

ever, have considerably increased his numbers in this point, advanced a second time, accompanied by a howitzer and a four-pounder, and succeeded in gaining a sufficient advance on the road, to enable him to bring his gun to bear (within about three quarters of a gun shot) on the centre and the left division.

Whilst these operations were carrying on against our right and centre, the enemy advanced two very strong columns against the front of our left position; and at the same moment, a very numerous corps of sharpshooters (vultigeurs) advanced under cover of the howitzer and four pounder, and got possession of a wood which ascended from the road to within less than musket-shot of the right flank of the left position. This obliged general Figueroa to throw back one or two battalions upon his right to oppose the enemy's light infantry. Nothing could be more gallant or more orderly than the enemy's attack of this post; he advanced in the greatest military regularity, under a most tremendous fire.—The gallantry of the enemy's attack could only be equalled by the intrepidity of the defence made by the 1st division. It is impossible for me to do justice to the soldier-like conduct of this division.—Attacked on their side by a very superior force, and occasionally fired on by the howitzer and four-pounder, they defended their post with determined obstinacy. They appeared resolved not to yield a foot of ground. The enemy were equally obstinate and persevering, and being enabled by their very superior numbers to nearly surround the hill occupied by this gallant division, general Figueroa felt himself called upon to order a retreat; which was effected with as much order as existing circumstances would admit of. Whilst the 1st division was thus engaged, the enemy kept up a heavy fire of shot and shell, and some musketry (from the woods in our front) on the centre division and the reserve.—The guns were supported by two very large columns, and a disposable reserve.

Nothing could exceed the soldier-like steadiness with which the fourth division and reserve remained on their post under this heavy fire; this courage will not be wondered at when I mention that the commander in chief himself was at the head of the centre division, animating the soldiers by his presence and example. When the first shell burst, there general Blake repaired, and placed his horse on the very spot, displayed his division into two lines, part of the reserve remaining in columns. His address to the soldiers was simple, and spoke to their feelings—"Remember you are Spaniards; be firm, soldiers."—Never did the most veteran troops, or those most accustomed to cannon, remain more cool, steady, and determined. After an action of nearly nine hours incessant fire, and it became evident that the enemy had received very great reinforcements, and having been enabled, by the assistance of his cannon (of

which, and having in consequence occupied the woods flanking the right of our left position, it was deemed advisable to retreat. General Blake placed himself at the head of the fourth division and part of the reserve, and in person superintended & directed the covering of the retreat of his army, which was effected in order, the enemy not appearing inclined to molest our movements. By eleven o'clock on the night of 30th October, the most part of the troops arrived at Bilbao.

Early in the morning of the 1st (yesterday) general Blake arrived in that town with the fourth division, and lost not a moment in proceeding to the great square, where he superintended in person the issue of bread and spirit to the troops. Nothing could exceed their joy at seeing their general return to them, a false report having obtained that he had been cut off in covering the retreat.

No language of mine could do sufficient justice to the gallantry and ardour of the officers and soldiers of this army in the action of yesterday. I trust, however, the statement of facts which I have given, in a plain unvarnished manner, will give some idea of their brave conduct.

Nothing can exceed the patience, and I may add, the cheerfulness of the Spanish soldiers, under difficulties and privations of all sorts.

The impression left on my mind from the account of yesterday, is decidedly most favourable to the Spanish soldiers.

The effect produced on their bosoms from yesterday's defence, is a manly and soldier-like pride, arising from a self-conviction of their having done their duty.

THE STATE OF FRANCE.

