IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, May 23.

HIS MAJESTY'S MESSAGE.

[CONCLUDED]

The duke of Norfolk observed, that the article of the treaty of Amiens respecting Malta might have been fulfilled, and the island rendered perfectly secure under the guarantee of Russia, and the relative situation of this country and France, as applying to that particular period, need not have been an obstacle in the way of such an arrangement. It was at any rate acknowledged that Malta was not necessary to this country as a possession in perpetuity, by a projet of ministers, which limited this possession to ten years, at the end of which period it was to be given up. With respect to the provisions of the treaty of Amiens, he did not think that, under the circumstances of that moment, ministers could have made a better peace than they did. If we were actually driven into a war, the first consul of France would not find any Englishman who would not fight for his security. At the same time that he gave his assent to the address, he could not avoid expressing his expectation that an opening would still be left for peace, and his hope that his majesty would be graciously pleased to avail himself of every opportunity for negociation which was consistent with the honor of the country.

Lord King said, he thought there were great objections, in many points, to the address, which went to pledge the house to war. It must be obvious that this country, so much of whose territories were scattered abroad, could make little or no impression upon France; consisting, as it did, of one solid compact mass. He considered the peace of Amiens as an experiment for the purpose of temporising, and he wished that that experiment had been persevered in for a further period. The question respecting Malta was not a sufficient ground for war. The renewal of the war was a question of prudence; and when he considered the state of our finances, he did not think that the renewal of it was prudent at the present moment. He concluded by moving an amendment to the address, the object of which was, "To assure his majesty, that the house would support his majesty in every just arrangement which his majesty might be graciously pleased to make, for the preservation of peace."

Earl Moira acknowledged the justice of the picture which some noble lords had drawn of all the calamities attendant on a state of war. It was like the pestilential blast of the desert, which withered every thing before it. He also agreed with the sentiments of the noble lord who proposed the amendment, that their lordships had not merely to decide upon their own feelings and interests, but how far the feelings of the people of the country were congenial, and how far their interests were to be affected. However, though he coincided in thinking that any amendment should have been proposed which could tend to produce the least diversity of sentiment upon an occasion when unanimity was so very desirable & might be productive of the last consequence to the safe of the country. Passing from this amendment, which the noble earl expressed his hope would not be pressed, he took notice of the manner in which a noble and learned judge had treated the complaints of the French government with respect to the publications in this country, referring to its administration;—and upon this point he was ready to admit the candor of the noble secretary of state as to the offensive tendency of the general tenor of those publications—for offensive many of them certainly were. Among those, however, he did not mean so much to dwell upon the sentiments of the English newspapers, as upon those which appeared in French newspapers published in London, particularly the COURIER DE LONDRES, a paper understood to be in a great degree under the peculiar patronage of his majesty's ministers.

