

STATE PAPERS
Relative to the late Negotiation between
FRANCE AND ENGLAND.

[CONTINUED.]

No. XXV.
Paris, 22d August, 1806.

The undersigned plenipotentiary of his Britannic majesty, finds himself under the necessity of reminding his excellency the minister for foreign affairs, 1st, that on the morning of the 12th instant, a note signed by the undersigned and by Viscount Yarmouth, dated the 11th, was transmitted to his excellency Gen. Clarke, in which the undersigned observed "that the British government, far from pretending to require of the French government all the restitutions which may be convenient for them, without their being bound to any restitution towards France, have manifested no other desire than that of treating with the French government on the basis proposed by France herself, as is expressed in Lord Lauderdale's note, viz. to treat generally upon the basis of the *uti possidetis*, which ought scrupulously to be observed, excepting in the case of Hanover, which was proposed to be ceded, wholly to his majesty."

Even were it possible to mistake the results to be necessarily drawn from this principle, the discussions which took place by word of mouth on the 9th instant, between the French plenipotentiaries and the undersigned, left no doubt that the proposal thus brought forward was perfectly understood by these plenipotentiaries. The undersigned have in consequence only to repeat that, conformably to the instructions of their government, they can do no other than insist upon this principle being previously acknowledged. It is only on this condition that they are allowed to continue the negotiation."

That the 14th of this month the undersigned, conjointly with viscount Yarmouth, had the honor to inform by writing his excellency the minister for foreign affairs, "that the silence of their excellencies the French plenipotentiaries with regard to his note of the 11th instant, induced the undersigned to presume that at the present moment they were not to expect such an explanation as had been required in the note of the 11th, to authorize the undersigned in conformity with their instructions, to continue the negotiation."

That conformable to this idea, we wish to set bounds to the general expectations of both nations, as there is so little appearance of seeing them realised. We feel that the request we make under such circumstances for passports for our return, is susceptible of interpretations of a nature to delay the happy moment when the views of the French government shall approximate more to those it was supposed to entertain. It is to prevent even the possibility of such an inconvenience that we think it our duty to assure your excellency that any step whatever which would have the effect of laying obstacles in the way of the renewal of the negotiation, would be thence contrary to our intentions; notwithstanding that owing to the reasons we have detailed, we see ourselves obliged to put an end to our mission."

The undersigned on seeing the answer to these communications so long retarded, persuaded himself that this delay might arise from dispositions favorable to the progress of the negotiation, and that he should be finally compensated by an answer conformably to this interpretation. When even none arrived he in like manner persevered in a conduct which must have incontestably proved the sincerity of the desire that he manifested, to receive the explanation which might enable him to continue the object of his mission."

But if on the 14th instant, the undersigned, conjointly with viscount Yarmouth, found himself obliged to observe to his excellency the minister for foreign affairs, that he apprehended (in consequence of the silence of their excellencies) that no answer would be made on this subject, &c. and if at this period they thought it their duty to declare the necessity under which they lay conformably to the orders of their sovereign, to ask for passports for their departure, it is unnecessary for the undersigned to remark to his excellency the minister for foreign affairs, how much the new delays which had taken place since that date imperiously prescribe to the undersigned to renew this request."

At the same time the undersigned must observe that being unable to persuade himself that in case the reply was of an unfavorable nature, his excellency the minister for foreign affairs would have deferred for so long an interval the adoption of the only alternative of the sending of passports, he cannot entirely even now give up the hope, of seeing the proposal once more established in the manner the ministers of his Britannic majesty comprehended it to have been made on the part of the French government, since it is only in this manner that the expectation of the two nations can be re-established."

Should even these hopes prove unfulfilled, the undersigned will never regret a delay which has afforded him an opportunity of proving in an unequivocal manner, the sincere desire of a solid and honorable peace, with which his Britannic majesty has been ever actuated, and of which his majesty has given the best proof by authorising the undersigned to treat on the bases first proposed by France. It is in this very view that the undersigned has supported so long an uncertainty without making in this respect the smallest claim."

At present on intrusting his excellency the minister for foreign affairs to send him provisionally to be made use of in the cases already pointed out, the necessary passports for himself and suite, the undersigned thinks he has adopted the only means of preventing

the necessity, under which he might otherwise find himself (were he to be obliged to renew this request) to accompany it with claims such as are authorized by the rights of persons and the dignity of his sovereign.
LAUDERDALE.

No. XXVI.
Paris, 23d August, 1806.

