

called a plan of conciliation? Would it be reckoned a conciliatory conduct among individuals not to answer a letter which stated serious matters of complaint? What flat denials were given in the place of facts, and a minister was sent out to demand what it was known could not be conceded, was the prince to be deluded by an address which expressed the language of conciliation? He must say, that the whole conduct of ministers with respect to America proved that they were acting on those haughty and unconciliating principles which must prevent peace with any government in the world. Last year, America had asserted that the French decrees were repealed.—This was denied on our part; but he defied the right honorable gentleman to adduce one instance to rebut this assertion. Such was the language of the Americans themselves, which must be believed, unless we suppose that their intentions were rather to be learned from the sagacity and wisdom of the right honorable gentleman—that wisdom which had devised the great design of depriving the French hospitals of bark—that wisdom which had projected the mighty plan of destroying the French commerce, and had made our own exchange a desert. Perhaps the right honorable gentleman would communicate to them, for their benefit some of his spare wisdom; for if he had any wisdom it certainly was to spare, as he had never exhibited any in governing his own country. But to return: Ministers neither gave nor intended to give, any information respecting these subjects of inquiry. All that was known was, that the affair of the Chesapeake was indeed adjusted; but all other differences were still unreconciled. The congress had met, and an address had been issued, which evidently anticipated war—which war he had no hesitation to say, depended and resulted from the unbending and unaccommodating conduct of our government.”

To this *The Chancellor of the Exchequer* replied as follows:

“Another topic, and one which he confessed to be of the greatest importance, observed upon by the honorable gentleman was the state of our relations with America. He hoped that the house would be indulgent enough, if they saw at present an indisposition on that point, not to attribute that indisposition to want of ability to meet any such discussion, nor to any apprehension that this country would suffer in her honor or her interests by whatever might be disclosed upon it. The true policy for this country to adopt toward America, and the policy which had been adhered to by the ministers of the crown, was to stave off that catastrophe—the catastrophe of war—which it was the interest of both nations to avoid. The conduct of the government to America ought to be temperate and moderate, but at the same time, dignified and consistent; but nothing could impede its plans and progress more than, during the pending negotiations, to be thus putting it upon its defence—to be thus putting the country upon its trial. If the conduct of America was really that of a fair impartial neutrality, as the honorable gentleman contended, he would rather give the honorable gentleman credit for his opinion, than run the risk of endangering the success of the pending discussions, by any declaration to the contrary. A war between this country and America would be productive of evil to both; although, in his opinion not of so much evil to England as to America. So far from considering the interests of both countries to be in any opposition to one another, he would always consider the wealth of America as accessory to the riches, and her prosperity as accessory to the greatness of England. He would, indeed, be sorry to see America crushed, impoverished, or destroyed. [Here Mr. Whitbread repeated the word “destroyed.”] The honorable gentleman might repeat his words, but though he did not use the word destroyed in the sense of a physical annihilation, yet he contended that a war with England would prove destructive to America—destructive to her wealth, her strength, her prosperity, and her progressive civilization. The honorable gentleman reviled the phrase of “conciliatory disposition,” which the regent’s speech attributed to the English government in its transactions with America. For his part, he was candid enough to confess, that he would bear with more from America than from any other foreign country with whom England could have any relations. His opinion on this point might be erroneous; but he was confident that he possessed towards America the fullest spirit of conciliation. The honorable gentleman farther remarked, that we should have believed in the revocation of the Berlin and Milan decrees, because America said that they were repealed. Our charge against America was, that she had been too acquiescent and too partial to France—too partial to her opinions, and too acquiescent in her decrees. So much did he differ from the Americans on this point, that he considered the very notice of revocation itself the

very strongest testimony that they were not revoked. In what the honorable gentleman called revocation, he saw the clearest evidence of re-enactment, and a proof of the existence of the spirit in which those decrees originated. He even conceived that he saw in that revocation a determined intention of abiding by them to the last extremity. If this revocation was as sincere as it has been said to be—if it indeed existed at all, why did not America produce the instrument itself. Why not give it distinctly, as she has other state papers. But the fact was, that France only gave a notification, and that too a conditional one, dependent upon two alternatives. The hon. gentleman totally abstracted the constitutionality of the instrument from its consideration; but he, [the Chancellor] could not.—What were these conditions? That Great Britain should revoke her orders in council, and abandon what is called her new system of blockade, or that America should cause the independence of her flag to be respected, that is, that Great Britain should abandon that system which was founded on the law of nations, & her own immemorial practice—because Great Britain had adopted no new system of blockade, but had adhered to her old principles—to those principles and maritime rights, which were the productive causes of her greatness, and without adhering to and asserting which she could no longer exist as an independent nation. New words had been invented;—lately we had heard of denationalising ships, which meant, suffering them to be visited by us upon the ocean; but if Great Britain is to be hindered from visiting and searching American ships on the high seas according to her recognised and legitimate rights, then indeed should we cease to be the nation that we have been.”

