

FOREIGN.
FRENCH STATE PAPER.
REPORT TO THE EMPEROR.

Paris, April 12, 1815.

I ought not to dissemble, sire, that although to this day no positive knowledge is obtained of any determination formally made, by the foreign powers, which ought to indicate to us a near approach of war, yet appearances sufficiently justify much solicitude; some alarming symptoms manifest themselves on every side. In vain you oppose the calm of reason to the transports of the passions; the voice of your majesty, has not yet been able to make itself heard. An inconceivable system threatens to prevail with the powers, that of preparing themselves for the combat, without admitting of preliminary explanation with the nation with which they appear to wish to combat.

For some time past, sire, I have been sensible of the necessity of calling your attention to the preparations of the different foreign governments; but the germs of troubles, which developed themselves for a moment, in some places in our southern provinces, rendered our situation complicated. Perhaps the sentiment so natural, which led us to wish, above all, the suppression of every principle of interior dissension had prevented me, in spite of myself, from considering, at a time so serious, the threatening dispositions which manifested themselves abroad. The rapid dispersion of the enemies of our domestic repose freed me from all cares of the kind.

You have, sire, resumed your crown on the 1st of the month of March. There are some events so far above the calculations of human reason, that they escape the foresight of kings and the sagacity of their ministers. At the first report of your arrival on the shores of Provence, the monarchs assembled at Vienna only saw the sovereign of the Island of Elba, when already your majesty was regaining anew over the French empire. It was only in the palace of the Thuilleries, that your majesty learned the existence of their declaration of the 13th.

At all times nations are pleased to favour the communications of their governments with one another; and the cabinets themselves endeavor to facilitate the communications. During peace the objects of these relations is to procure its duration; during wars, it tends to the re-establishment of peace; in either case they are a benefit to humanity. It was reserved for the present period to see a society of monarchs simultaneously interdict all intercourse with a great state by closing all access to its amicable assurances. The couriers sent from Paris on the 20th to the different courts could not arrive at their destination. One could not pass at Strasburgh, and the Austrian General who commands at Kehl refused him a passage even on the condition of his being accompanied by an escort. Another, expedited for Italy, was obliged to return from Turin without being able to accomplish his mission. A third, destined for Berlin and the north, has been arrested at Mayence and was ill-treated by the Prussian commandant. His dispatches were seized by the Austrian general who commands in chief at that place.

When a barrier almost impenetrable is thus raised between the French ministry and its agents abroad, between the cabinet and your majesty and that of other sovereigns, it is only, sire, from the public acts of the foreign governments that your minister is permitted to judge of their intentions.

The message addressed to Parliament, on the 5th of this month, by the Prince Regent, is not calculated to inspire the friends of peace with a very enlarged confidence. I have the honor to lay this paper before the eyes of your Majesty, (No. 7.) A preliminary observation must painfully affect the men who know the rights of the people, and who set a value on their being respected by kings. The sole motive alleged by the Prince Regent to justify the measure which he announces his intentions to adopt, is, that events have taken place in France contrary to the engagements taken by the allied powers among themselves; and this sovereign of a free nation seems to pay no attention to the will of a great people, among whom these events have taken place.

The Prince Regent declares, that he has given order to augment the British forces, both by land and sea. This, says the Prince Regent, to render safety to Europe permanent, that he claims the success of the English nation. And where is the need of those success, when this safety is not menaced?

In Austria, in Russia, in Prussia, in every part of Germany, and in Italy, every where in fine, we see a general armament.

Austria.—At Vienna the recal of the Landwehr, lately discharged, the opening of a new loan, the progression, every day increasing, of the depreciation of the paper money, every thing announces either the intention or the fear of war.

Strong Austrian columns are on the march to go to reinforce the numerous corps already assembled in Italy. We may doubt whether they are intended for aggressive operations, or whether they have any other object than keeping in obedience Piedmont, Genoa and the other parts of the Italian territory, whose violated interests may cause their discontent to be apprehended.

