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European.

BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS, APRIL 23.

On motion of Mr. Secretary Fox, the order of the day was read, for taking into consideration his Majesty's most gracious message. The message was then read.

Mr. Secretary Fox rose, and spoke to the following effect:—"I am sure that it is impossible that the message we have now read can fail to excite the strongest sensation in every temper and disposition of mind which can exist in this House. In the first place, when we hear it stated that his Majesty had obtained from appealing to his British subjects, on account of the violence and injustice which had been done to him in the seizure of his Electoral dominions, it is impossible not to feel grateful for that kindness & mildness which his Majesty has always shewn to the subjects of this realm. It was with the most extreme reluctance, that he could consent to involve them in war upon any ground, that was not immediately and directly connected with British interests. After the sentiment of gratitude to his Majesty for this tender consideration of his subjects of this Kingdom, the next feelings which must be strongly excited by the message, is a feeling of just indignation at the conduct of the court of Prussia. I hope that every member, while he feels this just indignation, will, at the same time, perceive the propriety of omitting the most vigorous measures, with a language temperate and moderate, and which does not violate that respect which had been always considered due to crowned heads, and ought not, in the present times, to be departed from. Indeed, to describe fully the measures which have been adopted by the court of Prussia against this country, they cannot be called the measures of the king of Prussia, for that sovereign is known to be of a mild and pacific disposition, nor could they be called the measures of his ministers, for no ministers could freely advise a proceeding so violent and injurious to the interests of that monarch. The measures must be considered such, as his Prussian Majesty had been induced to adopt, from the pernicious counsels of the enemies of this country. Had it been my object to condemn, in the strongest terms, the decision of the Prussian cabinet, I might have thought it necessary to lay some additional papers on the table, but that not being my object, I have moved but for few. More would have been unnecessary, as it was not my wish to give the strongest possible colouring to the accusation that the message contains. If we are to understand those proceedings which have terminated in an outrage, unprecedented in the history of the world, it will be necessary to view the transaction a little earlier.

The origin of this proceeding is to be traced to the convention concluded at Vienna, on the 15th of Dec. between Count Hugiwitz and the French Emperor; but when it is considered, what was the situation of Prussia, at the time that its sovereign concluded that treaty with France, it must be recollected, that its means of negotiation were still greater than what it derived from its own resources, or its armies.

The armies of Prussia were undoubtedly numerous and respectable; but was it on them alone that the king of Prussia relied, when he was negotiating with France? Certainly it was not. He had a strong additional support, which gave weight to his negotiation. The Emperor of Russia after he had left Austerlitz, gave the whole direction of the Russian troops that remained in Germany to the command of the king of Prussia. This country too had promised him a powerful assistance by pecuniary supplies, if he should be driven to a war with France. There were the means he possessed of giving weight to his negotiations; and how did he apply those means? Why, to seize a part of the territories of one of those powers which had been supporting him in that rank and situation, which enabled him to conclude his treaty.—(Loud cry of Hear! Hear!) After this treaty was signed a considerable difficulty remained in the execution of it. This difficulty proceeded, in a great measure,

from the just scruples of the king of Prussia, who perceived that it would be very hard to pre-ail upon his Britannic Majesty to ratify such a treaty, and who, therefore, felt that his title would be so bad as to make the acquisition of Hanover, under these circumstances a poor equivalent for those provinces that he was obliged to give up to France. He felt, besides, that upon no principle of justice could he pretend to take it on other terms from those which France herself had held it on, and therefore, at first, he did not pretend to take Hanover absolutely, but with the power of restoring it.