Whatever may be the opinion entertained by different parties, certainly neither the Regent’s Speech nor the sentiments of the Ministers, as expressed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, contain any thing hostile to the peace, or offensive to the character of our countrymen. On the contrary, the language of the Minister, is temperate and conciliating, beyond what could have been expected if the ministerial journals [as they are called] were taken as the standards for ascertaining the sentiments of the government.

The report made to Parliament of the state of the king’s health, would appear to exclude every hope of his recovery. We do not perceive, in the parliamentary proceedings, any measures touching the removal of the restrictions on the Regency; neither do we perceive [even in the opposition papers] any thing which can warrant us in stating, that a change of ministry is in contemplation. Affairs in Ireland are growing more serious, particulars shall be given in our next.—Peace was made between Russia and Turkey; Russia and France were expected to go war. Sweden had, it is said, determined to take no part in the war. Repeated gales in the Baltic had done great destruction. The St. George of 98 guns, and the Defence of 74 guns are supposed to be lost.

The fine new ship *Acastus*, Cattle owned in Petersburg, [Vir.] laden with tobacco and tobacco stems, bound for Tonnigen direct, is captured and sent into Fecamp, [France].—She sailed from Hampton Roads on the 16th Oct. last.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS—TUESDAY, January 7.

Soon after 3 o’clock, this day, a considerable number of Peers attended in their places, in consequence of his royal highness the Prince Regent’s proclamation for the assembling of Parliament for the dispatch of business. The Lord Chancellor, his grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Marquis Wellesley, the Earls of Westmoreland and Camden being attired in their robes of state, took their seats on the bench in front of the throne, as his Royal Highness’s commissioners. Mr. Quarre, acting usher of the Black Rod, was then dispatched to order the attendance of the Commons, who forthwith appeared at the bar, to a considerable number, with their Speaker at their head.

The Lord Chancellor then, as organ of the commissioners, delivered the following speech on the part of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent:

“My Lords and Gentlemen.

“We are commanded by his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, to express to you the deep sorrow which he feels in announcing to you the continuance of his Majesty’s lamented indisposition, and the unhappy disappointment of those hopes of his Majesty’s early recovery, which had been cherished by the dutiful affection of his family and the loyal attachment of his people.

“The Prince Regent has directed copies of the last reports of her majesty the Queen’s council to be laid before you, and he is satisfied that you will adopt such measures as the present melancholy exigency may appear to require.

“In securing a suitable and ample provision for the support of his Majesty’s royal dignity, and for the attendance upon his Majesty’s sacred person during his illness the Prince Regent rests assured that you will also bear in mind the indispensable duty of continuing to preserve for his Majesty the facility of resuming the personal exercise of his royal authority, in the happy event of his recovery, so earnestly desired by the wishes and the prayers of his family and his subjects.

“The Prince Regent directs us to signify to you the satisfaction with which his Royal Highness has observed that the measures which have been pursued for the defence and security of the kingdom of Portugal, have proved completely effectual, and that on the several occasions in which the British or Portuguese troops had been engaged with the enemy, the reputation already acquired by them has been fully maintained.

“The successful and brilliant enterprize which terminated in the surprise, in Spanish Estramadura, of a French corps by a detachment of the allied army, under lieutenant general Hill, is highly creditable to that distinguished officer, and to the troops under his command, and has contributed materially to obstruct the designs of the enemy in that part of the Peninsula.

The Prince Regent is assured, that while you reflect with pride and satisfaction on the conduct of his Majesty’s troops, and of the allies, in these various and important services, you will render justice to the consummate judgment and skill displayed by General Lord Viscount Wellington, in the direction of the campaign. In Spain, the spirit of the people remains unsubdued; and the system of warfare so peculiarly adapted to the actual condition of the Spanish nation, has recently extended and improved, under the advantages which result from the operations of the allied armies on the frontier, and from the countenance and assistance of his Majesty’s navy on the coast. Although the great exertions of the enemy have in some quarters been attended with success, his Royal Highness is persuaded that you will admire the perseverance and gallantry manifested by the Spanish armies. Even in those provinces principally occupied by the French forces, new energy has arisen among the people; and the increase of difficulty and danger has produced more concerted efforts of general resistance.

The Prince Regent, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, commands us to express his confident hope that you will enable him to continue to afford the most effectual aid and assistance in the support of the contest, which the brave nation of the peninsula still maintain with such unabated zeal and resolution.

His Royal Highness commands us to express his congratulations on the success of the British arms in the island of Java.

The Prince Regent trusts that you will concur with his Royal Highness in approving the wisdom and ability with which this entente prise, as well as against the islands of Bourbon and Mauritius, has been conducted under the immediate direction of the Governor General of India; and that you will applaud the decision, gallantry, and spirit, conspicuously displayed in the late operations of the brave army under the command of that distinguished officer, Lieutenant General Sir Samuel Achmuty, so powerfully and ably supported by his Majesty’s naval forces.