The silence constantly maintained by their excellencies the French plenipotentiaries, as well as by the minister for foreign affairs, after the official note of the undersigned and viscount Yarmouth of the 11th instant; after the letter transmitted to his excellency the minister for foreign affairs, on the 14th; and after the official note of the undersigned of the 22d instant, appears clearly to announce that the French government have abandoned all desire of peace on the basis which itself was the first to propose, and which the undersigned uniformly declared to be the sole and only basis on which he was authorized to treat with that government."

In this state of things, the undersigned cannot flatter himself that any advantage can result from a longer stay at Paris; whilst, on the other hand, a further delay must naturally give the two nations, as well as all Europe, reason to believe that peace, the object of their wishes, is on the point of being concluded, at the very moment when all reasonable hope in this respect appears to be entirely vanished. Strongly impressed with this opinion, the undersigned perceives himself obliged to terminate his mission, by making to his excellency the minister for foreign affairs, the formal request for the necessary passports for him to return to his sovereign."

At the same time, and conformably to the conciliatory spirit which has characterized all his steps, since his arrival in Paris, the undersigned, even now, that he sees himself under the necessity, by his instructions, to ask for passports, cannot resolve to render impossible a communication from the French government, of a nature to enable the undersigned to continue the negotiation, although after a long silence of that government, he can scarcely look for a favorable issue."

It will be on Wednesday morning next, the 27th instant, that the undersigned will do himself the honor to repair in person, to his excellency the minister for foreign affairs, to make the formal and definitive request for the necessary passports for himself & suite. He only adds that the passports for which he shall ask, will be for his immediate return, and not for passports to be made use of according to circumstances such as he lately asked for.

LAUDERDALE.

No. XXVII.
Paris, 26th August, 1806.

The plenipotentiaries of his majesty the emperor of the French, king of Italy, desiring to confer with his excellency Lord Lauderdale, plenipotentiary of his Britannic majesty, on the object of the last note which his excellency transmitted them, invites him to come to-morrow, at three o'clock, to the ministry of the interior, where they will be assembled, should that hour suit his excellency."

M. de Champagny has the honor to propose to Lord Lauderdale to dine with him after the conference. He hopes that his excellency will bring with him to dinner Messieurs Stewart and Maddison."

No. XXVIII.

Lord Lauderdale, plenipotentiary of his Britannic majesty, has the honor to acknowledge the reception of the note which has just been transmitted to him from their excellencies the French plenipotentiaries."

He will do himself the honor, at three o'clock to-morrow, to go to the ministry of the interior, and afterwards to dine with his excellency M. de Champagny. Messrs. Goddard, Stewart and Maddison will in like manner do themselves the honor to repair thither to dinner."

LAUDERDALE.

No. XXIX.
Paris, 29th August, 1806.

At the moment of renewing with their excellencies the French plenipotentiaries the conference of the 26th instant, the undersigned plenipotentiary of his Britannic majesty conceives himself obliged to lay before their excellencies the state of the negotiation such as it was at the sequel of the note transmitted from the undersigned and from viscount Yarmouth, on the 12th instant.—Their excellencies the French plenipotentiaries will see, conformably to this statement, that at the stage at which the discussion now is, the undersigned is no longer permitted to continue it, unless that, by the admission of the sole basis on which he is authorised to negotiate, their excellencies furnish him with new motives to justify such a determination."

In the official note transmitted to their excellencies the French plenipotentiaries, of the 12th August, it was observed to them, that "the British government, far from pretending to require of the French government all the restitutions which may be convenient for them, without their being bound to any restitution towards France, have manifested no other desire than that of treating with the French government on the basis proposed by France herself, as is expressed in Lord Lauderdale's note, viz. to treat generally upon the basis of the *uti possidetis*, which ought scrupulously to be observed, excepting in the case of Hanover, which was proposed to be ceded wholly to his majesty."

"Even were it possible to mistake the results to be necessarily drawn from this principle, the discussions which took place by word of mouth on the 9th instant, between the French plenipotentiaries and the undersigned, left no doubt that the proposal thus brought forward was perfectly understood by those plenipotentiaries. The undersigned have in consequence only to repeat that, conformably to the instructions of their government, they can do no other than insist upon this principle being previously acknowledged. It is only on this condition that they are allowed to continue the negotiation."

This note remained unanswered till the 26th of the month, when their excellencies the French plenipotentiaries notified in writing to the undersigned "that wishing to converse with him upon the object of the last note which he had addressed to them, they requested him to repair the next day to the ministry of the interior, where their excellencies would be met together."

