IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

June 3.

MOTION FOR CENSURING MINISTERS.

[CONTINUED.]

Mr. Hobhouse rose to defend the conduct of his majesty's ministers, the noble lord, and others who preceded him, had charged those ministers with unconstitutional conduct, in neglecting to communicate to parliament, from time to time, the several topics in discussion between them and the government of of France, and the successive states and final results of their remonstrances upon the points in dispute. For his own part, little as he pretended to be versed in the minutiæ of government, yet he would venture to assert that his majesty's ministers did precisely what they ought to have done, in the case alluded to; for had they done otherwise, had they come down to parliament, day after day, and communicated every circumstance of dispute and discussion, every *project* and *countre project* that might have been offered in the course of a diplomatic negociation, with the reasons upon which such *projects* were maintained or rejected, the consequence would be, to excite irritation between the countries, and to propel those very hostilities which it was the object of negociation to avert. If ministers had adopted the very conduct which they were now charged with having unconstitutionally and criminally omitted, they would have incurred censure for their weakness, folly, and imprudence, in obtruding these disputes upon the notice of parliamant before they were concluded, which parliament would very properly have told them it was their business to discuss and bring to issue, without exposing the substance of those arguments which might be maintained, and which, if disclosed, might have the direct tendency to irritate national pride, and excite mutual resentments, though ministers did not themselves consider them as a just ground of war. Ministers had been charged by the noble lord with pusillanimity and tameness in their answers to the remonstrance of the French government: for instance, with respect to their demand for controling the liberty of the press. His majesty refused the demand; and it was the part of the French, if they chose to take offence at the refusal, more than ours to evince an exasperation at the demand, which could only lead to the production of war. He denied that the charge of the noble lord was founded, in attributing to his majesty's speech (which he was at liberty consider as the speech of the ministers, at the opening of the parliament) any avowal of existing causes for war. That speech only declared his majesty could not be indifferent to what was passing on the continent, but should keep a vigilant eye to any thing which might be likely to affect the interest of this country, and therefore so much of the noble lord's argument as was founded on this assertion, must fall to the ground.

It was said, that the demand to banish the French princes was another cause of war. Here again his majesty's ministers refused to comply; and if any cause of war existed upon the occasion, it was with France taking offence at our refusal to abandon those illustrious princes whom the French government viewed as their enemies, and not with us who refused to comply with their demand—What more effectual or more proper could his majesty's ministers have done on the occasion? But the noble lord had said, that ministers assured the French government, that they would take into their contemplation the removal of French persons from this country; and this he considered as the very acme of national disgrace: But whom did they contemplate to remove? Not the French princes, but persons who, protected under the hospitality of this country, should presume to publish libels upon other governments with whom we were at peace, and thus endanger the amity of the two governments. In the case however, of the French princes and emigrants, as well as in that of the liberty of the press, which no man more highly estimated than he did, ministers did not yield; they declined compliance in the one case, and refused control in the other; and it was not for them to take cause of offence or occasion for hostility: But when cause of war did really occur in the conduct of France; when her government declares it would consider our refusal to evacuate Malta, as an unequivocal declaration of war. France had given the challenge, and his majesty's ministers, with a proper spirit had taken it up, and he had the firmest reliance that those ministers, whose justice and moderation had so eminently marked their earnestness to preserve peace, would in the conduct of war, evince their ability to conduct it, with honor and advantage to the nation, and with justice to the public confidence they so eminently & so justly enjoyed. He coincided with many of those arguments which had been used to shew the duty and necessity of uniting the best exertions of the country, and of that house to maintain the honor and security of the country, and teach the haughty foe to feel that the British nation was neither to be controled nor intimidated by his audacious threats; and he concluded by apologizing for having so long trespassed upon the time of the house, and by voting against the resolutions.

