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FOREIGN.

From the Charleston Mercury of May 1.

DATE FROM ENGLAND.

The arrival of the Corsair, Capt. Peirce, yesterday from Liverpool, furnished us with dates from that place to the 23d March, and from London to the evening of the 20th. Although no hostile blow had yet been struck by France against Spain, the universal opinion in Europe was that the war between those two powers would commence very early in April. The language of Mr. Canning, in parliament, leaves no hope of any compromise of existing differences between the parties, nor of any delay on the part of France in the execution of her threatened attack. The Duke D'Angouleme had gotten as far as Orleans, on the 17th March, on his road to join the army of invasion, and in six or seven days after he would have reached Bayonne, when, as it is to be presumed that every thing was prepared for immediate service, we may expect that measures would be ripened for the opening of the campaign.

The North of Spain is torn to pieces by contending parties; but the accounts from that quarter are so contradictory, that it is impossible to form an opinion of the relative strength of the opposing forces, or of the success that attend the arms of either. We can, however, collect from the general current of events, and from the movements of the royalists, the important truth, that the French troops will be received with open arms by the partisans of the King; and we may hence conclude, that the constitutionalists, thus beset with domestic and foreign foes, will be borne down in the conflict, and will have to yield to the hosts of their enemies.

It appears certain that the Court of Spain is to be transferred to Seville.

A counter-revolution, but of unknown extent, had broken out in the North of Portugal.

We observe that the language of the British Parliament is now turned from the subject of the preservation of peace between France and Spain, and is confined to speculations upon the expediency of the neutral position to be maintained by Great Britain—all ideas of securing a general peace being abandoned.

Orders have been received at Plymouth to increase the complements of several guard ships, viz. of the Britannia 120—Bulwark 76—Windsor Castle 74—Superb 74. They are also ordered to be rigged, take their sails on board, and to be put into a state for service. The Queen Charlotte 120, and Ramillies, and Albion, 74 each, lying at Portsmouth, are also to be made ready for service. Recruiting vessels were on the Thames for volunteers for the navy.

Earl St. Vincent died at his seat at Rochette on the 13th March in his 89th year. The Duke of Clarence has been appointed to succeed him as General of the Royal Marines.

Admiral Viscount Keith died suddenly on the 10th March, in Scotland; and on the 14th, the celebrated General Dumourier died in his 84th year, at Turville Park, near Henly upon the Thames.

Major General Barnes is appointed Governor of Ceylon.

The Earl of Fife has been elected Lord Rector of Marischal College, Aberdeen, in opposition to Mr. Hume.

The Bank of England has taken the annuities of government for five years, say to the year 1828—the Bank has reduced the yearly dividend from 5 to 4 per cent.

The Greeks continue to reign masters of the Archipelago, and have even entered the Dardanelles. They have cut off the communication by water between Constantinople and Smyrna, and the latter place is so alarmed that preparations for defence have been made around it. It is observed that the late successes of the Greeks have materially changed the tone of several journals in Europe, that were formerly remarkable for the abuse and acrimony with which they loaded the cause and the struggles of the revolvers against the oppression of the Musselmans.

Liverpool, March 22.—The opinion of our own government, on the subject of peace or war, at length openly expressed in parliament, may be considered as decisive of the question. Their intimate knowledge is paramount to all

other reasoning or conjecture, and their venturing an open declaration, after the extreme caution which they have hitherto observed, leaves no doubt that they are perfectly assured of the grounds on which they speak. It may, therefore, be considered as altogether beyond doubt, that war will certainly ensue between France and Spain.

This is the disagreeable clause of the text from which we write. It is needless to dilate upon it. One general sentiment possesses all minds in this country—that the aggression of France is an unjustifiable attack on the liberty and independence of nations. One general hope is cherished—that this aggression may be unsuccessful. One exception alone is found, and that is in the columns of the London Courier.

We turn to the agreeable clause. In the speeches of Mr. Canning and Mr. Peel, from which the above assurance is drawn, we have the most distinct declaration, that nothing in the present relation of this country to the continent, in the present aspect of affairs generally, gives any reason to fear that we may be involved in the contest.

The precise point on which we wish to fix the attention here is, not that we certainly will not be involved at any period of the contest, of this government could give no assurance, but that, since the principles which move the war on both sides are fully developed, the object aimed at by both fully understood, we, at this period resolving on neutrality, declare by that resolution, that we take no part in the principles, that we acknowledge no interest in the objects, of either party, at least to such a degree as to meditate involving ourselves in war, in behalf either of the principles or the objects.

