



LATE FOREIGN NEWS.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT!

Preliminaries for a general Peace in Europe!

On Sunday evening last, arrived in Nantuxet Roads, Boston Harbor, the ship Ann Alexander, Capt. Keopson, in 43 days from Liverpool. We have been favored with London papers to the 25th December, and Liverpool to the 27th, a month, later than previous advices. The most prominent and important article of news, is the offer of preliminaries for a GENERAL PEACE by the Allied Powers, and its acceptance by Bonaparte.

From the complexion of the English papers, it appears that this offer was made and accepted without the intervention or knowledge of Britain—and this is doubtless the cause of the sudden departure of Lord Castlereagh from the continent.

The Prince of Orange and his son, had arrived in Holland, and were cordially received by the inhabitants.

SPEECH OF THE EMPEROR.

Paris, December, 19. To-day, Sunday, Dec. 19, his majesty the Emperor and King set off at one o'clock from the Palace of the Tuilleries, to repair in state to the Legislative Body, where having been received with the usual ceremonies, his majesty, after taking his seat, made the following speech:

"Senators, Councilors of State, Deputies from the Departments to the Legislative Body: Splendid victories have raised the glory of the French arms during this campaign; defections without parallel have rendered those victories useless—all has turned against us. France itself would be in danger, but for the union and energy of the French."

"In these weighty circumstances, it was my first thought to call you around me. My heart has need of the presence and of the affection of my subjects."

"I have never been seduced by prosperity. Adversity will always find me superior to its attacks."

"I have several times given peace to nations when they had lost every thing. From a part of my conquests, I have raised thrones for kings who have forsaken me."

"I had conceived and executed great designs for the prosperity and the happiness of the world. A monarch and a father, I feel that peace adds to the security of thrones, and to that of families. Negotiations have been entered into with the allied powers."

"I have accepted the preliminary conditions of the allies, for the sake of the families of the French nation."

"I had then the hope, that before the opening of this session, the Congress of Manheim would be assembled; but new delays, which are not ascribed to France, have deferred this moment, which the wishes of the world eagerly call for."

"I have ordered to be laid before you all the original documents which are in the possession of my department of foreign affairs. You will make yourselves acquainted with them by means of a committee. The Speakers of my council will acquaint you with my will on this subject."

"On my side, there is no obstacle to the re-establishment of peace. I know and partake all the sentiments of the French—I say of the French, because there is not one of them who could desire peace at the price of honor."

"It is with regret that I ask of this generous people new sacrifices; but they are commanded by its noblest and dearest interests. It was necessary to recruit my armies by numerous levies—nations cannot treat with security except by displaying their whole strength. An increase of taxes becomes indispensable. What my minister of finance will propose

to you, is conformable to the system of finance which I have established. We shall meet every demand without a loan, which consumes the future, and without paper money, which is the greatest enemy of social society."

"I am satisfied with the sentiment which my people of Italy have testified towards me on this occasion."

"Denmark and Naples alone have remained faithful to their alliance with me."

"The Republic of the United States of America continues with success its war with England."

"I have recognised the neutrality of the nineteen Swiss Cantons."

"Senators, Councilors of State, Deputies from the Departments to the Legislative Body: You are the natural organs of this throne; it is for you to give an example of energy, which may recommend our generation to the generations to come. Let them not say of us, 'They have sacrificed the best interests of their country! They have acknowledged the laws which England has in vain sought, during four centuries, to impose on France.'"

"My people cannot fear that the policy of their Emperor will ever betray the national glory. On my side, I feel the confidence, that the French will be constantly worthy of themselves and of me."

After the Speech of his majesty, the sitting being terminated, his majesty retired in the midst of acclamations.

PRINCE OF ORANGE.

Rotterdam, Tuesday Dec. 7. The Prince of Orange arrived on Wednesday last, with a few marines. His entry into the Hague was a triumph, and nothing could exceed the delight of its population. The British Ambassador with a few officers, followed.

Detachments of Russian and Prussian light troops have been pushed towards Antwerp, which is now the grand object. Its capture may be difficult; the works always strong, have been lately strengthened: and the consequence annexed to the name of the grand depot of the North Sea Fleet, will make its defence a matter of peculiar interest. The force of this fleet appears to have been exaggerated in England. It is said to consist only of twelve sail of the line afloat, and six, with six frigates on the stocks. The ships are now removed within the docks, which are capable of containing a navy, and are completely under the guns of the fortress. The Texel fleet will probably fall more readily. Verheul, the Admiral retired from on board, and shut himself up with the principal French, in Fort La Salle. The place is strong, and will probably be defended to the last.

The United Netherlands may be now considered free.

The Crown Prince has marched back on his own steps.

DUTCH AFFAIRS.

