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Foreign Intelligence.

Letter from the Emperor Alexander to the Duke of Wellington.

MOSCOW, OCT. 30. 1817.

Placed as you are, my Lord Marshal, at the head of the military forces of the European alliance, you have contributed more than once, by the wisdom and moderation which distinguishes you, to reconcile the most important interests. I have constantly addressed myself to you in all circumstances which might influence the consolidation of that order of things which was established, principally in France, by your glorious exploits. Your energy in action, your prudence in council, have never ceased to produce the most desirable results.

Now that the question of private claims on France acquires a critical and decided character, on account of the difficulties presented in the literal execution of the convention of November, I could not think it right to conceal my opinion from the Monarchs, my allies, on the mode of considering this burdensome engagement, so as to prevent its intrusion and to render its execution possible.

The assertions of the French government are known to you, my Lord Marshal; my minister at Paris has received directions to communicate to you this memorial which was drawn up under my eye, relative to this important question. I invite you to fix all your attention on the connexion of the motives of right and political expedience, which are laid down in this document, in support of the principles of accommodation, which alone can simplify the complicated inherent in the payment of private debts which were imposed upon France at a time when it was not easy to foresee their result.

You doubtless, appreciate, my Lord Marshal, all those graver considerations which plead in favor of a system of equitable conciliation; you will bring all the warrants of a soul elevated to the height of the occasion to a question on which depends, perhaps, the repose of France, and inviolability of the most sacred engagement. Moderation and good faith have been in our time, the sources of a healing and beneficent power; and it is for him who prepared and furthered the triumphs to cause to be upheld in all critical moments, the language of that same moderation, and of that same good faith.

In this conviction, if I had still a wish to express, it would be to see your conducting, with the consent of my allies, and that of the parties interested, the principal part of the negotiation which may be opened at Paris on the question of the private claims, and on the most equitable mode of deciding it with the common consent.

Receive, Marshal, the reiterated testimonies of my entire esteem.

(Signed) ALEXANDER.

The Congress of Sovereigns, it is now said, is to be held at Aix-la-Chapelle.

By the articles from Sweden, we find that Prince Oscar, the son of Bernadotte, is authorized to exercise the powers of sovereignty in Sweden, when ever the King and his father shall be both ill, or both absent. The anticipation of such events, not mentioned as likely at present, was probably meant only to call out an indirect confirmation and acknowledgement of Oscar's rights; an acknowledgement, which could not be directly required, without implying some doubt as to their original sufficiency.

Prince Frederick Joseph Louis, of Hesse Homburg, is in his 20th year, being born in July, 1767. He commanded the Austrian Hussars with distinguished gallantry; and we learn from officers that served with him, that he is an officer of great military merit. His union with our amiable Princess Elizabeth is fixed; his serene highness will be introduced at the prince's levee on Thursday next. The marriage will take place at Easter. The princess Elizabeth will have a marriage portion of 40,000*l.* and her annual income is 15,000*l.* a year.—Her intended consort is hereditary Prince, and the reigning Duke is in his 71st year.

Windsor Castle, Feb. 7.—His Majesty has continued through the last month in a very tranquil and comfortable state. His Majesty's bodily health is good, but his disorder is undiminished.

London, Feb. 11.—Paris papers to the date of Sunday last, have arrived, bringing the welcome information, that the tedious discussions of the law of Recruiting had at length ended. The law was passed in the Chamber of Deputies on the 5th, by a majority of 147 to 92. It had formed the chief business of twenty-one sittings. The Journals of Saturday, have a curious article, stating that the

Legislative body of Frankfort are occupied upon a law, the object of which is to render that city in future an asylum for all persons pursued on account of their political opinions, provided those opinions shall not have led them to the commission of crimes.

Great activity prevails at Cadiz, in equipping the South American expedition. It is said, that three ships of the line and two frigates of 40 guns each are ready to take troops on board.

Intelligence from the Ionian Isles, states, that the long pending negotiations with the Pacha of Janina, were drawing to a conclusion. His highness expressed his willingness to enter into the proposed arrangements, provided Parga be ceded to him agreeably to a solemn promise to that effect.

Letters from Austria, state that the Prince of Peace is shortly expected in that quarter from Italy, and wherein he will be constrained, to reside the remainder of his life. The Court of Madrid is said to be well pleased with this arrangement.

The postponement of the Queen's Drawing room, a Morning paper says, is occasioned by the state of her Majesty's health, which has been very indifferent during the last three weeks or a month, although she takes her accustomed exercise.

LIVERPOOL, FEB. 14.

The law for recruiting the militia, which has so long occupied the attention of the French Legislature, has been finally passed by a great majority, and the Session is, for the present, adjourned. The provisions of this law affect materially, not only the future repose and tranquillity of France, but the quiet and serenity of all Europe, and it is no therefore surprising that they have been so carefully discussed and so anxiously observed concerning its general merits, it is sufficient to observe that it resembles very nearly the Militia Law of England, except that the levies are liable to be employed on foreign service. The establishment of troops to be kept up during peace will, it is said, exceed 400,000 men: a number which has been thought alarmingly excessive; but when the population and territory of the French monarchy are considered, her immense extent of frontier, and the number of her fortified places, a smaller establishment would scarcely be sufficiently even for purposes of defence. The peace establishment of Russia is thought to be not less than 300,000 men; of Austria 350,000, and of Prussia 250,000. That of France therefore cannot be considered as much beyond her fair proportion.

