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Foreign News.

LONDON, November 2.

Napoleon returned to St. Cloud on the 1st, and immediately assembled his Council. After the lapse of a few days he was to begin another journey, and to proceed to Bayonne, to direct in person the operations against Spain. It is not improbable that he will have left Paris before the arrival of Mr. Fox, the messenger, who would in that case show him to Bayonne.—The war against Spain is now about to be carried on with all the means Bonaparte possesses; and when his mind reflects upon the character of the man who is to direct them, it may form some idea of the savageness and ferocity with which war will be waged. He seems to fear nothing from Germany or from Russia.—The latter he has cajoled, and Austria he has browbeaten. General Vincent's mission was evidently no mission of defiance, and seeing the intimate alliance between the Emperor Alexander and Bonaparte, the cabinet of Vienna has given assurances of pacific intentions, and it is even said consented to disarm and disband her new levies. And thus, satisfied of the good disposition of Russia, and leading nothing from Austria, Bonaparte enabled to direct his undivided attention to Spain.—Troops are marching thither in large bodies, and with all possible speed—between the 20th and 30th of last month, 100,000 men were to reach Bayonne. Other divisions are marching to Toulouse, as to a common rendezvous from which they may branch off either to the east or west.—A large force will proceed to Catalonia, and the operations against that province will commence the same time with the operations in Biscay and Navarre. Joseph Bonaparte is described in the Dutch papers to the 25th, which arrived last night, busily employed at Vittoria, in making relations, and passing decrees for the good government of his kingdom.

A reverse, we lament to say, has been experienced by our arms. Capri, at the mouth of the Gulf of Naples, which we took about 18 months ago, was attacked on the morning of the 4th of last month, by a division of 1000 men and taken with the exception of 200 men, into which our commandant had thrown himself. Nine hundred British prisoners are said to have been sent to Naples.

The conferences at Erfurth are at an end, and the veil which has hitherto covered them is soon to be withdrawn.—One of their objects can easily be penetrated into, and sorry are we to say that there is no doubt of Bonaparte's having accomplished it.—He has persuaded Austria to enter into his views upon Spain;—the Emperor Alexander is the medium through which he has made the Emperor of Austria remain, if not an approving, at least a spectator of that sanguinary warfare in which he is determined to visit Spain.—What arts and arguments can he have presented upon Russia or Austria to give credit to any pledge he may make, or to any treaty he may sign, after his treatment of Spain?—Questions like these we know are useless, and the mind cannot refrain from asking them. History has now to record another proof of the lengths to which the credulity of some cabinets can be carried: and we shall be much deceived if she will not have to record some signal instances of the fatal effects of it.

Some of the articles from Erfurth would persuade us that the conferences had, among other things, the restoration of a general peace in view, and the securing the tranquillity of Germany, to effect these objects no interference were necessary. Peace and tranquillity were both in the power of Bonaparte, and he had but to shew that his ambition had lifted, and that he really desired Peace, and the sword might instantly have been returned to his sheath.—Who keeps Germany from being tranquil? He alone. Is it possible that these truths should have escaped the Emperor Alexander? But conferences were necessary to enable Bonaparte to conceal his determination not to make peace, but to deceive Alexander with a belief that he was most anxious for peace. He solicited conferences, he indulged in most pathetic lamentations, no doubt, over the miseries of war—persuaded the Emperor to join with him in inviting us to peace; and though he knows that what he offers cannot be accepted, he desires Europe to take notice that England alone is responsible for the continuation of the war. Will he evacuate and abandon his designs on Spain? will he release his prisoner and demand? These were the things he should have done *in limine*—and then he might have done some credit for his pacific professions.—But he offers us peace only to enable him to carry on his infamous designs against Spain with more security.—Let it not be supposed by any one, that his overtures proceed from any radical reform in him, or that his malice against us abated or assuaged.—His mind will never ebb to peace with us.—Unity towards this country is interwoven with its existence, and whatever be his fate, the

last pulsation of his heart will beat with hatred of Great Britain.

November 5.

We do not believe that any French officer arrived from France with Mr. Shaw. The flag of truce returned to Bologne as soon as the messenger had been taken out by the Crocus sloop of war. He was landed at Deal, not without some difficulty, on account of the violence of the gale, and immediately set off post for London, where he arrived at six o'clock yesterday morning.

Mr. Shaw reached Paris on Monday morning last, and delivered his dispatches, one packet to Mr. Champagny, the French minister for foreign affairs, and another to the Russian ambassador. He was detained in Paris till the early part of Tuesday afternoon, when, having received answers, addressed to Mr. Secretary Canning, from both of the above ministers, he proceeded on his journey for Boulogne, from whence he embarked at eleven on Thursday morning.

Mr. Shaw was received with great satisfaction at all the places through which he passed, and treated with much civility and attention at Paris. During the short time he remained there he was suffered to go abroad in company with the French Messenger who lately came to England.