The undersigned refrains from making any observations upon the interval which elapsed between the sending of the note of the 11th and the period when it was answered, as also upon the manner in which it was avoided entering into discussion, in writing, upon the contents of that note, according to the usage of all times and all countries, whenever affairs of this importance are treated of. He confines himself to observing that when, after such a long delay, and in consequence of a written invitation, the undersigned repaired thither in hopes of at length receiving the decision of the French government upon the contents of the official note of the 11th, the conference seemed to tend on the part of their excellencies the French plenipotentiaries only to engage the undersigned to present the detailed project of a treaty."

In the note of the 11th August, the undersigned conjointly with viscount Yarmouth, had already formally declared that, until France had adopted the basis such as the British government thought it had been proposed in the first instance by her, he was not allowed to enter into the details of the negotiation. Thus, although the undersigned should have forgot himself so far as to accede to the proposition made in the last conference by their excellencies the French plenipotentiaries, not only would it have been necessary that for this purpose he should relinquish the only conditions which his instructions authorised him to admit as the basis of the negotiation, but that he should further expose himself to a manifest contradiction in first presenting the whole project of the treaty, the details of which were to result from the negotiation itself; a negotiation which the undersigned has declared he could not open until after a previous acknowledgment of the basis in question."

In this state of things, the undersigned, after having attended, according to the desire of their excellencies the French plenipotentiaries, at the conferences which they proposed to him, after having maturely reflected upon all the communications which he has received from their excellencies, and thus fully convinced himself that the present views of the French government are very remote from those which his Britannic majesty must have supposed to have—in fine, that the continuation of the present negotiation can henceforward have no other effect but that of keeping up, among both nations, a hope which cannot be realized; the undersigned thinks it his duty formally to declare to their excellencies the French plenipotentiaries, the resolution he has formed, according to the instructions of his sovereign, to put an end to his mission. The admission, in writing, of the basis so often brought forward by the undersigned, can alone make any change in this determination."

(Signed) LAUDERDALE.
[To be continued.]

LOWER ELBE, January 2.

The report of the French having sustained a severe defeat from the Russians, continues to maintain itself. The engagement took place between the Vistula and the Bug, and the loss of the French is stated at near 30,000 men in killed and prisoners. However this may be, there can be no doubt that the affairs of the French in Poland are in a very bad way; nor is it supposed by any one they will be able to maintain their ground in that country, as the Russians, by official documents, have now the following force in the field: Troops of the line, three corps, consisting of 75,000 men each, 150,000 troops of reserve, also regulars; 100,000 Cossacks, Baskirs, Calmucks and Kirgise; 200,000 new levy, completed Jan. 1, 1806; 400,000 a levy in a mass, on the frontiers, for the protection of the empire; constituting a total of 1,075,000.—In addition to these, a new levy of recruits, which will be ready on the 1st of March, will produce 150,000 men. By the last account from Berlin, one-third of the French army is dangerously ill. Murat is so bad that his recovery is despaired of; and Napoleon himself is said to be seriously indisposed."

Private letters from Königsburg of the 17th inst. state, that her Prussian majesty died of a nervous fever on the same day. The left wing of the French army, after taking Thorn, was marching against Königsburg. Most of the inhabitants had taken flight to Memel, where his Prussian majesty's effects had arrived. The French, finding their rear so unsafe, now unite all their forces to conquer the kingdom of Prussia. The king, however, is at the head of near 80,000 men, exclusive of the Russian auxiliaries under general Tolotoy.—Saxony and Prussia are on the eve of a famine."

The emperor Napoleon is said to have sold to the king of Holland the cities of Hamburg, Lubeck, and Bremen, on condition of his receiving a certain annual tribute."

By private letters from Bucharest, of the 17th ult. the Grand Scignor has consented to receive a Russian garrison at Constanti-nople."

Passaw Oglou is now a vassal of Russia, whose troops have occupied Widdin, Bender, Choczim, and Jassy, have been voluntarily surrendered by the commandants of their respective garrisons; but Russia professes to respect the independence of the Porte, and to guarantee it, agreeably to treaty. The archduke Charles, of Austria, is about to set out for Galicia, to take upon him the command of a considerable army. The fortress of Stralsund is still unmolested, and Mortier, with the eighth corps of the French army, remains inactive."

From the London Gazette, Jan. 10.
At the court of the Queen's palace, the 7th of January 1807, present, the King's most excellent majesty in council.