If so the French government had very just reason to complain. It was reviled in the grossest terms of abuse in this publication, and why, he would ask, should a paper, which could not be so employed for any purpose of amusing or informing the people of this country, be suffered to pursue that system of conduct which must operate to disturb the amity subsisting between the two governments, more particularly when government had power, under the alien act, to send the editor out of the country, if it chose to discountenance such proceedings? Their declining to do so was not less a justification of the remonstrance of the French government upon this subject, than a ground of suspicion to this country as to the disposition of his majesty's ministers. Those observations he thought a sufficient reply to the arguments advanced by the learned judge on the ministerial bench. With respect to the animated observations of an illustrious personage who spoke early in the debate, they had his heartfelt approbation; he perfectly agreed with his royal highness that we were not in that state in which we were to consider merely the justice or expediency of the war, but whether this country should continue to enjoy that independence which belonged to her, or whether she should submit to the absolute dictation of a French ambassador; but he could not accede to the proposition of a noble viscount, that Malta alone would have been a rational ground for war, because if that island had been conceded, instead of its being annexed to us, it would have afforded a degree of security [illegible] short of what we had a right to expect, [illegible] what it became necessary for us now to seek.—The objects for which we had to contend, were of a wider and more important nature. Our jealousy & alarm were excited by that incorrigible spirit of encroachment and ambition, which not only the first consul, but in fact all the persons connected with the government of France had for some time manifested; and even if Malta were actually in our hands in perpetuity, we should not sit down contented until some further security should be obtained. Of this the nation ought to be aware. If the list of injuries and manifestations of design contained in the papers on the table were to be attended to, certainly Malta afforded but one means of our safety. It would, to be sure, contribute to the protection of Egypt, and through that of our Indian empire; but was that the only point in which we were vulnerable? Were not the states of Holland, Piedmont and Switzerland just subjects of our solicitude? It was well observed that the power of France was the more formidable, because it was condensed; but it was not therefore to be concluded that the connection was not to be broken, and the idea was not to be entertained that that power was not to be overcome. It was not less absurd than impolitic to propagate such an opinion. The fact was, that from the present state of this country there was no option; either the attempt to reduce that power must be made, or the nation must fall down to the most abject and degrading submission. The main object of the war, if it be either popular or politic, must be to restrain the arrogance, to reduce the preponderance of the French government; and until that object be obtained, the war should not be abandoned; until France shall not be capable of endangering our existence, whatever may be the disposition of her government to injure us. Such ought to be the object of the war, and so it ought to be defined to the country. In such a cause, he was confident there was not a man in the British empire, who thought justly, and felt like an Englishman, who would not devote his best exertions. The people should be told that the possession of Malta would not be sufficient to satisfy the views of government; that much more was sought for; the material point was to diminish the continental power of France, where he contended she was vulnerable; for whatever noble lords might say of her extent, he would beg the house to consider the nature of the strange combination of particles which formed that extent, and it would cease to be tho't an object of such terrific magnitude. It was in fact, quite competent to G. Britain with the resources, spirit and population she possessed, to bring this overgrown authority within reasonable bounds; but it must be done by vigorous efforts, by a short and decisive war, not by petty attempts with respect to Malta, or any comparative inferior object, or by any colonial expeditions, calculated to cramp the engery and waste the strength of the country, but by a bold and extensive exertion. If this plan were [illegible] any of the advantages we had a right to look for, and therefore if it were not determined on, it would be better that we should at once submit. However much he deprecated the thought of unmanly submission, he would say that unless the contest were commenced with resolution and followed up with dignified intrepidity and promptitude, the country would meet its fate, and it would then be stated with justice that the pusillanimous would have no right to complain of adverse fortune, and no claim to pity in their humiliation. He exhorted ministers to study the best means of rendering the war of the nature he described. Let it not be a protracted, balanced war. They had for the last year a deficiency of four millions in what they called a peace establishment, and if to that deficit was to be added the expence to be incurred in the future establishment of Malta, if annexed to this country, he would say that it was utterly impossible the country could go on with such a deficit. A vigorous war that should terminate the state which subjected the country to such increased expenditure would be much more preferable, for such a course must tend to ruin. This was the sentiment of an illustrious personage who had spoken in the course of the debate, and who had delivered his opinions in such a strain as must have considerable influence on the feelings of the country. That effect, so desirable in the present crisis, a person of still higher rank would have contributed his sentiment to produce (we understood the noble lord to allude to the prince of Wales,) if a peculiar delicacy had not restrained his royal highness from interfering, lest his interference should have had any undue influence on the minds of their lordships upon a subject in which the most unbiassed and deliberate consideration was so material. Recurring to the hostile disposition of the French government towards this country the noble lord remarked, that before any papers at present on the table had ever appeared, his mind was impressed with the fullest conviction upon that point. Even before the treaty of Amiens was signed he was of that opinion, and therefore in the course of the discussions respecting it, he declined to give any opinion respecting it; because, however little he expected that it would tend to produce the actual blessings of peace, he could not permit himself to offer any thing to damp the satisfaction which prevailed among the people on the conclusion of that treaty. It however appeared to him not only the day ministers executed the treaty, but before and immediately after. Into this question he would not now enter, particularly as he understood that the penetration and conduct of ministers, in this and other instances, was to be made the subject of consideration on a future day. The noble lord again urged the necessity of endeavoring to render the war of short duration, and this was not possible, unless the minds and the resources of the nation were vigorously and judiciously exerted; unless an appeal were made to the souls of the people. Whatever might be the difference of opinion as to the system of his majesty's ministers, it must naturally be the ardent wish of every noble lord that Britons should rise triumphant from the contest. The house would recollect that the resources of the country were amply adequate to every purpose, if applied with judgment. It would also be recollected, that though the power of our enemy was immense in point of size, it was composed of very discordant parts. If the country was to be engaged in war, it ought to receive a constant assurance that it did not go into it merely for colonial purposes, for petty contests, but for great national interests. Such ought to be the general feeling and the house should bear in mind this important fact, that if the present war be misconducted, one consolation only will remain, that we shall not have another war to conduct.

