

It is not by the vigorous exertions and prompt measures of government that men should measure the perils of the meditated descent, for it is the policy of all wise administrations to prepare for every casualty, and to surround the state by every safeguard and protection which can be derived from the power of the nation and the patriotism of the country. Government, therefore, in calling forth the force of the kingdom, does but its duty; and in proportion to the extent and magnitude of its exertions, the public mind, instead of feeling an increase of alarm, should be strengthened with a real pledge and assurance of additional security. Of the ability and energy of the executive power, in providing for the national defence, no doubt can be entertained by any one who takes a short review of the measures which have been already adopted both internally and externally.

By land; certainly our most vulnerable side, the precautions have been peculiarly gratifying. The lord lieutenants of the maritime counties have received directions to cause the cattle, public magazines, stores of corn, and provisions of every description, to be removed further into the interior. The principal points along the eastern coast have been strengthened by reinforcements of engineers and horse artillery. A considerable number of cannon and light field pieces have been sent into that quarter from the Tower. An encampment, which will in a very short time consist of 15,000 men, has been commenced near Chatham, from which, by its favourable situation, the troops will be enabled to act with promptitude in several points, according to the exigency of the case, and the military force at Dover, both in militia and regulars, has been greatly augmented. The volunteer corps have in several parts expressed their eagerness to perform the duties of the troops of the line; and as this offer will no doubt become a general measure, it will leave at the disposition of government a very large body of well disciplined men in immediate readiness to take the field. The patriotic example will be given to the rest of the kingdom by the metropolis, and we learn that in the course of the present week, the services of the volunteers both in London and Westminster will be substituted for those usually performed by the guards and the other regulars. At Colchester, there is an effectual force of no less than 6000 men, and the volunteer corps of Suffolk and Essex, have offered to assemble at their customary place of rendezvous, in case of actual invasion. The arms of all the Midland corps have been actually inspected; and we are informed by letters from several correspondents, that a similar degree of vigilance and activity pervades the most distant counties. With these means of defence, we must not forget to combine the glorious results that must be derived from the magnanimity of the national spirit and character in the hour of danger. Should such an hour approach, we understand it is in the contemplation of government to issue a proclamation, requiring all persons of a certain age, and under particular circumstances, to take up arms.

By sea, there is hardly a single point of importance along the coast that is not protected by our squadrons and numerous cruisers, most of which are at the same time employed in the blockade of all the enemy's ports. From the Texel to the bay of Biscay, there is not a harbour belonging to France or Holland of any importance, without British ships of war either before or in its vicinity. In our dock-yards, the most extraordinary activity prevails; and at Portsmouth, Plymouth, Chatham and Sheerness, all the ships and vessels capable of service, are getting ready for sea. The mouths of the Thames and Medway are defended by the Ardent, the Glatton, and several Dutch ships of war converted into floating batteries; several sail of the line are to be stationed in the Severn, for the defence of the eastern coast, and the entrance of the Colne and Blackwater rivers is effectually guarded. The return of the gun vessels from the Baltic has added much to the security of our shores, and the arrival of the whole fleet, which is shortly expected, will increase the number of the Channel and Texel fleets, and enable the admiralty to have a formidable squadron in constant readiness for the defence of Ireland. The impress service has been carried on with great success, and several hundred able seamen have been procured since last Thursday on the river, and in the city. It has been determined as a measure of general policy, that no person shall leave this country for France, or return hither, and all licences which have been granted to that effect in favour of English subjects, or of foreigners, are suspended for the present crisis.

Every precaution has been also taken in Ireland, for the defence of that country; and instructions of importance were sent off last Friday to admiral lord Gardner, who commands in chief on that station.

With the exception of the action at Algiers, the intelligence from the continent has been for the last week of little importance. Whatever our loss may have been upon that occasion, we are confident that our naval glory will suffer nothing from an impartial investigation into the circumstances of the engagement. The admiralty had not, at a late hour last evening, received any details of it from Sir J. Saumarez.

An article from Havre of the 6th, brought by the Hamburg mail states, "Yesterday evening fourteen more gun-boats and three pinks sailed from our harbour; it is said they are going to Dieppe. The wind has been in their favour the whole of last night;" and another from Ostend of the 14th, observes, "Since the flotillas from Havre, Boulogne, Calais, Niepport and Ostend, have been in motion, the English cruisers have collected before Dunkirk, where it is supposed all those flotillas will rendezvous, and form a naval force of near 200 vessels of war, among which are

several frigates. In any case important events may now be expected to take place on the Belgic coast."

