INTERESTING DEBATE.

[*Concluded from Saturday's Gazette.*]

The secretary of war moved the order of the day for the third reading of the English additional force bill.

On the question being put for the third reading,

Mr. Johnson declared that no man was prepared to make greater sacrifices than he was himself to maintain the honor and independence of the country; no man more ready to give every effectual support to his majesty's ministers for a vigorous resistance to the ambitious designs and aggrandizing spirit of France. But when he considered the situation of both countries, he was led to conclude that no exertions could be employed, no sacrifices could be made, that would not lead to peace equally insecure with the treaty of Amiens; after harrassing the country with the renewal of an ineffectual and hopeless contest. If any thing that should fall from him could have any weight with ministers, he would recommend to them to attend more seriously than probably they were at present inclined, to the mediation of Russia. Having said this, he should advert shortly to the objects of the war, and would then ask, what was likely to be the result of it? He knew if he were to ask what were the objects of the war, he should be answered that the annexation of Piedmond to France; the violation of the independence of the Swiss republic; and that we were at war because we could not be at peace. But these were not the grounds on which his majesty's government had involved the country in hostility; and this, he contended, was manifest from the papers on the table. By one of the papers it appeared, that his majesty's ministers thought the accession of Prussia to the guarantee of Malta, as an adequate security for its independence, notwithstanding all the aggressions of France; and yet, without the intervention of any other cause than the publication of Sebastiani's report, on the 9th of February, they insisted on retaining Malta for this country. He should not stop to enquire into the justice of this demand, nor should he comment on the course of the negociation. He should only observe, that to assign as the ground of the war that no other answer was given to the just demands of this country, but that either Malta should be evacuated or war renewed, was an assertion not borne out by fact. From the time the negociation began to assume a serious appearance, France had manifested a dispotion to accede to every thing consistent with the treaty of Amiens, and the complete independence of the island of Malta. By the note of the 3d of May, it appeared the French government offered to give the island to Russia, Austria, or Prussia. But, what was still more decisive, the answer of the noble secretary to the note of lord Whitworth, communicating the offer of France to give Malta to Russia, contained an observation which had been omitted in the official papers laid before the house, that Russia was not disposed to accept Malta, and that such an arrangement would be inadequate to his majesty's just claims. It appeared then, by the papers, that the true ground of the war was the island of Malta. He would ask ministers to answer, in the face of their country, if they did not think that they could have obtained such terms at Paris as would have prevented the rupture that has taken place; if they could not have obtained Malta for Russia, and the evacuation of Holland by the French troops? But what was the difference in point of advantage to this country, whether Malta should be occupied by England or Russia? For his own part, he thought it would be more beneficial to this country that it should be in the possession of Russia, even from a consideration of the expence it would require to keep it. Besides, if Russia was seriously disposed to prevent the French from taking possession of Egypt, the possession of that island would augment the means of doing it; whereas if France and Russia had agreed on the dismemberment of the Ottoman empire, the retaining the island to this country could not prevent them from carrying their plan into execution. Such an arrangement with Russia might give France a port in the Persian Gulph, from which to attack the English possessions in India. But that was the point where the contest would be most favorable to us, and most difficult for the enemy, who would have to send all their military and other stores from Europe, to attack the English eastern dominions possessing a revenue of 12,000,000 sterling, and an army of 100,000 men. He would again ask what was likely to be the result of the war? We had already a melancholy example of the consequences that were likely to ensue. The continent would be shut against us, and even Lisbon, would be occupied by the French; and the French despot, though not possessing the means of affecting it, would keep alive our apprehensions of invasion by assembling troops on the opposite coasts of France. But, after what had been said on the subject in the house, and by the chancellor of the exchequer, he should lay aside the consideration of the danger; he should even pass by the consideration of the danger to the sister kingdom, where the affections of one part of the people had been lost, without perhaps conciliating the remainder. He wishes to know what were the means of offensive war we possessed? A right honorable gentleman (Mr. Windham) had on a former occasion stated, that he possessed these means, but he had not pointed them out, though a noble lord (lord Folkistone) who enjoyed the right honorable gentleman's confidence, had adverted to three; by co-operation on the continent, by direct attacks on France, or by an attack on its government. The honorable gentleman here proceeded to prove from the situation of the continent, of France, and this country, that either was not likely to be successful. The secretary at war had stated, that the enemy had vulnerable points, but he would ask him on what part of the continent of Europe he would wish to land 50,000 men, that his next wish would not be to have them back? The honorable gentleman then drew a comparative view of the financial ability of this country and France to carry on the present war. He asserted that France could continue many years without additional burthens; and that this country, so far from finding the means provided this year adequate in future, would be obliged to raise a large sum next year even by loan. He was then proceeding to take a review of the effect that two or three years of war would have on the dispositions of the people, and the necessity there would be then of making a peace, with the strength of this country impaired, and that of France unbroken; when