It is scarcely possible for the mind to conceive a more wretched state of affairs than that in which France is, according to the report of the French minister of the interior. While Germany crouches at the feet of France; while Russia is in her toils, and Austria dares not raise a finger in hostility against her; while Italy owns her yoke, and Switzerland expects every moment the death warrant for the execution; while all seem brilliant without, every thing within is in the greatest misery and distress—her ports without activity, her manufactures without employ, her merchants ruined.—In proof of this, we need not have recourse to the statements of travellers, or to writers that are hostile to France. We have the proof from the confession of the French minister of the interior; we have it from the French government itself. Let any one compare this report with the report or exposition of last year, and they

will find that not one of the promises held out then have been fulfilled. Ameliorations are always to take place, and that they never do take place.—A year has elapsed, during which the effects of that commercial interdiction which Bonaparte has adopted were to be severely felt by us.—But what has been the fact? that they have been felt alone by France, and that our revenue and our commerce have increased during that period!—What a picture, we have said, of the state of France does this report draw?—Examine its features—there is not one that does not betray the paleness, the wretchedness and the squalor of poverty.—Great Britain has drawn a line of circumvallation around her, and shut her out from commerce or communication with three fourths of the world.—"All our naval relations are at an end, our merchants, manufacturers, and consumers are exposed to dreadful sufferings—sufferings which are now habitual to them—there is no remedy but patience and resignation to them."—This is the substance, they are almost the very expressions of the minister's report.—Nothing remains for industry to have recourse to but agriculture. But what will agriculture do for those who have no market, who cannot export? The encouragement to sow must arise from the knowledge that the person who sows can sell.—Bonaparte gives them no market no export trade, and agriculture cannot be flourishing. It is evident that it is not that it is in distress. A lure, however, is thrown out to the farmer—he is promised "a project of the greatest utility, which is indispensably necessary to the prosperity of agriculture, and is closely interwoven with national prosperity." This project is a "rural code."—What! is this which is declared to be so vitally necessary, still wanting? wanting to a nation that is depicted as "essentially agricultural?"—This is ever the way with Bonaparte—He is always promising to do such great things for the prosperity of France, but never performing.—This rural code would, we should have imagined, been the first thing thought of by a government that professes to rule over a nation "essentially agricultural," and that had determined to cut off all commerce whatever.—But no, the rural code is yet to come, and not a step has been taken but to call upon different authorities in France to give their advice upon it! But the principal improvement of agriculture is to arise out of a reorganization of the repositories for the breed of horses!—What mockery and trifling! the principal improvement is to find the farmer a market for his commodity—other improvements will follow of course.

But the state of commerce! Our orders of council, provoked by Bonaparte's decrees, have put a final stop to it.—Nothing is doing—nothing is expected to be done.—"Give yourselves up to your miserable fate—we have ruined you past recovery—rot and go to destruction!"—They talk of improvements in the weaving of cotton—but where can they get their cotton to weave? Not a bale can be procured without our permission. Attempts have been made to cultivate cotton, but it is evident that they have failed. And this distress is not confined to the cotton manufactures; it extends to every other branch of commerce and manufactures, for who will cultivate and make what he cannot sell? Formerly, whilst Germany was open to us, France could sell her manufactures, because the Germans got rich by their commerce with us: But the Germans are struck with the same interdiction as France, and have no money to buy the commodities that France can sell. So nearly approaching to starvation are all the French manufacturers, that the government have been forced to dole out some small sums to the merchants, who cannot sell the produce they have on hand.—Can there be any greater proof than this of the distresses in which they are involved? The French government are forced to give a kind of parish paper relief to their merchants and manufacturers, to save them from wanting a morsel of bread—a precious proof of the prosperity that has followed Bonaparte's administration.—From the state of commerce and agriculture, the report proceeds to a view of the finances. Here the minister, who had been so minute as to recount to us the establishment of a couple of tin manufactories, and of a repository or two for the breed of horses, loses himself in generalities, and carefully avoids giving us any facts. But the very boast he uses conveys to our minds additional evidence of the distress in which the country is involved.—Loans and paper money form no part of the French system.—For a very good reason, because their credit is not sound enough to raise money by loans, or to procure circulation for paper money. None but countries of great wealth, of indisputable credit, can raise money by loans, or circulate paper money.—Ask a merchant whether his inability to raise loans or get his bills taken, is a proof of his credit?—This boast of the French government is about as strong a proof of prosperity, as the bankrupt afforded, who, when he found nobody would lend him a shilling or take his note, cried out—"thank Heaven I have done with borrowing money and issuing bills."—While the French government boast that they do not have recourse to loans or paper money, that is that they cannot, let us ever be able to say, that when our government wants money every one is ready to lend it to any amount, at less than five per cent. interest, and that all persons are as ready to take our paper money as to take specie.

