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Foreign.

GHENT, MAY 23.

The king of France has finished collecting around him all the foreign ministers who composed the diplomatic body at Paris...

CONGRESS OF VIENNA.

Extract from Minutes of Conferences of the Powers who signed the Treaty of Paris.

The committee appointed on the 9th inst. and charged to examine whether, after the events which have passed since the return of Napoleon Bonaparte to France...

Report of the Committee.—The declaration published on the 13th March last against Napoleon Bonaparte and his adherents...

1. That the declaration, decreed against Bonaparte... of the period of his landing on the coast of France...

2. That by offering to ratify the treaty of Paris, he removed every ground of war against him...

The committee has been specially charged to take into consideration—

1. Whether the position of Bonaparte in regard to the powers of Europe has changed by the fact of his arrival in Paris...

2. Whether the offer to sanction the treaty of Paris, on the 31st of May, 1814, can determine the powers to adopt a system different from that which they announced in the declaration of the 13th of March?

3. Whether it be necessary or proper to publish a new declaration to confirm or modify that of the 13th of March?

The committee having maturely examined these questions, submits to the assembly of plenipotentiaries the following account of the result of its deliberations:

FIRST QUESTION.

Is the position of Bonaparte in regard to the powers of Europe altered by the first success of his enterprise, or by the events which have passed since his arrival in Paris?

The powers, informed of the landing of Bonaparte in France, could see in him only a man who, by advancing on the French territory, with force and arms, and with the avowed project of overturning the established government...

The events which conducted Bonaparte to (1) The first article of the convention of the 11th of April, 1814, is as follows.—“The emperor Napoleon renounces, for himself, his successors, and descendants, as well as for all the members of his family, all rights of sovereignty and of power, not only over the French empire and kingdom of Italy, but also over every other country.”

Paris, and restored to him for the moment the exercise of supreme power, have, doubtless, in fact, altered the position in which he was at the period of his entering France; but these events, brought on by criminal collusion, by military conspiracies, by revolting treasons, can create no right; they are absolutely null in a legal point of view...

Bonaparte lays it down in his publications, that the wishes of the French nation in favor of his re-establishment on the throne suffice to constitute this legal title.

The question for the powers to examine may be stated as follows: Can the consent, real or feigned, explicit or tacit, of the French nation, to the re-establishment of Bonaparte's power, operate a legal change in the position of the latter, in regard to foreign powers, and form a title obligatory on these powers?

The committee are of opinion that such cannot by any means be the effect of such consent; and the following are their reasons:

The powers know too well the principles which ought to guide them in their relations with an independent country, to attempt (as it is endeavored to accuse them) “to impose upon it laws, to interfere in its internal affairs, to prescribe to it a form of government, to give it masters according to the interests or passions of its neighbors.” (2.) But they also know that the liberty of a nation to change its system of government must have its just limits...

In the existing case, the right of the allied sovereigns to interfere in the question of internal government of France is the more incontestable inasmuch as the abolition of the power which now claims to be re-established there, was the fundamental condition of the treaty of peace, on which rested all the relations which, up to the return of Bonaparte to Paris, subsisted between France and the rest of Europe.

It hence follows, that the will of the people of France is by no means sufficient to re-establish, in a legal sense, a government proscribed by solemn engagements, which that very people entered into with all the powers of Europe; and that they cannot, under any pretext, give validity as against these powers to the right of recalling to the throne him whose exclusion was a condition preliminary to every pacific arrangement with France...

SECOND QUESTION.

Should the offer to sanction the Treaty of Paris change the disposition of the Powers?

France has had no reason to complain of the treaty of Paris. This treaty reconciled France with Europe; it satisfied all her true interests, secured all her real advantages, all the elements of prosperity and glory...

The allied powers would have betrayed their interests and their duties, if, as the price of so much moderation and generosity, they had not,

on signing the treaty, obtained some solid advantage; but the sole object of their ambition was the peace of Europe and the happiness of France. Never in treating with Bonaparte, would they have consented to the conditions which they granted to a government, which, “while offering to Europe a pledge of security and stability, relieved them from requiring from France the guarantees which they had demanded under its former government.” (5.)

If this offering had need of further support, it might be found in the very offer of Bonaparte to ratify the treaty of Paris. His treaty, if it had been scrupulously observed and executed: the transactions of the congress of Vienna were only its supplements and developments; and without the new attempt of Bonaparte, it would have been for a long series of years one of the bases of the public right of Europe...

The committee thinks it may dispense with entering here into an exposition of the considerations which, under this last view, have directed the measures of the governments. It will be sufficient to recall to notice, that the man who, in now offering to sanction the treaty of Paris, pretends to substitute his guarantee for that of a sovereign, whose loyalty was without stain, and benevolence without measure...

Peace with a government placed in such hands, and composed of such elements, would only be a perpetual state of uncertainty, anxiety and danger. No power being able effectually to disarm, the people would enjoy none of the advantages of a true peace; they would be overwhelmed with expenses of all kinds; confidence not being able to establish itself any where, industry and commerce would every where languish; nothing would be stable in political relations...