The report of the invasion of Hanover by France is revived; and it is asserted, upon the authority of letters from Berlin, that Buonaparte has again urged, in pressing terms, the king of Prussia to consent to the shutting up of the Elbe, the Weser, and the Ems. Neither of these communications is entitled to credit.

It is reported that a correspondence of a very alarming nature, between the disaffected in this country and Ireland, and the French government, has been discovered in papers seized by one of our cruisers on board a smuggling vessel.

Government has refused permission for any more aliens to return to France at present. We wish also that a stop was put to the great exportation of fine horses from this country, of which a very considerable number have lately been exported to France.

In consequence of some explanations with the government of this country, respecting the protection to be given to the French fishery on their coast, the prefect of Rochefort has notified that English cruisers will not respect the great fishery, nor the trade in oysters and fish, which is to be subject to the same check as other commerce. The prefect says, that by this the freedom of fishery is reduced to that of shell-fish on the coast, and he gives warning to the fishermen accordingly.

Eight French emigrants of distinction have been arrested at Bareuth, by order of the king of Prussia, and sent to prison, where they are strictly guarded. Pichegru, it is supposed, was also to have been taken into custody, but he left Bareuth some days before the arrest took place. This circumstance, as far as it becomes a question of politics, serves to prove that the king of Prussia, in dealing thus rigidly by the enemies of the republic, entertains no immediate hostility to the consular government of France.

Talleyrand has written a letter to the Swiss government, demanding that the Valais may be ceded to France, for the purpose of establishing a grand road by the Simplon to the Cisalpine republic. France gives to Switzerland the Frickthal in return.

The first consul of France allows his mother a pension of 24,000 francs (1000l. sterling) a year. On the first day of every month a servant brings her 2000 francs.

The return of generals Regnier, Dumas and Boyer, in the Lodi, from Egypt, proves that a misunderstanding existed among the French officers, which no doubt facilitated the defeat of the republican army. Menou is known to possess no military talents, and it is probable that any other officer would have made a better stand; but then Menou is the officer the most determined on keeping possession of Egypt, a circumstance which must strongly recommend him to the chief consul.

The number of political journals has diminished in France, within the last fourteen months, by from a fourth to a third, while the journals exclusively devoted to agriculture, commerce, &c. have increased within the same time nearly one half.

It is confidently reported the house of Austria and Prussia have assented to the plan of indemnity for the prince of Orange proposed by France.

July 28.

It is now ascertained that Gantheaume's squadron has returned to France. A letter from captain Hallowell, of the Swiftsure, dated on board of admiral Gantheaume's ship, the Indivisible, in the bay of Frejus, July 17, was yesterday received at the admiralty. The Swiftsure was returning to England when she fell in with the French squadron, and we believe that admiral Bickerton was not on board. Captain Hallowell's letter was sent to Mr. Merry at Paris, who immediately transmitted it to England.

Lord Nelson left town yesterday morning for the Nore. His lordship is appointed to the command in chief of all our naval forces on the extensive line of coast which runs from Orfordness to Beachy Head.

The general command of the land forces along the coasts is given to marquis Cornwallis, who also keeps his local appointment in the eastern district, where his head quarters are established.

We understand that all the volunteers throughout the country have received orders to hold themselves in immediate readiness for action. The Trinity house has engaged fishing smacks, which are to be stationed at the entrance of the Swin, for the purpose of destroying the buoys on the appearance of the enemy's fleet.

Dispatches were this morning received at the admiralty from admiral Cornwallis, announcing the capture of La Chevette French corvette, by the boats belonging to the ships of our look out squadron, off Brest. They succeeded in cutting her out on Thursday night, from under the heavy batteries of the outer road of Brest, after a desperate action, which lasted for several hours, and in which the slaughter on both sides was very great. Our loss, we deeply regret to state, is represented at no less than 180 killed and wounded. Ardently as we admire the daring spirit, and matchless prowess of our gallant seamen, we cannot but observe that their heroism and intrepidity might be tempered with more prudence and discretion than have been displayed in the bay of Algiers or the outer road of Brest. The valour of British tars is proverbial, and requires no heightening from the magnitude of their losses. The capture of La Chevette, notwithstanding the glory of the action, must rank in the list of those victories;

"For which the conquerors mourn'd so many fall."

July 29.

