to support him in his determination to employ the power and resources of the nation, in opposing the spirit of ambition and encroachment which at present actuates the councils of France, in upholding the dignity of his crown, and in asserting and maintaining the rights and interests of his people."

The message having been read, as usual, by the lord chancellor, and the clerk, it was, on the motion of lord Pelham, ordered to be taken into consideration this day se'nnight.

A similar message was delivered in the house of commons by Mr. Addington.

The message having been read, Mr. Grey put a question to ministers, whether or not orders had been issued for letters of marque and reprisal. Lord Hawkesbury replied, that it was unnecessary to disguise the fact, and that orders had been recently issued for that purpose.

We understand that letters of marque have been in preparation for several days past; but they are at present directed only against the subjects of the French and Italian republics.

The French government has made arrangements for taking possession of Genoa. Leghorn and all the Neapolitan harbors. Upwards of 100,000 men are marching to Italy, and are to form two camps in Piedmont and Lombardy. The king of Etruria is to furnish a force to be at the disposal of France.

We stated on Saturday that lord Whitworth had left Paris last Thursday night, and it is now ascertained that his lordship set out from that capital at ten o'clock that night. He slept the following night at Breteuil, and stopt on Saturday night at Abbeville. Preparations were made for his reception yesterday evening at Boulogne, and he was to have embarked this day at Calais for Dover.

It was at one o'clock this day se'nnight that lord Whitworth received the dispatches transmitted by Sylvester, the messenger; but in consequence of the accident which happened to the first consul, he deferred delivering in the final proposal of our government until Tuesday noon. Some modifications, but not of a very important nature, were certainly made in our *ultimatum*. A decisive answer was at the same time demanded by the ambassador, in the course of thirty-six hours, and if the proposal was rejected, he expressly informed the minister for foreign affairs, that he had orders to quit Paris at the expiration of the time. An answer was soon after sent to Lord Whitworth, that the first consul intended to submit to his council of state the decision of the question of war or peace.

The council was accordingly assembled, and notwithstanding the opposition both of Joseph Buonaparte and Talleyrand, the issue of their deliberations was, the renewal of hostilities. Constituted as this council is, no other result could reasonably be expected. It does not appear that either the senate or the legislative body were in any respect consulted, and no other advice was asked but that which was previously known to accord with Bonaparte's avowed opinion. The council was occupied in consideration of the question until Thursday afternoon. The expedient of referring the points in dispute to the decision of the council of state, the servile instruments of Bonaparte's will, is evidently a paltry and miserable trick, calculated for gaining another day's delay, and taking off from the first consul as much as possible the odium of involving the people of France in war. The trick is, however, too ridiculous and contemptible to be attended with success. France and all Europe must be aware, that the power of deciding was with Bonaparte, and not with the state puppets he assembled, who are in fact but the wretched tools of his caprice and ambition. Lord Whitworth left Paris three hours after the opinion of these mock counsellors was communicated to him.

The Gazette of Saturday night contained an order in council for prohibiting for two months, from the 11th instant, the exportation of naval stores; and another of the same date, for allowing vessels employed in the African trade to take on board carriage guns, swivels, &c. for their defence against an enemy.

Russia, Austria and Prussia have severally declared their intention to preserve their neutrality in the coming war. Prussia has denied the assertion made in most of the foreign journals, that she meditated the occupation of Hanover, and the shutting up of the Elbe and Weser against the commerce of England, his majesty declaring that he will preserve the free navigation of those rivers, and maintain the independence and neutrality of Hanover. Communication to this effect was received by the regency on the 26th ultimo, and dispatched to London.

The emperor of Russia, in reply to the letter addressed to him by the chief consul, and conveyed to Petersburg by the chief of brigade Colbert, on the subject of the difference with England, has declared that should a war result from it, he will exert his whole influence and power to preserve the neutrality of the north. The recent armament in the Russian dominions, altho' professedly against Sweden, are supposed to have been made with this view, the more especially as the naval equipments are still continued, notwithstanding the adjustment with the court of Stockholm.

May 17.

