IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

April 23.

HIS MAJESTY'S MESSAGE.

Lord Grenville moved the order of the day for taking his majesty's message into consideration. The message being read,

His lordship rose and observed, that after the message which their lordships had heard, it would not be necessary for him to take up much of the time of the house. He was persuaded that there could be but one sentiment among their lordships respecting his majesty's message; he was convinced there could be but one feeling in the country, as to the line of conduct which it was necessary to adopt; and he believed there could be but one opinion throughout Europe respecting the conduct of Prussia. Had there existed no connexion between that power and Great-Britain, if his Prussian majety had not been bound by ties of alliance, of blood, of friendship, and of gratitude, still one might have supposed that his true policy, a sense of his real interest, would have induced him to pursue a course different from that which occasioned the message which had been just read. It was not his intention to enter deeply at present into the particulars of the conduct of the Prussian government; it would be necessary however, to make some reference to them. That court had been engaged in confidential intercourse with England previous to the battle of Austerlitz; and if any reliance could be placed upon assurances, if any faith could be reposed upon treties, we had a right to expect that she would be found, not fighting on the side of the enemy, but sustaining the common cause of Europe against France. On the contrary, she acted as if, notwithstanding those assurances and those treaties, she had been leagued with France from the beginning. This was manifest in various instances. Her first open act was to occupy Hanover, under pretence of covering the retreat of the British and allied army, and of securing her own frontier against the danger which might result from the establishment of a French force in the electorate of Hanover. That this occupation was a flagrant outrage and violation of justice, no one could deny, and as such, his majesty could not but feel it deeply. The insult and injury, however, affecting him more in his private than in his public capacity, he determined to apply to remonstrance and negociation, rather than to measures of a more serious character. What was the conduct of Prussia? Their lordships would scarcely believe it, if the facts were not notorious to all Europe. Before time could be given for the first temperate representation, before any explanation was offered or received, she took forcible possession of his majesty's electoral dominions. The country which he occupied a few days before, for the express purpose of protecting & guarding against the arms of France within one fortnight after she appropriated to herself, as a cession and a conquest made by France. This was the second step in the gradation of the injuries offered to his majesty. There was, however, a third step, more general and more injurious in its object and consequences. His Prussian majesty caused it to be notified to the British minister at Berlin, that, in obedience to a requisition from France he must proceed to exclude the shipping of England, not only from Prussia, but from the ports of all the countries within the reach of her controul or influence. It was in this situation we now stood. His majesty could not but feel deep and lasting regret that the act of Prussia, over which he had no controul, should involve in the calamities of war not only the subjects of Prussia, but those of other countries. Whether any alternative remained to his majesty, it would be for their lordships to determine; to his mind there was none. He could not perceive what other measures than those which had been resorted to, could be taken against a country which was found, from choice or necessity, to yield to every requisition of the enemy. Such bound acquiescence did not become any country, & much less a great country like Prussia. It was obvious that, in point of honor and reputation she could gain nothing by it; it remained to be proved whether, even in the inferior consideration of interest, she would find herself the better by it. He purposely abstained from making use of strong terms in speaking of the conduct of Prussia. If it could be the object of any one to irritate, to inflame the passions, to make it more difficult to renew hereafter the connexion between the two countries, how easy would it be for him to represent the conduct of Prussia in a much stronger light? One observation more remained for him to make, which related to the interest of Prussia herself. This appeared to him to be the kind of reasoning by which she endeavored to reconcile herself to the strange line of policy she had tho't proper to pursue. "I have no hostility against you; France insists upon my ceding to her a part of my dominions; I must indemnify myself somewhere, you are my weaker neighbor, and I will wrest my indemnity from you." What could there be more monstrous, more unjust, more contrary to the principles of the law of nations, than such a proposition? He would allow that cases may occur, in which a country might be obliged to cede part of her territories; but though her interests were affected, still her honor might be preserved. There was no disgrace in being the victim of such necessity. It was not dishonorable to be obliged to bend to circumstances after an appeal to arms; the dishonor was in not contending against such an event, in yielding without an effort or a struggle. The grounds upon which he would move the address to his majesty. which he held in his hand, were these—First, the necessity of evincing that a connexion did and ought to exist between England and Germany, and that we felt deeply for her interests. He was also anxious to convince Prussia, that there was not a power in Europe who could exclude British ships from her ports with impunity; and above all, he wished to mark our abhorrence of that abominable principle, of one power indemnifying itself at the expence of its weaker neighbor. He would acknowledge also he had another powerful motive for proposing it, a motive in which he anticipated the perfect concurrence not only of every noble lord who heard him, but of every man in the country. He was anxious to convince his majesty that they felt an insult offered to him as an insult offered to themselves, and that there was no part of his dominions in the possession of which they were not willing to defend and maintain him. In this loyal and patriotic sentiment he was persuaded every one who heard him would agree. He would trespass no longer upon their lordships' time, but move that an address be presented to his majesty upon his most gracious message. His lordship then read the address, which was an echo of the message.