Naples.—In the midst of this movement of Austria towards Italy, the king of Naples

has not been able to remain immovable.—This prince, whose aid the allies had formerly invoked, whose legitimacy they had recognized, and guaranteed its existence, has not been ignorant that their policy, since modified by different circumstances, would put his throne in danger, if, too able to abandon himself to their promises, he had not known how to strengthen himself upon better foundations.—Prudence prescribed to him to take some steps in advance, to observe events the more near; and the necessity of covering his kingdom has obliged him to take military positions within the Roman states.

Prussia.—The movements of Prussia have no less activity. Every where the skeletons are filling up and completing themselves; the discharged officers are obliged to return to their corps; to accelerate their march they grant the freedom of the mail; and this sacrifice, light in appearance, but made by a calculating government, is no feeble proof of the interest she takes in the rapidity of her preparations.

Sardinia.—From the first moment of your majesty's return, a command of English troops in concert with the government of the county of Nice, took possession of Monaco (Nos. 10 and 11). According to ancient treaties, renewed by that of Paris, France alone has the right of garrisoning that place, sufficiently indicates that the commander of the English troops did this act of his own head, and that he could not have had the instructions of his government on this point. France ought to demand satisfaction for this affair of the courts of London and Turin. She ought to insist on the evacuation of Monaco, and its delivery to the French garrison, conformably to the treaties.

Spain.—The news from Spain and an official letter from M. Laval, of the 28th of March (No. 12.) teach that an army is collecting upon the line of the Pyrenees. The strength of this army will necessarily be subordinate to the interior situation of this monarchy, and its ulterior movements, to the determination of the other states.—France will remark that these orders have been given upon the demand of Marmion the duke and Madame the duchess of Angouleme. Thus in 1815 as in 1793 there are princes born Frenchmen, who invite the foreigners into our territory.

Netherlands.—The collection of the troops of different nations, which has taken place in the new kingdom of the Netherlands and the numerous disembarkations of English troops are known to your majesty: a private fact adds still more to the doubts, whether these collections are to be attributed to the dispositions of the sovereigns of this country. I have been informed (Nos. 14 and 15) that 120 men and 12 officers, French prisoners returning from Russia, have been stopped by his orders near Tirlemont. In every part of Europe, they are in motion, they arming, they are marching or are ready to march.

And these grand armaments, against whom are they directed? Sire, it is your majesty which they name, but it is France which is threatened. The least favorable peace which the powers ever dared to offer you, is that which your majesty is this day contented.—What reasons can they have, not to be willing to make it upon the same terms as they stipulated at Chaumont, and which they signed at Paris? It is not, then, against the French nation; it is against the independence of the people; it is against every thing which we have acquired by twenty years sufferings and of glory; against our liberties, against our institutions, that hostile passions would make the war. A part of the Bourbon family, and those men who, for a long time have ceased to be Frenchmen, seek to stir up again the nations of Germany and the North, in the hope of re-entering a second time by force of arms upon a soil which disavows them, and will no more receive them.

The same appeal has resounded, for a moment, in some countries of the south; and it is from Spanish troops that they demand again the crown of France. It is a family, again become solitary and deprived which seeks to implore thus the assistance of foreigners. Where are the public functionaries, the troops of the line, the national guards, the private citizens who have accompanied their flight beyond our frontiers? To wish again to restore the Bourbons, would be to declare war against the population of France. When your majesty entered Paris with an escort of a few men, when Bordeaux, Toulouse and the whole of the south, disengaged themselves in a day of the pledges which they had given them, is it a military movement which operates these miracles? or rather, is it not a national movement, a common movement of all French hearts, which conformed, in a single sentiment, love of country and love for the sovereign who knows how to defend it?

The only true end which the foreign powers can propose to themselves, in the basis of the new coalition, is the exhausting, the abasement of France: and to arrive at this end, the surest means to accomplish their wishes would be to impose upon it a government without power and without energy. This policy on their part is not a political novelty: The example has been furnished them by other great masters.

