Late Foreign Intelligence.

Received per the Ship Port Mary, Capt. Bowers, arrived at Charleston from Liverpool.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

AMERICA.

HOUSE OF LORDS, *Monday, January 29.*

Earl Grey enquired if any objection would be opposed to the production of those papers, particularly a letter of the 26th of last April, respecting the general conduct of Mr. Erskine; because he had in contemplation a motion of that tendency.

The Earl of Liverpool answered, that in the absence of a Noble Lord, in the Foreign Department, he could not venture to state the particular documents which might be produced; but he had no hesitation in making this general declaration, that no objection whatever would apply to the production of any paper which related to the general conduct of Mr. Erskine, or between this country and America.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, *Monday, Jan. 29.*

MR. ERSKINE.

Mr. Morris, before the House entered upon the Report, wished to offer a few observations to their notice, in order to remove the impression made, during a late debate, affecting a near relation of his. His reason for not doing so at the time, was, the lateness of the hour at which the remark he alluded to was made. It was correctly stated by the Honorable Gentleman on that occasion, that the dispatch of the 23d January alone, contained the instructions to Mr. Erskine, for his conduct in whatever related to our Orders in Council, the French Decrees, and the American Non-intercourse and Embargo Acts.—But he could go on further with the statement of that Hon. Gentleman.—Mr. Erskine's view of the subject was, that when the conditions there prescribed could not be literally obtained, he was to refer to his other letters and instructions, and endeavor to obtain, substantially, what was in the view of his Government. He had substantially obeyed his instructions, and if all the letters were produced, they would bear him out in this assertion. He had no reason to suppose, that there would be any impropriety in the production of these papers; if, however, they were not produced, they would at least have this weight with Gentlemen judging of Mr. Erskine's conduct, that they were not to possess him of the whole grounds on which he rested his justification. For this point he had the authority of Mr. Erskine's letter to Mr. Smith, in which he referred to those letters, as authorising him to enter into the provisional engagements he had agreed to. No objection could be made to the production of another important document for his friend's exculpation from the suspicion of having sacrificed his public duty to his private feelings; his answer to the dispatch from His Majesty's Ministers. If these were not granted, his friends would be left on bare grounds indeed for his defence; he had communicated *verbatim et verbatim*, to the American Minister. He wished it to be known, that Mr. Erskine had not acted on his own principles, but on those of his employers. From the form and constitution of the American government, it was impossible for him to act literally on these instructions, but he had referred to them altogether, and endeavored to obey them substantially. He begged pardon of the House for encroaching on their time at present, in putting them in possession of the grounds of his relation's defence, which would be more amply given at a further period; for it was his earnest wish to see but, *in limine*, any insinuation, that one, in whom he must feel so much interest, had acted, not from a sense of public duty, but a feeling towards the President of the U. States. He appealed to Mr. Erskine's public life for the refutation of such a supposition. He could have no private motive either to withhold or give explanations. He was the humble instrument to accomplish the great and important object of uniting two free, and nearly related, nations. He was wounded mortally at his failure; but no consideration of a private, or personal nature, could ever induce him to deviate from his public duty, and withhold a dispatch he was bound to disclose. Mr. Morris concluded by denying the charge in the most positive manner and having pardon of the House for detaining them so long.

LONDON, JANUARY 19.

It is said that Government have resolved to send out a new Minister to the United States; and that this measure has been accelerated through the active influence of the Marquis Wellesley.

It has transpired, that the American dispatches recently intercepted and put into the hands of Government, relate principally to a Treaty entered into the beginning of December, between General Armstrong on the part of America, and Monsieur Champagny on the part of France—and that the French government, taking advantage of the chasm occasioned by the rejection of Mr. Jackson in America, made concessions in the latter favor. The dispatches consisted of three distinct enclosures; one addressed to Mr. Madison, another to his Secretary, Mr. Smith, and the third to M. Turreau, the French Minister in America. It does not appear, however, that any definitive arrangement had taken place in France: but her propositions are said to be of such a nature, that they will be embraced by America.

We hear, from indubitable authority, that Mr. Cobbett will shortly take his seat in the House of Commons, for the Borough of Grampound.

JAN. 23.