The address having been again read by the lord chancellor,

Lord Hawkesbury expressed his entire and unqualified approbation both of the address and the measures adopted on this occasion by his majesty's ministers. If Prussia persisted in her unjust conduct, he was convinced that the evil effects of that injustice would revert in a tenfold degree on herself. He also hoped that every proper measure would be taken which might tend to strengthen the good understanding at present prevailing between this country and two great continental powers, namely, Russia and Sweden.

Lord Mulgrave also expressed his approbation of the measures adopted with respect to Prussia, which, he said, augured well for the future conduct of government.

The address was then agreed to *nem. dis* and ordered to be presented by the lords with the white staves.

EMPIRE OF FRANCE.

LAGISLATIVE BODY, April 16.

PRESIDENCY OF M. FONTANES.

Continuation of the sitting of the 14th.

M Cretet, counsellor of state in presenting the project of finances, has explained the motive of them with much perspicuity. The orator's reflections upon each part of this immense work have been heard with the liveliest interest. Our limits will not permit us to give them literally, but we shall offer that part to our readers which has the most intimate connection with the political situation of Europe, and particularly that of France and England.

"A trifling increase of the public debt, balanced by a redemption executed or prepared; resourses derived from the remains of the national domains; foreign succors, the fruits of victory, and wise policy; these, added to the ordinary public contributions, M. Cretet observed, might prepetuate to the latest term of glory a vast empire, but lately almost overwhelmed under the wreck of a terrible revolution.

"It has been said, and unhappily it is but too true, that *Europe seems as if she could no longer reckon upon the benefits of peace*, which have been promised her by unfaithful tresties; she does not even enjoy the benefit of a truce, which is a necessary interval previous to the recommencement of hostilities. If we examine how it is that, in the midst of civilization, the people still feel all the effects of barbarism, we must be convinced that some extraordinary cause must have occured to throw Europe into a state the most oppositd to the ropose & interest of the surrounding nations.

"The abrogation of the rights of nations was prepared, at the commencement of the last age by the contempt of an ambitious nation, which was disposing itself for the attainment of universal dominion; and it was crushed beyond remedy, when one of the ministers of the nation, lifting up the voice of audacity, dared to proclaim, "That a single cannot-shot should not be fired in Europe, without the permission of his government."

"Europe remained mute and indifferent to this insulting declaration. She seemed as if she wished to conceal the fact, that this signal of dominion was the loss of her independence; and that as this nation had assumed the command, obedience was absolutely necessary—Imprudent slumber, which has since produced such melancholy consequences!

"The assertion made by the minister Chatham, flattered the pride and ambition of his nation.

"England, favored by unheard of events, pursued its designs with rapidity. London at this day would probably have been the metropolis of the universe, if Heaven had not given birth to an extraordinary man; if Heaven had not charged him with the re-establishment of the law of nations, in endowing him with prudence, and every necessary means for accomplishing his destiny with success.

"His genius has laid those storms incessantly excited by our implacable enemy—his powerful hand has paralized her efforts—but at the same time he constructed a vast system, the only which could remedy the evils of Europe.

"The struggle which subsisted between France and England appeared first as though it could not be termininated but by reason or by force. The effects of reason will always vanish in proportion as our enemies pretend to the dominion of the universe, through that of the seas; and as long as its councils resound with those savage cries for a war of extermination, the means of force must be prepared against this nation; but nature opposes obstacles to their execution, the duration of which we are unable to ascertain.