By the completion of this system of operations, great additional security will have been given to the British commerce and possessions in the East Indies, and the colonial power of France will have been entirely extinguished.

His Royal Highness thinks it expedient to recommend to your attention the propriety of providing such measures for the future government of the British possessions in India, as shall appear from experience, and upon mature deliberation, to be calculated to secure their internal prosperity, & to derive from those flourishing dominions the utmost degree of advantage to the commerce and revenue of the United Kingdom.

We are commanded by the Prince Regent to acquaint you, that while his Royal Highness regrets that various important subjects of difference with the government of the United States of America still remain unadjusted, the difficulties which the affair of the Chesapeake frigate had occasioned have been finally removed; and we are directed to assure you, that in the further progress of the discussions with the U. States, the Prince Regent will continue to employ such means of conciliation as may be consistent with the honor and dignity of his Majesty’s crown, and with the due maintenance of the maritime and commercial rights and interests of the British empire.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons.

His Royal Highness has directed the estimates for the service of the current year to be laid before you. He trusts that you will furnish him with such supplies as may be necessary to enable him to continue the contest in which his Majesty is engaged,

with that spirit and exertion which will afford the best prospect of its successful termination.

His Royal Highness commands us to recommend that you should resume the consideration of the state of the finances of Ireland, which you had commenced in the last session of parliament. He has the satisfaction to inform you, that the improved receipt of the revenue of Ireland in the last as compared with the preceding year, confirms the belief that the depression which that revenue had experienced is to be attributed to accidental and temporary causes.

My Lords and gentlemen,

The Prince Regent is satisfied that you entertain a just sense of the arduous duties which his Royal Highness has been called upon to fulfil, in consequence of his Majesty’s continued indisposition.

Under this severe calamity, his Royal Highness derives the greatest consolation from his reliance on your experienced wisdom, loyalty, and public spirit, to which in every difficulty he will resort, with a firm confidence, that through your assistance and support, he shall be enabled, under the blessings of Divine Providence, successfully to discharge the important functions of the high trust reposed in him and in the name and on the behalf of his beloved father and revered sovereign, to maintain unimpaired prosperity and honor of the nation.”

January 8.

Two ships yesterday arrived from Ostend, which bring accounts from the French coast to Saturday last. A strong persuasion prevails in France, that there is a treaty on the tapis between that empire and the American republic. The principal difficulty alledged is, that the claims of the U. States under the Rambouillet Decree must be settled prior to any amicable arrangement of this nature.

FROM THE NEW-YORK HERALD.

The Emperor’s late token of love.—The public appears to be at a loss to account for the recent release of half a dozen American vessels by our friend the Emperor.

It puzzles even Bonaparte’s best friends to make out a good story in this business. One says it is a proof that the Berlin and Milan Decrees are revoked: another tells us it is in consequence of arrangement with Mr. Barlow, and that all the American vessels are to be restored; while another roundly asserts that these vessels had imperial licences or permits and that their release has nothing to do with either the Berlin and Milan Decrees, or with Mr. Barlow. We shall not at this time attempt to investigate this subject; the real truth will come out in time. But that something of this kind was expected will appear from the following letter addressed to Mr. Madison, and published in the Baltimore Federal Republican of the 8th instant.

* See the list received by the Flash in our paper of Thursday.

To JAMES MADISON, President of the United States.

SIR—This letter will be short, but perhaps not unseasonable. I pretend to no gifts of prophecy, but I wish to apprize you of approaching danger.

The situation of Bonaparte in Spain and Portugal is become extremely critical. On one side, he sees the native force employed against him, improved in Tactics, and those from England daily increasing in strength and numbers. On the other side he finds it no longer practicable to feed his armies there, by forages and contributions, and he fears, and with reason, that the failure of the last year’s crop in France will put it out of his power to furnish them from that quarter.

This is a true outline of his situation without ornament or colouring. I vouch my credit upon its correctness as a likeness. Thus circumstanced, he has turned his eyes to the United States for relief, where he has so often found it in his difficulties. Do not mistake me. I am far from intending to intimate that he has passed another Rambouillet decree or that he intends to seize upon the property his licences have drawn within his reach. Every thing sir, in its place. Such a measure would not suit at present. What filled his coffers then, would defeat his object now. It is our flour and rice he wants, to feed his half-starved armies, which, if not assisted with supplies of these articles in the course of the current year, must yield the ground to the better fed armies of Great Britain. Without ships, and not abounding in money if he had ships, he cannot send to those distant countries, where alone he could get these articles, and therefore must depend entirely, in this case, on what he can obtain from the U. States.

With Mr. Barlow, who is most opportunely in France, and who has been received with marked attention, the affair may have been managed, so as, perhaps, to assume the similitude of a compact; at all events, to wear the appearance of a new favour graciously granted to American Commerce. As to the favour it will consist in permitting the importation into France, of a proportion of colonial produce