From the London Gazette, Dec. 14. WAR DEPARTMENT, Downing-street, Dec. 14, 1814.

A letter, of which the following is an extract, has this day been received by Earl Bathurst, from Major General Taylor, dated the Hague, Dec. 11, 1813.

"It is with the greatest satisfaction that I have the honor to acquaint your Lordship, that the Allies are in possession of Breda and Williamstadt which have been abandoned by the enemy."

"From a person who has seen General Beukendorff this morning, I understand that upon the approach of 300 Cossacks who had spread the report that they were the advance guard of ten thousand Russians, the garrison of Breda, consisting of 1800 men, had marched out, but the Cossacks having penetrated into the town before the evacuation was completed, 600 of the garrison had fallen into their hands."

"Gen. Benderdorff proposed going to Breda himself to-morrow, and will carry with him a great propor-

tion of the remainder of his corps.—I have not learnt in what direction the garrison retired."

London, December 23. Advices have been received from Bremen, to the 3d inst, at which period nothing certain was known in that city of the position of the army of the Prince Royal of Sweden, but it was presumed that he had proceeded to the Saabkies, and that a desperate engagement with Marshal Davoust would speedily decide the fate of Hamburg.

A very large quantity of ordnance stores were shipped from Chatham for Holland, during the last week, including nearly 10,000 stand of small arms.

The following is a letter from an officer in the Crown Prince's army: "Luneburgh, Nov. 27.—I believe the bridge of boats across the Elbe will be finished to-day, and we shall cross the river to-morrow, or the next day, at Boitzenburgh, and I imagine immediately have an action with Davoust's army, as he is close there; in fact we shall then be about twenty-eight English miles from Hamburg."

London, December 23. Advices have been received from the Hague to the 23d inst, but they contain no intelligence of importance. None of the strong places in possession of the enemy had fallen since the previous accounts, nor had the Texel fleet surrendered. The French continued with great activity, to strengthen the fortifications in Zealand.

CAPITULATION OF DANTZIC.

The London Gazette of Dec. 25, contains a letter from Major Macdonald, stating that articles of capitulation for the important fortress of Dantzic were signed on the 29th of November. The troops were to march out of the town with their arms and baggage on the 1st of Jan. 1814, and lay down their arms in front of the battery of the Gates Engel, if before that period the place shall be relieved by an equal number of the besieging army, the officers to retain their swords, a detachment of the Imperial Guards, and a battalion of 600 men shall retain their arms, and shall take with them two 6 pounders and the ammunition waggon belonging thereto.—Twenty five cavalry soldiers shall likewise retain their horses and arms. The garrison of Dantzic shall be prisoners of war, and conducted to France. The Governor Count Rapp, formally pledges himself that none of the officers and men shall serve until they have been regularly exchanged, &c. &c.

Advices have been since received from Lord Cathcart, dated Frankfurt, 12th December 1813, stating that his Imperial Majesty had not ratified the above articles of capitulation, but had ordered that the siege of Dantzic should continue until the garrison should surrender as prisoners of war.

December 25.

Lord Castlereagh sets off for the continent on Monday, accompanied by the Hon. Mr. Robinson. As yet little has transpired relative to the causes that have induced one of the members of the Cabinet to undertake such a mission.

By the Cadiz papers which arrived yesterday, to the 4th inst, we learn, that on the 29th November, the Cortes suspended their sittings in the Isle of Leon which are to be resumed at Madrid on the 15th of January, 1814. All the branches of the Government were removing from Cadiz to that capital.

Letters from St. Petersburg, dated 23d November, stating, that the second attempt of Mediation by Russia having failed of its purpose, Mess. Gallatin and Bayard, were preparing to take their departure and were to return by Berlin and Copenhagen.—The vessel which had been provided with the Cartel for their accommodation having been lost on the voyage from the Gulph of Finland to Gottenburg, another ship was preparing for their reception.

Viscount Castlereagh sent the result of the deliberation of the Cabinet Council, held on Thursday, to the Prince Regent at Windsor, the importance of which required the Prince's presence in London, which induced his Royal Highness to give up the spending the festival of this day with his Royal parents; and in consequence gave directions for coming to town yesterday morning, and a servant arrived yesterday at Carlton House, a little before 2 o'clock, announcing his Royal Highness's return.

STATE PAPERS.

Declaration of the Allied Powers.

The French government has ordered a new levy of 300,000 conscripts. The motives of the Senate Consultum to that effect contain an appeal to the Allied Powers.—They, therefore, find themselves called upon to promulgate anew, in the face of the world, the views which guide them in the present war; the principles which form the basis of their conduct, their wishes and their determinations.