"New combinations are upon the point of fixing the future, and consolidatilig our hopes, sooner or later, for the return of a lasting peace. He has formed a power in the centre of Europe, sufficiently strong to break the force of every attack it has received, as well as those that may yet be prepared against it.

"England, abusing its situation and its immense maritime forces, has itself indicated the points from whence she may be resisted with success. To the efforts that she makes by sea, it may be necessary to oppose greater efforts upon land; and since she pretends to insolate and cut off other nations, by laying the ocean under an edict, just reprisals call upon us to insolate her, and to shut her out of the continent to the greatest extent that may be possible.

"Thus, till England shall console the weeping commerce of nations, and renouncing an universal monopoly, shall restore them their natural rights, and no longer pretend to dispute with them, except in respect to the advantages of its soil, and the perfections of its arts, her vessels, loaded with unproductive riches, shall shew themselves in vain upon those extensive coasts which shall repulse them. England will at last be tired of this rigorous divorce; it shall restore to Europe the empire of reason, and with it a permanent peace.

"Such are the obstacles that oppose a peace so desirable; we ought to render ourselves worthy of it, by putting ourselves in a situation to obtain it by conquest."

PARIS, April 1.

Yesterday at 3 o'clock, P. M. the prince arch-chancellor of the empire, repaired to the senate, which had been assembled by order of the emperor. After being received with the usual ceremony, his serene highnes caused the secretary of the senate to read the decree, which authorised him to preside at the present session, and he then pronounced the following address:

Gentlemen,

At the moment when France, uniting in opinion with you, assured her happiness & glory, by swearing allegiance to our august sovereign, your wisdom prescribed the necessity of establishing a system of hereditary government, and of confirming it by institutions analagous thereto.

Your wishes are partly accomplished, and they will be still more so by the several acts which his majesty the emperor and king, has directed me to place before you. And receiving with gratitude these new testimonials of his confidence in the senate, and love for his people, you will hasten to cause them to be transcribed into your registers.

The first of the acts, which I come to communicate, is a statute containing the dispositions, which result from the 14th article of the constitutional acts of the 28th Floreal, (year 12.) This statute regulates whatever concerns the civil establishment of the imperial family, and designates the duties of the princes and princesses, who compose it, towards the emperor.

The principles which constitute that important family statute, announce how dear it is to the heart of his majesty that the dynasty, of which he is the founder, should perpetuate the happines of France, and fulfil the elevated hopes of which it is the object. It is above all interesting to the people that the princes should be raised above other men. The honors which surround their cradle, are founded in the wish of giving additional authority to the examples of submission and virtue, which are their first debt towards the country.

It is also necessary to the accomplishment of their high destinies that they should be placed, from their birth, under the eyes of the father of the empire, in order that his superintendance should direct their thoughts to the interest of the state, & that the most rigid morals should purify & ennoble all their attachments.

The second act is a decree, which effects the re-union of the Venetian provinces to the kingdom of Italy, whereby that part of his majesty's estates will receive the increased importance and lustre, which the glory of its founder gave reason to expect.

By the 3d decree, his majesty confers the throne of Naples, on his Imperial highness prince Joseph, and his legitimate male issue. It reserves to the prince all the rights assured to him by the constitutions of the empire—declaring always that the crowns of France and Naples shall never be united on the same head. This glorious reward of prince Joseph's services, and of his constant and pious attachment to the chief of his family, will be to you, gentlemen, a subject of lively satisfaction, which will be increased on learning that this elevation of a prince, the object of your veneration and love, will not interfere with any of his relations to us, and that the new king of Naples preserves, with his crown, the title of grand elector.

Third and fourth decrees. The one contains the cession in full sovereignty to his Imperial highness prince Murat, of the dutchies of Cleves and Berg. The other confers, with the same title, the principality of Guastalla on her Imperial highness the princess Pauline, and on her husband the prince Borghese.

The military glory of prince Murat, the importance and splendor of his successes, his public and private virtues, will interest every Frenchman in the just recompence which they have obtained, and will endear his authority to his new subjects. Prince Murat will be charged with the defence of an important part of the frontier of the empire—nor could his majesty confide it to worthier hands.

