiers were to follow on the 17th and all the officers at Paris, on leave of absence, have received orders from the war office, to join their respective corps with the utmost expedition.

The conduct which his Majesty has been pleased to adopt with respect to Spain, in consideration of the calamitous state of that unfortunate country, is equally honorable to the Royal feelings and the magnanimity of the British character. While the statements contained in the Declaration and the documents laid before Parliament, must satisfy Europe of the justice of our cause, the continental powers will learn with admiration, and the Spanish nation with gratitude, that instructions have been issued to our cruizers not to molest neutral vessels on their passage to the Spanish ports with supplies of grain, during the dreadful scarcity which afflicts that country. Such are the humane sentiments by which Government is actuated in this instance, that the orders have been worded in terms so very general as to preclude all discussion and dispute with respect to the article of supply being the property of the subjects of Spain. The order was signed by the King in Council, on Friday. We feel great pleasure in being enabled to give a correct copy of these benevolent instructions:

GEORGE R.

Whereas we have judged it expedient that interruption should not be given to the supplying the kingdom of Spain in its present distress, notwithstanding the existing hostilities: we do hereby direct and strictly enjoin the commanders of our ships of war and privateers not to molest any neutral vessel, laden solely with grain, and going to Spain, to whomsoever the said grain may belong; unless it be brought from or be destined to a blockaded port.

February 7.

The following private letter, which we received yesterday from Ireland, seems to place the subject of the appearance of ships off the coast of that country in the clearest point of view that we have yet seen:—

COAK, February 1.

I wrote you last night about the French.—The first communication was from the signal-post at Knockadonie, off Ballycotton Island, about three o'clock on Wednesday, for