A volume of observations more might be written upon this report, this picture of the distressed state of France; but we shall confine ourselves to two more remarks.—Bonaparte begins again to talk of sending a large army to Boulogne, and tells us, "that the Boulogne flotilla is still in readiness to undertake the operations for which it was intended." His object, no doubt, is to frighten us with the idea of invasion, that we may not send more troops abroad to the assistance of Spain and Portugal.—*Courier*, 19th Nov.

November 21.

The capital yesterday was thrown into transports of joy by an account received from Plymouth of a brilliant victory having been gained over the French near Bilbao, and of the Spaniards having again taken possession of that town. To render the public satisfaction complete, it was added that Saragossa had bound another wreath round her brows, and had again driven the French with disgrace from her walls. The following is the account from Plymouth:

PLYMOUTH, Nov. 18.

"The Black Joke lugger is arrived from Gijon, in 63 hours, with dispatches for government, which I understand contain an account of the defeat of marshal Ney near Bilbao on the 7th of Nov. by general Blake, after a severe action, in which the French lost 9000 men, killed, wounded, and prisoners.

"It is also stated, that Saragossa had been attacked by the French, and the enemy repulsed with great loss."

The accounts which had arrived from Spain previously to those which arrived yesterday, left affairs in such a situation, that a battle seemed inevitable; the Spaniards being in full march towards the enemy, with whom they eagerly desired an encounter. It was on the afternoon of the 6th that those accounts were dated, the army having cleared the enemy from the heights of Ontara, and being in full march for Bilbao. The knowledge of this fact gave an additional weight and credit to the Plymouth letters, which stated the battle to have taken place on the 7th, on which day it was probable that a battle would take place. The Black Joke left Gijon on the 14th, and was only 63 hours on her passage.—The Spanish papers from Corunna, are of a day later—but as Corunna is about 130 miles from Gijon, there could not be any later, if so late intelligence at Corunna on the 15th, as there was at Gijon on the 14th. Of course, if a battle had taken place near Bilbao on the 7th, it would have been known at Corunna on the 15th. The silence therefore, of the Corunna papers, of that date was very justly considered as a proof that the Gijon accounts of a victory, for such accounts were certainly in circulation there, were untrue. But it is to be remarked that the Corunna papers do not contain a word of intelligence relative to the operations of the army, though it is next to impossible to be ascertained.

Is the silence of the Corunna papers to be accounted for by the circumstance of their not having intelligence of a favourable nature to communicate? There is a rumour from Falmouth, that Blake has sustained a check. The accounts from Falmouth and Plymouth, which we received this morning, are directly contradictory.

[In going over our late London papers, we omitted the following article: no intelligence had been received to the date of our last papers to refute or confirm what is therein stated.] LONDON, Nov. 18.

Important Intelligence from Spain.
We have been favoured with the substance of the official reports of the late actions in Biscay, as transmitted to the Spanish government. They establish a very important fact, namely, that general Blake attacked the enemy on the 5th instant, and not on the 4th, as has been stated, and completely defeated them. The extent of his victory was not ascertained, as there are no later accounts from him than of the morning of the 6th, when he put the whole of his army in motion in pursuit of the enemy.

At a very numerous and respectable meeting of the Inhabitants of the different towns in the county of Hampshire, (Mass.) convened pursuant to public notice, at the Court House in Northampton, on Thursday the 12th of January, 1809, to take into consideration the present alarming condition of the United States, and of this Commonwealth, the following Resolutions were passed:

Considering the awful and eventful struggles now making in Europe, on the one hand to subjugate and enslave an innocent and unoffending nation, and on the other to resist the efforts of a cruel and relentless tyranny—a struggle which the history of a few years past demonstrates may be deeply interesting to the People of the United States.—That our common country has been a d still is suffering unusual and extraordinary burthens from the measures recently adopted and pursued by the national government.—That within our own commonwealth its treasures have been squandered and applied to private use, principles and practices deliberately and officially avowed and advocated, totally inconsistent with the preservation of our republican form of government.—That causes are continually occurring which tend to produce a most calamitous event—a Dissolution of the Union—and finally, that it is the right and duty of those who love their country, and desire to perpetuate its liberty and independ-

dence, in times of public danger, boldly upon and urge their fellow citizens to all parties to exert themselves to promote the general welfare.—Therefore,

