



Character the plan of fair, political peace, &c. Unwarranted by party rage, &c. J. W. Brooks.

From Cobbett's weekly Register.

London, Sept. 16.

CONTINENTAL WAR.

From the moment of the recommencement of this war, I was of opinion, that Bonaparte would defeat the Allies; that he would break up the coalition; and that he would then dictate terms to his enemies. My reasons for this opinion I have given at length, and I have heard nothing from any quarter, in answer to those reasons. It is impossible, however, to restrain one's indignation at viewing the endeavours which are used, by the press of both the political factions in this country, to prevent the people from coming at the real truth with regard to the prospects in the war, and even with regard to events which have actually taken place. The French Bulletins, which will be found in another part of this paper, give a complete history of the campaign up to the 30th of August; & from these Bulletins it appears that the allied army, commanded by the Emperors of Russia and Austria and the King of Prussia, had been defeated by the French army under Bonaparte, with the loss of sixty thousand men, sixty pieces of cannon, and forty stand of colours. Is there any one in this country who doubts of the truth of this statement? I do not believe that there is any such person in England, if he has been accustomed to compare the statements of the French Bulletins with the facts as they have afterwards proved to be. Indeed, none but those whose wish, and, indeed, whose business it is, to deceive the people, can doubt of the truth of this statement on the part of the French. If the statement be true, it appears to me, that very little further resistance will be made, by the Austrians at least. They have received such a blow at the outset as to sicken them. There will doubtless be more battles fought; and it will be hard indeed, if our new friends, Bernadotte and Moreau, do not give us some little proof of their skill and courage; but I really do not expect that we shall ever hear of the grand French army meeting with a serious repulse. I expect to hear that that army has been, with very few exceptions, as rapid in gaining victories as during any former campaign. In the mean while it is right to notice (though, perhaps, it may produce no good effect) the frauds which have been practised in England, with a view of deceiving the people with regard to these important events. During the former part of the last week, it was stated in the London newspapers, that Bernadotte had attacked the French army, had gained a great victory over it, & had killed one French Marshal and mortally wounded another. This lie served to feed the thinking people of England for three days. At the end of that time the French papers had come to hand, and had discovered, not only that Bernadotte had gained no victory at all, and had merely been able to stand his ground for a little while in the face of a mere detachment from the French army; but these papers also informed us, that the Allies had been defeated by the French, in the manner above stated. The manner in which it was contrived to keep this latter fact from the public for three days, is very curious, and deserving of a particular account put upon record. There is nothing in which the people are more interested than in the means that are thus made use of to deceive them. They are constantly told of the deceptions practised upon the people of France, they are bidden to be proud of the freedom of the press, which exists in their own country; they are bidden to compare the political sunshine in which they live, with the darkness in which the people of France are kept. And, yet they are at the same time the most completely duped of any nation that ever existed in this world. Not to suffer men to

priest at all upon the subject of political news, this is not the way to deceive the people; this is not the way effectually to keep them in the dark as to the truth. The way to effect this purpose is to have a press, which the people shall regard as being free, and which, from the workings of various unseen wheels, from an influence flowing through numerous obscure and intricate channels, shall convey to the people falsehood instead of truth. He who knows nothing of any event that takes place, is in a better situation, in point of knowledge, than he who believes that which is false with respect to the event which takes place. No knowledge at all is better than a belief that you know facts, of which you really know only the contrary. The man who has lost a horse which has been stolen, and taken to wards the East, is in a worse situation from believing that the horse is gone towards the West, than he would be in, if wholly at a loss to guess which way his horse is gone. To leave hounds at a fault is much better than to call them off and put them upon a wrong scent. These are almost self-evident propositions; and upon the principle on which these propositions proceed, we may, I think safely affirm that it would be better for a nation to have no press at all, than a press which feeds it with falsehoods. A press which has no pretensions to freedom; a press, like that in France, which is well known, which is openly avowed, to be under the previous inspection of the government; a press, like the press in India, which can send forth nothing which has not first received the approbation of some officer under the government, who, sometimes, crosses out advertisements, if they relate to publications of which he disapproves.—I say, that a press like this, is less mischievous, because less calculated to deceive, than a press which the people believe to be free, but which is, in fact, under the control of those who find it their interest, ninety-nine times out of a hundred, to publish falsehood & not the truth. Such a press as this is the grand instrument of deception, of delusion, of producing in a nation a total perversion of the mind; and such a press now exists in England.