The language of these ministers, especially of Mr. Canning, is extremely cautious. He declares, "that at present there is no specific ground which could involve this country in war, at this moment." This caution, of language is perfectly proper and necessary in such circumstances; but it admits enough, for since "at present," at this moment," are thoroughly understood the principles which influence the agitating parties, it follows that our government conceive there is no "ground" in these principles for any interference, as an active party of this nation.

We acknowledge the highest satisfaction in this assurance to our minds that government have not the slightest idea of allowing themselves to be driven from the safe and necessary policy of peace, by the clamor of a party, of good and generous feeling we assuredly believe, but, as we with equal confidence believe, of most rash and unwise judgment.

This was to have been expected. It was to have been expected that our ministry, by principle, and by the habit of action, so hostile to all revolutionary movements, could never contemplate uniting council and efforts with a party so little different in principles and conduct from those, the long and determined opposition to whom has been the school in which all their political feelings and principles have been formed. The sentiments expressed by ministers, at the opening of the session, we could never construe into sympathy with the ruling party in Spain; they were only sentiments, in which all agree, of disapprobation of the aggression of France, of respect for the independence of nations, sentiments perfectly consistent with the strongest disapprobation of the very conduct of the nation which had induced the aggression.

It is most satisfactory to our minds to perceive, that the sentiments which we have entertained and expressed on this subject, although they are, strongly reprobated by the more violent part of the opposition, Sir F. Burdett, Sir R. Wilson, Mr. Hobhouse, Mr. Denman, &c. are, as we think, heartily sanctioned by a few of the most soundly judging and respectable of the new party, Mr. Ricardo, Sir John Newport, Mr. Dennison. These latter are of opinion, that however strong the terms in which we reprobate the conduct of France; however warmly we interest ourselves in the just principle of the independence of nations; yet do our own necessities so loudly cry for the continuance of peace, that we must obey them. It is most strange that there can be any other sentiment among us; that the party who declare and believe the springs and energies of the country almost ruined by the load of taxation, can imagine themselves consistent in supporting a measure, the effect of which must be greatly, and what is worse, indefinitely, to increase our burthens, for the sake of a party in a foreign country, of whose strength, of whose means, or whose unanimity, of whose character, we are almost entirely ignorant.

The Spanish Cortes have decided on removing the King and the seat of go-

vernment to Seville. The ministry, since the late dismissal and return to office, do not appear quite settled, nor do we think their measures of defence quite as spirited and formidable as the occasion seems to demand.

We noticed, by a short paragraph in our postscript of last week, that a counter-revolutionary movement had taken place in Portugal, under the direction of the Count D'Amarante. We said, speaking from the intelligence at that time before us, that the activity of government had speedily quelled it. The later intelligence from Portugal is not at all definite concerning this circumstance; but we learn, at least, that this leader is not suppressed, but still makes some head against the government.

The Duke D'Angouleme has at length set off for the army.

House of Lords, March 22.—In answer to the requisition of the Marquis of Landsdown, similar to that of Sir J. Mackintosh, in the other House, on Tuesday, for the production of the diplomatic correspondence relative to the state of affairs between France and Spain, Lord Liverpool replied with more reserve than Mr. Canning. He denied that the hope of peace was yet so wholly extinct as was generally believed; and would only say, with respect to the production of the papers, that he expected, some time before the recess, to be authorised by his Majesty to name a day, after the recess, when these papers might be produced.

House of Commons, March 18.—Mr. Canning presented some papers relative to the Slave Trade, stating the acquiescence of the King of the Netherlands and the Government of Spain in some articles of treaty favorable to the abolition.—Ordered to be printed.

Sir James Mackintosh, happy to find the Secretary for Foreign Affairs again in his place, trusted that the negotiation between England and France had been conducted on principles of national independence which became the British character. He inquired, with feelings of anxiety, whether there were yet any hopes that the interposition of this Government was likely to prevent the unprovoked aggression of France against Spain. Mr. Canning, after acknowledging the sense of the British Government of the sacred independence of nations, replied, that he should deceive were he to cling to any hope of averting a war between France and Spain; all hope was extremely remote, and was receding from view. He should, on an early day, submit papers relating to the subject; meantime, however, they might despond in the state of affairs between France and Spain, there existed no specific ground which could involve this country in war at the present moment.