An express is said to have been received yesterday evening at the admiralty office, from Dover, stating that an English 74 & two frigates were, upon the preceding night, in chace of three French frigates between the North Foreland and Dungeness, supposed to have slipped out of Dunkirk to join the fleet at Brest. The seventy-four is said to be the Leviathan, and the frigates are presumed to be the Penelope and the Sirius. The account was brought into the Downs by an English collier, which stated that the Leviathan had got between the French frigates and their own coast, and was gaining fast upon them when the collier lost sight of her.

M. Schimmelpennick, the Dutch ambassador, was with general Andreossi before his departure yesterday morning, but the Batavian minister does not yet take his leave of us.

May 18.

A report yesterday evening prevailed, that Mr. Pitt and lords Grenville and Melville were again to come into power. It cannot be traced to any authentic source. His majesty is perfectly satisfied with the present ministers; and Mr. Addington, like Bonaparte, seems determined to trust to his *fortune*.

The public will learn with real satisfaction, that our means, offensive and defensive, are much greater than has been generally imagined. According to the returns made at the admiralty board, of seamen, volunteers and impressed, up to last Thursday, the whole amount consists of eighteen thousand men; and in addition to the forty thousand militia now embodied, ten thousand of the thirty thousand that remain to be called out, are actually assembling.

Lord Keith yesterday received his commission as commander in chief of the squadron in the North sea.

On Monday the 16th, the following ships, under the command of admiral Cornwallis, sailed from Torbay on a cruize.

Ships.	*Guns.*	*Commanders.*
Dreadnought,	98	Admiral Cornwallis, Captain Murray,
Neptune,	98	—— Drury,
Albion,	74	—— Ferrier,
Minotaur,	74	——
Ardent,	64	—— Winthrop,
Culloden,	74	Rear Adm. Campb. Captain Lane,
Venerable,	74	—— Searle,
Sceptre,	74	——
Thunderer,	74	—— Bedford,
Russell,	74	—— Williams.

May 19.

We have already stated that lord admiral Cornwallis had sailed from Torbay.—The noble admiral got under way on Monday afternoon, and was out of sight at 8 o'clock the same evening. Besides the ten ships of the line, there were three frigates and a cutter.

Signal posts have been established all round the coast, in order that a chain of communication may be kept up throughout the kingdom.

Admiral sir James Sumarez has been appointed commander of the ships and vessels stationed off Guernsey and Jersey, to watch the motions of the French, and intercept their ships in that quarter.

Thirty-five cutters have been engaged by the admiralty instead of twenty, as formerly stated.

Lord Keith left town yesterday noon for Sheerness, at which place his lordship is to hoist his flag on board the Ethalion frigate.

PRICES OF STOCK.

Bank Stock, 152 1-2 153
3 pr. Ct. Red. 58 3-4 1-8 1-4
3 pr. Ct. Cons. 59 3-4 1-8 1-4
Consols for Mon. 59 1-2
Ditto, May Acc. 59 5 8

HAMBURG, May 6.

The French government, notwithstanding the rejection of its recent proposals, for an alliance offensive and defensive with Denmark, has since urged the Prince Royal, in case of a rupture with England, to shut the Elbe and entrance of the Baltic to all English ships. To this application likewise the Danish cabinet has returned a positive refusal. The ministers strongly represented to the French ambassador the injurious consequences which a system hostile to so near a neighbor as Great-Britain would bring upon that kingdom.

Champagny, the French ambassador at Vienna, after receiving a courier from his government, lately presented a note to the Imperial minister, in which he demands, that, in case of war, the Austrian harbors should be shut against the English. Tho' no answer had been returned to this note on the 27th ultimo, there is every reason to believe, that such a demand will not be complied with.

The court of Austria is highly alarmed at the immense military force which France continues to pour into Italy: and representations on this subject have actually been made to citizen Champagny, as well as to the cabinet of the Thuilleries, by count Cobentzel, the Austrian ambassador at Paris.

LONDON, May 20.

DECLARATION.

His majesty's earnest endeavors for the preservation of peace having failed of success, he entertains the fullest confidence that he shall receive the same support from his parliament, and that the same zeal and spirit will be manifested by his people, which he has experienced on every occasion when the honor of his crown has been attacked, or the essential interest of his dominions have been endangered.