The people of France read their newspapers as publications made by the government, and of course they believe no more of them than they see supported by real acts and occurrences. They judge from the evidence of their senses; and accordingly they are not deceived. But the people in England, looking upon every editor of a newspaper as being at perfect liberty to say what he thinks, and more especially to publish true accounts of what is passing in the world; and the said people, not being able to get behind the curtain, to see the reasons why editors of papers should prefer falsehood to truth, naturally believe all that they read; and therefore, they are, as to political events, the most deceived people in the world. There are certain documents, however, which, though calculated to circulate disagreeable truths, it would be impossible to suppress; because, through some channel or other, such documents, like the famous BOOK, would find their way into print, and this would totally blast the reputation of those newspapers, whose business it is not only to promulgate falsehoods, but to cause them to be regarded as truths. The way they go to work, therefore, when they get hold of one of these documents, is to keep it back, in the first place, as long as they can; but this cannot be done for any considerable length of time. Seldom for more than forty eight hours.—During this interval, they go to work with both hands, to weaken the effect of the document upon the public mind. With one hand they make a sort of summary of the contents of the document, in which summary they contrive to break down the document to about one half of its real force. To this summary they sub-

join a commentary of their own, in which they endeavor to show, that the facts related in the document cannot be true; or, if true in part, only to a trifling extent. At the same time, with the other hand, they introduce some pieces of intelligence of a very favorable nature. This is, in general, intelligence wholly invented for the purpose. Hatched, as the saying is. It usually makes its appearance under the head of "SECOND EDITION" printed in enormously large letters, and gives an account of some very signal victory on our side. The union of these two tricks weakens the effect of the adverse intelligence at its first going forth. The next day nothing is said of the good news announced in the second edition the day before. It passes, of course, uncontradicted, and by a vast majority of the people, and it becomes recorded in their minds as true. The writers of these newspapers; the literary impostors who play these tricks, know very well that the well informed part of the community regard them as most impudent and profligate scoundrels; but they also know that ninety nine persons out of a hundred are not well informed, and to a great part of the remainder they know that falsehood, even glaring falsehood, in the shape of good news, is more pleasing than truth in the shape of bad news; and with this knowledge in their minds, they pocket the profit of their impudence, and laugh at the contempt of the sensible few. If I wanted any thing to convince me of the vast importance of the recent victories of Napoleon, I should find it at once in the tricks of these men, in announcing to the people the account of those victories. The London press was in possession of the French bulletins on Thursday, the 10th inst. It took very good care not to publish them till Saturday, the 12th inst. In the mean while it was at work in the manner before described; and I appeal to every reader who lives in a country town, whether he did not believe, during the whole of Friday and Saturday last, that the French army had been defeated by the allies? Such I will venture to say, was the general belief through the whole kingdom. At last on Sunday morning the French bulletins themselves reached the people in the country, at this distance from London. But good use had been made of the lapse of time; for there were not only commentaries, the object of which was to show that the French bulletins could not be true; but there were victories hatched for Bernadotte and bulletins in his name, announcing such victories, which appear to have been wholly invented for the occasion; it being manifested that in the slight affair in which he was engaged, he gained no victory at all. The typographical trick played off upon this occasion, is worthy of notice. The whole mass of intelligence had for title these words: "Victory gained by the Crown Prince Great Battle near Dresden." Only observe this trick! It was a victory gained by the Crown Prince; but it was only a great battle near Dresden, though the impostor well knew, that in half a minute from the reading of the title, every one must see that this great battle ended in a most tremendous victory gained by the Emperor Napoleon. But, half a minute was something! Half a minute was a great deal to the intelligent reader; and as to the mass of readers, they would take care (most thinking people as they are!) to carry the titles full in their minds while reading the whole of the intelligence. And yet with these tricks daily under our eyes; with these at once impudent and sorry tricks constantly staring us in the face, and with the success of these impostors well known to us all, we have the shamelessness to pretend, that the people of France are less fairly dealt with than the people of England, with regard to political intelligence! If I may be permitted

to step aside for a moment I will avail myself of it to observe, that in private concerns as well as public concerns, the English press is a base and mischievous deceiver. There are hundreds of men who, without any fair pretensions to public esteem or admiration, have gained great celebrity have become persons of great public consideration, and have even pocketed the profits of their reputation, in consequence of nothing but the judicious employment of their money with those who have the press in their hands. I have in my eye a man who, without one grain of talent, without one sentiment of honor, performing for years functions very little above those of a mere pimp, was regarded by the mass of the people of England, as the man above all others distinguished for refinement in all the notions of the higher order. A creature more completely devoid of real honesty, more puffed up with vanity, more weak in head or more hollow in heart, more worthy of the epithet of dirty put before his name, does not, perhaps exist in the whole world; and yet through the means of the detestable press he was, throughout the kingdom, regarded as the profoundest of statesmen, and as the very pink of honor. It would be a curious thing to ascertain what is the actual amount of the money received at the different newspaper offices in payment of the praises which they bestow upon individuals, or the inventions or property of individuals. I do not mean what they receive for those honest puffs which the lottery proprietors and the vendors of medicine put in the newspapers. There is nothing unfair in these. They are avowedly puffs; but what I complain of, are those paragraphs which appear as if written by the editor himself, and which begin with a "We;" when, perhaps, he has never read them, or even seen them, they having been received at the office by the clerk, who, upon being paid the price of them according to their length, has sent them up stairs to the printer for insertion. This praise, as well as the dead as of the living, is actually to be bought in London by measure; as one buys wools and linens. The clerk to a newspaper office has a gauge, by which he will tell in a moment the stated price of any article that you present to him. There are, indeed, certain cases where the quality, as well as the quantity, is taken into view. For instance, if the party praised be notorious and even proverbial for every species of villainy, the price is higher to obtain the praise of his being possessed of every virtue. It would have cost Nicholson, who seems to have been a murderer by instinct, many hundred pounds, if he had them, to obtain any thing like a decent apology for his conduct; and, perhaps it did not cost a trifle to attribute to motives of wonderful delicacy, Goldsmith's blowing of his brains out, and to make it appear his corpse in place of being buried in a cross road, was hardly sufficiently honored by being deposited in the earth amidst the lamentations of the full congregation of the children of Israel. And we are the people, are we, who have the effrontery to point the finger of scorn at the French people on account of their being kept in darkness by the press! To return to our subject—it appears that Moreau has made his exit from this wretched world. The Courier newspaper seems to lament this exceedingly, and so do I too; for I should have liked to see him live out the campaign, in order that the world might see how many soldiers of the French army would have gone over to him. The French newspapers speak the voice of the government, or, they speak not at all. But all the papers except the official paper, may keep silence, if they please. They are at liberty to refrain from speaking; and therefore, I look upon the following article, which is taken from a French Newspaper, as expressing pretty fairly the sentiments which the people of