France, in the mean time, pressed for the cession of Anspach and Bayreuth.—What then did the king of Prussia do?—Certainly he could not expect that the French government would be able to negotiate between him and his Britannic Majesty that he should be allowed to retain Hanover; and therefore he finally resolved to seize it without the consent of his Majesty, and under pretence of an equivalent for Anspach, Bayreuth, and those provinces which were ceded to France. It cannot then be said, that this treaty, and the proceedings which followed it, were altogether the effect of fear, for what was the necessity under which his Prussian Majesty was placed? Was it merely the necessity of ceding Anspach and Bayreuth? This might have been a considerable misfortune, yet it was one which might be justified by necessity. But the sort of necessity claimed by the king of Prussia is different, he says, "because I have lost Anspach and Bayreuth, I therefore feel myself under the necessity of seizing the dominions of some third power, not only of a third power, but of one, from all times, and by every circumstance, I was bound to respect." This is the sort of necessity claimed by the Prussian court, and it is this which makes the case of Prussia much worse than that of any other nation in Europe. As for Spain I do not wish to revive the differences of opinion with respect to the Spanish war; but Spain, I say, would comply no farther with the wishes of our enemies, than by giving a sum of money.—Holland and other powers have been from terror, obliged to make cessions of territory to France, but no other power has been compelled by terror, to commit robberies or spoliations on its neighbours. (A cry of Hear! Hear!) It is in this that the case of Prussia stands distinguished from that of all other nations. We cannot help looking with some degree of pity and contempt, on a power that can allege that it is reduced to such a necessity that would be, in itself a considerable humiliation or degradation to Prussia, to be obliged to give up those provinces to which it was so much attached, and which had been called "the Cradle of the House of Brandenburg." The degradation of this cession was still much increased by the conduct of the people of Anspach, who entreated their sovereign not to abandon them. Instead of lessening the ignominy of the cession, it was a great increase of dishonour, to sell a brave and loyal people for what was called an equivalent; it was an union of every thing that was compatible in servility, with every thing that was odious in rapacity (Hear! Hear!). On the 26th of January, an official letter was written from Baron Hardenberg to Mr. Jackson, expressly stating it to be the intention of his Prussian Majesty to take possession of Hanover only until the conclusion of peace between England and France.—To this letter his Majesty was pleased to answer, that he placed the utmost reliance on the friendship and good faith of the King of Prussia, but that he wished for a more explicit declaration of the views which he entertained with respect to Hanover.

A more explicit declaration has indeed been made! It is the last treaty made by Prussia with France, in which Prussia contents—content—as if she admitted that it was a French object, & not a Prussian one, to take permanent possession of Hanover? Sir, the House will easily see through all the pretences for arrangements laid to be convenient and necessary for the ports of the North, and which produced a declaration from Prussia, followed by shutting up those ports. Prussia sub-

sequently intimated, that British manufactures might pass through a part of the Prussian dominions. Soon afterwards this channel of communication was cut off, and then came the monstrous measure which Prussia resolved upon of taking Hanover as a present from France, of which country it was inferred that by right of conquest France had the disposal. Is there an instance on record of a conquered province having been assigned over as a boon before the termination of the war in which the conquest was made? And still more confidently may I say it, is there an instance on record of such a transaction having taken place when the Prince of the territory assigned was in amity with the Prince to whom the assignment was made? Sir, to what extremity are we driven by this conduct of the court of Berlin? It would be idle in me to attempt to conceal, that the hostility of Prussia is a great augmentation of our calamities. Any increase in the number of our enemies must be an addition to our calamities, and this instance is a peculiarly severe addition. It is an aggravation, Sir, of those calamities, that what we can directly do to shew our just resentment of the perfidious conduct of Prussia must in some degree affect the interest of neutral nations, null in some degree affect our own interests. But, Sir, there are points when it becomes the duty of a country to sacrifice inferior interests to the manifestation of principle.—(Hear! Hear!)—This is one of those points. If we allow the conduct of Prussia to pass unnoticed, we must calculate on the complete degradation of the character of the country. I am far from wishing to insinuate any of the suspicious of the honour of other continental courts; but, Sir, how would the question between them and us then stand, compared with the way in which it stands at present? Now when those Courts are compelled to concede their possessions, one after the other, to the increasing power of France, however we may lament their situation, we can feel against them no displeasure. We must say to them, "Save yourselves as well as you can." But if we permitted the conduct of Prussia to pass unregarded, it is not probable that the Courts would no longer be content to make cessions of their own territory to France, but would fall upon yours? (Hear! Hear!) If so, Sir, then should we be exposed to the greatest of all evils (which God avert) a war, with all, the exception of one great power, with all Europe. On the other hand, Sir, if the present case can be kept distinct and unimitated—if an example can be made of Prussia, which in a great degree will depend on the exertions of other countries—but if a signal example can be made of Prussia, it may perhaps do more towards restoring a balance of power, and a just system of general policy in Europe than any alliance that has been formed, or that may be projected against France. I trust, and am convinced, that the House will see the propriety of acting upon this principle, namely, to shew a spirit of forbearance, where, on the opposite side is shewn, a spirit of justice and honour, are no longer to forbear when justice and honour are no longer remembered. Let the Court of Berlin take the consequence.—(Hear! Hear!) Sir, it is possible that the king of Prussia may be so deluded as to imagine that he has gained a great deal by obtaining possession of Hanover.—French reasoning, may, perhaps, assist in creating or confirming this delusion. What has he obtained? Every thing that can be rung from Hanover is first grasped by the French, and they then permit the king of Prussia to gain a nominal possession of an useless country. In another point of view, Sir, Prussia has indeed lost, I cannot but look upon her as more completely conquered by France than ever Austria has been. Austria was compelled by adverse circumstances to make a peace on conditions highly unfavourable to her; but, Sir, in ceding territory Austria at least took care to cede only her own (Hear! Hear!). The last instance of complete vassalage is to be the contemptible instrument of the injustice of a master, (Hear! Hear! Hear!) And, Sir, can there be a stronger proof that the dominion which Prussia pretends to assume over Hanover is only nominal,