On the motion that the Mutiny Bill be read a third time, Sir F. Burdett gave notice, alluding to the late dismissal of Colonel Allen, that he should soon bring forward a motion on the subject of military flogging. He then adverted to what had been said relative to France and Spain. When a standing army had been supported in time of peace to maintain the balance of power, as it was called, he regretted the giving up of all these objects for which such establishments could be supported. He regretted the absence of the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, being anxious to know what Ministers had to say for themselves after the opening of the Session leading the country to believe they were supporting the honour and liberties of England. It was hard to call upon the people for further sacrifices; but there were circumstances under which present interests must give way; and England was wretched indeed when she could not say to the Bourbons, "You must not commit acts of unprovoked aggression against the peaceable and unoffending nations of Europe; you must not overturn that balance of power upon which the general safety has been declared to depend." The whole of those nations upon whose individuality that balance depended, had, contrary to the uniform policy of our forefathers, been allowed to be absorbed into one or two great Powers, when, by a system against which it had eternally been the course of England to struggle, the whole of Europe lay in the hands of a few aggrandized despots, who called themselves a Holy Alliance. England, he protested, was ready to make any sacrifice to overthrow such a system. If England permitted France to accomplish her object, England would be blotted from the map of Europe. In such case, too, Portugal would be overrun. He did trust that England would not be so disgraced, if the thing was done past recalling—to be pledged, under the existing circumstances of Europe, to a dastardly, dangerous, contemptible, and impolitic neutrality. If ministers were determined to favor the Holy Alliance, why was the House deluded into a forbearance by the concealment of the fact?

Had a contemptible system of neutrality been avowed, he did not know that the House would have granted the year estimate—that it would have been satisfied with double this year's reduction of taxes. He concluded, amid loud cheering, by observing, that the subject must soon be more fully discussed, and that he held the utmost contempt for the conduct which he understood the Government had adopted.

Mr. Peel deprecated discussion on the subject at this time. He said, nothing conspired to involve us in war.

Mr. Hobhouse supported the sentiments of Sir F. Burdett—as did Sir R. Wilson, and other members. Ultimately the Mutiny Bill was read a third time.

France and Spain.—On Monday the Russian embassy at Paris received despatches from the Government of St. Petersburg. The Emperor Alexander has desired it to be communicated to the French Cabinet, how highly he is delighted with the King's Speech at the opening of the session. "When such sound doctrines," he adds, "are proclaimed from the legitimate throne of France, the reign of the Jacobins of Madrid is drawing to a close."

Private advices from Paris say, that a very unexpected dilemma had occurred there, in consequence of the manly declaration of the Portuguese Cortes, to consider the aggression of the French as equally levelled against Portugal. This dilemma has been heightened by the arrival of a formal protest from Lisbon against the principles contained in the French King's Speech to the Chambers, together with a peremptory order to the Portuguese Charge d'Affaires in Paris to quit the French territory, the moment the Duke of Angouleme shall have crossed the Spanish frontier.

The arrangements necessary for the defence of Spain will be completed by the time the French are enabled to commence active operations. Mina is, it is said, to have the command of Catalonia, with an army of 40,000 men, in five divisions. Ballasteros is to have under his orders the military districts of Aragon, Navarre, and Biscay, with a force equal to from 40 to 50,000 men, and he left Madrid on the 25th ult. to take the command and organize his corps d'armee.

Two corps of reserve are to be formed, the one in Old and the other in New Castile, the first commanded by Count de Abisbal, and the second by General Morillo. Their united force is to be equal to 50,000 men. In addition to the above, the militia will be generally organized; and, as most of them were in actual service during the late war, great reliance is placed on their co-operation.

Portugal.—Private letters of the 1st inst. from Oporto, state that a counter-revolution had been stirred up, headed by the Conde d'Amarante, whose partisans were said to be numerous and important. A great ferment was in consequence caused at Oporto; but there was every reason to believe that the personal security of English families would not be endangered. One of the letters says, "At Villa Real they have most enthusiastically declared in favor of the old Government; here the soldiers had very little sway; the inhabitants themselves unanimously met at the Camera, declared their abhorrence of the present system, and proclaimed an absolute monarchy. At Chaves the spirit of the people has, if possible, been more decisive; numbers of the inhabitants flocked to welcome the conde, and anxiously anticipated his arrival. Two regiments of cavalry greeted him with loud cheers. He is said to be gaining strength and popularity. All the force that could be with safety dispensed with has been sent against him; but the troops are not firm; they would not go before they were paid; and it has been stated that numbers of the common soldiers have declared that they would not fight against their countrymen." Such is the account seized upon by the London Courier, with the delighted eagerness which characterizes his motions when he finds any thing that can make against the constitutional Governments of the Peninsula. In consequence of this insurrection, the above account of which may be greatly exaggerated, the Cortes at Lisbon had decreed the suspension for three months of those legal securities for personal rights which are equivalent to the English Habeas Corpus Act, in order that the Government might arrest suspected persons.