France entertain with regard to the conduct of Moreau.

Paris, Sept. 3.—The ex-general Moreau arrived at Prague on the 20th August. Some people appeared to doubt his arrival on the continent, and his connections with the enemies of his country. There can no longer be any doubt on this subject. The ex-general, who has for a long time resided in America, has, without doubt, heard talk of Gen. Arnold, so celebrated in the American revolutionary war, and who, after having gloriously fought in the ranks of his country, conspired against the government of his country. The conspiracy being discovered, the traitor offered his services to the English, who made use of him, by despising and condemning him to infamy and oblivion. The name of Arnold, dishonored in history, is never mentioned in America without being accompanied by some disgraceful epithet, and children even only pronounce it with execration. Why did not such an example deter the ex-general Moreau? But he chose rather to throw off the mask, and by new steps justify the opinion of all intelligent men, whom his hypocrisy had not been able to deceive. There he then has joined the Russians and Prussians! This intelligence has dissipated all illusions respecting him. Public indignation is pronounced against him, it will pursue him to the tomb, and deliver up his name to the justice of posterity. In all times, in all countries, the man who joined the enemies of his country, lost all his titles to consideration, and did not even fail to excite contempt in those who profited by his treason. In this head, the sublime words of that model for French warriors, the chevalier Bayard, are known. He was mortally wounded fighting against the imperialists, at whose head was found the Constable Bourbon, who had basely sold himself to the enemies of France. The traitor arrived near Bayard and seeing him ready to expire, could not restrain his tears.—"Do not weep for me," said the chevalier, "without fear and without reproach, indignantly to him, "weep for yourself for having betrayed your country and your oath."

These I take it, are the real sentiments of the great body of the French people. They are not the sentiments of our newswriters, who while they commend the ripping out of the quivering bowels of Englishmen found fighting against England, bestow the loftiest praises on a Frenchman, who, after having been raised from poverty to riches in the armies of France, comes from America to Europe to volunteer his services in the armies of her enemies. These gentlemen have surely never read the Holy Scriptures, which expressly forbid the using of two weights and two measures. No, these gentlemen never read the scriptures, or, they would remember that men are to be judged by the rules and maxims by which they judge others; and if it be a crime worthy of the most terrible of deaths in an Englishman to fight against England, by what logic do they think the world are to be convinced that this is a meritorious act; nay, even an act of patriotism in a Frenchman to fight against France? They will say, perhaps, that Moreau does not like the government of France and that he thinks that the man at the head of that government ought to be put down. In short, that it is not France that Moreau is fighting against but against Bonaparte. Indeed! and do you think that an Englishman would fight against England would not be able to make the same sort of apology for his conduct? I will warrant it, that there is no man amongst all those that have been executed by us for this crime, who would not have saved his life, if it could have been saved upon a similar plea. Decency, one would think, common decency would be sufficient, if we had any sense of it, to restrain us from praising the man's conduct; but if we are not to be restrained by that sort of feeling, surely we ought by a reflection on the danger which such an example might possibly have upon our own soldiers and sailors.

WM. COBBETT.

Boley, 14th Sept. 1813.
North-Carolina, Beaufort County, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, June Term, 1813.
Hadrianus Va Noorden v. O'ig. Attacomb's Deed, just as to Givens & Marshall, plus W. Marshall. IT appearing to this Court, that Gargabus & Marshall, plus W. Marshall, are not inhabitants of this State, Order, that public notice be given for three months in the Raleigh Register, that unless they appear and reply, and plea of this suit, that judgment shall by default be entered up at the next term against them.
THO. SMAW, CLK.