Mr. Pitt rose to speak to order. At a time when the house was to consider a specific measure for providing for the security of the kingdom, it seemed to him inconsistent with the received usage of parliament to enter into a discussion on the general policy of arming.

Mr. Johnson thought, as the measure was to provide for the vigorous prosecution of the war, that it was perfectly competent to him to advert to the means of terminating it, in discussing the measures before the house.

Mr. Pitt felt himself obliged to press his observation, to order, on the house. When the country was at war, and a question was to be discussed for putting it into the best state of security, he could not but consider the introduction of a discussion concerning the propriety of arming at all, absolutely inconsistent with all the standing orders of the house.

The speaker observed, that he had for some time been of opinion, that the honorable gentleman had argued with too great latitude; but as it was difficult to foresee how any honorable gentleman may bring his argument to bear on the subject of debate, he had omitted to call him to order.

Mr. Johnson then gave up the matter, and concluded with declaring his approbation of the bill before the house, because, though it would not furnish the means of offensive war, it was wisely calculated to provide for the security and defence of the country.

Mr. Hutchinson felt himself called on by an observation of the honorable gentleman, who had just sat down, to say a few words. He could assure that honorable gentleman, and the house, that in the quarter to which he had alluded, when he stated the alienation of the affections of some of its inhabitants, there would be a cordial co-operation in the contest in which we were engaged. There may be discontented men there, as well as bad men, as in what country were there not? but the great mass of the people was unanimous in the intention to give the government its firmest support, and there would be no contest there, but who should be foremost in exertions. The honorable gentleman then declared himself satisfied with the conduct of ministers, and that the war had been forced on this country by the despot of France.

Mr. Archdall would not follow the example of the honorable gentleman, by entering into minute details, or resorting to circuitous reasoning. He would not advert to the question concerning Malta, or concerning the war. The question concerning Malta had already been decided, and after the sword had been drawn, he deemed it useless to enter into a discussion whether we would draw it or not. He rose merely to reply to one observation of the hon. gentleman, "that we had lost the affection of a part of the inhabitants of the sister kingdom." He knew not by what right the honorable gentleman claimed, as representative of the Irish people: and if a scrutiny were demanded, he was convinced his claim would appear unfounded. As the present measure had been thought necessary for the security and defence of the country, he had abstained hitherto from giving any opinion upon it. But, as the lords could not discuss it before tomorrow, he hoped to be allowed to offer a few remarks even now. The gentleman now in opposition to his majesty's government, seemed to insinuate, that the measures of his majesty's ministers were inadequate to the emergencies of the country, and not calculated to inspire confidence into the people. He would ask what more they could do than to provide for the exigencies of the moment, without violating the constitution? They had done so, and the country must do the rest itself. To have taken the steps, which these right honorable and honorable gentlemen wished, would have been to violate the constitution, which would have been to surrender what we were contending for.

Et propter bellum, bellandi perdere causas.

To require men to serve abroad, and to neglect the preservation of domestic security, was, he thought, hazarding too much for glory. He heard some expression applied to the persons who were to compose this army, which gave him pain. They were spoken of by some gentlemen as if they were children going to be breeched. At a moment like this, when much depended upon public opinion, and every thing on public spirit, it was with regret that he heard such expressions. Whether the men of whom this force was to be composed were to be trained as regulars or as militia, it would take the same time to train them. They would have the advantage at any rate of being under regular officers, and therefore they would be trained sooner and better. What advantage was there that may not be expected from calling again into action the retired officers of the marines, who had always proved themselves possessed of the two most essential qualities of soldiers, alacrity to attack the enemy, and suppress sedition? He hoped that now the united kingdoms were but one empire, there would be a total interchange and community of militia, and all other descriptions of united force. The spirit of the people he was sure was adequate to the attainment of the objects that were proposed. For though they were accustomed to rest too much on their insular situation, he was sure they would not be content with the security that afforded, when their feelings were roused to greater objects. This could not, however, be the work of government, nor of parliament; it must be effected by the reflections of every individual within himself. When the feelings of individuals were roused by a sense of the injuries put upon the country, and of the interests for which we were contending, we should be able to convince Bonaparte that he was contending, not with a war faction, but with a great, powerful and spirited people, who were not to be awed by his menaces, and who would baffle his unjust designs.