The Allied Powers do not make war upon France, but against the preponderance haughtily announced—against that preponderance which, to the misfortune of Europe and of France, the Emperor Napoleon has too long exercised beyond the limits of the Empire.

Victory has conducted the Allied Armies to the banks of the Rhine.—The first use which their Imperial and Royal Majesties have made of victory, has been to offer peace to his Majesty the Emperor of the French.—An attitude, strengthened by the accession of the Sovereigns and Princes of Germany, has had no influence on the conditions of that peace. These conditions are founded on the independence of the French Empire, as well as on the independence of the other states of Europe. The views of the Powers are just in their object, generous and liberal in their application, giving security to all, honorable to each.

The Allied Sovereigns desire that France may be great, powerful and happy; because the French power in a state of greatness and strength, is one of the foundations of the social edifice of Europe. They wish that France may be happy, that her commerce may revive; that the arts, those blessings of peace, may again flourish; because a great people can only be tranquil as it is happy. The Powers confirm to the French Empire an extent of territory which France under her Kings never knew: because a valiant nation does not fall from its rank, by having in its turn experienced reverses in an obstinate and sanguinary contest, in which it has fought with its accustomed bravery.

But the Allied Powers wish to be free, tranquil and happy themselves. They desire a state of peace which, by a wise partition of strength, by a just equilibrium, may henceforth preserve their people from numberless calamities which have overwhelmed Europe for the last 20 years.

The Allied Powers will not lay down their arms until they have obtained this great and beneficial result: they will not lay down their arms until the political state of Europe be re-established anew—until immutable principles have resumed their rights over vain pretensions—until the sanctity of treaties shall have at last secured a real peace to Europe.

Frankfort, Dec. 1, 1813.

From the Morning Chronicle, Dec. 21.

The admirable Declaration of the Allied Powers, which we inserted above, was alluded to yesterday in both Houses of Parliament, by Lord Holland and Mr. Horner, with the view of ascertaining from Ministers whether they were parties to the publication of that document, if authentic, and more particularly whether an overture of peace had been made to

the French government (as asserted in the Declaration) and rejected, or whether an overture had been made that was likely to lead to negotiation.

The replies from the Earl of Liverpool and Lord Castlereagh established the authenticity of the declaration and stated generally the perfect concert between this government and the allies. Lord Liverpool, however, stated that the declaration was published at Frankfort without a previous concert with the British government as to its publication, but that the allies were in full possession of the sentiments of this cabinet. On the subject of any overture of peace they declined giving any answer, on the ground that their public duty did not permit it.

It is of course to be inferred, that the Declaration of the Allied Powers contains also the opinions of the British government upon the great and momentous subject to which it refers, and ministers undoubtedly deserve credit for that moderation of view which so admirably characterises the document alluded to, and which is so eminently calculated to take from Bonaparte every available pretence with the French people for continuing the war.

American affairs.—London, Nov. 6.

Our readers will recollect what was said a few days ago on the subject of the much to be regretted war with America; and the apparent difficulty of happily terminating it, as the seeds of it are deep in the ground; and of the jealousy of the British Cabinet, in letting any other power have a share in the arrangement. It was natural for the Americans to wish to engage the Court of St. Petersburg, as a mediator. They might say of it, 'it was only one of us,' for it was the chief of the armed neutrality of the North. It now appears that Lord Walpole had not arrived at St. Petersburg 3 days before he intimated to the Russian Ministry, that as his Britannic Majesty's government had already distinctly and explicitly refused to admit of the mediation or interference of any other power with our quarrel with America, and as the stay in Russia of the Republican Commissioners after the determination was known, would only tend to mislead the world; he was instructed to signify, that the dismission of the said Commissioners would be particularly pleasing to the British government. It may, therefore, be said, that if we are not fairly we are fully in for a contest, which it will require the wisdom and coolness of a Grotius and a Puffendorf to put the wished for termination to.

Statesman.

London, December 24.

Paris papers to the 21st inst, reached town yesterday, containing the speech of Bonaparte to the legislative body. the foundation has been laid for a treaty of peace. He says that negotiation had been entered into with the allied powers, and that he had adhered to a preliminary basis which they have presented. He had hopes that before the period of the meeting of the legislative body a congress would have assembled at Manheim, but delays had taken place, which had prevented it. We have therefore the certainty of a preliminary basis of peace having been agreed upon, but of the nature of that basis nothing is stated. According to report all the French conquests are to be surrendered, except the territory formerly the Electorate of Mayence & Treves but nothing has transpired from any authority to show the nature of the preliminary basis, which is to form the ground-work of negotiation. It is said however, that Lord Castlereagh sets out this day to proceed to the Congress, with full power to represent the British government.

We trust the advocates of interminable war will now cease their murmurs, and not attempt to disturb that negotiation which every rational man must hope will lead to the establish-