During the whole course of the negociations which led to the preliminary and definitive treaties of peace between his majesty and the French republic, it was his majesty's sincere desire, not only to put an end to the hostilities which subsisted between the two countries, but to adopt such measures, and to concur in such propositions, as might most effectually contribute to consolidate the general tranquility of Europe. The same motives by which his majesty was actuated during the negociation for peace, have since invariably governed his conduct. As soon as the treaty of Amiens was concluded, his majesty's courts were open to the people of France for every purpose of legal redress; all sequestrations were taken off their property; all prohibitions on their trade which had been imposed during the war were removed, and they were placed, in every respect, on the same footing with regard to commerce and intercourse, as the inhabitants of any other state in amity with his majesty, with which there existed no treaty of commerce.

To a system of conduct thus open, liberal, and friendly, the proceedings of the French government afford the most striking contrast. The prohibitions which had been placed on the commerce of his majesty's subjects during the war have been enforced with increased strictness and severity: Violence has been offered in several instances to their vessels and their property; and, in no case, has justice been afforded to those who may have been aggrieved in consequence of such acts, nor has any satisfactory answer been given to the repeated representations made by his majesty's ministers or embassadors at Paris. Under such circumstances, when his majesty's subjects were not suffered to enjoy the common advantages of peace within the territories of the French republic, and the countries dependent upon it, the French government had recourse to the extraordinary measure of sending over to this country a number of persons for the professed purpose of residing in the most considerable sea-port towns of Great-Britain and Ireland, in the character of commercial agents or consuls. These persons could have no pretensions to be acknowledged in that character, as the right of being so acknowledged, as well as all the privileges attached to such a situation, could only be derived from a commercial treaty; and as no treaty of that description was in existence between his majesty and the French republic, there was consequently too much reason to suppose, that the real object of their mission was by no means of a commercial nature, and this suspicion was confirmed, not only by the circumstance that some of them were military men, but by the actual discovery that several of them were furnished with instructions to obtain the soundings of the harbors, and to procure military surveys of the places where it was intended they should reside. His majesty felt it to be his duty to prevent their departure to their respective places of destination, and represented to the French government the necessity of withdrawing them; and it cannot be denied that the circumstances under which they were sent, and the instructions which were given to them, ought to be considered as decisive indications of the disposition and intentions of the government by whom they were employed.

The conduct of the French government, with respect to the commercial intercourse between the two countries, must therefore be considered as ill suited to a state of peace, and their proceedings in their more general political relations, as well as in those which immediately concern his majesty's dominions, appear to have been altogether inconsistent with every principle of good faith, moderation and justice. His majesty had entertained hopes, in consequence of the repeated assurances and professions of the French government, that they might have been induced to adopt a system of policy which, if it had not inspired other powers with confidence, might at least have allayed their jealousies. If the French government had really appeared to be actuated by a due attention to such a system; if their dispositions had proved to be essentially pacific, allowances would have been made for the situation in which a new government must be placed after so dreadful and extensive a convulsion as that which has been produced by the French revolution. But his majesty has unfortunately had too much reason to observe and to lament that the system of violence, aggression and aggrandizement which characterized the proceedings of the different governments of France during the war, has been continued with as little disguise since its termination. They have continued to keep a French army in Holland against the will, and in defiance of the remonstrances of the Batavian government, and in repugnance to the letter of three solemn treaties. They have, in a period of peace, invaded the territory, and violated the independence of the Swiss nation, in defiance of the treaty of Luneville, which had stipulated the independence of their territory, and the right of the inhabitants to chuse their own form of government. They have annexed to the dominions of France, Piedmont, Parma and Placentia, and the island of Elba, without allotting any provision to the king of Sardinia, whom they have despoiled of the most valuable part of his territory, though they were bound, by a solemn engagement to the emperor of Russia, to attend to his interests and to provide for his establishment. It may, indeed, with truth be asserted, that the period which has elapsed since the conclusion of the definitive treaty, has been marked with one continued series of aggression, violence and insult on the part of the French government.