Whereas the French government has issued certain orders, which, in violation of the usages of war, purport to prohibit the commerce of all neutral nations with his majesty's dominions; and also to prevent such nations from trading with any other country in any articles of the growth, produce, or manufactures of his majesty's dominions; and whereas the said government has also taken upon itself to declare all his majesty's dominions to be in a state of blockade, at a time when the fleets of France and her allies are themselves confined within their own ports by the superior valour and discipline of the British navy: And whereas such attempts on the part of the enemy would give to his majesty an unquestionable right of retaliation, and would warrant his majesty in enforcing the same prohibition of all commerce with France, which that power vainly hopes to effect against the commerce of his majesty's subjects; a prohibition which the superiority of his majesty's naval forces might enable him to support, by actually investing the ports and coasts of the enemy with numerous squadrons and cruisers, so as to make the entrance or approach thereto manifestly dangerous; and whereas his majesty, though unwilling to follow the example of his enemies, by proceeding to an extremity so distressing to all nations not engaged in war, and carrying on their accustomed trade, yet feels himself bound by a due regard to the just defence of the rights and interest of his people, not to suffer such measures to be taken by the enemy, without taking some steps on his part to restrain this violence, and to retort upon them the evils of their own injustice:—His majesty is thereupon pleased, by and with the advice of his privy council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, that no vessel shall be permitted to trade from one port to another, both which ports shall belong to or be in the possession of France or her allies, or shall be so far under their control that British vessels may not freely trade thereat; and the commanders of his Britannic majesty's ships of war and privateers shall be, and are hereby instructed, to warn every neutral vessel coming from any such port, and destined to another such port, to discontinue her voyage, and not to proceed to any such port; and any vessel after being so warned, or any vessel coming from any such port, after a reasonable time shall have been afforded for receiving information of his majesty's order, which shall be found proceeding to another such port, shall be captured and brought in, and, together with her cargo, shall be condemned as lawful prize. And his majesty's principle secretaries of state, the lords commissioners of admiralty, and the judges of the high court of admiralty and courts of vice admiralty, are to take the necessary measures herein, as to them shall respectively appertain."

W. FAWKENER.

LONDON, January 12.

The order of council relative to the commerce of neutrals with the enemy's ports, has disappointed the expectations of many, as not tending to prevent that traffic, which, under the cover of neutral flags, has been carried on so much to the injury of this country, between France and Spain, and their colonies; but the fact, we fear, will prove, that in the treaty of amity just signed with America, our right to prevent such traffic has been abandoned, as far as respects America; and government, we suppose, are unwilling to be more strict with other neutral powers than with America.—The order in question merely declares that a neutral cannot go direct from one of the enemy's ports to another; for instance, from Bordeaux to Martinique; but if the continuity of the voyage is broken, as hitherto has been the practice, by the forms of entry and delivery in an American port, the wines of the one, or the sugars of the other, will continue to experience an uninterrupted interchange."

January 13.

By information derived from a secret but authentic source, we are compelled to believe that our suspicions respecting the nature of the new American treaty are but too well founded. We understand, that by the provisions of this treaty, the Americans are to be permitted to carry goods from the colonies of our enemies to France, Spain, &c. upon condition of their touching at an American port in their passage, and there pay a duty of two per cent upon their cargoes. This being the case (truly happy would it be to find it otherwise) all our navigation acts, all our maritime code, all our right of search may be considered as abrogated and abandoned; for, from the moment this treaty shall be ratified, the whole become useless. From that moment we may be at war with France, Spain and Holland, but with their colonies we shall be at peace. Their trade will be carried on with complete security by the Americans; the circuitous route, by touching at an American port, with the two per cent duty, will not produce a charge so heavy as our war insurance; and the enemy will thus retain in war the full benefit of their colonial system, except in the article of freight."

We find by our port letters, that some American vessels have been permitted to depart from Holland. One of these, the *Ariel*, is arrived at Dover, the captain of which reports, that the embargo has been in some measure relaxed, and taken off at Flushing, with respect to the American vessels which were at that port. The outward-bound West-India and Mediterranean fleets put back to Falmouth the 9th."

January 14.

We received yesterday, via Husum, by the Denmark mail, additional sets of foreign journals, and several private letters from the north of Germany. The latter fully confirm our intelligence of yesterday, relative to the rigorous execution of the prohibitory decree of Bonaparte, in the ports of Holland; and

contain instructions for reloading all goods that have lately been unloaded in this country for Holland."