Earl Spencer still persevered in the propriety of considering as he had done in the last day's debate, the conduct of ministers as one question, and the case of the country as another, and therefore wishing to keep the question entirely separate, he did not wish to postpone it. Their lordships were now called upon to give their best judgments, whether it ought to be peace or war. The first point for consideration in this question was, whether the war was just and necessary, or not. He was certain, from the papers before the house, that the country had a good cause and there was extreme difference between a defence of the conduct of ministers, and a defence of the country. The cause of the country rested on good grounds he was sure. He would not detain their lordships by repeating the points which had been stated more fully and ably by the noble lords who had gone before him. From the opinion he had of the treaty of Amiens, and particularly of the tenth article, he tho't it would be very difficult to carry it into effect. He would not positively maintain that the article ought not to be executed, but he always apprehended it could not from the uncertain nature of the article, and from other considerations. It was stated that ministers had forborne much in the course of the discussion that had arisen, if not in consequence of the treaty, at least subsequent to it. He would give his support to the original motion, rather than to the amendment. A good deal had been said of the nature of the war into which we had entered, and of the finances of the country to meet it. It was in vain to dissemble the difficulties with which such a war must be attended. It was better that the country should be taught to estimate those difficulties fairly, and to meet them boldly; that we should look to our finances and to our forces, calculating and applying them. He trusted their lordships would exercise their constitutional rights in directing the application of the resources of the country to the best measures.

The earl of Warwick thought that the question now before their lordships was, whether the papers on their table contained a sufficient ground for war. He was himself of opinion that any one of the reasons that may be deduced from them, constituted a just ground of hostility; and trusted there would be but one heart and one arm in these countries, in a contest in defence of every thing dear and valuable to the inhabitants.

The marquis of Sligo believed the provocation given by the first consul of France to this country too great to be submitted to, and the war of course unavoidable. He trusted that the most vigorous measures would be adopted, and the contest brought to a speedy and decisive issue.—As to the island of Malta, he hoped the possession of it would never be suffered to pass out of the hands of the English.

Lord Darnly said, he hoped that the house and the country would urge the necessity of making use of every means to to preserve peace, notwithstanding the appearance of the hostile state of the two countries. From one of the last letters sent to this government he had reason to think that the door was not yet shut to peace; but something might now be done on our part to bring about that blessing which would be felt by every man in the kingdom. And if every means on our part to continue peace should prove ineffectual, it was his wish that the war should be conducted with spirit and energy.

Lord Gwyder spoke nearly to the same effect. He said he thought the amendment proposed contained more spirit than the address; and it was his opinion from the papers he had read, that hopes still remained to bring about a good understanding between the two countries; he said he should use the words of the last noble lord, that the door of peace was not yet shut, he therefore hoped their lordships would adopt every measure consistent with the honor and safety of the nation, to preserve peace to the country.

The house then divided on the amendment.

Non-contents,	142
Contents,	10

The original question was then put and carried.

To Rent,

A convenient two-story brick HOUSE, No. 17, south Howard-street. Possession may be had on the 8th July. For terms apply to

HUGH M'CURDY.

June 30. co

BOSTON, July 9.

Arrived, via quarantine, schooner Rover, Hayt, 25 days from Martinique.

July 12.

Arrived, ship Polly, captain Willifton, from Liverpool, 51 days. Spoke May 24, off Cape-Clear, ship Bath, Thatcher, from Portlard, 43 days, for Liverpool; all well. June 15, lat. 43, 13, long. 45, 30, brig Mary, Bowditch, of Salem, 15 days from Virginia, for Lisbon. June 28, lat. 43, 32, long. 55, ship Volant, Polland, 15 days from Charleston, for Liverpool. July 2, lat. 42, 35, long. 61, brig Charles, Preble, 5 days from Boston, for Havre.

Cleared, Sally, Johnson, St. Johns; Two Sisters, Bruce, Barbados; Nancy, Ward, Havre de Grace; Harriot, Marshall, West-Indies; Financier, Sargent, Batavia; Mary, Lovett, St. Johns.