In the month of October last, his majesty was induced, in consequence of the earnest solicitation of the Swiss nation, to make an effort, by a representation to the French government, to avert the evils which were then impending over the country. This representation was couched in the most temperate terms; and measures were taken by his majesty for ascertaining, under the circumstances which then existed, the real situation and wishes of the Swiss cantons, as well as the sentiments of the cabinets of Europe. His majesty learned, however, with the utmost regret, that no disposition to counteract these repeated infractions of treaties and acts of violence was manifested by any of the powers most immediately interested in preventing them; and his majesty therefore felt that, with respect to these objects, his single efforts could not be expected to produce any considerable advantage to those in whose favor they might be exerted.

It was about this time that the French government first distinctly advanced the principle, that his majesty had no right to complain of the conduct, or interfere with the proceedings of France, on any point which did not form a part of the stipulations of the treaty of Amiens. That treaty was unquestionably founded upon the same principle as every other antecedent treaty or convention, on the assumption of the state of possession and of engagements subsisting at the time of its conclusion; and if that state of possession and of engagements is materially affected by the voluntary act of any of the parties, so as to prejudice the condition on which the other party has entered into the contract, the change, so made, may be considered as operating virtually as a breach of the treaty itself, and as giving the party aggrieved a right to demand satisfaction or compensation for any substantial difference which such acts may have effected in their relative situations; but whatever may be the principle on which the treaty is to be considered as founded, there is indisputably a general law of nations, which though liable to be limited, or restrained by conventional laws, is antecedent to it, and is that law or rule of conduct which all sovereigns & states have been accustomed to appeal to, where conventional law is admitted to have been silent.

The treaty of Amiens, and every other treaty, in providing for the objects to which it is particularly directed, does not therefore assume or imply an indifference to all other objects which are not specified in its stipulations, much less does it adjudge them to be of a nature to be left to the will and caprice of the violent and powerful. The justice of the cause is alone a sufficient ground to warrant the interposition of any of the powers of Europe in the differences which may arise between other states, and the application and extent of that just interposition is to be determined solely by considerations of prudence. These principles can admit of no dispute; but if the new and extraordinary pretension advanced by the French government, to exclude his majesty from any right to interfere with respect to the concerns of other powers, unless they made a specific part of the stipulations of the treaty of Amiens, was that which it was possible to maintain, those powers would have a right, at least to claim the benefit of this principle, in every case of difference between the two countries. The indignation of all Europe must surely then be excited by the declaration of the French government, that, in the event of hostilities, these very powers who were no parties in the treaty of Amiens, and who were not allowed to derive any advantage from the remonstrances of his majesty in their behalf, are nevertheless to be made the victims of a war which is alledged to arise out of the same treaty, and are to be sacrificed in a contest which they not only have not occasioned, but which they have had no means whatever of preventing.

His majesty judged it most expedient, under the circumstances which then affected Europe, to abstain from a recurrence to hostilities on account of the views of ambition and acts of aggression manifested by France on the continent; yet an experience of the character and disposition of the French government could not fail to impress his majesty with a sense of the necessity of increased vigilance in guarding the rights and dignity of his crown, and in protecting the interests of his people.

While his majesty was actuated by these sentiments, he was called upon by the French government to evacuate the island of Malta. His majesty had manifested, from the moment of the signature of the definitive treaty, an anxious disposition to carry into full effect the stipulations of the treaty of Amiens relative to that island. As soon as he was informed that an election of a grand master had taken place, under the auspices of the emperor of Russia, and that it had been agreed by the different priorress assembled at St. Petersburg, to acknowledge the person whom the court of Rome should select out of those who had been named by them to the grand master of the order of St. John, his majesty proposed to the French government, for be purpose of avoiding any difficulties which might arise in the execution of the arrangement, to acknowledge that election to be valid: And when, in the month of August, the French government applied to his majesty to permit Neapolitan troops to be sent to the island of Malta, as a preliminary measure for preventing any unnecessary delay, his majesty consented without hesitation to this proposal, and gave directions for the admission of the Neapolitan troops into the island. His majesty had thus shewn his disposition not only to throw no obstacle in the way of the execution of the treaty, but on the contrary, to facilitate the execution of it by every means in his power. His majesty cannot however, admit, that at any period since the conclusion of the treaty of Amiens the French government have had a right to call upon him, in conformity to the stipulations of that treaty, to withdraw his forces from the island of Malta.