Sir William Young fully coincided in the sentiments which had been avowed from all sides of the house touching the aggressionary and hostile spirit of the French government marked towards this country, in every quarter of the globe, from the treaty of Amiens to the present hour. This principle was evinced in the exertion of her power and influence to exclude our manufactures from every country in Europe under her controul, in the wanton and rapacious seizure and confiscation of our ships in her ports, in her conduct towards British subjects at Martinique, on the surrender of that island, whom it obliged to quit the island, and all connexion therein, sell off all their goods for what they would bring by a certain day—all marked or rooted and determined spirit of hostility, which would allow this country to view that government only in the light of an implacable enemy, bent on our ultimate destruction. At the conclusion of the former war, a commercial treaty had been formed with France, under the auspices of a right honorable gentleman, then chancellor of the exchequer, which was hailed by this country. Under the present administration, it did not appear that any such arrangement had been attempted, though it might have been done with so much reciprocal advantage to the commerce and mutual amity of both. To such an arrangement, the first consul had marked his aversion; and in his mind, the true policy of this country to be adopted towards France, was to view it as a great military republic, headed by a man too formidable and too eminent in enterprize, to be despised or disregarded; a man who, when he came to put into action his real designs, would not be found intoxicated, with loose, vague, and undigested projects, but prepared to follow up his real plans with the most determined and desperate spirit. We must therefor be prepared against his attempts. It was of the very nature of a military republic to find constant employment for its troops; without this it must cease to exist; and thus, so long as France retained this form, it was immaterial whether Bonaparte, Moreau, or who else might be at her head; it would be her policy to vomit forth her troops upon every surrounding nation, which offered them enterprizes to interest their avarice or ambition. He concluded by voting for the resolutions.

Mr. Fonblanque begged leave to congratulate the house and the country, that ministers had not made war sooner, since, by waiting, they had confessedly secured the unanimity of his majesty's subjects, which would soon convince Europe in general, that when treaties were violated, Great-Britain could exert its force, and that unanimously too, in defence of its dearest rights. On the whole, he thought that ministers were not now to be tried or blamed for what they had omitted to do, but to be praised for what they had done.

Mr. Archdale thought that more had been said with regard to the conduct and responsibility of ministers than they really deserved, either in regard to peace or war. As to war, they have evidently shewn their disposition to avoid it, but it appeared to them as it did to him, to be impossible. He begged gentlemen to recollect, that it was not human passions, but the judgment of men which was to be exerted in such a moment as the present. It was not unnatural to advert to the situation of British ground, which, in the late war, had been so nobly contested, and probably would now be contested again. He wished to turn the thoughts of the house to what has been called the most vulnerable part of his majesty's dominions; he meant Ireland; where the temper and disposition of the majority of the inhabitants were said to be favorable, on a late occasion, to the views of France. That opinion, however, originated in a great measure from the conduct of the French consul himself; but were he now to attempt a descent even on Belfast, he would find himself vigorously resisted by good subjects from principle, and by jacobins from revenge. If the first consul had sounded the depths and tendency of the public mind, instead of the harbors of the country, he would have found that the spirit of unanimity pervades throughout the whole of the inhabitants. He concluded a speech of considerable length, by speaking highly of the conduct of ministers, in every particular, relative to the present situation of the country.

Sir W. W. Wynne spoke in support of the motion, and observed, that if ever there was a time for resenting injuries received, it was the present one.

Mr. Courtney said, that he hoped the country would, in the present instance, join hand in hand in the cause in which we were engaged. A great deal of ingenuity had been exerted to prove that all parties were now joined in the common cause. An honorable member has said, that some error might have been committed in making peace.

"Novitas regni me lalia cogit."

An honorable member has given us a quotation, he supposed it was from Hippocrates, a learned and distinguished philosopher, who says, that if by any unlucky accident you happen to break your leg, what are you to do? Why, break it again, and perhaps by such skill, address and experience, he might set it to rights again. He meant no ridicule, he only meant to make a single observation on what he had heard an honorable gentleman say during the course of this evening, in speaking of the conduct of ministers in again involving us in war.

Sir W. Milner thought that the present motions were direct attacks against his majesty's administration, while, in his opinion, those who composed that administration were men who had deserved the approbation of the country. He approved of their conduct in every instance, and tho't they had acted properly, in the manner they followed, in order to get the better of the passions of a man who was so actuated by pride and ambition, as the first consul certainly was. If any fault could at all be assigned to them, it must be, that they had not gone far enough in their endeavors; for in his opinion, we should not have valued any of the insults and indignities which had been offered to this country, if peace was to be the consequence. In his opinion the present administration had plainly shewn to the country, that they liked their constitution.