It appears that Bonaparte did not wait for the arrival of our messenger. He left Rambouillet on the 30th, the day before Mr. Shaw reached Paris; nor could any communication have been made to him between the period of the messenger's arrival and his departure.—We all know the speed with which he travels, and having left Rambouillet for Bayonne on Sunday, there was not time to send a messenger to him after Mr. Shaw's arrival on Monday morning, and to receive his commands before Mr. Shaw left Paris on Tuesday afternoon. It is probable, therefore, that Bonaparte had arranged with his minister the reply which should be returned to this country, provided we declined entertaining the propositions he submitted to us. It is not improbable, however, that he may have made some modifications of his first proposals—not with any real view to make peace, but to draw us into a correspondence for the purpose of endeavoring to render us suspected by the Spaniards. But this policy, supposing it to have been adopted, will easily be, and no doubt has been, defeated by our ministers.

Still are we without any French papers containing a copy of Bonaparte's message and expose, delivered on the 25th of last month.—We should have supposed that it would have been brought by Mr. Shaw.—If it has, ministers do not think proper to make it public.—But it has been stated that Mr. Shaw only brought a Paris paper of the 31st, which contains nothing more than an account of Bonaparte having left Rambouillet.—The message of Bonaparte to the legislative body was, as we stated yesterday, transmitted to this country in manuscript. It was received by a Dutch merchant from his friend at Rotterdam, who had received it two days before. But we have this morning received this message or speech of Bonaparte's in the following form, which differs from that in which it was published yesterday, though the substance is the same.

"The grand object of my journey to Erfurth, was to consult with the emperor of Russia upon the most desirable means for bringing about a general peace; and with this view, subsequently a courier was dispatched to the British government, to propose those conditions, without which it was not expected that power would enter into a treaty. In case of an unfavourable answer from his Britannic Majesty, it was my intention immediately to put myself at the head of my armies in Spain, to place my brother on the Throne in the centre of that kingdom, at the capital; and to plant the Gallic Eagle on the strong holds of Portugal.

"Russia and Denmark are united with me against England. The Swiss experience every day fresh advantages from the Act of Moderation. I am perfectly satisfied with the good disposition of the Princes of the Confederation of the Rhine. The Italians are and have reason to be contented with the benefits they derive from their connection with France. The Americans will continue the embargo, and would rather lose the emoluments of commerce than submit to be slaves on the ocean.

"The views of the emperor of Russia and my own are in every respect conformable.—Our first wish was peace, and we would even condescend to make some sacrifices (*quelques sacrifices*) to obtain it, and to give to an hundred millions of people, whom we represent, the advantages of maritime commerce.—Whatever may be the result of it, our designs entirely coincide, whether for the prosecution of war, or for the consolation of peace."

The speech or message, as we have just given it, is, as our readers will see, less abrupt than the one we published yesterday, though it does not differ from it in substance except in that part which seems to make it

depend upon us whether he shall pour his arms into Spain, and crown his brother at Madrid.—That part which relates to his overture to us, and to the conferences at Erfurth, was the last in the extract published yesterday.—It is the first in the statement we have published to day; and which we are inclined to think the most correct of the two. But we are not able to decide with certainty, not having yet seen any printed official copy.—Till we do, we shall refrain from making any observations upon it, except the following—Bonaparte treats America just in the same way as he treats the States of the Confederation of the Rhine, which under the pretext of being united for the preservation of their own independence, are in reality combined for the purpose of furthering the views and obeying the will of France. "The Americans will continue the embargo, and would rather lose the emoluments of commerce, than recognize the slavery of the seas." Meaning thereby, that they are united with him in the attempt to procure what he calls the freedom of the seas. Let us hear no more then of the embargo being a measure equally directed against France and England, or having been equally produced by those countries.—Mr. Jefferson, we know, always talks of the embargo having been produced by the British and French edicts; though the fact is that he could not have been acquainted with our Orders in Council when the embargo was thought of.

Two Gottenburg mails arrived last night. They have not brought any intelligence of importance. General Klingspor has presented a report to his Swedish majesty, upon the retreat of the northern and part of the southern Finnish army, which was effected without the loss of a gun or an ammunition waggon, in sight of an enemy greatly superior in number. The campaign in Finland is thus at an end, and the glory of it, it must be confessed, has been wholly on the side of the vanquished. The emperor Alexander was expected at Riga, on his return to Petersburg, about the 10th of last month.

MR. MASTERS' SPEECH,

In the House of Representatives on the 30th ult. on the subject of our Foreign Relations,

MR. MASTERS said he lamented the present situation of affairs, which he feared would terminate to our disgrace; he wished that one sober view would be taken of this great question, before they blindly rushed deeper into a scene of confusion and distress.

In the precarious situation in which this country stands (said he) it is the duty of every man to avow his principles and sentiments, with firmness and integrity. It is public delusion to bow to the chimerical projects and phantoms of any man: No man can be deemed independent, unless he is guided by the reason and expedience of things, abstracted from all party and personal prejudices.—I trust these resolutions will be determined by their merits, and not by executive or party influence.

Great pains have been taken both in conversation and in print, to work upon the feelings of the people to persuade them, it must be embargo or war; at the same time you intend non-intercourse and then war.