Government, it is said, have received dispatches within this day or two from Mr. Jackson. They were enclosed to a commercial house in the city, and marked on the outside "*Average* Papers"

A letter has been received at the East-India House, from Lord Minto, dated Madras, 15th September last, announcing the satisfactory intelligence, that the revolt of the army of that Presidency, or, to speak more correctly, of the European Officers of the Company's army, is entirely subdued, and that the issue of this contest has been such, as not only to arrest the immediate peril, but to establish a better security than has existed for many years, against the recurrence of similar events.

It was lately intimated, on the authority of advices from Paris, brought by the flag of truce from Dover, on Monday evening, that a misunderstanding had taken place between the Government of the United States and France. We are now enabled to confirm this intelligence, which is contained in a private letter from Paris, of the 16th inst. addressed to a house of the first respectability. The contents follow:

"*Paris, Jan* 16, 1810.

"Having been informed of a conveyance, I seize the few minutes allowed me to inform you, that orders were received at Naples, on the 1st and 2d inst. to put the official seal on all American vessels and cargoes, and to proceed immediately to dispose of them by public sale. Our cargo was to be sold on the 5th (understood here to be that of the Hercules of Baltimore) and others were immediately to follow. The measure has produced the utmost astonishment and surprize, it having taken place at the very moment we had calculated on the renewal of commerce with the U. States.

"To St. Sebastian, Bilboa, &c. the same orders have been expedited, and are to be immediately acted upon, with one exception, viz. the cargoes at those ports have not been directed to be sold.

"The copy of the orders which I have seen, is to sequestrate and confiscate; but I have doubts as to the truth of this—although it is certain that the seals have been put on all American vessels in those ports, and positive directions given not to furnish the captains and supercargoes with more than just enough to support them.

"Lose no time in writing to your friends in the United States. Caution our countrymen not to send their property to the Continent in the present state of affairs, nor until something is settled on a more firm ground. There are 17 vessels at Naples, and advice has just been received here of another vessel having arrived from Boston, having first been captured by a privateer near the port."

JAN. 27.

The Isle of Walcheren has been formally annexed to France, of which it has now become an integral part. We may expect, from the character of Bonaparte, particularly from his pride, to find the port of Flushing recovered from the ruins in which it was involved by our troops, when they evacuated the Island.

The dissolution of Bonaparte's marriage has received the sanction of the highest spiritual authority he has suffered to exist in his Empire.

Lord Porchester, last night, in the House of Commons, moved for an enquiry into the Expedition to Walcheren. It produced a very animated debate, in which Mr. Ponsonby, as on the 1st night, particularly distinguished himself. Ministers mustered their whole strength on the occasion, but they were left in a minority; the numbers being, for Ministers 186, against them 195.—It would be difficult to describe the enthusiasm of joy which this division excited among the strangers in the gallery, the lobbies and avenues of the House.—It argues a strong pertinacity and adherence to place in a Minister, thus to wait until he is actually beaten. Other Ministers, more delicate, have not hesitated to retire the moment they saw in the great strength of the minority, the sense of the public expressed against them. This was the course pursued by Mr. Addington. Mr. Perceval has stuck to place until actually forced out.

On the authority of a Captain who left Cadiz on Wednesday last, it is said, that it is the sister of the Emperor Alexander who is destined for the consort of Bonaparte. King Louis still continues in France, and it is again dreaded, that he will never return to Holland as the sovereign of the Dutch. Berthier is stated to be on his way to Holland, with a strong force, to prevent any disturbance from taking place, on the annexation of that country to France.

Letters received yesterday from Holland of the 21st inst. fully confirm the intelligence from Calais as far as respects the annexation of the whole of Holland to France. These letters also state, that the certainty of the annexation caused a great consternation at Amsterdam, and in other principal towns; several of the merchants at the former place are packing up to leave the country.—Most of the vessels on the other side were frozen up. The vessel that bro't the account of the 21st inst. sailed from the coast.

JAN. 29.

It is reported that a communication, on the subject of the New Ministry, was last night transmitted to Lord Grenville. The bearer of the letter was Mr. Turner, the messenger of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Another letter, it is said, was at the same time sent by Mr. Perceval to Earl Gray.

Prince Stahremberg sailed yesterday in flag of truce from Dover to Calais, on his return to Vienna.

A report was spread, last night, of an immediate dissolution of Parliament.—We consider it, however, as a mere threat, to intimidate the House of Commons. What advantage could Ministers possibly expect, at this moment, indignant at their imbecility, and mourning its deplorable effects?