Sir Theo. Metcalf observed, that he thought this was of all others, the most improper time to bring forward such motions, as it was giving information to the enemy, that there was a difference in our councils. He thought the state of affairs required all the minor considerations should give way to those of more weighty considerations; and all love for power, proceeding from personal views, ought to be dropped, on such an occasion, in order to secure the honor and dignity of the country. The honorable member, who had made these motions, had assured the house, that there were no personal interests at the bottom; but if that gentleman had not said so, he professed he would have been inclined to think that it originated in a desire somewhat personal, to put one set of men out, and another set into the administration; and it was more levelled against the chancellor of the exchequer, than any other of the honorable members of the house. He trusted, however, that the honorable gentleman would treat such motions as they really deserved. He was well convinced, that that gentleman stood high in the public opinion; for it was he who procured to the people of this country the blessings of peace, after a long war: and on all occasions, he made a sacrifice of his private enjoyment to his public. Being perfectly convinced, therefore, that his majesty's ministers, so far from deserving censure on their conduct, deserved the gratitude of the country, he was decidedly against the motion.

Mr. Gregor spoke in favor of the motion, and was of opinion that the conduct of his majesty's ministers was perfectly the averse of what it really ought to have been.

Mr. Burland said a few words, but in so low a tone of voice, that they could not be heard.

[*Debate to be continued.*]

BY THIS DAY's MAIL.

HAGUE, May 27.

On Monday last the French ambassador presented three notes. Hitherto our government has been permitted to keep the Batavian troops on the present establishment, and not to increase them to the war establishment. Yet now recruiting goes on with great activity, and orders have been sent to admiral De Winter to proceed to the Cape with all possible expedition. Our envoy extraordinary at Paris, M. Dedem Tot Den Gelder, has had the mortification of being refused an interview with the first consul. He was to have given the French government a candid statement of the difficulties and dangers of our situation. Some days ago, Mr. Liston, the British ambassador, notified to our government that Great-Britain would consent upon certain conditions, not yet made public, to the neutrality of Holland. Immediately after this notification was made, the government resolved to send three deputies to Paris, Messrs. Sex, Jacobson and Blanke, to explain the situation of this country to the first consul, and to prove how necessary neutrality is to preserve it from ruin. We have, however, little hope of success from this mission—M. Schimmelpenninck is to be promoted to an eminent situation as soon as he returns from London. Our situation is most deplorable. We detest the war, we dread our allies, and we are forced to fight against a country with which we would remain at peace; commerce is at a stand, and our funds have fallen 8, 9 and 10 per cent.

BOSTON, August 13.

There is a late arrival at Portland. The mail of last evening brought letters from Liverpool, to the 23d June, five days later than the date of our last accounts. No papers were received. The letters we have seen make no mention of any political news.

FROM GIBRALTER.

Captain Swett, arrived here yesterday, in forty-six days from Gibraltar, informs, that passports had been granted by the American commodore, and the consuls, at Gibraltar, and Tangiers, permitting a Tripolitan ship to sail under Moorish colors, as a Moorish ship; and her Tripoline papers were left sealed up in the care of Mr. Gavino. She was manned with 8 Moors, and bound for Tunis, & the Tripolitan captain was permitted to take passage in her. On her way up, she stopped at Gibraltar and took in more men; with whose assistance the captain overpowered the Moors, and was going into Taipoli; when she was met, and captured by the United States John Adams frigate, and sent into Malta.

An English merchantman arrived at Gibraltar a few days previous to captain S's sailing, and reported, that she had spoken six Tripolitan cruizers in the Gulph of Venice.

Many neutrals had been brought in, on suspicon:—Among them the Randal, a valuable ship from the Isle of France, and several vessels from St. Domingo.

Captain Daniel Prior, is appointed postmaster, at Haverhill, vice Samuel Curtis, esq. a federalist, removed.

August 15.

The United States frigate Constitution, commodore Preble, sailed from the Lower Roads, for the Mediterranean, yesterday forenoon.

Latest from England.

The ship Bath, captain Thrasher, has arrived at Portland, from Liverpool; she had a passage of 44 days, *and might have brought* London papers to the 25th June; but, unfortunately, her latest dates are only to the 18th:—The oral intelligencer, by captain Thrasher states, that the most unexampled success has attended the British cruizers in the capture of French and Dutch property; that the ports of England were literally filled wrth the captured vessels of these nations. Captain T. further informs, that official accounts had been received of the possession of Hamburg, by the French troops; and that the army had proceeded on their march to Elsineur, with a view to enforce from Denmark the same system of measures, which the Batavian government had been compelled to adopt against England.

From Paris, June 11.