Independence of South America.—We have reason to believe that a measure, which the country at large, and more particularly the commercial part of it, has long taken a deep interest in, and which is called for upon every principle of public justice and political wisdom, is about very shortly to receive its accomplishment; we allude to the recognition by the British Government of the State of Colombia, and such other of the South American States as have actually achieved their independence.

Other demonstrations which have come to our knowledge. Mr. Canning, when he sent Mr. Backhouse, his private Secretary, to Liverpool on a recent occasion, directed him to state to the merchants there that he hoped shortly to have an agreeable communication to make to Parliament on the subject of South American affairs. It is high time that this act of public justice was performed.—London paper.

The King of Spain was to leave Madrid for Seville on the 10th.

THE GREEKS.

It gives us pleasure, after being so long without hearing from the Greeks, to be able to give to our readers information concerning them, of so agreeable a complexion as the following:

Nat. Int.

From the Paris Journal Des Debats. Zante, Feb. 14.—After the victory which the inhabitants of Missolongi gained on the 6th of this month, when they repulsed six assaults of the Turks, Omar Briant, Pacha of Janina, retreated, leaving 1,500 men on the field of battle. During two days it was unknown what route he had taken, and strong reconnoitering parties were sent out in different directions, and beyond Zygos.—At the same time advice was received that a corps of 1800 Greeks from the Morea had disembarked opposite to Trisonta, and were advancing by the defiles of Mount Caracas, towards Tidarua, while Marc Botzaris, at the head of 1,500 men, was moving on by Lepenon to Vrachori. The movement from Missolongi having been calculated on this base of operations, its first object was the camp of Omar Briant, which was found abandoned; 16 pieces of cannon, and ammunition, and provisions, were found left behind, and even the magnificent tent of Chourchid Pacha. All the articles became the booty of the christians, who soon learnt that Omar Pacha had retreated to Vrachori. Our latest news from the continent, which is up to the tenth of this month, says that this proud Arnaout is surrounded in his position, and we expect daily to hear of his complete ruin.

The Electoral Colleges of Greece are summoned for the 15th of this month at Napoli di Romania, in order to renew the deputies who compose the Amphictionic Congress. It is asserted that Athens will be henceforth the Chief place of the confederation of the States of all the provinces, and of the President of the Diets of Terra Firma, and of the islands.

The Castle of Patras, as well as the Little Dardanelles and Lepantium, have lately made some proposals which would lead to the belief that these places will ere long surrender.

The Hydrotites are blockading by sea the fortresses of Coron and of Modon, which does not merit the honor of a siege, to which moreover, the Greeks do not readily give themselves up; it can no longer be doubted but that the Peloponnesus will, before the month of April next, be entirely free. Thus, a handful of men, at first armed with sticks and implements of husbandry, and with a few fowling pieces, will have conquered alters, laws, a country, arsenals, and arms; for the Greeks at present possess 150 pieces of field artillery, 700 mounted cannons, 80,000 muskets; and their navy consists of 400 vessels, between 80 and 600 tons.

FROM THE SOUTH.

Baltimore, April 28.—We have conversed with a gentleman who came passenger in the schooner Dart, arrived here on Saturday in 24 days from Carthagena. He left Guayaquil about the middle of March, at which time President Bolivar was there. The expedition which the Peruvian Patriots had sent against the Royalists near Lima had been defeated. At the last accounts, the Royalists were within a few leagues of Lima, which place, was supposed, would inevitably fall into their hands again. In consequence of the expected capture of Lima, fugitives and much property had left there and arrived at Guayaquil. There was considerable bustle at G. in consequence of this intelligence, and markets had experienced a depression by the unexpected arrival of the goods from the former place. Several shocks of earthquake had been felt at Lima subsequent to the earthquakes in Chili, and the people in consequence were under much alarm for their safety.

President Bolivar had about 4000 men at Guayaquil, and as many at Cuenca in the interior. He was preparing a secret expedition, which, there is no doubt, was to be directed against Peru.

In the province of Quito every thing was perfectly tranquil, as also at Pasto, the insurrectionary movements at the latter place having been effectually quieted through the instrumentality of Bolivar.