than the mission which the French General Barbeau to that country with evident purpose of superintending operations of the Prussian ministers, guided them into the course most agreeable to France? Every body, Sir, has heard of the various insults which Prussia has received from France since this complete subjugation—France has indeed treated her with as little ceremony as she deserves. Her towns have been occupied by French troops. Her resources have been unheeded. How will this will end, whether good or evil will be the result I cannot pretend to say. But at least this country will avoid the greatest possible evil by refusing to sanction a principle so opposite to the welfare of society. (Hear! Hear!) It will avoid the evil of appearing to be indifferent to the feelings of our gracious Sovereign, and to be insensible to the preservation of his rights. (Hear! Hear! Hear!) It will avoid the evil, still of great magnitude of giving its consent and approbation of this odious mode which has been adopted, of transferring subjects from one Prince to another. Gracious God! I appeal to those who have felt the danger with which regular governments have been threatened by the opinions of visionary enthusiasts; can there be any thing so wild in the wild scheme of the most daring speculator, calculated to shake the stability of regular governments, as this power that has been assumed, whether in a republic or in a monarchy, is of no consequence, of transferring subjects, without any regard whatever to the character of those to whom they are to be governed; unmindful whether they are not possessed of their attachment or their destination?—Exchange field for field, exchange stock upon your field, exchange cattle for cattle; but never exchange your people.—(Hear! Hear! Hear!) Some attention and respect should surely be paid to the attachment of a government to its subjects, and to the attachment of subjects to their government.

This mutual attachment has ever, Sir, been considered by all reasoners on the social compact, as the fundamental cornerstone of society. Truly has it been so considered. How far the fabric has been shaken by this rude violence that has been offered to it, I leave to the judgment of gentlemen who have devoted their minds to the investigation of the subject. Feeling, Sir, as I do on it, I must avow, I felt peculiar pleasure in sending that note to Baron Jacobi, in which I informed him of his Majesty's unalterable determination never to consent to the transfer of his faithful and affectionate Hanoverian subjects. (Hear! Hear!)—I do not know that it is necessary to make any further observations, but before I sit down, I must state, that there can be no doubt, but that the shutting the ports of Prussia to British vessels alone is most clearly and unquestionably an act of hostility against this country." Mr. Fox then concluded, by moving an address of thanks to his Majesty, which [as usual] was an echo of the message.

Orange County.

THE following tracts of land were purchased by the subscriber for the Direct Tax and the period is now fast approaching when the time of redemption will end. Those interested are hereby notified that suits will be immediately commenced against those who are in possession of the land, unless the tax and cost of this advertisement are paid before the moment of redemption expires.

Name	Acres	District	Dts. Cts.
Edward Turner	120	Hillsborough	3 92
Lozarus Cate	150	St. Marys	1 77 1/2
William Pettygreav	116	ditto	1 44 1/2
James Disham	148	St. Marks	4 70
John Bowles	253	St. Thomas's	5 15
James Bailey	101	ditto	1 22
William Maynard	50	ditto	77
Joseph Cooke	100	S. Marks	1 53 1/2
Peter Brinkley	50	Chatham	77
Henry Joy	150	ditto	1 67
William Burrow	41	St. Asaph	87 1/2

James Webb.

Hillsboro' April 26. 1866

The Trustees

OF the Pittsboro' Academy have the pleasure of informing the public that the Rev. Messrs. Bingham yet continues as president of said Academy. Boarding for Students may be had at Pittsborough in respectable families for fifty dollars per year.

E. Lightfoot, Secy.