You have appreciated the merit of prince Borghese, even before your decrees had naturalized him among us—his conduct in the last campaign gives him additional claims to your esteem, and the public confidence.

The 5th decree transfers in full sovereignty to marshal Berthier, the principality of Neufchatel. This affecting proof of the emperor's benevolence to his ancient companion in arms, to an intrepid and enlightened co-operator, cannot fail to interest the sensibility of all good hearts, and to furnish cause of gratulation to intelligent minds.

The sixth decree operates the re-union of Lucca, Massa, Carrara, and Garfagna.

The seventh decree erects in the states of Parma and Placentia three grand titles, of which the splendor will be supported by considerable arrangements which have been made in these countries by order of his majety.

By the effect of similar reserves contained in the decrees relative to the states of Venice, the kingdom of Naples, and principality of Lucca, his majesty has created rewards, which are worthy of him, for several of his subjects, who have rendered great military services, and who in the exercise of eminent functions, have contributed in a distinguished manner, to the welfare of the state.

The emperor intends that these titles shall become the property of those who shall receive them, and who shall have the right of transmitting them to their eldest male descendants, as a monument of imperial munificence, and of the just motives by which it has been excited.

This great conception, gentlemen, and the secondary measures which accompany it, will make known to Europe, the value which he attaches to the brave exploits, that have seconded his labors, and to the fidelity of those, whom he has employed in the direction of important affairs. This disposition also presents political advantages, which cannot escape your discernment—The habitual splendor which surrounds men of eminent dignity, gives an authority of precept and example over the people, which the monarch sometimes advantageously substitutes for the authority of public office—while, on the other hand, those men become the natural advocates of the people to the throne—it is therefore the interest of the state that, by the stability and splendor of their condition, they should be raised above all vulgar considerations.

To these motives, the legitimacy of which cannot be contested, are superadded other advantages easily imagined, and which I believe it superfluous to analize.

Such, gentlemen, are the profound bases, on which the emperor would establish the great political system, with the conception of which the Divine Providence has inspired him. It is in thus assuring the happiness of the present generation, and in preparing the grandeur of future ages, that he incessantly adds to the sentiments of love, admiration and respect, which you participate in common with all the French.

MENTZ, April 7.

According to a prevailing report, Prussia is to cede to the elector of Saxony what she has acquired by the two partitions of Poland. That prince is also to receive West-Gallicia, Lithuania, and is to be crowned king of Poland. In recompence, the elector of Saxony and Lusatatia are to be yielded up to Prussia. The emperor of Austria is to receive indemnities in another quarter.

HAMBURG, April 18.

We know for a certainty that on the part of the cabinet of Berlin no declaration has been issued against Sweden, as some papers have asserted. On the 16th, Mr. Jackson, brother to the British envoy, passed through this city, on his return from London, where he had been dispatched as a courier

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GOTTINGEN, April 14.

A few days ago the university at this place was taken possession of by the Prussian privy counsellor Giesecke, in the name of his sovereign.

DALMATIA, March 28.

The following are the articles of the convention by which the Bocca di Cattaro was given up to the Russians, the Austrians being too weak to resist the force that was brought against them:

1. The Austrian garrison shall evacuate Castel Nuovo and all the forts and garrisons in Albania, within 12 leagues, & deliver them to the Russian army Albania being now considered as in the hands of the French, and, under this consideration, it is now taken possession of in the name of his imperial majesty of Russia.

2. The Austrian garrison shall march out with all the honors of war consistant with a friendly power, and shall be premitted to carry all their property with them, but cannon, ammunition, &c. are to be delivered up to the Russians; as, according to the treaty of Persburg, these articles were to be consigned to the French. Commissioners shall be appointed on both sides for the delivery and reception of the same.

3. The Austrian garrison, with all its property, shall embark on board Russian vessels in the course of three days, and be landed at Trieste.

4. Those Catholics who may not chuse to remain in Albania, shall be permitted to accompany the Austrian garrison.

5. The Catholic religion shall be respected in Albania, and protected according to the customs before observed.

6. The liberties and property of the inhabitants shall be respected, and the form of government adapted to the morals and manners of the people.

7. The Montenegrin, under the protection and bearing arms for the Russians, must be received in Albania as friends, but are not to be admitted into the forts.