Lord de Blaquire thought that in the long catalogue of injuries which his majesty's declaration recited, there was not one which was not a sufficient cause for war. He thought that those who were dissatisfied with the treaty of Amiens, should, when the hands of England were unfettered by the unfortunate breach of that peace, have joined in supporting every measure that was calculated to lend vigor for the prosecution of the new contest. He thought every voice would be joined, and that there would be an universal cry to tell the proud usurper, that there was one nation ready and able to cope with him single-handed? did he say to cope with him? he would say to conquer, to humble, and to subdue him *(hear! hear!)*. An honorable gentleman who had been called to order (Mr. Johnson) was, he thought admonished on this point, at an improper time. He should have been called to order when he spoke of Bonaparte as a terror to this country. He trusted, at least, that such language should never again be suffered, if indeed any person should again be disposed to make use of it in that house *(hear! hear)*. There was however, one point in the present bill with which he was dissatisfied. It was, that the services of this force were so limited, he did not mean with respect to time, for in that respect he might be disposed to admit a shorter limit, if there were a larger extent with respect to peace. If Holland should get tired of its tyrants, if Switzerland should feel inclined to reassert its independence, if the states of Italy should be animated with the love of freedom; or the provinces of France should become disgusted with continued slavery; he would have this force engaged for an extent of service, which would allow it to be applied in aid on all those occasions. He conceived, that if his majesty's government in the last war had the disposal of 15 or 20,000 men, there would have been no rebellion in Ireland; and the British standard might have been still flying on the walls of Toulon; and we might thus have preserved the means of impeding the success of the French in Italy. He waited till now in the hope that some person of greater authority than he would have proposed to extend the service of this force to Europe at large. He was sure no man in the 50,000 would object to this extent of service, or if any man did, that he would be regarded as a dastard, unworthy of communicating with his more honorable fellow-soldiers. But lest there should be any objection to this extent, he would propose to limit the services to the dominions of the crown in Europe. By this they may be sent to take part in the charge of Gibraltar. He had been looking at an act of parliament yesterday, which appeared to have been made expressly with a view to his purpose; he meant the act for placing Malta in Europe—*(A laugh.)* He conceived, that in England the men would engage more liberally in service for Europe than for limited service, and Ireland was never more hearty in any cause. He wished that there were an oppotunity to avail ourselves of this force for the delivery of his majesty's Hanoverian dominions, which had given no offence to our foe, and which were only attacked because they belonged to the British crown. He thought the bill would be of no use unless it provided for all these objects. He had heard the right honorable gentleman opposite (Mr. Windham) complained of, as if he depressed the spirit of the country. He thought there could not be a greater libel on the country than to say that its spirit could be depressed by a display of the full extent of its danger. The right honorable gentleman had shewn that danger with the eloquence, the temper, and the spirit, which belonged to him in so high a degree, and he for one expressed his high satisfaction in the conduct which the right honorable gentleman had pursued. He again condemned the plan of rendering so much of the resources of the country unavailing by enlisting so many men for limited service. He considered it too romantic an object to keep back so great a force in order to surprise the enemy with a defence of an unexpected magnitude. He would perhaps be inclined to give his approbation to such a chivalrous design at a chapter of the order of the Bath, of which he was an unworthy member; but sitting here, he could not coincide in the propriety of it. His opinion here was, that a disposable force ought to be kept embarked, and the fleet ought to be kept at Spithead, at single anchor, in order to make a descent on every place where the removal of the enemy's troops might afford an opportunity. It was not sufficient to provide for our defence, we should shew the enemy that his design was impracticable, and that when he provoked us he should fear for his own security.