A committee of the House of Commons has been appointed to examine the papers committed their care by Government, with a view of ascertaining the actual and former state of the country in respect to internal quiet, and also of inquiring in what manner the extraordinary powers vested in Government by the Habeas Corpus Suspension Act, have been used or abused. A great deal has been said, both in the House and in the papers, of the manner in which the committee has been chosen, and of its visible indisposition and probable insufficiency to perform the duties committed to its charge. According to all appearances, these complaints are not without reason. The greater part of the Members are amongst the uniform supporters of Administration, and the two or three Opposition Members who compose the remainder, are not precisely those who are the most remarkable for activity and application. It is not to be expected therefore, that their inquiry will be very elaborate, or their animadversions very severe. But the blame of all this rests entirely with the House itself. The mode in which Committees of this kind are appointed is more adapted to indulge the indolence of those who choose, than to decide on the qualifications of those who are chosen. Printed lists, arranged by the Ministers, are given to each member, every one of whom has, of course, the power of striking out particular names, and inserting others in their places; but this ceremony, it may readily be believed is very generally omitted. The probable consequence of all this is, that the trust will be executed as carelessly & inconsiderately as it was conferred.

One point however we may venture to lay down as a principle which ought to be most strictly enforced. Several of the persons confined under the act which is about to expire, have not only most solemnly protested their innocence but have complained bitterly of having been treated with useless and wanton cruelty, and of the serious injury which their health and their affairs have suffered from their close and protracted confinement. Those allegations ought to be instantly and strictly investigated, and if they should appear to be well-founded the injuries of these men ought to be completely redressed, and every agent of unnecessary cruelty should be severely punished. In this retribution, the justice and the dignity of our laws, framed alike for the protection of all classes, will be equally consulted. We are well aware that in times of general discontent, when popular commotion is felt or feared, those who have the care of the public

safety are very liable, from the mere anxiety of their zeal, to commit errors: and these errors if they arise from misapprehension ought not to be severely visited; but at all events the sufferers by such mistakes have a full claim to compensation when the danger is past.

Another interesting debate on a point connected with this subject took place on Tuesday night. Lord A. Hamilton brought forward a complaint against the Lord Advocate and some other judicial functionaries in Scotland, for employing undue methods in obtaining evidence against persons accused of rebellious practices. His lordship defended himself on the expediency of the case; the practices of the Scottish courts and the importance of the object in view, but it was plain that the house felt considerable dissatisfaction, for the minority on Lord A. Hamilton's motion was unusually large considering the number of members in the house. We cannot again refrain from lamenting, that questions of this kind, which ought to rest entirely on their own separate merits are taken up by both sides of the house entirely in the spirit of party. The simple justice of the case is felt in the arguments, but it has very little influence on the votes.

Accounts were received here yesterday of most alarming disturbances which had taken place at Kendal, from the fury with which the spirit of electioneering now rages in the county of Westmoreland. A large party of gentlemen in the Lowther interest, having entered the town on the day before this account was sent off they were met by the friends of Mr. Brougham, and a riot ensued, in which several gentlemen's carriages, and amongst the rest Sir Bolton's were broken to pieces. Two persons were also said to be killed. In consequence of these proceedings an *ex. pte.* has been dispatched for Mr. Runcak, barrister at law of this town by the directions of Mr. Bolton. Such is the account which we received yesterday, but we hope it will prove to be much exaggerated.

A very active canvass has been set on foot in many of the boroughs, and some of the counties both in England and Scotland, from which it is conjectured that a general election will take place early in the spring. A great deal has been said on the subject in this place, but very little, we believe, has hitherto been done. Four different candidates have been generally named, and in the opinion of many persons, no less than five are likely to offer themselves.

On Tuesday last, the hon. Mr. Bennett presented a petition stated to be from certain persons in Liverpool, and for a reform in the commons house of parliament. It was ordered to lie on the table.

We are informed that it is in contemplation to call a general meeting of the inhabitants of this place, to consider the propriety of petitioning parliament to repeal the bill of indemnity which is usually passed after a suspension of the habeas corpus act.

On the Political Interest of France and of the Netherlands.—England in uniting with France as it seems to intend to do, would ease the union imperfect if it did not admit the House of Orange as a third party, and this house would act in opposition to its own interests if it did not adhere to this alliance, especially since Belgium is united to Holland; for we must not look at France, such as she now is, but such as she has often shewn herself after the tempest, haughty, terrible, and rearing a long—May we not fear, with some reason, that the southern frontiers of the Netherlands would be always in danger of being threatened as long as this kingdom shall not make a common cause with France and England? (on the hypothesis that these two powers should unite cordially and sincerely.) If we may ever believe in a miracle so extraordinary as that of this triple alliance, it would be Prussia, which always has its eyes fixed on Westphalia and the northern provinces of Holland; it would add the strength of Hanover to that of the Netherlands, whose too extensive frontiers would be secured on all points. This union might, in the sequel, be increased in the south by Spain, Savoy, and Naples, and on the north by Sweden, Denmark, and the Hanseatic Cities. These contiguous Powers would form an inexpugnable marine line on which they would rest with security; & in case of aggression, they might concentrate, extend, or divide their force as necessity required, and successfully resist the invasions of the North.

