

"You will, I doubt not, resume the inquiries which were so diligently prosecuted in the last session of parliament, as to the best means of relieving my subjects from the pressure of the present high price of provisions; and of preventing, as far as it can be done by human foresight, the recurrence of similar difficulties. In these endeavours, and in every measure that can contribute to the happiness of my people, the great end of all my wishes, you may be assured of my cordial concurrence.

"You may rely on my availing myself of the earliest opportunity which shall afford a prospect of terminating the present contest, on grounds consistent with our security and honour, and with the maintenance of those essential rights on which our naval strength must always principally depend.

"It will afford me the truest and most heart-felt satisfaction, whenever the disposition of our enemies shall enable me thus to restore to the subjects of my united kingdom the blessings of peace, and thereby confirm and augment those advantages which result from our internal situation, and which even under all the difficulties of war, have carried to so great an extent the agriculture, manufactures, commerce, and revenue of the country."

February 4.

#### Sailing of a French squadron.

Dispatches were yesterday morning received at the admiralty, containing advice of the French squadron, which had sailed from Brest, having on the 25th ult. been seen off Cape Finisterre. His majesty's ship *Immortalite*, of 36 guns, fell in with the enemy on the above day, in lat. 46, 10, long. 8, 0, at which time all the ships were much disabled in their sails, from a gale of wind which was then breaking up. The *Immortalite* lost sight of them on the 26th in lat. 43, 20, long. 10, and immediately steered her course for Lisbon. On the same night, or early on the following morning, his majesty's ship *La Concorde*, of 36 guns, also fell in with the enemy, as mentioned in yesterday's Courier.

February 5.

Paris papers of the 31st ult. inclusive arrived yesterday. They contain an account of the signing of the articles of peace between Austria and France. The treaty, however, is not to be published, till the end of the present month, when the engagements, between Britain and Austria terminate. The delay of its publication is a piece of civility on the part of the emperor to this country.

Upon the northern confederacy no fresh information is afforded, and no new light thrown. The attention of the French government seems to be particularly directed to the projects in agitation against Portugal.

The French papers also notice some particular orders given for the formation of an army of observation in the neighbourhood of Bourdeaux, which is certainly destined for the invasion of Portugal, if that government does not submit to all the hard conditions which the French government may think fit to impose upon it.

It is confirmed that the municipality of Calais have refused to admit one of the neutral passage vessels into that harbour.

The French funds continue to rise; they are at 56; nearly the same price as that at which the English 3 per cents were opened yesterday.

Notwithstanding Mr. Pitts strenuous exertions in the cabinet for the emancipation of the Irish Catholics, it seems to be the general opinion that he will be obliged to give up the measure; others in the cabinet who think differently on the subject, having, it is said, sufficient influence to thwart him. Will he continue minister in such circumstances?

February 7.

Orders have been sent from the admiralty, and received at Plymouth, for all the ships of war at that port to be immediately got ready to put to sea.

It is reported that Mr. Pitt has some new project for providing part of the ways and means for the year. As it is manifest that through the great expense of the war, and its melancholy continuance, the income tax is likely to become a perpetuity, it has been suggested as an expedient for raising a large sum, that such persons as may be desirous of buying up their income tax shall be allowed to do so at seven or eight years purchase, like a life annuity; by which means a calculation has been made that about twenty millions would be raised.

Yesterday evening the report of Mr. Pitt's resignation was revived, and the same reason was assigned as on the former occasion; namely, a difference in the cabinet on the question of the emancipation of the Catholics. It was added also that Mr. Dundas had resigned!—The latter circumstance was sufficient to discredit the statement entirely; it was, however, circulated with great industry, and many were inclined to give it credit.

There seems to be little question about a difference in sentiment on the above question existing among the members of administration, but whether of an irreconcilable nature time must shew.

Lord Castlereagh has, it is said, given notice to his friends in Ireland, and in this country, that it is his intention to move very shortly in the house of commons for the suspension of the tests and disqualifications, which still effect the civil state of the Roman Catholics in Ireland. It is said that the noble lord finds himself pledged to bring forward this measure, as it was by this promise and engagement he obtained the concurrence of the Catholic interest to the union.

