

their consequence as a naval power. The proclamation which they have issued for this purpose, and in which the Dutch ministers are arraigned, as having plunged the states into an unjust and destructive war, is given at length in this day's Telegraph.

April 7. Mr. Boyd, and the other gentlemen constituting the deputation of city merchants, waited on Mr. Pitt, on Tuesday last, at his house in Downing-street, and had a conference with him on the subject of the present state of specie, &c. when the Minister expressed his regret at the circumstance, which in a mercantile point of view, he agreed with them, afforded much ground of alarm, and at the same time assured them that he should be happy to co-operate in any measure likely to obviate the inconvenience complained of, that would not clash with the public concerns of the country.

The following are the leading features of the plan delivered to Mr. Pitt:

"That a paper currency shall be issued for one year, with the sanction of Parliament, and under the controul of 25 commissioners.

"That these bills shall either be payable at sight from a fund to be raised, or bear an interest as may suit the convenience of the holder."

We understand, that the paper to be issued by the merchants, is to be at six months date, but redeemable at sight (the same as bank notes) if the holder prefers it. The solidity of this paper is to be sanctioned by the signatures of a certain number of the most respectable merchants and others, who may be friendly to the plan; and to give this paper a greater degree of currency, it is to bear a premium of 11. 18s. per cent. The reason of the notes being drawn at six months date, is in order not to interfere with the bank charter, which precludes any body of men issuing notes payable within that period.

April 10. We this morning received the Paris journals to the 7th inst. inclusive.

L'Eclair of the 7th, contains, at great length, reflections upon the state of affairs, and particularly upon the effects of the armistice. The conclusions drawn are, that a favourable opportunity was lost for making peace, when the French armies were on the other side of the Rhine—the ancient boundaries are recommended, and an immediate peace.

"We can affirm (says L'Eclair of the 7th) that a treaty formed upon the statu quo with respect to the frontiers, would be universally applauded, and would have the ratification of all France."

April 11. The Senate of Hamburgh have refused to acknowledge the character of M. Rheinart, sent as minister of France from that town.

#### STATE PAPERS on the important subject of PEACE.

Having obtained copies of the following interesting papers, which were yesterday (as we are informed) communicated by Lord Grenville to the foreign ministers at this court, we lose no time in laying them before our readers.

NOTE, transmitted to M. Barthelemi, by Mr. Wickham, March 8, 1796.

The undersigned, his Britannic majesty's minister plenipotentiary at the Swiss cantons, is authorized to convey to Monsieur Barthelemi the desire of his court to be made acquainted, through him, with the dispositions of France in regard to the object of a general pacification. He therefore requests M. Barthelemi to transmit to him in writing (and after having made the necessary enquiries) his answer to the following questions:

1. Is there the disposition in France to open a negotiation with his majesty and his allies for the re-establishment of a general peace, upon just and suitable terms, by sending for that purpose, ministers to a Congress, at such place as may hereafter be agreed upon?

2. Would there be the disposition to communicate to the undersigned the general grounds of a pacification, such as France would be willing to propose; in order that his majesty and his allies might thereupon examine in concert, whether they are such as might serve as a foundation of a negotiation for peace?

3. Or would there be a desire to propose any other way whatever, for arriving at the same end, that of a general pacification?

The undersigned is authorized to receive from M. Barthelemi the answer to these questions, and to transmit it to his court: But he is not authorized to enter with him into negotiation or discussion upon these subjects. (Signed) W. WICKHAM. Berne, March 8, 1796.

NOTE, transmitted to Mr. Wickham, by M. Barthelemi, March 26, 1796.

The undersigned, ambassador of the French Republic to the Helvetic body, has transmitted to the Executive Directory the note which Mr. Wickham, his Britannic majesty's minister plenipotentiary to the Swiss cantons, was pleased to transmit to him, dated the 8th of March. He has it in command to answer it, by an exposition of the sentiments and dispositions of the Executive Directory.