Thus the Romans proscribed Mithridates, the Nicomedes, and only covered with their haughty protection the Atillas and the Prussians, who honoring themselves with the title of their freedmen, acknowledged that they only held, under them, their states and their crown. Thus the French nation would be assimilated to these nations of Asia, to whom the caprice

of Rome gave for kings, princes whose submission and dependance were most sure to them! In this respect, the efforts which the allied powers may at this time make, will have for their determined end, to bring back to us again a dynasty rejected by public opinion. It is not the Bourbons in particular whom they wish to protect. For a long time their cause, abandoned by themselves, has been so also by the whole of Europe; and this unfortunate family has every where been subjected to too cruel disdain. Of small import to the allies was the choice of the monarch whom they should place upon the throne of France, provided they could see feebleness and pusillanimity seated upon it.

The prince regent of England declares, that he will, before he acts, have an understanding with the other powers. All these powers are in arms—and thus deliberate; France excluded from these deliberations, of which she is the principal object—France deliberates alone, but is not yet armed.

Under such serious circumstances, in the midst of these uncertainties as to the effective disposition of the foreign powers; dispositions, whose external aspect are of a nature to authorize just alarm, the sentiments and wishes of your majesty for the maintenance of peace and of the treaty of Paris, ought not to prevent legitimate precautions.

I believe that, in consequence, I ought to call the attention of your majesty, and the reflections of your council, to such measures as the preservation of her rights, the safety of her territory, and the defence of the national honor ought to dictate to France.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs.
CAULINCOURT, Duke of Vicenza.

Proclamation of Louis XVIII.
Frankfurt, April 2.

Louis, by the grace of God, king of France and Navarre, to those of my children who shall see these presents, greeting,

He who, had deceived you for 10 years is come to deceive you again. Fifteen days have hardly passed by, since by treason he seated himself upon the throne to which your wishes have called me, and already Europe knows it, and Europe, indignant, advances to annihilate him!

She advances, Frenchmen! Her numerous phalanxes will speedily pass our frontiers; but Europe is not your enemy. I have reconciled her to you. Henceforth you will only see in these strangers, formerly so terrible, generous allies, who come to aid you in throwing off the yoke of oppression.—All these soldiers of Europe march under the same flag, and that is the white flag.

Enfeebled by age, a twenty five years of misfortune, I will not say unto them, like my grand father, rally under my plum! but I will follow them near to the field of honor. Frenchmen! a vain illusion of glory, spread among you has carried you away; my arms are open to you, cast yourselves into them. Frenchmen! who is he among you who will bear arms against me! I am brother of Louis XVI. I come like Henry IV. to fight and conquer a new league, I come to bring you peace and honor.

Signed
The Duke of FELTRE, Minister of war.

From the Liverpool Courier
Extract of a private letter from Paris, March 23, at 6 o'clock, afternoon.

"I was not able to write to you yesterday afternoon as I promised, being called upon duty as a member of the National Guard. I returned home an hour ago, and though much fatigued, I hasten to fulfil my promise. The disposition of the Parisians, and, by the authentic accounts, that of all the inhabitants of France is still the same. Weary of revolutions, all have looked on the rapid progress of Napoleon with a kind of panic terror, which has paralysed every arm. I have seen Bonaparte—I will not say in the midst of the French troops (for all those by whom he is surrounded are unworthy of the name of Frenchmen) but in the midst of his satellites, of that horde of brigands, for whom the name of country has no more that charm which was formerly the basis of the French character, and constituted the strength of the nation. I have seen, I say, this monster, who brings all the evils that issued from the box of Pandora, traversing with a haggard eye the ranks of those phalanxes formerly invincible, and the terror of nations, now astonished themselves at obeying a chief whom they dread much more than they esteem.

Never during the ten years that I have had an opportunity of observing, on such occasions, the features of this monster, did I see them so disordered and so horrible. In the midst of his greatness, he seems to fear his shadow; at the slightest motion, at the least noise, I have seen him start, and roll in their narrow orbit his eyes, in which fear and rage were at the same time expressed.

"Marshal Ney, that wretch, who by infamous treason has delivered the kingdom to the vulture that, for sixteen years past has fed on the blood of the French; this traitor, I say, arrived yesterday at Paris, and the bare sight of him made Bonaparte turn pale. I have this from an eyewitness, who like me, deplors the fate of our unhappy country.