This report is calculated to manage, cultivate and set in action, the warmth of public imagination; in order that a non-intercourse and the embargo may be well received.

The report states, at the time the embargo was laid, the British orders in council were known and understood in this country, though not officially communicated. The fact is the British orders in council were not even mentioned in the debate on that question; and the embargo was laid as a coercive measure, without any reference to those orders; and when the administration found they had mistaken its operation, they went to the British government supplicating and begging, that those orders might be rescinded. Sir, this nation feels humbled with the unhappy issue of their measures; and by deviating from an energetic and practical course, are whirled about, the sport of every gust, and easily driven into any port.

Mr. Masters said, it had been in the power of this nation, more than once to have adjusted their differences with Great Britain.—When Mr. Fox came into the British administration, he offered our minister to renew the expired treaty; and at the same time remarked it should not prevent him from proceeding in the negotiation, and endeavouring to make such a treaty as would be most satisfactory to both countries. In the mean time the renewal of the old treaty would prevent all collision between the two nations. Mr. Monroe's instructions would not admit of it.

Although Jay's treaty was exceptional in many points, and not popular in this country, yet this nation prospered under that treaty more than they have since without it.

Mr. M. said the late treaty concluded with the British government, by Messrs. Monroe and Pinckney, was in his opinion more advan-

tageous than the former. This last treaty was rejected principally on account of the protestation signed by the British Commissioners. It was worthy of consideration that the protestation was no part of the treaty, and our government had since offered to continue the embargo, as to France, provided the British government would rescind their orders, which was substantially complying with the protestation, yet this treaty is rejected. It never has been in our power (said he) honorably to adjust the existing differences with France, whose emperor has always showed the greatest contempt for the neutrality of every nation, and whose determination is to compel us to take part in the war, either as friends or allies. If the nation does not know this, I know it, and you know it Mr. Chairman. The demands are positive, and because we have not promptly obeyed, France has swept by sequestration and confiscation all the American property from Italy to Antwerp, amounting to more than one hundred millions of dollars; she has burnt and sunk many of our vessels without even the form of a trial.

Why do you continue the embargo, and add to it a non-intercourse? Are you waiting for an answer from Bonaparte, that he has taken off his decrees, that you may go to war according to his demand? Or do you wish to continue this pressure in order to gain time to offer to the great emperor in more explicit terms, that you will take side with him?—Your measures are leading to that point, and it will be the result.

Russia, Prussia, Holland, Spain, Portugal, Naples, in short, all the subjugated world passed embargo laws under the influence of France, under the same pretence, and worked nearly in the same manner as ours—therefore your embargo laws had a tendency to prevent the British government from rescinding their orders of Council, and were more injurious than beneficial.

Great Britain has given you her answer.—Sir, our affairs have proceeded daily from bad to worse, until we have been brought step by step, to this state of things. By not resisting the first belligerent decree, we have invited retaliation and courted calamity.

You owe it to desist from a course of measures, which will, in my opinion, bring the people of this nation into want and misery.—This is a question which will decide the fate of this country. Sir, before you pass a non-intercourse, I beg the House sincerely and gravely, to consider the calamities which will follow; inconveniences, mischief and distress, are great and certain. The belligerent powers have trampled upon the law of nations, and we have trampled on and disgraced ourselves. If these measures were intended to coerce them, they would prove visionary and philosophical, and not founded on experience. Your extreme and theoretical measures may be brought forward *ad infinitum*, in order to extinguish all principles of action, which arise from experience and probability.

Mr. M. said, the embargo originated from no plan of sound policy whatsoever, and was in contradiction to all the principles of commerce. Your finances (said he) must lean upon commerce, or your whole system will tumble upon your head. You are throwing open the doors to smuggling.—Whenever the laws of trade press hard upon the people your shores and frontiers are full of contraband.—When he cast his eye back on our once flourishing commerce and agriculture grown to perfection through a series of fortunate events, and a train of successful industry and enterprise, unparalleled in the annals of the world, and contrasted them with your non-intercourse and embargo, it gave him melancholy reflections. He could not embrace a system which tended to destroy our country.

In looking round (said he) you will discover symptoms of radical decay, and proof of consuming strength. Never did a people suffer so much from fallacious measures and empty words. This non-intercourse and embargo must be given up. They stand on no solid principle; it is a reflection on your wisdom to persist in them; you cannot shew either of them to be the means of obtaining some useful end; there can be no dignity in persevering on your ill chosen ground; you are not punishing the belligerents; the operation is childish and fruitless; you are punishing ourselves. The project of abstinence and starving men into a sense of duty might apply to a Convent or Monastery, but the operation as against the belligerents, is extremely absurd and ridiculous.

We have got into this difficulty; the great question is, how are we to get out. One obstacle in the way, is, that you proudly boasted when you laid the embargo, and you now scorn meanly to sneak out of difficulties, and are pressing the nation into non-intercourse and war. I think it best to have the generous courage, when you find and feel an error, honorably and fairly to renounce it.

If your non-intercourse and embargo are intended to habituate the citizens to the manufacturing and weaving homespun; that is also visionary. Instead of homespun, the genius of the people is Commerce, Commerce