The Directory ardently desires to procure for the French republic a just and honourable peace. The step taken by Mr. Wickham would have afforded to the Directory a real satisfaction, if the declaration itself, which that minister makes, of his not having any order, any power to negotiate, did not give room to doubt of the sincerity of the pacific intentions

of his court. In fact, if it was true, that England began to know her real interests; that she wished to open again for herself the sources of abundance and prosperity; if she sought for peace with good faith, would she propose a Congress, of which the necessary result must be, to render all negotiation endless? Or would she confine herself to the asking in a vague manner, that the French government should point out any other way whatever, for attaining the same object, that of a general pacification?

Is it that this step has had no other object than to obtain for the British government the favourable impression which always accompanies the first overtures for peace; may it not have been accompanied with the hope that they would produce no effect?

However that may be, the Executive Directory, whose policy has no other guides than openness and good faith, will follow in its explanations, a conduct which shall be wholly conformable to them. Yielding to the ardent desire by which it is animated, to procure peace for the French republic, and all nations, it will not fear to declare itself openly. Charged by the constitution with the execution of the laws, it cannot make, or listen to any proposal that would be contrary to them. The constitutional act does not permit it to consent to any alienation of that, which, according to the existing laws, constitutes the territory of the republic.

With respect to the countries occupied by the French armies, and which have not been united to France, they, as well as other interests political and commercial, may become the subject of a negotiation, which will present to the Directory the means of proving how much it desires to attain speedily to a happy pacification.

The Directory is ready to receive, in this respect, any overtures that shall be just, reasonable and compatible with the dignity of the republic.

Baste, the 6th Germinal, the 4th year of the French republic, (26th of March, 1796.)

(Signed) BARTHELEMI.

#### N O T E.

The Court of London has received from its Minister in Switzerland, the answer made to the questions which he had been charged to address to M. Barthelemi, in respect to the opening of a negotiation for the re-establishment of general tranquillity.

This court has seen, with regret, how far the tone and spirit of that answer, the nature and extent of the demands which it contains, and the manner of announcing them, are remote from any disposition for peace.

The inadmissible pretension is there avowed, of appropriating to France all that the laws actually existing there; may have comprised under the denomination of French territory. To a demand such as this, is added an express declaration, that no proposal contrary to it will be made, or even listened to; and this, under the pretence of an internal regulation, the provisions of which are wholly foreign to all other nations.

While these dispositions shall be persisted in, nothing is left for the king but to prosecute a war equally just and necessary.

Whenever his enemies shall manifest more pacific sentiments, his majesty will at all times be eager to concur in them, by lending himself, in concert with his allies, to all such measures as shall be best calculated to re-establish general tranquillity, on conditions just, honourable and permanent, either by the establishment of a Congress, which has been so often, and so happily the means of restoring peace to Europe; or by a preliminary discussion of the principles which may be proposed on either side, as a foundation of a general pacification; or, lastly, by an impartial examination of any other way which may be pointed out to him for arriving at the same salutary end.

Downing-Street, April 10, 1796.

The countries which, by the existing laws in France, constitute the French territory, are, 1. France, as it stood at the commencement of the war. 2. The French colonies in the West-Indies still occupied by France. 3. The islands of France and Mauritius. 4. Martinico and Tobago. 5. The whole island of St. Domingo. 6. Pondicherry, Chandernagore, Carical, Mahe, and the other French establishments in India. 7. Avignon, and the county of Venaisin. 8. Principality of Montbelian; and bishopric of Poentruai. 9. Savoy, Nice, and Monaco. 10. Austrian Flanders and Brabant, and generally, whatever belongs to the Emperor on this side of the Rhine. 11. Maelricht, Venlo, and Dutch Flanders. 12. The bishoprick of Liege.

On the subject of all, or any of these, the Directory refuses to make, or even to receive any proposal, and insists that the negotiation shall be preceded by an admission of this claim on our part.

So that after agreeing as a preliminary before negotiation, to restore to France all we have conquered from her, and to leave her in possession of all she has conquered from Austria and Sardinia, and all that has been ceded to her by Spain or Holland, besides other smaller acquisitions, we may then expect to learn from her, what other conditions she may choose to require or grant, as the terms of peace.

We are, it is certain, on the eve of a great crisis. A council was held on Saturday, at lord Grenville's office, which was attended by nearly all the Cabinet ministers, and which lasted for nearly three hours. Of the subject and result of their conference, no-

thing, of course, is known. A communication this day to Parliament is expected with much confidence.