The report of a signal victory having been obtained by the Russians over the French on the Vistula, continues to be circulated, credited in the neighborhood of the Lower Elbe; but no authentic advice upon this subject, has yet been received. It is certain that the Russian army has been increased to an immense force; some accounts carry it as high as 400,000 men. The conduct of Bonaparte, however, clearly evinces, that he shows the strength of his opponent with some degree of alarm; for his troops in Silesia, and in every other direction, have received orders to proceed immediately to reinforce the grand army."

Removed Great Battle.

A gentleman just arrived from Holland, states, that he read in a Dutch paper of the 8th inst. an account of a battle having been fought on the Vistula between the French and Russian armies. The contest is rumored to have been one of the most dreadful ever recorded. The enemy were repeatedly attacked in their intrenchments, and their assailants as often repulsed. At length, however, the Russ' a reserve coming up, the fate of the day, which was till then doubtful, was decided in their favor; and the vanquished enemy, driven with the loss of their artillery, and an immense number of men (their entrenchments being creaked with the dying and the dead) to the left bank of the Vistula. This report we give precisely as it reached us."

January 15.

The progress of the Russians in Turkey continues to be uninterrupted, and may lead to consequences of the utmost importance. According to the last advices, they were distant not more than three hundred miles from Dalmatia; and as their object seems to be to extend their line thither, we entertain hopes of shortly finding the enemy expelled from that province. Whatever may be the real situation of Bonaparte in Poland, it is evident, that he wishes to collect the whole of his disposable force in that country; and whilst his utmost exertions are necessary to enable him to maintain himself there, the Russians are quietly marching through the fertile plains of Turkey, in any direction they please; and what is more sure, Alexander can spare the force employed on this important occasion. Besides, Bonaparte evidently feels some uneasiness with respect to the disposition of the emperor of Austria, whose present system of cautious policy may, in the end, the better enable him to assert his own rights, and avenge the general wrongs. If Austria be really inclined to declare against France, the entrance of the Russians into Italy would afford an opportunity of high and happy promise for that purpose."

A gentleman who lately left Holland, and landed at Ramsgate on Saturday, states, that the most rigorous measures are adopted, in order to raise a new levy of 80,000 conscripts; one male in each family was obliged to serve, and the parents are made responsible for their children; and such is the aversion to this service, that he saw many instances of the conscripts escorted to join the army handcuffed and chained, guarded by *gens d'armes*.

The report of the defeat of the French corps in Dalmatia, by the Russians, whose landing on that coast to the number of ten thousand, we mentioned some weeks since, continues to be circulated. The French consisted of 5000, under the command of general Lauriston, who, at the date of the last authentic advices, were blockaded in Ragusa."

Orders have been issued by government for remitting a sum of 500,000l. to the continent. This sum is the balance of the subsidy due to our allies by the last treaty. A frigate is ordered to take it to Gottenburg, it being in specie, and an insurance was yesterday effected upon it at Lloyd's."

A paper of yesterday says—"A gentleman who lately left Holland, and landed at Ramsgate on Saturday, we heard some interesting intelligence respecting the state of the interior of France. From the accounts given by this gentleman, who has been recently travelling through a great part of that country as an American, it appears, that the coast is left bare of regular troops, and the defence of the country confided solely to the national guards; and such was the estimation in which Bonaparte was held by the people, that they hoped, as well as wished, whenever they could with safety express their wishes, a reverse of fortune might afford them an opportunity of riding themselves of the tyrant and his family."

January 16.

Yesterday the American ministers received dispatches from their government, and from Mr. Armstrong, by an American gentleman who left Paris on the 10th instant. Mr. Armstrong has been assured by the French government, that American vessels to and from England, will not be molested—and that orders to that effect had been sent to the French privateers at St. Maloes, &c."

January 18.

By a boat from Flushing, which sailed from thence last Monday, it is said, that accounts had arrived there, that daily engagements had taken place between the French and Russians for twelve successive days, up to the 2d of January, and the result was, that the French were ultimately defeated, with the loss of 50,000 men, killed, wounded, and prisoners, and all their cannon.—An embargo had been laid on all the smuggling vessels prior to last Monday, on which day 48 left that port, and the merchants were obliged to enter into bond of 1000l. sterling each, not to allow any papers to be taken on board, by which intelligence might be given. The old harbor at Flushing was cleared out to receive the ships built at Antwerp, for them to be equipped there."

January 19.

The following letter was late on Saturday afternoon sent by Mr. Grenville to the right honorable the Lord Mayor of London:—

Admiralty Office, January 17.

My Lord,
I have the honor to inclose to your lordship