

# THE MINERVA.

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TWO & A HALF DOLL. PER ANN. Family half Yearly.

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From Bell's Weekly Messenger.

## FORTRESS OF BHURTPORE.

The important fortress of Bhurtpore, is situate in a small, but one of the highest cultivated districts in India, the inhabitants of which are all of the same tribe, & connected either by consanguinity or other relations with each other. The force with which Lord Lake sat down before the town, did not exceed twelve thousand men; and the works were of so great extent, that he was not enabled to masque more than one quarter of them. All the other parts of the garrison had communication with the open country, and the adherents of the Rajah were singularly brave and faithful.—These circumstances are sufficient to account for the obstinacy of the defence; and yet, notwithstanding the gallantry with which it was maintained, little doubt was entertained that the place would speedily fall. Lord Lake attacked it at first under many disadvantages, being wholly unprovided with either mortars or a battering train. Those deficiencies had been supplied when the Belle failed from Bengal; and it was not expected that the resistance of the Rajah could be protracted much longer.—Lord Lake had full six weeks before him to reduce Bhurtpore; after that time, the periodical commencement of the land-winds would compel him to discontinue the siege. It is probable, however, that the Rajah has perceived the danger of his situation, and that some modification of the original terms has been acceded to us by him. Marquis Wellesly appeared in unusual spirits at his levee on the failing of the Belle, and it was thence inferred by his friends, that he had received some satisfactory information from the scene of action.—Were the Rajah of Bhurtpore reduced, we understand, there are none other of the Native Chiefs capable of creating the smallest uneasiness in the Government of India.

Comment on India Affairs.

In our account of the repulse of Lord Lake in five successive attacks upon the fort of Bhurtpore, the last and strongest hold of the friends of Holkar. We find it has been attacked and defended with equal obstinacy, and though very favourable terms have been offered to the British army, it is the resolution of the Governor General, and Lord Lake, to accept nothing short of an absolute, unconditional surrender. The Rajah, who holds out against our arms, is said to have proposed paying the expences of the war, and making a further present to the army as a bribe to pacification, but even this has been refused. Great treasure is concealed in Bhurtpore, and our Captains in India are better experienced than to receive as a gift what must presently be theirs by the right of conquest.

Many however are of opinion that, as the war in India commenced from ambition, it must seek its indemnity in plunder, and that the inducement to the siege of Bhurtpore was not so much a desire to punish a guilty and faithless ally, as to acquire a pretext to seize his wealth by the law of arms.

It is one of the misfortunes of the Government of India, that there is no speedy method of restraining its ambition, or enquiring into the justice of its wars: and it is above all to be lamented that the very spirit of the government is predatory and warlike, and favourable to the worst passions of those who conduct it. India is the land of conquest, a country, in which every power but the native power, has in turn had a sway. India, like Egypt, is doomed to be possessed by foreigners who have no other connection with the people but in fastening a foreign yoke upon their neck. It is thus that a Governor General no sooner sets foot upon this land than he is filled with the same spirit of ambition, and is desirous of leaving behind him the same memorials of conquests and desolation.—India, which we entered as merchants, to buy stations of traffic from its peaceable inhabitants, by the successive acquisition of Governors General from the zera of Lord Clive to that of Marquis Wellesly, is now ours from the mouth of the Indus to the Ganges. A people, who lived in the cities, and cultivated

the arts, when our own ancestors ate acorns in their woods, are now become the slaves of a corporation of merchants, the hewers of wood and drawers of water in their own land.—The European governments, in their greatest vicitudes, cannot afford such an example.

## FOREIGN.

From London papers received at Philadelphia.

LONDON, SEPT. 2.

At length we are able to put an end to the suspense which the public has for some time felt with respect to the combined fleets.

Captain Blackwood, of the Euryalus frigate, arrived this morning at the Admiralty, with dispatches. His ship had been sent from Cork to Lord Nelson; but missing him, proceeded to Admiral Collingwood, off Cadiz. The dispatches state, that the combined fleets, consisting of 27 sail of the line, arrived at Cadiz on the 20th ult. Admiral Collingwood, of course, did not with his four sail of the line, venture to oppose them—they chased him for a short time before they entered Cadiz. As soon, however, as they had got in, he returned to his station, and re-anchored with his four sail of the line off the harbour. On the 24th the Euryalus fell in with Admiral Calder's fleet within 20 leagues of Cadiz, so that he would in all probability join Admiral Collingwood the next day, & the blockade of Cadiz would then be effectually resumed. Admiral Bickerton is at Gibraltar with his six sail of the line, and the Carthagenia fleet remain in port. Admiral Bickerton will be able to prevent their junction with the combined fleet, should they attempt it.