General Gascoigne returned his thanks to the honorable gentleman, for suggesting the propriety of extending the service. He was proceeding to make some observations on the sentimeut of an honorable officer (colonel Craufurd) whom he understood to have said, that if the enemy obtained possession of London, the country was lost—*(A cry of No! No! on all sides, and particularly from colonel Craufurd.)*—As he appeared to be wrong on this point, he should offer no further observations on it. He would advert to the observations of the honorable gentleman opposite (Mr. Archdall) who provoked the laughter of the house by some singularity of expression and gesture, rather than by the pertinence of his remarks. The honorable gentleman had observed on the advantage of this army of reserve being joined with the mariners. It so happened, however, that the mariners were the only force that had nothing to do with it. (Here there was some explanation across the table by the secretary at war.) He believed he had better not proceed further on this point, lest he should involve himself in greater error than the honorable gentleman—*(A laugh.)* He wished there should be a greater latitude of option, as the spirit of the country would go much beyond the limits set to it in the present bill.

Colonel Craufurd, as he had never wantonly intruded on the patience of the house, hoped for that indulgence which was usually given to new speakers; an indulgence which was never more wanted, whether deficiency of talents was considered, or inattention to the cultivation of that small proportion of talents which providence had given. It was not for his opinions that he claimed this indulgence, nor for the arguments with which he should support those opinions or the weakness of those arguments be proved, and he should hold himself bound in gratitude to the person who should prove the fallacy of the one, and the wickedness of the other.

The secretary at war to order. He apprehended that the discussion which was about to commence, would involve a great deal of military detail, which should not be publicly known. He should, therefore, move to enforce the standing order of the house, that strangers should be excluded.

The gallery was cleared, and we were not admitted for the remainder of the evening.

The discussion continued till half past twelve o'clock.

The bill was then read a third time and passed.

The additional force bill for Scotland was reported, and ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

The house adjourned at one o'clock. Strangers were at no time re-admitted.

CHARLESTON, August 19.

Extract of a letter from an American at Havonna, to his friend in this city, dated June 26, 1803.

"The rumors of war do not seem to alarm the people here so much as you imagined. They find that no preparation whatever was making in Old Spain for such an event, and console themselves in case of the worst with the prospect of a free trade with the neutral nations, as heretofore. Their greatest fear is that the United States may not be allowed to remain among that number, which would complete the distress of this unhappy island.

It is melancholy to observe the difference between the promising and even flourishing condition of it, when I was here during the late war, and the present distrest, languid, and comparatively torpid state of a colony, which from its extent, natural resources, and advantageous situation, ought certainly to be one of the first on the globe.—Agriculture is not encouraged, manufactures unthought of, the high roads and every object of internal policy neglected, and commerce shackled with such innumerable restraints, difficulties, forms and delays, as might be supposed sufficient totally to discourage and annihilate it.

A gleam of hope seems now to brighten these gloomy prospects, for, I have just heard that general Francis Munor, whom you have frequently heard myself and others from this place mention as an honor to his country, then second in command of the Spanish fleet on this station, is appointed governor of the island.

This, if true, will prove an auspicious and fortunate circumstance for this important colony, as well as for the interest of the Spanish nation. That gentleman descended from one of the best families in Biscay, wandered away from it in the ardent zeal of sanguine ambitious youth, and travelled into foreign countries, where, besides acquiring a variety of useful knowledge in other branches, and different languages, he became both in practice and theory a complete seaman and master of naval tactics.

He was, on his return home, invited and promoted in the navy of his own country, and distinguished not less for superior skill and judgment in managing ships, and the discipline and cleanliness he first introduced on board, than for active indefatigable zeal and intrepid courage, displayed in a variety of useful services previous to the late war, soon after the commencement of which he came out on the West-India station, and remained chiefly in this island, until last year, when he returned to Spain; and besides receiving otheir well merited marks of the favor of his sovereign, was made a lieutenant-general, or vice-admiral of the fleet.

The perfect knowledge which he possesses of this island, and of the nature and genius of its inhabitants, the comprehensive energy of his mind, the firm patriotism, the liberality of his sentiments and affability of his manners, qualify him, in my opinion, better than any of his countrymen, to revive the drooping hopes of this invaluable colony; to render the government of it efficient at home, and respectable abroad, and to draw forth the inexhaustible treasures it is capable of producing, in such a degree as instead of a burthen, to render it a source of wealth, strength and prosperity to the mother country. I intend to leave this island in a few days, and cannot have any inducement to return to it again, until the above, or some other favorable change takes place."

BY THIS DAY's MAILS.