There was no arrival from the Continent yesterday; but private letters, by the last conveyance from Holland, state the departure of Bonaparte from Paris, to take command of the army in Spain.

JAN. 31.

We have received French papers to the 24th inst. French troops are pouring into Spain through Bayonne. They arrive at the city upon an average of from twelve to fifteen thousand per day. The eighth corps under the Duke of Abrantes, began to arrive on the 12th. The field equipage of Marshal Berthier, Prince of Neufchatel, had reached that city at that date, and his Highness was expected in a few days. Berthier has been in all Bonaparte's campaigns, his Mentor and favorite; and his arrival at Bayonne will probably be the signal for the approach of the Emperor himself. He had not, however, left Paris on the 18th; but as a considerable bustle was observable in the Cabinet for several preceding days, he was perhaps, preparing for his departure.

FEB. 1.

Mr. Perceval, finding himself in a decided minority last night, on Mr. Banks's motion, exerted all his powers to collect his friends—but when they did come, he had the misfortune to find that many of them voted against him.

PARIS, JANUARY 17.

A Report by the Minister of Finance to the Emperor, after the summary of the receipts and disbursements for the years 1806, 1807, and 1808, contains the following passages:

"A sufficient time has not yet been afforded to enable me to submit to your Majesty, a precise statement of the receipts and disbursements of 1809. It is however probable, that the war expenditure for the last year cannot be under 500 millions, of which sum only 350 millions are chargeable upon the public treasury.

"The amount of this expenditure will excite no surprise, when it is considered that, besides an immense staff, your Majesty has, during 1809, maintained an establishment of 900,000 infantry, 160,000 horse for the cavalry service, and 50,000 for the waggon and artillery train.

"If the year 1809, must thus have been, of necessity, expensive, there is every reason to conclude that the year 1810 will admit of great retrenchments. In fact, your Majesty levied 200,000 men in 1809, and it does not appear to be your intention to make any levies in 1810.

"Sixty thousand horses were bought and equipped in 1809. It does not seem to be in your contemplation to purchase any in 1810.

"Your Majesty also expects to be able to make a reduction of 200 thousand in your military establishment, and to limit it to 700,000 men; one half of this force being intended to carry on the operations in Spain, and the other to be employed in the defence of the coasts, and in maritime expeditions.

"Upwards of 800,000 new muskets are deposited in our arsenals, exclusive of the foreign muskets which the fortune of war has thrown into our hands; and your Majesty has upwards of 40,000 pieces of cannon, with all their necessary equipments."

A long and labored Speech of the Chairman of the Committee of Finance of the Legislative Body, in support of the new PROJET of the revenue regulations, contains the following passages:

"A political measure, which drove back to our enemy's ports every thing that their commerce and industry tried to export to the Continent, occasioned a considerable diminution in the revenue accruing from the customs during the year 1808. The expenditure for that year was also augmented by the army stationed within the French territory, and by the preparations made for a new war.

"The proceeds of the customs were estimated, in the budget for 1809, at 137,000,000; that is to say, at less than two-thirds of the sum to which they were reduced in 1808. This reduction cannot occasion any embarrassing deficit in our revenue system; whilst it implies an annual diminution of more than four hundred and sixty millions of francs in the exportations of England; so that the measure which diminishes the proceeds of our customs, must prove fatal only to that power which has rendered its adoption necessary.

"Our contributions remain stationary, whilst England, already sinking under the enormous weight of her public debt, is every year adding to it by fresh loans.

"That debt is at present 20 billions 769,000 millions fr. and the annual interest 736,000,000, which must be defrayed by permanent taxes.

"In France, the first item of the budget is 11,300,000, as the interest of the public debt of the richest Empire in the Universe.

"During these 3 years (1807-8-9) if we compare the budgets of the respective countries, the expenditure of England will be found to have surpassed that of France by the sum of 1,304,421,000 fr. It should be observed, that, under the head of expences, the budget of England includes only those incurred from the army and navy, with the subsidies granted to foreign powers.