We are now enabled to state with certainty, that the reports of the Dutch fleet having gone to Bergen, probable, circumstantial, and well authenticated, as they certainly appeared to be, were all destitute of foundation. That fleet has never been at Bergen. Its destination is not exactly known; but it is highly probable that a part of it was detached to the Cape of Good Hope, and that the rest was destined to co-operate with the French in some expedition which had been previously concerted between the ministers of the two Republics. We have the satisfaction, however, of knowing, that whatever may be their destination, we are well prepared to receive them. At the Cape, their defeat, as they had no troops on board, is certain: and the extreme vigilance of the admiralty has provided every letterment liable to be attacked with such a force, as may set all the efforts of our enemies at defiance.

April 12. The Hamburgh mail that became due yesterday arrived this morning. The campaign has not yet been opened, but every thing is prepared, and it is probable that it will be opened immediately. It is expected that the first attack of the French will be on the corps of the Austrians posted on the right side of the Rhine on the Sieg.

The Plymouth letters say, that an alarming insurrection has broken out in Cornwall. The town of Truro was attacked according to these by three thousand miners, instigated by the dearth of provisions. The soldiery who defended it were opposed with so much impetuosity, that several bayonets were broken, many lives were lost, and numbers on each side were wounded. The miners withstood, and with the utmost degree of calmness too, the fire of one six pounder; at length they were compelled to retreat. Prior to this, however, they unfortunately met with some millers, whom they hung up—till dead. So numerous and determined were they, that the justices fled before them—two of whom are reported to have been killed. Several men of opulence, they compelled, if not to assist in, at least to witness their outrageous proceedings. They menaced a second attack on the ensuing day, in consequence all the troops, within reach, were sent for by express. We hope to find, by our letters of this day, that the affair has been exaggerated.

April 13. The war, it is now decided, is to be carried on for another year. The minister has declined all parliamentary controversy on the subject. He is to lay the late papers, as they are termed, on the tables of both houses. He preserves an affected silence, lest he should hasten the enquiry, "for whose advantage the war should be carried on."

It is evident, however, that we are now to pursue our exertions for the exclusive advantage of the Emperor. The means of this country, drained as they have been, are to be further exhausted, lest the Emperor should lose the Netherlands. This is the principal object which remains for contest. The soil has been moistened too greedfully with British blood—and it is further destined to be the abyss of our last resources.—What are the Imperial wants or the Imperial losses, to the wretched and suffering poor of this country?

By the Duff, capt. Gordon, arrived at Dover ten days from Cadiz, we are informed, the crews of the ships of Richery's squadron, in Cadiz harbour, had mutinied to a most alarming degree. Richery and his captains, it was generally said, had obtained their share of the prize money, arising from the sale of the captures made from our freight fleet; but the shares of the men had been withheld, Richery telling them, that the Directory had ordered the whole sum arising from the sale to be transmitted to France. The men were not satisfied with this, and after much solicitation on their part, and an absolute refusal on his, some of his own crew attempted to assassinate him, and two or three captains; but they made their escape to the shore, and were protected by the soldiery on guard.—The sailors returned on board, and threatened to hoist the white flag; also threatened to carry out the fleet to Gibraltar, or to put it into the possession of Admiral Mann; and the tumult was at length carried to such a height, that the Spaniards found it prudent to lay nine tail of Spanish men of war along side of them, and to spike the guns. It is added, Richery has since been assassinated. Such are the contents of letters brought by the Duff.

April 14. No mail from Hamburgh arrived yesterday, but accounts were said to be received by a neutral vessel from France, of a most alarming system of bankruptcy having extended itself from the capital to the principal commercial cities in the departments. It is also stated, that a fresh insurrection has broke out in the south—farther particulars we are not able to give.

The campaign, notwithstanding the singularity of a spring so mild and dry, probably will not open on the Rhine till towards the end of April. In Italy, probably, the war has recommenced, and the next accounts too probably, will state some great stroke having been made.

In London, too, the effects of the campaign are already felt.—Where no less than 13 bankrupts are among the British who have suffered, in last Tuesday's extraordinary Gazette.

Mr. Pitt must prepare himself for the emergency—all trade is suspended—all confidence at an end—all the money which used to go to the maintenance