SALEM, August 2[illegible]

Arrived, the schooner Harriet, captain Nathauiel Knight, in 20 days from St. Kitts. Left there, August 1st, schooners Mechanic, Wakeman, of Fairfield, Connecticut, to sail in two days; Ranger, Little, bound for St. Croix; ship Brothers, Wickes, of Philadelphia, to sail in five days. Spoke, August 10, in lat. 29, long. 67, 30, a schooner from Barbados, M'Kenley, master, bound for Alexandria, out 10 days—informed, that captain Turner, in a ship belonging to Boston, was taken, and condemned at Barbados, for having on board troops and ammunition from France bound for Martinique.

August 26.

FRENCH BILLS.

Extract of a letter from a merchant in London. to another in this town, dated July 4.

"I am sorry to inform you, that your bills on the French government are not accepted, and probably will not be paid when due. In consequence of it being discovered that many bills had been drawn at St. Domingo, (particularly to the order of A. Lindo) for which they say nothing had been furnished, the payment of them has been suspended. My friends at Paris, to whom I sent your bills to procure payment, inform me, that the French government requires almost endless formalities for the bills drawn at St. Domingo.—The bearers of them must produce an authentic copy of the contract for the goods or supplies furnished, for which the bills were given, and a certificate of its execution to annex them to the bills. They advise those in whose favor the bills are drawn, to send with the contract & certificate a power of attorney in blank. You may the contract, *(le marche)* but under existing circumstances you will not, I fear, readily obtain a certificate of its execution."

BOSTON, August 24.

Arrived, brig Fox, Minns, L[illegible]pool, 53 days. Spoke, July 15, lat. 4[illegible], 18, long. 25, 35, ship Neptune, of Havanna, 40 days from New-Orleans, for Bordeaux. In lat. 43, 42, long. 40, ship Sarah, 35 days from New-Orleans, for Bordeaux. August 13, ship Commerce, Norton, of Newport, for Amsterdam, 10 days out. Passenger in the Fox, Mr. Coates.

August 25.

Arrived, schr. Sally, M'Intire, Rotterdam, 47 days. Spoke August 4, lat. 46, 50, long. 35, ship Mary, Baker, of Portland, for Liverpool, 15 days out. On the Banks, ———, Chapman, who had on board, 300 quintals fish. Left, ship Brutus, Sterling, for New-York.

Same day, a ship from Russia, via Salem.

Same day, in the outer harbor, an English gun ship.

Same day, a brig at quarantine, name unknown.

August 26.

COMMERCIAL.

We were yesterday favored with the new London Price Current, of July 8, from which the following information is extracted:

Abstract of an act of parliament, dated July 4, 1803, for granting new *and* additional *duties on drawbacks, (during the present war, and until the ratification of the definitive treaty of peace) on the importation and exportation of certain goods, wares and merchandizes, and on the tonnage of ships and vessels in* Great-Britain.

Inwards. Copper, bricks, rose copper and all unwrought copper, 4s. 6d. per cwt. Cotton wool, of the growth of Turkey, United States, British colonies, &c. 8s. 4d. per cwt. of the growth of any other country or place, 12s. 6d. Sugar, on 100l. value, 20l. drawback, do. 20l. All other goods 12s. 10d. per cwt. except tea, wine, deals above 7 inches long, being 8 feet, and not exceeding 1 ½ inch thick. Fir timber, being 8 inches and not exceeding 10 inches, of the growth of Norway, and imported direct from thence—Goods, wares, &c. not being [illegible] the growth, produce, or manufacture of Great-Britain, for every 100l. of the amount of the duties of custom, on exportation thereof, 12l. 10s. per cent. Goods, wares and merchandize, of the growth, produce and manufacture, of Great-Britain, exported to any part of Europe, on every 100l. 1l. per cent. Ditto out of Europe, on do. 3l. per cent. All other goods, except tea and wines, on every 100l. of custom duties, an additional duty of 12l. 10s. per cwt.

London prices. Pot ashes £ 1 6 to £ 2 5; pearl £ 1 13 to £ 2 6 per C. Coffee, fine 140 to 147, good 135 to 140, middling 130 to 135, ordinary 120 to 130; Mochat 130 to 135, p. cent. Cotton wool, Berbiee, 1 11; Surriuam 2s.; Cayenne, 2 6; Demerara, 1 6; St. Domingo, 1 5; Tobago, 1 8; Grenada, Curracoa & Barbados, 1 6; Bahama, Martinique and St. Vincents, 1 5; Trinidad, 1 4; Jamaica, 1 3; Georgia, bowed, 1 ; Sea-