A commission of three Americans has been nominated by the ministers of that nation, at Paris, to liquidate the debts due by France to the citizens of the United States. This commission is composed of Mr. Barnet, commercial agent for the port of Antwerp, Mr. Maclure, of Maryland, and colonel Mercer, of Virginia.

Longitude.

The Greenock Advertiser of the 17th June, contains the following article:—We have the pleasure to announce an event of the most extraordinary and important nature. A scientific gentleman of great abilities has discovered a method of *ascertaining the longitude.* He has favored us with the inspection of his papers; and authorised us to promise their publication through the medium of this paper. The public, therefore, and the naval world in particular, are respectfully informed that we are making the necessary arrangements for this purpose. [*British Neptune.*]

August 14.

Arrived, Betsy, Jane, Alexandria; Nancy, Lobdell, Norfolk; Ranger, Crowell, Baltimore; Dispatch, Adams, Savannah; Molly, Travers, Richmond.

Cleared, Fair-American, Stover, Alexandria; Friendship, Potter, Richmond; Brilliant, Dennis, Baltimore; ship Recompence, Murietta, Havanna; brigs Atlantic, Bartlett, W. Indies; Fame, Avery, New-Orleans; Pacific, Nash, West-Indies; schooners Sally, Johnson, St. Johns; Industry, Cook, Yarmouth; Pilgrim, Perry, Halifax.

NEW-YORK, August 17.

The committee of health, report the occurrence of 7 deaths, and 24 new cases of the prevailing fever, for the 24 hours preceding 5 o'clock last evening.

One of the deaths was at Bellevue, the other six in the city.

The Essence of Spruce.

We have received a lengthy communication from Mr. William Jocelin, recommending the Essence of Spruce, as a certain cure for the Yellow Fever. He says he has witnessed its beneficial effects, both in this country and the West-Indies, and observes that he became acquainted with this medicine on board the British ship Argonaut—that he was on board of that ship six weeks while cruising off the south side of Hispaniola—that the fever was so bad on board, that in the course of five weeks about one hundred and fifty of her officers and crew fell victims—that the disease had become so putrid, that several died in two hours after they were seized—that the crew was so much reduced in numbers, that the cruize was given up, and the ship went into Cape Nichola Mole.—There the captain of the Argonaut fell in with the master of a transport-ship, who advised him of the utility of the Essence of Spruce—this medicine was purchased for the Argonaut's crew, and given to the sick, who were saved, for not a man died who partook of it. The captain of the Argonaut was so fully convinced of its efficacy, that, on his return to England he wrote a letter to the lords of the admiralty, recommending its use.

Our correspondent further mentions, that about four years ago, he called to see an American at St. Kitts, who was apparently dying of the yellow fever; he gave him three doses, one every half hour; in a few minutes after the third dose, he began to recover, and in two days, he began to walk—shortly after, he recovered and left the island.

Directions—Take three table spoonfuls of the Essence of Spruce, put it into a quart of warm water, dissolve it, and take a half pint tumbler full every half hour till operates. It generally operates before the third dose, and frequently pukes, purges, and produces severe perspiration.

Arrived yesterday, the brig Ranger, captain Gravenkoop, in 82 days from Hamburg. Spoke, July 7, in lat. 34, 36, long. 38, 53, the ship Rose, 29 days from the Straits, for Philadelphia. 24th, in lat. 38, 18, long. 57, 41, the ship Caroline, 12 days from Boston. Passengers, Mr. J. Kruttmann, J. G. Getsberger, and 6 in the steerage.

Same day, at quarantine, the ship Little John, Forrest, from Dublin, with 400 passengers.

Same day, the ship Enterprize, Moores, in 48 days from Newry. Left no Americans. Spoke, July 3, in St. George's channel, the ship America, Gardner, of Boston, 6 days from Nantz for Liverpool. August 1, in lat. 44, long. 65, schooner Astrea, 55 days from Hamburg for Boston. August 11, on St. George's Banks, the brig Eunice, 18 days from Martinique for Boston. [Capt. M. had papers to the 25th June, but gave them to an English ship which boarded him. There was nothing, however, materially new. The British cruizers continued to send in numerous prizes.]

Same day, the British schr. Elizabeth, Robinson, in 15 days from St. Johns.—Sailed in company, schr. Fereby & Phœbe, and parted from her last Wednesday on Nantucket shoals, in a fog.