Just as the combined fleets sailed from Ferrol, eight large American ships, under convoy of two armed ships, sailed from Nantz for Cadiz, laden with salt beef, pork, and biscuit; the Colpoys brig fell in with them in the night, captured two, the rest separated, and got between the Isle of Dieu and the main.

We stop the press to announce the arrival of a second express at the Admiralty, with dispatches, stating that the combined fleet, after having arrived at Cadiz, has again put to sea, following a northerly course. As we have more than once had occasion to notice the course steered leaving port proves nothing respecting the real destination of a fleet; it is in every case necessary to gain an offing, and, besides, a false course is often followed to deceive an adversary, till darkness enables them to alter it with less chance of detection.

We lately mentioned, that the harvest has proved so abundant in Spain, that foreign grain had fallen 300 per cent.—Accounts from Cadiz of the 3d of August state that there were upwards of 40,000 barrels of American flour in the harbour, for which no sale could be obtained, although offered at prime cost.

Lord Keith has returned from the Texel, in the Edgar of 74 guns. It is said that there is less appearance than formerly of an intention on the part of the Dutch fleet to put to sea.

A Spanish privateer, commanded by an American, named Hooper, has captured a ship of 400 tons, from Liverpool for New-York, and a Dutch brig from New-York for the West-Indies; as also a Bermudian vessel and some others.

FALMOUTH, Aug. 30.

Arrived this day, the American ship John & Alice, capt. Barker, from Norfolk, 36 days passage, with tobacco; spoke the Venus, of 36 guns, at which time there was at some distance from her a ship privateer of 20 guns, which she had chased the day before for several hours, but which she could not come up with.

ST. PETERSBURGH, Aug. 15.

The greatest warlike preparations are making in all parts of the Russian Empire—a messenger left the city yesterday for England, who, it is reported, is the bearer of the treaty concluded between Russia, Sweden and England; it is also said that the Prussian minister will leave this capital to day or to-morrow.

## EUROPEAN POLITICS.

FROM THE ENQUIRER.

No man can understand the Politics of Europe, who does not recollect the great distinction which exists between the real and ostensible motives of a measure. Preparations are made under the pretext of accomplishing one object, when in fact they are intended for another. One nation holds forth the prospect of a war for the purpose of terrifying another into an advantageous treaty of peace. Now a coalition is trumped up, to bully a nation into a reluctant acknowledgment of a claim; and now they assume the air of peace, that they may lull their opponents into inactivity, and disarm from them the means of resistance. When the Toulon fleet was proceeding to the West Indies, they sent forth a decoy vessel fitted out with counterfeit letters and dispatches, that they might lead Lord Nelson into a belief they were bound to Egypt. Such is an illustration of the politics of almost every nation in Europe. Appearances are put on, for the very purpose of deceiving. Where force is wanting, they resort to fraud.—Every court employs its decoy vessel to lead astray the sagacity of the ministers of the other; and the imaginations of men become the instruments of war instead of ammunition and artillery. The cabinets of Europe are pleased to call this by the soft names of "policy" or "diplomatic skill." Did truth hold the nomenclature, she would stamp it with the names of stratagem, fraud, mean hypocrisy or malignant cunning.

The two most important subjects which engage at present the attention & agitate the heart of Europe, are the probability of an invasion of England, and of a continental war. Let any man pretend to examine either of those events under all the lights which the cabinets of Europe pretend to furnish, and he must at once confess his ignorance and confusion. The late arrivals in Philadelphia, New-York and Boston, has brought us a vast mass of European intelligence; of facts as they have been said to occur and of laborious comments upon them: we have examined all of these with considerable attention, but we must confess ourselves unable to pronounce an opinion on either of these events. The duplicity of the cabinets of Europe puts to flight the most elaborate reasonings and the most important facts.