LONDON, April 14.

A gentleman who arrived direct from Berlin states, that the prospect of a war with Sweden has not only caused great dissatisfaction throughout Brandenburg, but produced very indignant sensations in the minds of the Prussian army. The officers, in particular, do not conceal their feelings with respect to the injustice and impolicy of the war, and consider themselves treated more as the instruments of Bonaparte than as acting in obedience to the commands of their own sovereign.

Several private letters from Hamburg, received on Saturday by respectable houses in the city, confirm the above statements. About fifty persons belonging to different regiments were put under arrest for having delivered their sentiments with too much freedom on the degradation to which their sovereign had reduced himself. Among them was prince Louis, brother to the king of Prussia. After a confiment of two days to his own appartments, he was set at liberty. The others continued under the arrest, & it is positively stated, that the windows of count Haugwitz, to whose counsels the dependence of Prussia upon France is attributed, were broken by some of the military.

The king of Prussia in November last was in arms. He affected to wish well to the allies, he pretended to negociate and the whole time he was covering the flank of the enemy when advanceing into Moravia. He now claims from that enemy the rewards of his treachery and desertion; and what rewards? British Hanover, Swedish Pomerania, and Danish Holstein, seem objects insufficient for his detouring ambition. But let him beware, England has made his commerce bleed at every pore. Russia, whose forces he last winter employed in idle demonstrations, is now on his frontier, and in full readiness to act. His has not been long a kingdom and even his Gallic ally may not be able to sustain him in his pretensions to the emperorship of the north, "liking the treason though hating the traitor," may not be unwilling to see him sink into his primitive dukedom.

Against the occupation of Essen, Elton, and Werden, by the French, the Prussian commissary has not only protested, but his excellency lieutenant-general Blucher, has also ordered a considerable number of troops to march forward for the purpose of again occupying these countries. The grenadier battalion of Hallman, for instance, marched into Essen, after having ordered the French troops to evacuate that place and neighborhood. The latter, however, had received orders not to yield the point, so that the troops of both countries occupy the place at the same time.

As the connection between France and Prussia leaves little room to doubt that the retaliation to which we have resorted, will, in the first instance at least, produce a change of determination, it is expected that matters will proceed to open hostility. Prussia has already done to us the utmost injury within her power to inflict; but the extension of the principle we have already adopted, to the ports of the Baltic, which, with the co-operation of Sweden and Russia could easily be effected, must completely put a stop to all her foreign trade. Indeed, while it is supposed that Bonaparte will insist upon shutting the trade against us, which he cannot do, it is clear that we can easily do it against his ally, the king of Prussia, by suffering no vessel bound to a Prussian port to enter the Baltic. A few vessels, stationed near the mouth of the Sound, could effect that object.

Prussia, singly opposed to Russia, could not sustain herself a month. The numeral force of her armies is certainly great, and discipline may, in some degree, repress any immediate effect from the universal disgust and disaffection of her soldiers, but the Russian armies, ready to pour into her dominions, are not deficient in point of numbers, and surpass the Prussians in every other requisite. France will gladly feed the war, in the consistent, though we trust fallacious hope, to accomplish the ruin of both.

It is said, that not only Frankfort, but also Hamburg, Lubeck and Bremen, are to be taken under the protection of France, for which each of these places is to furnish a yearly contribution.

April 25.

The attention of the continent is chiefly directed to the conduct of the king of Sweden at present. Were his means equal to his zeal and spirit, and excess of chivalrous gallantry, we should look with some confidence to the liberation of the greater part of Europe. However superior the strength of Prussia may be, it is not probable that she will venture to commit herself with a prince of such firmness of purpose, and whose intimate alliance with Russia is far from being doubtful.