"The wish of all the French now is, to see what we have always feared, what we have at all times opposed, 150,000 foreigners enter upon the soil of France; then, be assured, the French will recover their ancient energy and will do themselves justice on their tyrant, and on those unnatural children who, accustomed

to robbery, have sacrificed their country to the temptations of gold or a bit of ribbon. If were otherwise, which cannot be suspected, than I say it with shame and regret, this beautiful France, the object of the envy of all nations, would deserve to be erased from the list of European Powers.

"I was yesterday on guard at the Thuilleries, and who do you think commanded in the Palace? My soul revolts at so much perfidy! it was that same Excehmaus, who, after having forfeited his honor and life, had been reconnoitred and reinstated in his honor by Louis XVIII.

Conversation of Mr. Sylvestrope, an Englishman with Bonaparte in the Island of Elba.

After having waited three days in order to see him, Mr. Sylvestrope was introduced into a very common house; he was ushered into an anti-chamber, where he saw a fine looking guards, and conducted through an adjoining room in which were a Polish aide-de-camp and General Drouet, into a third room where he found Bonaparte, who received him standing; the ex-emperor was dressed in a green uniform, with the epaulets of a colonel, which were pretty well worn, he wore a grand order of the Legion of Honour, the order of the re-union, and two small crosses. Mr. Sylvestrope could not discern to what order they belonged. The conversation commenced immediately.

BONAPARTE. You are an Englishman?

SYLVESTROPE. Yes, sire.

B. Have you served?

S. No.

B. Why?

S. Because I am an Irishman and a Catholic.

B. What does that matter, I am a Catholic.

In that respect we are alike. What have you done then?

S. I have travelled.

B. Where have you been?

S. Athens.

B. Then you know Fauvel; he is a lover of the arts, a man of talents. Did he receive the English?

S. No; we were at war.

B. Fauvel is a man of much wit; have you travelled in France?

S. Yes, sire.

B. What is the King about? The Bourbons are great lords. They will be invited to sleep at Versailles and Compeigne.

S. The King labors a great deal.

B. Oiten?

S. Six hours each day.

B. In six hours he might do a great deal and do it well. The King ought to be respected respecting me, I was reserved about him; but he is a man of sense, Monsieur is a Cavalier? Hum—And the Congress.

S. It does nothing.

B. Metternich thinks him a diplomatist, and he is not—he is a liar, a great liar. One may be forgiven for lying once or twice—but a third time is unpardonable.

Francis has no will of his own; Alexander is volatile but he is changeable in the extreme, the King of Prussia considers himself a sage; he is only a corporal, but he is a good man—a very good man.

S. They will end by coming to a good understanding, and the English * * *

B. Do the English Journals continue to publish the same absurdities respecting me? Would they stone me, sir in England?

S. In England you would meet with respect but we also have our way.

B. When I waged war I had only one end in view.

S. Your Majesty has been reproached for account of Moscow.

B. You are right, I committed a great error there.

S. Your majesty will excuse an Englishman's plainness in asking what was your intention after having made the conquest of Moscow?

B. To be master of the Continent of Europe.

S. And afterwards?

B. To compel your nation to be just?

S. All the English were not against your Majesty.

B. If they had not destroyed the success of my expedition in Egypt. What is going on in France?

S. The people are adverse to your Majesty but you are regretted by the officers.

B. Ah let us say no more about that.

S. The officers complain.

B. You may allow them to expand, but keep a firm hold of them. Where do you mean to go?

S. To Naples.

B. There you will see Murat. That man has no head, not a single military conception he on a day of battle, when he receives the orders he salutes, he gallops. He is a God at five o'clock in the evening. What will become of him? You will pass through Rome. The Pope is a stubborn monk; I did not know the right way to manage him.

S. Your majesty cannot doubt of the sentiments of those who come to pay their allegiance to you?

B. There is some curiosity in it also, I wish to see the beast, & to be able to say they have seen him. Some French merchants have written to me, they ask me if they will break out again? If they may venture the stock upon the sea? they are fools—they do not receive Frenchmen here. I wish you a pleasant journey sir—Every thing must have an end.