"To institute a just comparison between the budgets of the two powers, we should subtract from that of France all that is not comprised in that of England. But one may, without much calculation, perceive the inequality of the struggle between the two countries, and it is easy to foresee the issue. In the one, the science of finance consists only in throwing into the shade an immense debt, and in finding ways and means to augment the load of taxes borne by 15,000,000 of inhabitants. Her Government boasts of having perfected the ruinous system of loans. Her Treasury conceals the amount of the revenues, and their application; but her Bank cannot any longer conceal its embarrassment, not having for a length of time paid in specie any of its notes, but those of the lowest denomination. In short, such is the situation of her finances, that she is compelled, in order to perpetuate her taxes, to reject peace, and regards as a calamity the greatest blessing that Providence can bestow upon mankind."

BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

The following speech in support of an amendment proposed to the usual answer or echo to the King's speech, shews the light in which the present British Ministry is held by the People of that Country.

The Hon. Mr WARD, in rising to second the amendment proposed by his noble friend, begged to assure the House that it was not his wish unnecessarily to trespass upon its attention, or, upon slight grounds, to disturb that unanimity which seemed so anxious for on the present occasion. But when he adverted to the nature of the extraordinary measures which had been proposed by his Majesty's government—when he considered the weakness and impotency of their whole system of conduct, he felt himself imperiously called upon to declare his decided disapprobation of the address. It appeared to him that the past afforded sufficient grounds, not alone to condemn the policy upon which it turned, but to enable the House to form an adequate judgment of the future measures of those men by whom the resources of the nation had been so shamefully misapplied. If the House were to agree to the address proposed by the noble mover, it would, in fact, resolve to address, after the calamities which had been suffered, for the continuance of that policy and those measures, to which alone those calamities were to be ascribed. If the House were not to express in that instance either resentment for the past or anxiety for the future—if they were not to give expression to their sentiments with respect to the authors and the causes of the great public distress, he was convinced that they would be wanting in duty both to the public and themselves. So far, therefore, from supposing that they would agree to the address originally proposed, he was persuaded that they would be convinced of the propriety of addressing his Majesty in another form, and consequently adopt the amendment moved by his noble friend. If the Parliament was ever to act, it should act at the present moment; and if it should not act now, he was sure it would not at all. If the House were to resign its inquisitorial power, as to the acts of any set of men, and to renounce the salutary controul which it used to exercise over the servants of the crown, it would, he was convinced, be a proof of the decay of Parliamentary virtue, and an unerring symptom of the decline of the true spirit of the constitution. It was a matter of astonishment, that after such a series of unexampled calamities, his Majesty's Ministers, over the great number of whom the terrors of impeachment were impending, should dare to remain in office—(*Hear, Hear!*)—But if Parliament should, without any regard to their past conduct, think proper to give its support to such rulers, or lend its sanction to such measures, nothing could more clearly evince that secret but actual and alarming change which was said to have taken place in the British constitution: nothing could more indisputably shew the resemblance between this government and those old governments of Europe, which, weighed down by the influence of corruption & imbecility, fell successively a certain and easy prey to the superior wisdom and energies of the power which has enslaved them.——Having made these general observations upon the subject at large, he proposed to apply himself more particularly to what appeared to him to be the main question under consideration—the conduct of the war. Every gentleman who heard him must be aware, that since the last session of Parliament, the conduct of the war in every quarter had been attended by failures more complete, disgraces more signal, and losses more deplorable, than ever had been paralleled in any war in which this country had been engaged. That was the plain but true statement of the case, which, tho' it might be attempted to palliate it, it was absolutely impossible satisfactorily to account for, or successfully to justify. As that House must be sensible how much such a state of things must implicate the conduct of those entrusted with the administration of affairs, how far it must affect the character of the nation—it was one of its most important and essential duties to institute an immediate, vigilant and severe inquiry into the real cause of the national calamities and even to carry up the result of such inquiry to the foot of the throne, in an address to his Majesty, stating that they could no longer repose confidence in those ministers whose conduct had produced such lamentable instances of public disaster and disgrace. But, without entering into the detail just then, he must be allowed to make one general remark, that the number, the nature, and the succession of their failures were *prima facie* evidence of the incapacity and ignorance of his Majesty's ministers; for, though he should not contend that failure was in all cases a proof of want of wisdom or of imbecility, yet he must contend that where failures have been so frequent and invariable, they afford the strongest presumption of the weakness and incapacity of those, whose measures thus uniformly terminate in disappointment and disaster.—(*Hear! Hear!*)—That such had been the issue of all the measures of his Majesty's present ministers, he need only appeal to their history for a demonstration. If he were to go into any detailed proofs of this assertion, it would be an insult to the enlightened assembly he was addressing: to the recollection of every one of whom for such instances to illustrate it must be familiar. What measure of theirs, during the last 18 months, could be contemplated that had not ended in failure or disgrace.—(*Hear, hear!*) The calamitous retreat of the army under Sir John Moore, was one memorable instance, and that but a few months before was preceded by the disgraceful convention of Cintra—in short, every where and in every possible way, and under every possible circumstance, they had most deplorably failed. Success had never crowned their measures, but in their ever memorable attack on Copenhagen (*Hear! Hear!*)—Against the enemy every operation of theirs proved abortive; it was only in their attacks upon friends that their measures were not characterized by failure—(*Hear! hear! hear!*) It was impossible that such numerous and repeated failures could be ascribed to accident, or to a miracle, or to any thing but the grossest weakness and incompetence. That man must possess a mind of an extraordinary organization, who could ascribe the ill-advised Spanish war, the expulsion of the British army from Galicia, the disgraceful termination of the expedition to Walcheren, and the late disasters in Spain, to accident, or any other cause than the measures of the worst and most ignorant administration this country ever possessed—(*Loud cries of 'Hear! hear!'*) If this country had really a firm, a connected and a wise administration, such as that which existed under the late Mr. Pitt, whose measures, the offspring of a great mind such as he possessed, were constantly directed to the accomplishment of great national objects, the country would not have to lament the disgrace that had been brought on it. But no; the government was a government of departments. The Noble Lord at the head of it, more distinguished for virtues than talents, enfeebled by age and infirmity, was induced to add the weight of office to the infirmities of age, and to encounter the last moments of a declining life with the toils of business, for the purpose of keeping together an administration, the members of which entertained at that time a great contempt for each other—(*Hear, hear!*)—Men, who (as could be proved, even from their own documents) passed the time they should have devoted to the public service, in an Machiavelian intrigues, and in devising schemes for upsetting out the public arrangements——(*Hear! hear! hear! hear!*)——