Upon the other hand, we hear it is insisted upon by a majority of his majesty's ministers, that the measure is highly dangerous and premature in the present

state of things, and before the favourable effects of the union shall have been sufficiently experienced in other circumstances, which are absolutely necessary to precede and prepare for this alteration.

The earl of Clare, the chancellor of Ireland, is at the head of the party, which is for delaying the complete emancipation of the Catholics; but doubts still more serious and equally difficult of solution have occurred in the highest place, whether the concession in question be not altogether at variance and irreconcilable with that article of the coronation oath, by which his majesty is bound to defend and maintain the Protestant religion.

It were premature to enter into the discussion of a question which involves considerations of an abstracted and peculiar nature, farther than to state our individual expectation that this objection will not prove insurmountable. The policy of immediate emancipation from the test acts is more difficult to be reconciled with the faith of this country, if it has been pledged by the marquis Cornwallis and lord Castlereagh.

His majesty's council must be deeply embarrassed by the dilemma in which they are placed between acceding to a measure which they may consider dangerous, and violating a promise so suddenly given by a competent authority, that it must be regarded as national in the fullest and most comprehensive sense. But lord Castlereagh cannot certainly be censured for taking the only means in his power to redeem his pledge with the Irish Catholics, and to obtain for them the condition he promised as the minister for Ireland. Mr. Pitt, it is believed, will second and support his motion.

\*The following is the clause alluded to: It was introduced into the coronation oath after the abdication of James the second, and tendered for the first time to king William—"Will you to the utmost of your power maintain the laws of God, the true profession of the Gospel, and the Protestant reformed religion as by law established?"—Answer: "I will."

February 9.

The following are rumoured to be the arrangements which are to take place in consequence of Mr. Pitt's resignation:

Mr. Addington, the speaker, to be the first lord of the treasury, and chancellor of the exchequer.

The earl of Clare and lord Hobert, secretaries of state.

The earl of Westmoreland, first lord of the admiralty.

Mr. Pelham, secretary at war.

Lord Macartney, to be president of the board of control.

Sir John Milford, to be speaker of the house of commons.

Sir William Grant, attorney-general.

Mr. Percival, solicitor-general.

Lord Hobert, it is said, is to succeed the marquis Cornwallis, who is expected to retire upon the same grounds as the ministers here. Lord Castlereagh has also resigned.

Mr. Pitt will continue to discharge the duties of chancellor of the exchequer till the loan has been settled and the budget opened.

Such is the important intelligence (important indeed!) which transpired yesterday. Of the new ministers we shall forbear from giving any opinion, until the arrangement is finally settled. One observation, however, we will venture to make—It is this, that if the new administration is to consist of the men mentioned above, it is by no means likely to be permanent.

A message was this day sent from the directors of the bank to the stock Exchange, informing them, that notwithstanding a new administration was now forming, Mr. Pitt would continue in office till the business of the loan and budget is settled.

At half past two o'clock this morning, we received Paris papers, by express, up to the 6th inst. On all the great points of interest, the northern confederacy, the Brest fleet, the peace with the emperor, and our expedition to Egypt, the *Moniteur* is silent. The *Clef du Cabinet* contains an account of sailing of the squadron from Brest. This account throws no additional light upon its destination, and differs only from those we have already received in the number of vessels which it states at seven ships of the line and three frigates.

By official letters from Italy it will be seen, that Naples now under the protection of Russia, will shortly shut its ports against us, and that it has been already called upon to do so by the French general.

The minister of police has made a detailed report on the affair of the infernal machine. He charges the chouan chief Georges and his associates with being the parties concerned in this conspiracy against the life of the first consul, and a decree has been passed, ordering such of them as are in custody to be brought to trial. It will be seen from the list of captures, that French privateers are uncommonly active. The funds have not only overtaken, but passed ours.

Three Hamburg mails arrived yesterday evening. They have brought intelligence of considerable importance. The convention of the northern powers has been ratified. The king of Sweden notified it before he left Petersburg; and Denmark on the 16th ult. The reply of count Bernstorff to Mr. Drummond's note, has sketched the principal features of the treaty. One of the secret articles stipulates, it is said, that none of the contracting parties shall enter into any convention, which has not for its unequivocal and decided basis the principle of free ships making free goods.