The peace of Presburg, however disadvantageous and degrading to the emperor of Austria, was, properly speaking, nothing more than a truce, during which Bonaparte was anxious to effect the changes which it was the object of his policy and ambition to prepare; and to make sure of Prussia, that he might afterwards avail himself of the slightest pretext to accomplish the subjugation and downfal of Austria. While he appeared to evacuate the territories of that power, he was careful to preserve all the posts that could facilitate the invasion; and but a few days will now suffice, to enable him to make his appearance again in them, at the head of a formidable army. It might, no doubt, be conjectured, from the activity with which the archduke Charles endeavored to re-organize the Austrian army, that he had some foresight of the present state of things, and there is no room to hope that Bonaparte is not now again destined to have to do with generals, who, by treason, incapacity or cowardice, will betray into his hands the fate of the Austrian monarchy. Even at the time when Bonaparte was holding out to his senate, that such were the precautions he had taken, that no apprehensions could be well entertained of any speedy renewal of hostilities with Austria, he was sowing the seeds of a fresh rupture, by making demands on that power, which would have constituted its territory a property of France, and the theatre of a war between that country and Russia. The wily Corsican cherished the hope, that by insulting the emperor of Germany on all sides, and by surrounding him with the allies or the slaves of the enemy, he would be brought to accede to every demand that would be made on him. In this expectation he has, however, been disappointed, and it may naturally be supposed that Bonaparte, in the rage of his resentful heart, has already sworn the overthrow of the Austrian throne.

The conduct of Frederick William is execrated universally in this quarter of the continent. Even his own troops feel ashamed of it. This is the reason of the order lately issued for preventing all conversation on military and political topics This order, however, is generally disregarded, and his ministers find themselves obliged to have recourse to more rigorous measures. Thirty field officers have very recently been reduced to half pay, for having freely spoken their sentiments on the present state of affairs. Of these, several openly declared that they would not fight against the Russians and Swedes. The inhabitants of Berlin espouse the cause of the officers. Prince Louis, the king's brother, lately went to a levee in his regimentals, with his sword reversed. This circumstance attracting the king's notice, he hastily asked his brother, what he meant by wearing his sword so unlike a soldier? "Please your majesty," said prince Louis, "you dispose of your territories as if they had never been yours, why may I not equally dispose of my sword as I please?" The king flew into a violent passion, and said, "Do you know, sir, that I can punish you?" "Yes," rejoined prince Louis, "you may take away my life, but you cannot alter the sentimehts of my heart" This altercation has made a great noise at Berlin, and the spirited conduct of prince Louis has endeared him to the people and the army.

The fortress of Gaeta still holds out, & tho' the bombardment of it has commenced, it may yet hold out a month, as supplies can be conveyed to it by sea. The gallant defender of it, the prince of Hesse, has circulated papers amongst the French, in which he bids them remember, "that Caeta is not Ulm, nor the prince of Hesse, Mack."

STATE PAPERS

Relative to the rupture between England and Prussia.

No I.

Copy of a dispatch from Francis James Jackson, esq. to the right hon. lord Mulgrave, dated Berlin, 27th January, 1806.

MY LORD,

I have the honor of inclosing to your lordship a letter, which although dated yesterday, I have just received (4 P M) from baron Hardenberg. I hasten to forward it by estafette to the agent of Cuxhaven in the hopes of its arriving there in time for the Thursday's packet. I also send to lord Cathcart, by estafette, a copy of the Prussian minister's letter to me. I shall simply acknowledge the receipt of it, and inform his excellency, that I have forwarded his communication to your lordship. I have the honor to be, &c

(Signed) FRANCIS JAMES JACKSON.

Right hon. lord Mulgrave, &c. &c. &c.

[*Translation of inclosure in No. I.*]

SIR, I hasten to fulfil the promise given to lord Harrowby on the 8th of this month, to communicate to you, sir, as soon as a final decision should be taken on the subject, the additional circumstances relating to the security of the north of Germany, and to the guarantee by the king of the safety of the British troops which are in that part of the continent.

A messenger from Munich, has just brot his majesty intelligence of the consummation of the arrangement which the present conjuncture of affairs has induced him to enter into with France, in order to save those countries, and especially the states of Hanover, from the misfortunes of another furious war, and to insure their tranquility. As these arrangements stipulate particularly the committing of that country to the exclusive guard of the Prussian troops; and to the administration of the king *until the conclusion of a peace between England & France*; his majesty could not delay taking the necessary measures for entry therein of a corps of his army, which will be under the orders of his excellency the general of cavalry count Schulenberg Kehnert, to whom also, the king has confided the administration of the country. His majesty, animated by the most lively de-