Same day, at quarantine, the schooner Enterprize, Holmes, from Baltimore.

Same day, at quarantine, the ship Perseverance, Swaine, in 60 days from Liverpool.

Cleared, brig Susanna, Thomas, St. Johns; schrs. Independence, Barber, Curracoa; Rising Sun, Ripley, Barbados; Venilia, Arnold, ditto; Victory, Patterson, Demerara.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Received at the office of the Morning Chronicle, by a late arrival from Ireland.

PARIS, June 10.

The minister of the Interior has sent the following letter to the prefect of Maine and Loire, dated the 1st instant.

"*Citizen Prefect,*

"The British cabinet is resolved to have war. Not satisfied with ruling in Asia and America, England aims at governing Europe—it pretends to the exclusive possession of the commerce of the world, and dares to shut against us the ports of the Levant. To seize every thing, possess every thing, to render all nations tributary, and to extinguish every where industry—such is the policy and ambition of its government. The chief consul ardently wishes for peace. To preserve it he has made every sacrifice which he thought compatible with his own glory, and with the dignity of the nation. The chief consul in the negociations, tried every resource which wisdom could suggest—but the British government would have war, and there is no longer any hope of preserving that glorious peace which our armies conquered.

"England will not allow us to retain our commercial prosperity, nor that rank which the nation has assumed in Europe: It wishes to see us a degraded nation, always tributary to its industry, and receiving laws from its merchants; but, citizen prefect, our destiny is marked by the population and position of France, by the character of its inhabitants, by the strength of its government, and the genius of its chief, and you may entertain no doubt that England, in its delirium, will be dashed to pieces against that brazen Colossus, at the feet of which all Europe deposited their arms. But as this war is the cause of all, since the French honor and the fate of our national commerce are at stake, all ought to rally around government—and the young men, who are in particular called upon to collect the fruits of it, ought to be ambitious for the honor of mixing with the ranks of our brave men, that they may learn to conquer, and establish the repose and prosperity of France on the ruins of the British government. Urge then, citizen prefect, the departure of the conscripts, maintain good order and public tranquility, and by a firm and paternal government endeavor to soften the evils inseparable from the justest war.

"I salute you,

"CHAPTAL."

LONDON, June 17.

We received last night the Paris papers of the 13th inst. and this morning the Moniteur of the 14th. The Moniteur of the preceding day contains his majesty's declaration, with notes intended as an answer to it, more voluminous than the declaration itself. What the French government cannot prove, it asserts—and not abounding in argument, attempts to make up for the deficiency by invective. The notes bear evident marks of the consular style—extravagant in its flights—coarse in its epithets—daring in its assertions—not very pure in its French—nor very accurate in its grammar. Some of the most curious notes will be given in our next.

An article from Petersburg states that the knights of the order of St. John of Jerusalem in that city, have, with the emperor's consent, sent two deputies to compliment the grand master of the order. This circumstance is of great importance, inasmuch as we may infer from it that the emperor of Russia is against us in the affair of Malta, and that were he to mediate between this country and France, he would declare against our retention of the island. Perhaps, however, we did not want this circumstance to prove that the politics of St. Cloud find grace and favor in the eye of the emperor of all the Russias. Yet it is rumored that his Imperial majesty is at this moment employed, through the medium of his ambassador at Paris, in mediating between the two countries. A messenger arrived yesterday afternoon at the Russian ambassador's with dispatches—the contents of which were immediately communicated to lord Hawkesbury. A cabinet council was held upon them this morning. Feeble indeed are the hopes we entertain of a favorable issue of this determination. Yet the arrival of the messenger, and the reports to which it gave rise, produced the affect of diminishing the discount upon the omnium, which had been at four—it left off at three.

The French funds are 59 1-2.

It is expected that to-morrow letters of marque will be ordered to be issued against Spain.

By the Ambrosia, just arived at Plymouth from Cadiz, which place she left the 27th ult. advices have been received of Spain having laid an embargo on all British vessels. The Ambrosia got out in time, in consequence of a hint from our consul there.

The Rosamond, from St Domingo, laden with coffee and sugar, valued at 30,000l. has been captured by his majestys's ship Thunderer.

PLYMOUTH, June 15.

Catwater, the eastern arm of Plymouth harbor is now quite a wood of French prizes and detained Batavians; there is just room enough left for a passage way. The number of French prizes and Batav-