Another article of importance (of great importance indeed!) brought by the mails is, that the Russian ambassador, general Tamara, has presented to the Sublime Porte a note, by command of the emperor, demanding that the British troops should not be permitted to act or to land in Egypt, and conveying an intimation, that their doing so would be looked upon by the court of Petersburg as an act of hostility against Russia on the part of the Turks. The above note made a very considerable impression at Constantinople, and a divan was immediately held; the result of the deliberations has not transpired, but it is evident, that Turkey, in her present state of debility and decay, will not think it safe to risk the dispute of Russia.

The emperor Paul has ordered three armies to be formed on the frontiers of Austrian Poland—the first army is to consist of 100,000 men. The motives of this great armament are not known.

The emperor of Russia not only dismissed the Danish minister from St. Petersburg, but recalled his ambassador at Copenhagen. Letters, however, from the latter place of the 24th ult. express a belief, that the amity between the two courts will be preserved. General count Donnenfeld Lowendahl set off on the 22d, with the ratification of the treaty of neutrality for Petersburg.

The emperor has likewise ordered the Sardinian minister to leave Petersburg.

Letters from Stockholm, of the 13th, announce the return of the king of Sweden from Petersburg on the preceding day, having, previous to his leaving the Imperial court, ratified the treaty of armed maritime neutrality.

The fleet under the command of lord Keith has experienced a violent storm, which dismasted six sail of the Turkish line at Rhodes. It is not reported that any of our ships had suffered; part of them had landed 6000 troops at that island, where an account, not so clearly stated, mentions that 16,000 troops had arrived.

The Danes are equipping a fleet with all possible expedition; it is to consist of two ships of 84 guns, ten of 74, six of 63, four frigates, four brigs, seven bombs, ten gun boats, and seven flat bottomed boats.

Telegraphs have been formed along the Danish coast, and artillery men stationed at each. Volunteer corps were forming throughout the kingdom for its defence.

Some of the Venetian letters mention that baron Thugut has resigned; an event that will occasion as much joy at Vienna as the resignation of Pitt will produce at London.

A new convention is said to be concluded between Austria and France, in which the French troops are to evacuate the Austrian territory, and retire over the Inn.

The Channel fleet arrived at Torbay on Friday evening, and sailed again on Saturday morning.

A French squadron consisting of 7 ships of the line and three frigates, had sailed from Brest, and were spoken with on the 15th January, at which time all the ships were much disabled in their sails from a gale of wind which was then breaking up—their destination unknown.

The northern confederacy was ratified by the king of Sweden and Denmark on the 16th January, and active preparations are making for carrying on the war.

Advices from Lisbon, state that all apprehensions of an attack upon Portugal have ceased, and that an arrangement has been entered into.

An official article from a Paris paper, dated Madrid, Jan. 10, contains the following important particulars:

"An ambassador is on the point of departing from Madrid for Lisbon, with a proposal on the part of France and Spain that Portugal shall immediately form an intimate alliance with these powers, or declare her determination not to abandon her connexion with G. Britain. Should she accede to the former proposition, she will be required to shut her ports against the British shipping, and declare war against England."

It is confidently stated in the same article, that permission has been granted by the cabinet of Madrid for the march of the French army, now assembled at Bourdeaux, through the Spanish territory, against Portugal.

An armistice has been concluded in Italy, between the French army commanded by gen. Brune, and the Austrian army commanded by M. D. Bellegarde. The Austrians agree in it to surrender Peschiera, Ferrara, Ancona, Vecona, Legona and Sermiona, to the French. Mantua was to be blockaded. But a separate convention, signed at Luneville on the 26th January, gives it up to the French. It is probable, that this convention relates to other objects than the mere surrender of Mantua; the official paper communicates nothing further respecting it than that, by two articles, that fortrefs is to be delivered up to the French.

The armistice was to last till the 15th of January, which was also the limitation of the German armistice. A fortnight's notice, however, was to be given of the renewal of hostilities.

PHILADELPHIA, March 21.

A letter from a gentleman passenger in the French frigate, arrived at Norfolk, states, that a treaty of peace has certainly been concluded between France and the emperor; the ratifications have been exchanged by the two powers—that declarations of war had been issued on the parts of Great-Britain and the northern powers, respectively.—That La Fayette was appointed minister to the United States, and that he