It was from their exploits at home and their disgraces abroad, that Parliament was to infer the evidence of their wisdom and if they should only make the estimate according to the rules which prevailed in common life, the presumption must be, that failure constant and unifigurean only be ascribed to ignorance, incapacity or neglect. When he considered their own admitted dissensions, when he contemplated the calamitous consequences that had been the consequence of their measures—transactions which had recorded in history, would reflect disgrace upon posterity—he could not hesitate to assert that they were not fit persons to be trusted with the government of this country (*Hear! hear!*) A government thus weak and thus divided, could expect no success in their measures but failure; and such a government it was the duty of every friend of that House to endeavor to remove by lawful means. In the view he took of their conduct, he found that the more he sifted and examined their measures, the more reason he found to condemn them, and to withdraw all confidence from persons who had misconducted themselves in the administration of public affairs—(*Hear! hear!*)

After going into a wide detail, Mr. W. said—

"He called upon them to recollect the circumstances of the formation of the present administration, which was born a dwarf and a cripple in its infancy. He hoped they would bear in mind how the finances of the state had been hawked about—(*hear! hear!*)—but above all, to review the critical state of the continent and the formidable situation of France abroad. At this moment the whole power of France, which engrossed the wealth and resources of Europe, was directed by the head of that great and consummate statesman, who combined in himself the shining qualities of those men who, in their time, by their talents, rendered formidable to this country—who united the policy of Richelieu with the military genius of Turenne, and added the magnificence of Louis XIV to the activity and enterprize of Conde. When they reflected on this, they must be sensible of the folly of trusting to any thing but the collected wisdom and all the ability and wisdom of the country in successful resistance to such an overwhelming power as was opposed. In his heart, and without any party feeling or party spirit, he called upon the gentlemen below him (from the opposite benches) for that confidence which their experience, which alone could be relied on for the salvation of the country in these critical circumstances. He was sure that, in coming into office, they would be influenced by no unworthy motive, but would succeed to shattered means, to exhausted resources, and to unexampled difficulties. They would succeed to difficulties, which would appal the stoutest hearts—dangers and difficulties, which the emoluments of office, or pride of power, or ambition could adequately or at all compensate. The time was not distant when the country would be to be essayed, and its safety