At quarantine. Brig Laurel, Brown, Trinidad, 23 days; Polly, Appleton, Cape-Francois, 20; Polly, Blackmore, Cape-de-Verds, 37 days; schooner Vulture, Hammond, Guadaloupe, 28; Hannah, Tyler, do. 23. Left at Point-Petre, June 20, schooner Nabby, Titcomb, to sail in 25 days; Cyrus, Stone, 30; brig Hero, Boardman, to sail in 4 or 5 days; Mayflower, Greenough, 25; ——, Rutherford, 30; schooner ——, Henderson, 25; ——, Campbell, just arrived; the foregoing are all of Newburyport; brig Mary, Wait, Portland, 25; ship Olive, Babson, of do; brig Mary, Peterson, for Salem, 25; ——, Smith, for Gloucester, 15; ——, Pillsbury, of Boston, just arrived; ——, Lewis, from do. do. Markets dull—West India produce scarce and high.

EARL OF FIFE.

The following remarkable speech delivered in the British house of lords, in the beginning of the year 1801, by a very independent and public spirited nobleman, will not be deemed unseasonable at this interesting epocha; as it shews the opinion of influential men in that government, on the folly of continental alliances and secret expeditions, and the mode in which the war they are at present engaged in, will probably be conducted. This speech, says the editor of "*Public Characters for* 1801," occasioned no "inconsiderable sensation."

"I do very seldom trouble your lordships, and certainly shall not take up much of your time at present. I had no intention when I came into the house of offering myself to your lordships. I could not feel myself at ease, however, if I did not fulfil my duty in laying my sentiments before you.

"I should rather incline, if "*the motion for an enquiry*" was not now made, but even if it should at present be brought forward, thinking as I do, I must decidedly give my opinion for it.

"I have no desire to give offence to his majesty's ministers, nor to pay court to those that oppose them. Nothing could be more improper at present than to debate whether the war was just or unjust, necessary or not necessary: but I can most positively *ed.* My lords, I have read all the history of this country; I have seen and been intimate with all the different parties, from the death of Mr. Pelham to the present hour. In this horrid war our blood and treasure have been spent in the extravagant folly of secret expeditions, grievous and heavy taxes have been laid on the people, and wasted *in expensive embassies, and in subsidizing proud, treacherous and useless foreign princes*, who would have acted much better for themselves had you saved your money, and taken no concern with them. I do not condole with you on your present unfortunate situation in having no such friends; I only wish you had been in that situation in the beginning of the war. The noble lord who presides at the admiralty, in his speech, has with much ability done justice to the navy. I sincerely wish our ill-spent money had been laid out on *our fleets.*

"All those, my lords, that ever heard me speak, or ever read a letter from me on the subject, will do me the justice to say, that my sentiments have all along been the same; and that this has hung upon my mind from the day the first battalion of the guards marched from the parade for Holland.

"I lament the present scarcity. But great as our demerits are, it comes not from the Almighty, but from the effects of this ill-conducted war, which I am ready to prove whenever this question is brought forward.

"What have we gained by our boasted conquests? If a proper regulation for commerce was made, I wish they were all sold, and the money arising laid out to pay the national debt, and to relieve the nation of those oppressive taxes which bear hard on rich and poor, on their income, their industry, and, what is worse, their *liberty;* and till some of those are repealed, this nation cannot be called free."

July 13.

From Cape-Francois, June 21, 1803.

TO THE EDITOR,

"This day a ship arrived from France with 1800 troops. We have had a considerable number of troops arrived during the last twelve days. Affairs at present are tranquil here. We have had no attack these four months; but Port au-Prince is now closely besieged by the brigands; and we have fears for the fate of that place. Orders have been received from France to make this the seat of government."

A late Bordeaux paper enumerates a list of 75 French merchantment expected shortly to arrive there from the West-Indies, East-Indies, and the American continent.

A scarcity of corn has been experienced in Norway; and the British government has given permission for the exportation of 5000 quarters of seed corn to that kingdom.

A general court martial was held at Dedham, the 21st June, for the trial of brigade-major Whiting, of the 1st division, on complaint of brigadier-general Adams. Major-general Campbell, of the 10th division, presided. The charges were four in number; but appear weak and indefinite. Major Whiting was only found guilty, on a part of the third charge, that of speaking disrespectfully of the brigadier-general; and for this he was sentenced to be reprimanded in general orders. The commander in chief has approved the sentence, and major Whiting has been reprimanded accordingly.