The alliance of the Netherlands is not to be disclaimed. Holland formerly proved, that a small country, with but a few inhabitants, may, by its situation, its trade, and its police, balance the fortune of a great state and a populous nation; whether we compare them for strength, or for riches, there is nothing which more powerfully tends to establish this equality than a marine and commerce. The progress of commerce, in all countries, immediately follows the progress of the marine, and the marine, lending wings to commerce, increases its prosperity and promotes its extension.

The Netherlands unite at this moment every thing that is necessary to form an agricul-

tural, manufacturing, and maritime power of the first order.

When Belgium and Holland united shall be fully aware of their strength, their means, their resources, and the advantages of their soil, and of their geographical position—when those two countries, amalgamated by policy, shall be blended together by confidence and their mutual interests—when they shall reciprocally favor the exchange of their several advantages—when a solid credit and various relations shall be established between these two parts of the same whole we may predict without presumption, that the kingdom of the Netherlands will be of great weight in the balance of Europe.

Let us cast our eyes upon the past; it is the school of the future. In 1699 Holland and Zealand contained a million acres of land, and France then contained 6,000,000, yet the riches and strength of Holland were estimated at one third of those of France, and the rents of the lands in proportion to those of France as nine to one.

The burden of all the vessels belonging to Europe in the same year (1699) amounted to 2,000,000 of tons; the English had 500,000, the Dutch 900,000, the French 100,000, & the rest was divided among the other nations.—The sums levied in all the U. Provinces amounted to the half of those levied in France. Of 800,000 of souls of which the population of the globe was at that time estimated, the Dutch traded with 100,000,000*l.* Look at the Austrian monarchy, it possesses a great territory, a fertile soil, and abundant mines; and yet it is in the greatest embarrassment in respect to its finances, and this embarrassment has existed above 25 years. It has created paper currency of various descriptions, which has but increased its distress; it has adopted a great many plans of finance, none of which have had any success; and notwithstanding its good faith and its good will, & it has not yet been able either to repay its loans, or even to discharge the accumulated interest of them. Whence comes this incurable malady, notwithstanding all the endeavors of empires to remove it? It comes from the obstinacy with which the great Powers persist in maintaining in time of peace a military force disproportioned to the revenues and to the population. It is this false system which throws Prussia into financial embarrassments, from which it tries to extricate itself at the expense of France.

CALCUTTA, NOV. 6.

Extract of a letter from China, dated, Aug. 25:—You will, of course, have been apprised of an American ship having been boarded by a gang of thieves in Macao Roads, who killed 3 of her crew, and stole 25 chests—Turkey opium and a cask of dollars. The offenders were afterwards taken, and 5 of them suffered death, agreeably to the Chinese law—life for life. The Hong merchant, who generally serves the Americans, was squeezed by the Chinese government for 150,000*l.* The Hong merchant, after this, endeavored to compel all our commanders to give bond, making themselves liable for the whole, if detected smuggling. From the judicious interference of the street committee it has been got over.—The trade, however, was stopped for 3 weeks.

55,500 bales of cotton have arrived from India, and 128,500 bales are expected.

NOVEMBER 19.

TREATY WITH SCINDEAH. GENERAL ORDERS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Camp Mathera, Nov. 7.

The governor general has great pleasure in announcing to the army that the Maha Raja Daulat Rao Scindeah signed a treaty, by which his highness engages to afford every facility to the British troops in pursuit of the Pindarees through his dominions, and to co-operate actively towards the extinction of those brutal freebooters. In consequence, the troops and country of his highness are to be regarded as those of an ally.

The generous confidence and animated zeal of the army may experience a share of disappointment in the diminished prospect of serious exertion, but the governor general is convinced that the reflection of every officer and soldier in this army will satisfy him that the carrying every desired point by equity and moderation is the proudest triumph for the British character.

A royal salute is to be fired from the artillery park in honor of this event at 8 to-morrow morning.

By command of his excellency the governor general.

(Signed) J. ADAM, Sec. to the Gov.

We are sorry to state, that in one of the divisions engaged in effecting the annual repairs of the military road, of the regular monthly establishment, (consisting of about 300 men) one huckery man, nine peaddas, and twelve billars died on the 2d instant of cholera morbus; and when the last report was made, 39 were laboring under this most dreadful disease. This happened near the east bank of the Soane, and the report states that the mortality is great in the neighboring village.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

Maj. Cartwright, whose zeal in favor of Parliamentary Reform, neither age nor disappointment can damp, writes thus to a friend of that measure in Leeds.