At the time when this demand was made by the French government, several of the most important stipulations of the arrangement respecting Malta remained unexecuted: the election of Grand Master had not been carried into effect.

The tenth article had stipulated that the independense of the island should be placed under the guarantee and protection of G. Britain, France, Austria, Russia, Spain, and Prussia. The emperor of Germany had acceded to the guarantee, but only on condition of a like accession on the part of the other powers specified in the article. The emperor of Russia had refused his accession, except on the condition that the Maltese langue should be abrogated; and the king of Prussia had given no answer whatever to the application which had been made to him to accede to the arrangement. But the fundamental principle, upon the existence of which depended the execution of the other parts of the article, has been defeated by the changes which had taken place in the constitution of the order since the conclusion of the treaty of peace. It was to the order of St. John, of Jerusalem, that his majesty was, by the first stipulation of the tenth article, bound to restore the island of Malta. The order is defined to consist of those langues which were in existence at the time of the conclusion of the treaty: the three French langues having been abolished, and a Maltese langue added to the institution. The order consisted therefore, at that time, of the following langues, viz. the langues of Arragon, Castile, Germany, Bavaria, and Russia. Since the conclusion of the definitive treaty, the langues of Arragon and Castile have been separated from the order by Spain, a part of the Italian langue has been abolished by the annexation of Piedmont and Parma to France. There is strong reason to believe, that it has been in contemplation to sequestrate the property of the Bavarian langue, and the intention has been avowed of keeping the Russian langues within the dominions of the emperor.

Under these circumstances the order of St. John cannot now be considered as that body to which according to the stipulations of the treaty, the island was to be restored; and the funds indispensably necessary for its support, and for the maintenance of the independence of the island, have been nearly, if not wholly, sequestered. Even if this had arisen from circumstances which it was not in the power of any of the contracting parties to the treaty to controul, his majesty would nevertheless have had a right to defer the evacuation of the island by his forces, until such time as an equivalent arrangement had been concluded for the preservation of the independence of the order and of the island. But if these changes have taken place in consequence of any acts of the other parties to the treaty: if the French government shall appear to have proceeded upon a system of rendering the order whose independence they had stipulated, incapable of maintaining that independence, his majesty's right to continue in the occupation of the island, under such circumstances, will hardly be contested. It is indisputable that the revenues of the two Spanish languages have been withdrawn from the order by his Catholic majesty; a part of the Italian langues has in fact been abolished by France, through the unjust annexation of Piedmont and Parma, and Placentia, to the French territory. The elector of Bavaria has been instigated by the French government to sequestrate the property of the order within his territories, and it is certain that they have not only sanctioned but encouraged the idea of the propriety of separating the Russian langue from the remainder of the order.

As the conduct of the governments of France and Spain have, therefore, in some instances directly and in others indirectly, contributed to changes which have taken place in the order and thus destroyed its means of supporting its independence, it is to those governments, and not to his majesty, that the non-execution of the article of the treaty of Amiens must be ascribed.

Such would be the just conclusion if the article of that treaty were considered as a arrangement by itself. It must be observed, however, that this article forms a part only of a treaty of peace, the whole of which is connected together, and the stipulations of which are upon a principle common to all treaties, to be construed as having a reference to each other.

His majesty was induced by the treaty of peace to consent to abandon and to restore to the order of St. John the island of Malta, on condition of its independence and neutrality. But a further condition which must necessarily be supposed to have had considerable influence with his majesty in inducing him to make so important a concession was the acquiescence of the French government in an arrangement for the security of the Levant, by the eighth and ninth articles in the treaty, stipulating the integrity of the Turkish empire, and the independence of the Ionian islands. His majesty has however, since learnt, that the French government have entertained views hostile to both these objects; and that they have even suggested the idea of a partition of the Turkish empire. These views must now be manifest to all the world, from the official publication of the report of colonel Sebastiani; from the conduct of that officer, and of the other French agents in Egypt, Syria, & the Ionian isles; & from the distinct admission of the first consul himself, in his communication with lord Whitworth. His majesty was therefore warranted in considering it to be the determination of the French government to violate those articles of the treaty of peace, which stipulated for the integrity and independence of the Turkish empire, and of the Ionion islands, and consequently he would not have been justified in evacuating the island of