Resolved, That it is with the most anxious concern that we review the transactions of the General Government the past year. An embargo on all vessels, and on the exportation of the valuable products of our country by land has been in full operation, been explicitly acknowledged by the President, this measure in Congress that it has produced no desirable effect on foreign nations; is well known that it has occasioned a immense waste of property to our own citizens. In some parts of our country, since presidential instructions, unauthorised and such restrictions have been imposed upon coasting trade as have produced the distressing effects. But it is with anxious concern that we have seen that a bill introduced into Congress by the friends of the administration, and passed the Senate House of Representatives, which, in our opinion, contains provisions repugnant to the Constitution and incompatible with the principles of Civil Liberty. By that bill instructions of the President are to have force of law.—Those instructions are given to agents, solely appointed by the President. The powers thus given are to be executed in a manner in which no law ever made. Congress has been heretofore executed a military force placed at the back of presidential agents, acting altogether in presidential instructions, wholly independent of the civil magistrate. They are responsible for any act, however atrocious, before any tribunal whatever. The trial by jury in such cases is expressly taken away.—These tremendous powers are exercised for the purpose of enforcing a system of measures notoriously ruinous to our own nation, and perfectly harmless to the rest of the world. A system approved by Bonaparte, and guarded with indifference by Great Britain.

Resolved, That we highly approve the conduct of the Legislature of this Commonwealth in the choice of electors of President and Vice-President, and of their doing proceedings at their last session respecting our differences with Great Britain and laws laying an embargo.—That we have fullest confidence in their wisdom and prudence in taking all such measures in full exercise of their power to relieve from the generally felt by the citizens, and more severely by our brethren in the eastern parts of the Commonwealth, and to avert the effects of those with which we are threatened.—That we look to them to see that a provision be made to secure and protect the inhabitants of the commonwealth in the enjoyment of those invaluable privileges secured by the bill of rights; and guarantee the Federal Constitution, among which we hold as most important, the subordinate rights of the citizen, the right of free employment from general and unwise laws, search, and the right of seeking and having a speedy redress for all injuries sustained.

Resolved, That we view with astonishment and alarm the extraordinary increase of military force in the United States, while the administration decline giving to the people any information of the object unless to enforce the embargo at the point of bayonet.

Resolved, That while we are determined to regard the laws, and to discountenance all forcible opposition to them; we will exert ourselves to the utmost ability, to excite the attention of the people to a charge, to the security of their important rights—to a prompt and enlightened discharge of their duties as electors, and especially to a firm support of the government of our Commonwealth.

Resolved, That the foregoing resolutions signed by the chairman and Clerk, and published in the several newspapers in the County of Hampshire.

JUSTIN ELY, Chairman
OLIVER B. MORRIS, Clerk.

NEWBURYPORT, Jan. 18.
"TOWN MEETING. The inhabitants of this town, assembled yesterday to take into consideration the calamitous situation of the country, and to adopt such measures as might be thought expedient for the relief of our present sufferings. The largest concourse of people assembled that perhaps ever met in town meeting since the town was incorporated. After choosing William Bartlet, Esq. Moderator, and a suitable prayer being made by the Rev. Dr. Spring, a committee was chosen to prepare suitable Resolutions expressive of the sense of the town, and a Petition to the Legislature of this Commonwealth, praying their interference to obtain a redress of grievances which, after retiring a short time returned, and reported the same for acceptance. Some debate arose on accepting the Resolutions and Petition, in which the most indecorous observations were made by the feeble opposition. It was finally carried, almost unanimously only ten voting in the negative; those principally officers of government, or expectants of offices."

THE RESOLUTIONS.
Resolved, as the sense of this town: That the people of these United States have arrived at a crisis, distressing and portentous, beyond parallel: and calling aloud on every citizen, anxiously to explore the causes and its remedies. That we consider the acts of Congress