The opinion of Europe on this great occasion is pronounced in a manner very positive and very solemn; never could the real sentiments of nations have been more accurately known and more faithfully interpreted than at a moment when the representatives of all the powers

(5) Preamble of the treaty of Paris.

(6) This idea recurs perpetually in the report of the council of state of Bonaparte, published in the Moniteur, April 13, 1815.

(7) The committee here think it right to add the important observation, that the greater part of the invasions, and forced unions, of which Bonaparte formed successively what he called the great empire, took place during those perfidious intervals of peace, more destructive to Europe than even the wars with which it was tormented...

were assembled to consolidate the peace of the world.

THIRD QUESTION.

Is it necessary to publish a new declaration? The observations which the committee have just presented furnish the answer to the last question, which remains to be examined. It considers—

1. That the declaration of the 13th of March was dictated to the powers by reasons of such evident justice and such decisive weight, that none of the sophistries by which it is pretended to be attacked can at all affect it.

2. That these reasons remain in all their force and that the changes which have in fact occurred since the Declaration of the 13th of March, have produced no alteration in the position of Bonaparte and of France with regard to the Allies.

3. That the offer to ratify the Treaty of Paris is not an any account of the disposition of the Allies.

Therefore, the Committee is of opinion that it would be useless to publish a fresh declaration.

The Plenipotentiaries of the Powers who signed the Treaty of Paris, and who as such are responsible for its execution with regard to the acceding Powers, having taking into consideration, and sanctioned by their approbation the preceding report, have resolved, that there shall be made to the Plenipotentiaries of the other royal courts a communication of the minutes of this day. They have further ordered, that an extract of the said minutes shall be made public.

Here follow the signatures in the alphabetical order of the courts.

- AUSTRIA: Prince METTERNICH, Baron WESSENBERG, Spain (Espagne): P. GOMES LABRADOR, FRANCE: Prince TALLEYRAND, Duke of DALBERG, Count A. d'NOAILLES, GREAT BRITAIN: CLANCARTY, CATHCART, STEWART, PORTUGAL: The Count de PALMELLA, SALDANHA, LOBO, Prussia: Prince HADENBERG, Baron HUMBOLDT, Russia: Count RASOUMOUSKY, Count STAKELBERG, Count NESSELRODE, SWEDEN: Count LOSWENHELM, SARDINIA: The Mar. de ST. MARSA, Count ROSSI, SAXONY: Count SCHULEMBURG, Two SICILIES: The Com. de... WURTEMBERG: Count WINZINBURG, Baron LINDEN, BAVARIA: Count RECHBERG, DENMARK: C. BERNSTORFF, L. BERNSTORFF, HANNOVER: Count H. BERNSTORFF, Count H. BERNSTORFF, NETHERLANDS: Baron SPEN, Baron GAGERN.

From the London Sign of May 22.

We this day present our readers with extracts of two very important documents—the manifesto of the King of France, drawn up by the celebrated M. Lally Tollendal—and the report of the state of France, which comes from the pen of M. De Chateaubriand. It is to be believed that the eloquent and powerful arguments of men so famous for their talents, and so much respected for their virtues, will weigh greatly with all the reflecting part of the French nation.

EXTRACTS FROM THE MANIFESTO OF THE KING OF FRANCE,

Addressed to the French Nation.

It begins with stating, that it has been the first care of the King to instruct his ambassadors to represent to foreign courts the real course of events, and condition of things in France, that “France might not be calumniated, dishonored, exposed to unjust contempt, and unmerited indignation.”

“This first care has been fulfilled. All the powers of Europe now know, that the king of France and the French nation, more than ever united by all that can draw closer the ties between a good king and a good people, were suddenly betrayed by an army unfaithful to the prince and its country, to honor and its oaths; that however, among the first generals of that army, those whose names constituted its glory, either rallied under the colors of the king, or at least abandoned those of the usurper; that chiefs of corps and officers of all ranks daily follow this example; that among the multitude of soldiers drawn into a defection unexampled in military annals, there are many of those whom inexperience had delivered up to seduction, who have been led to repentance by reflection, and whose misleading must be entirely laid to the charge of their seducers. Europe knows, in fine, that with the exception of that portion of the army become unworthy of its past glory, and which has ceased to belong to the French army; with the exception of a handful of voluntary accomplices, who have furnished the usurper with men ambitious without means, and criminal without remorse, the whole French nation, the good citizens of the towns, the good inhabitants of the country, corps and individuals, of both sexes and of all ages, have followed and recalled the king with all their wishes, have imprinted on all his footsteps a new homage of gratitude and a new oath of fidelity. Europe knows that in Paris, in Beauvais, in Abbeville, in that great and glorious city of Lille, of which treason occupied the gates, and threatened to ensanguine the walls, in the face and under the very sword of traitors, all arms were extended towards the king, all eyes offered him the tribute of their tears, all voices cried out to him, “return to us; return to deliver your subjects.” Europe