ACCIDENTS.

A barn, with many valuable contents, belonging to captain Richard Dexter, of Malden, was destroyed by fire on Wednesday morning last, about 2 o'clock.

On Friday, a young man at work, blowing rocks, on the Dedham turnpike road, was instantly killed by an accidental explosion.

The same day, we learn, that a man in Dedham, fell from a hay-mow, and instantly expired.

On the last sabbath, Mr. Miles Shory, and wife, were instantaneously killed by lightning, at Lynn. Their bodies were found near each other. A child which Mrs. S. had in her arms, was uninjured, though its hair was a little burnt. A Mr. Newhall was also knocked down, but not hurt. Several other persons were in the house, but received no injury. The lightning first struck the chimney, and shattered the house considerably.

BEVERLY, July 10.

Arrived, schooner ——, captain Mark Woodbury, 40 days from Isle of May. Twelve days ago was boarded by the British frigate Boston, 6 days out from Halifax, bound on a cruise. Finding on board captain W. no French property or British sailors, (both of which they were after), he was permitted to depart without further molestation.

NEW-YORK, July 15.

FROM CAPE-FRANCOIS.

Captain Frederick King, who arrived here yesterday in a remarkable short passage of eight days from Cape-Francois, informs the editors of this Gazette, that just before he sailed letters were received at that place from Cape Nichola-Mole, stating that a French frigate of 44 twenty-four pounders, bound from Aux-Cayes to Cape Francois, with a number of respectable persons as passengers, fell in with an English 74 gun ship, off the Mole, and poured two broad sides into her before the English had time to open their ports—after which, the 74 having prepared for action returned a broad-side, which killed seventeen men and wounded twenty-t[illegible]. The French frigate then bore away, and sailing faster than the 74, got safe into Cape-Nichola-Mole, from which place this account was received.

We are further informed by captain King, that there had been a general embargo at the Cape, which, however, had been taken off American vessels; and it was hourly expected that the British would blockade that port.

A French frigate sailed from the Cape in very great haste on the 2d of July.—There was still at the Cape three French frigates, two 74's, and a number of privateers, taking in provisions.

From the same source we further learn, that Martinique was closely blockaded by an English squadron.

The news of war at the Cape, caused the greatest consternation amongst the white inhabitants. The blacks continued to be very troublesome, were daily making encroachments, getting nearer to the town and burning and destroying all before them.

Extract of a letter from Wilmington (Del.) dated July 13.

"The mate of the brig Charleston, Brown, just arrived from Tortola, has been committed to New-Castle gaol, charged with the murder of the cook of said vessel, and an attempt to murder the captain and carry off the vessel and cargo. Three of the hands were concerned in the plot with the mate, but they made their escape as soon as the vessel came to at the wharf in this place. We hear they have been taken in Philadelphia."

A letter from St. Thomas, dated June 25, to a commercial house of this city, cautions strongly against risking property to that island without insurance, "as war is declared and the French have orders to capture Danish vessels." The following are the prices current at this island:

Superfine flour,	12 a 14 dolls. per bbl.
Rye,	3 a 4 do. do.
Indian meal,	3 a 4 do. do.
Pilot bread,	6 a 7 do.
Middling do.	4 a 5 do.
Ship do.	3 a 4 do.
Beef,	14 a 16 do.
Pork,	19 a 20 do.
Tobacco,	10 a 12 dolls. per cwt.
Sugar,	7 a 8 do. do.
Coffee,	14 a 16 do. do.
Fustic,	24 do. per ton.
Lignumvitæ,	32 do. do.
Rum,	25 cents per gallon
Candles,	25 do. per lb.
Butter and lard,	12 do.
Soap,	10 do.
Codfish,	7 a 8 do. per quintal.

Arrived yesterday, the brig Rocklend, captain Frederick King, in 8 days from Cape-Francois, Aux-Cayes and Port-au-Prince. There were no late arrivals from America at the Cape. The sch'r New-York, Crowell, was to sail for New-York in 4 or 5 days. Spoke nothing. Markets were getting better. Flour was 15 dollars; all purchases made of Americans were paid in bills on the French govern-