This morning we received Paris papers to the 26th instant.

They afford no intelligence of importance, and do not contain a single article relative to the return of Gantheaume's squadron to France, the reported ratification of the treaty of Badajoz, or the naval and military preparations making along the coast.

The French funds have not of late been subject to any fluctuation worthy of notice. The *tiers consols* was at 44s. on the 24th.

The Paris journals were brought over in a flag of truce with dispatches for our government and M. Otto, which were immediately forwarded to London.

Yesterday afternoon a heavy firing was heard at Dover from the opposite coast of France. It appears that a flotilla of gun-boats had sailed from Calais about one o'clock in the morning, with a view of gaining the harbour of Boulogne, and that they were attacked on the passage by our cruisers. The result of the engagement was not known when our Dover letters came away.

This flotilla is probably the same which attempted to escape from Calais on the 17th. As Boulogne is closely blocked up, the present exertions of the enemy will no doubt prove as fruitless as the former. A letter from an officer belonging to the Medusa frigate, captain Gore, stationed off Boulogne, and dated last Monday, contains the following particulars:

"This morning, at half past 3 o'clock, all hands were called up, as the enemy was in motion. Their gun-boats and a number of small craft formed an extensive line, when the signal of attack was made, and a lugger and cutter under our command went in, and notwithstanding a heavy fire from the batteries, completely succeeded in breaking the enemy's line. The batteries along the French coast are numerous, and well provided with artillery. We anxiously expect to be soon joined by some of our brigs and bomb-ketches, when a vigorous attempt will be made to bombard the town. The damage done by the lugger and cutter has not been yet ascertained. We can see the colours flying in the enemy's encampment near Boulogne."

July 30.

This morning we received by express, Paris papers to the 27th inst. inclusive.

We are concerned to find in them an account of the loss of the Jason frigate, of 36 guns, wrecked in the bay of St. Malo. As this statement is announced in a telegraphic dispatch from the principal commissioners of the marine at that place, to the minister of marine, dated the 25th instant, it is probable the event took place on that day. The officers and crew have, no doubt, been saved.

The military preparations along the Flemish coast are continued with undiminished activity. A corps of 1000 light cavalry, for some secret expedition, has been lately selected from the troops at Brussels; and Carnot, inspector-general of engineers, the brother of the ex-director, has inspected Bruges, Ostend and Nieuport.

An article extracted from the Journal de Bourdeaux, states, that a private letter had been received by a merchant of that city from Cadiz, giving an account of the loss of the British flag ship, which had been so much damaged in the action off Algiers as to sink soon after her arrival in Gibraltar bay.

Switzerland appears to be in a very distracted state, and on the point of again becoming the seat of civil discord and convulsion.

It appears from the Madrid Gazette, of the 10th, that the peace with Portugal had been formally announced by an order of his Catholic majesty, who has in person taken possession of the town of Olivenza, and the adjacent territory, ceded to him by the treaty of Badajoz. From this circumstance we are inclined to think, that the treaty had been ratified by the French government, as without that sanction it can scarcely be supposed that the court of Madrid would compromise itself by solemnly proclaiming the conclusion of a treaty which, according to the language of the king, constitutes the happiness of his people.

PLYMOUTH, July 27.

Came in, the Nimrod cutter, of 14 guns, from the Channel fleet. By this vessel it appears that the French fleet at Brest, with the troops on board, are quite ready for a push, to assist in the meditated invasion of this country. The officers that were captured in the corvette confirm the account, and say that it may take place before we are aware of it.

LIVERPOOL, August 1.

It is in contemplation to issue a proclamation, calling on all persons of a certain age, and under certain circumstances, to take up arms in case of an invasion.

Several incendiary papers relative to the price of bread, have been stuck up in various parts of the metropolis, inviting the labouring classes of people to go in a body to the mansion-house, and solicit a reduction in the price of that and other articles of subsistence. These papers are in manuscript, and are posted up at night.

BOSTON, September 4.

Mr. Thayer, who left Bourdeaux the middle of July, was informed, that the ratification of the treaty had been agreed upon; but that the formalities of signature, &c. were not completed at that time.

The naval court-martial commenced in the representatives chamber, in the old state house, on Tuesday, and after adjourning to meet on board the frigate Constitution, where it continues sitting. It is expected the trials will consume considerable time.

September 7.

It is asserted in an interior paper, that the president has ordered the removal of the arms from Springfield to the southward.