We did not at first suppose that Bonaparte had formed any serious resolution of invading Great Britain. All his preparations appeared to us to have no other object, than to distract the councils, the forces, the industry of the enemy.—Should Bonaparte, however have collected the necessary means of transporting his army, we then believed it to be his design of profiting by the first favourable opportunity and of landing a considerable force upon the English shores.—Two events appeared to justify this supposition: the immense accumulation of troops and transports on the coast: This was one and the other was the movement of the Toulon & Breit Fleets. When we saw the Toulon fleet carefully avoiding an engagement before Cadiz, and flying before Lord Nelson in the West Indies, what could we conclude but that their object was to divide the English fleet, co-operate with their fleet in Breit and open a passage for their troops to England? When we saw the troops embarking throughout the whole coast, & the fleet in Breit collecting its strength, at the very moment when the combined fleet was in Ferrol, what could we conclude, but that this conjecture was about to be confirmed? Listen, however, to the speculations of some of the London prints, and you will find these two events now receiving a perfectly different interpretation. It. The vast encampments were principally intended, say they, not for invading our country, but because they "furnished an excellent pretext for maintaining a large army, which he may march when and where he pleases in the event of a continental war." Indeed some of the reports brought by the late arrivals, appear now to confirm this conjecture, for they state that large detachments of troops are drawing off from the coast. Whither they are destined; whither to snatch Holstein from Den-

mark; Pomerania from Sweden; or to march into the dominions of Austria, we are without data to determine.—ad. The embarkation of the troops and the movements of the Breit fleet were not intended, say they, to effect a co-operation with the combined Squadron, but to "prevent Admiral Cornwallis from landing at points where they might be wanted, any considerable detachments. With respect to the combined Squadron, it is now probable that after having left Cadiz, they fell in with Sir R. Calder's Squadron of 20 sail of the line, and sustained a considerable defeat. The arrivals at Marblehead & Norfolk, with the statement from the last English papers that after they had left Cadiz they had steered to the north, and that Calder was not more than 20 leagues from Cadiz, are sufficient to give an air of great probability to this conjecture. What was their destination when they were steering to the north, we shall not even pretend to conjecture. One fact however is certain; that if the invasion of England depended upon the co-operation of the combined fleet, the important defeat which it has lately sustained must completely intercept that event.

Whether there is any probability of a continental war, can only be determined by the prospects of a coalition between Great Britain and Russia: but every circumstance which appears to lead to this event, is susceptible of a different construction. We are told, for instance, that Russia is making great preparations by sea and by land; that she is forming a subsidiary treaty with England, and a plan of operations with Austria; and hence it is concluded that Russia and Austria are about to engage in the war. But may not these preparations be attributed to a different cause? May it not be the policy of Russia to hold up these preparations in terror? Russia has laid her sceptre upon Corfu & the Seven Isles: may she not wish to terrify France into an acknowledgment of her claim?—May not France obtain the friendship of Austria by the donation of a part of Switzerland, or awe her into tranquility by the parade of her armies? We must confess that the prospect of a coalition between Russia, Great Britain, and Austria is at present a more probable event than the analogous events of the last year, or the real interests of Russia would appear to encourage. But we cannot yet implicitly rely upon the aspect of the times. One fact seems to be certain, that if a war on the Continent is seriously meditated by Russia, the advanced state of the season will prevent its being declared or will at least circumscribe the range of its fury.

Bonaparte will take advantage of this interval of inactivity; and means may be contrived for withdrawing Russia from the interests of Great Britain, or of sowing the seeds of jealousy and disaffection, between the members of the coalition.

## CASSO'S TAVERN, RALEIGH.

THE subscriber acknowledges with gratitude the patronage heretofore received in the line of his business, and earnestly solicits a continuance of the public favour; at the same time respectfully informs the Members of the ensuing General Assembly, that he has provided convenient and comfortable rooms for the accommodation of such as may be pleased to favour him with their company; and that he has come to the resolution of boarding Members, during the Session, for eight shillings per day, and their servants at half price.

And having a four acre lot, in the precincts of the City, well watered and fenced, he will undertake to keep the Horses of such Members as may wish to have them under their own eyes, on moderate terms.

If plentiful provisions of all kinds and every exertion to accommodate his friends, be calculated to obtain their countenance and give satisfaction, he trusts his efforts to please will be crowned with success.

PETER CASSO.

Raleigh, October 2, 1805.

For Sale at this Office.

A few numbers of the Monthly Anthology and Boston Review.

Carpenter's Review & Register of the United States.

A Sermon on the Revival of Religion in this Country, by the Rev. David Rice.