

FROM PORTUGUESE PAPERS.

LISBON, AUGUST 2.

Copy of a despatch from his Excellency Marshal G. C. Beresford, to his Excellency D. Miguel Pereira Feijaz.

Head-quarters of Avelhans de Ribira, July 27.

"I have the honour of transmitting to your Excellency, in order to their being laid before their Excellencies the Governors of the kingdom, the inclosed letters which I have this day received from Brig. Gen. Cox; and I cannot but congratulate their Excellencies upon the good disposition and excellent appearance shewn by the Portuguese soldiers, both within and without the fortresses.

"The false and ridiculous arguments of the enemy could not be more completely exposed than by sending such a letter to an Englishman, who is an officer in the Portuguese service; which letter he deigned to answer only by ordering the Officer who was the bearer of it to retire, as the fortrels would defend itself to the last extremity.

"May God preserve your Excellency,
"G. C. BERESFORD."

Marshal and Commander in Chief.

"ALMEIDA, JULY 25.

"SIR,—I have the honor to inform your Excellency that yesterday, soon after the retreat of Brigadier-General Crauford, a flag of truce appeared at the gates of the fortrels, and I received a letter from the French General Loison, of which I send your Excellency the inclosed copy. Happening, at the moment, to be in the covered way, close to the barrier gate, I received the letter, without permitting the officer who brought it to enter the place, answering verbally that I would not accede to the proposition contained in the letter, but was resolved to defend to the last extremity the fortrels which I had the honor to command.

"I have the satisfaction to say, that the troops of this garrison are in high spirits, and evidently shew the greatest ardor. The artillery of the place played with some effect upon the enemy during the retreat of Gen. Crauford, and the firing continued at intervals for some time after.—I fired this day upon some pursuing parties who made their appearance, and I have also had a few petty skirmishes with some of the enemy's light troops, which shewed themselves under the walls of the place.

"It is extremely difficult to ascertain the real intention of the enemy, and the force they have in front of the place; but according to the best calculation I can make, their force may consist of from 1500 to 2000 cavalry, and from four to five battalions of infantry.—Their troops, however, are so scattered, and make so many movements without order or method, that it was impossible to determine their numbers.

"The major part of their force extends from the high road of Val de la Mula, down by the wind mills as far as Junca; but they have this day made a movement by their right, in the direction of the Five Towns. Hitherto they have constructed no batteries, nor made any dispositions to besiege the place. The movements they have as yet made have more the appearance of a blockade than an attack.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) "W. M. COX."

"To his Excellency Marshal Beresford."

"ALMEIDA, JULY 26.

"SIR,—Nothing particular has occurred since yesterday. The enemy seem to have but an inconsiderable force in front of this place. This day I opened my fire to protect some small parties that I had sent out to forage. I also sent a party to the convent to ascertain whether there was any communication with the bridge. In the convent they found a few men whom they dislodged; but our party was soon obliged to fall back, in consequence of some light troops having been detached to cut off their retreat. The enemy lost a few men in this skirmish, and we had an officer and four or five men slightly wounded. The enemy moved two mortars to the right of the mills, and threw a few shells, one of which fell within the walls, and the other into the ditch, but without doing any mischief.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) "W. M. COX."

"To his Excellency Marshal Beresford."

SUMMONS.

"JULY 24, 1810.

"Seignior Governor,

"I am ordered by Marshal the Duke of Elchingen to summon you to surrender the fortrels of Almeida into my hands.

"Let not a vain point of honour, Seignior General induce you to put to hazard the interest of your nation.—None knows better than you do, that the French come to deliver you from the yoke of the English.

"There is not a Portuguese who is ignorant of the little consideration which his country enjoys among the English.

"Have they not given abundant proofs of the little attention which they pay to a nation worthy of esteem, and for a long time the ally of France.

"Their occupation of all the civil and military posts, proves to demonstration that the intention of the English Government was to consider Portugal as one of her colonies.

"The conduct of the English have held with regard to the Spaniards, whom they promised to defend, but abandoned, should open your eyes, and convince you that they will do the same with regard to Portugal.

"Seignior Governor, his Excellency has charged me to offer you the most honourable capitulation, by which you may retain the government of your fortrels, and your garrison be admitted into the number of those Portuguese troops that have remained faithful to the true interests of their country.

"You must be aware, Seignior Governor, that your refusal of a proposition to honourable, with regard to you and the Portuguese troops, will expose both yourselves and the inhabitants to the horrors of a siege, and the fate which awaits a garrison carried by assault.

"In your hands, therefore, is placed the fate of Almeida,

and that of your companions in arms. If you refuse to accede to the proposals which I have the honour to transmit to you, you will become responsible for all the human blood shed unavailingly, and in a cause which is foreign to the Portuguese nation.

"Receive, Seignior Governor, the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

(Signed) "LOISON,

"Count of the Empire and General of Division."

"P. S. The Marquis of Allorna, and several Portuguese Colonels, who are among us, can assure you, *viva voce* of the honourable manner in which they have been treated, as also the Portuguese troops."

HOLLAND.

The following Address, it is said, has been privately circulated in Amsterdam, and other parts of Holland:

"Hollanders,

"Remember your ancestors: exert all your energies in support of those principles for which they contended, and the rights which they have bequeathed to you.—You are reminded by your tyrant of Tromp and Ruyter. Let the names and the memory of those heroes inspire you with equal zeal in asserting the dignity and the freedom of your country. Would they have slooped to a foreign tyrant? Would they have renounced the principles of true Republicans? But you should also remember the Nassaus and De Witts. With what horror must the venerable shades of these august characters, if they are sensible of what is passing on earth, behold the degraded state of their country, now the scorn and the victim of a barbarous ruffian, who tramples upon every thing sacred among mankind. It is said that your oppressor is about to visit your country, in order to enjoy a sight of the people whom he has enslaved, and the land which has brought to disgrace and ruin.—Your tyrant will then be in your power, and by one bold effort of national energy, you may release yourselves and the suffering world from the monster who has abused power more than any despot that history has recorded. It is true that he has sent a powerful army into your country, in order to confirm your bondage, and prevent all resistance. But powerful as that army is, it would sink before the energy of a whole national exertion: besides, that army cannot be so insensible to all human obligations as the tyrant who directs them.—They know how lavish he is of human blood, and how many of their countrymen he has sent to inevitable destruction in Spain, and that as many more must inevitably fall victims to his ambition before he can succeed in subduing it, even if his outrageous and wicked attack upon its independence should at last be triumphant.—Appeal to the army who have been sent to rivet your chains. Remind them of their efforts in pursuit of what they deemed liberty. Remind them of their lawful Monarch, who is now a fugitive and a dependent on the generosity of another State.—Endeavour to impress them with a sense of the disgrace which they will eternally entail upon themselves if they continue to fight merely to gratify the cruel ambition of a wretch who is the enemy of human nature. Inured as they are to spoliation and to slaughter, they cannot be so utterly callous to every sense of justice, and every feeling of humanity, as the tyrant who drives them to acts of desolation, from the impulse of the most savage ambition and unrelenting ferocity. Though the degraded soldiers of a tyrant, they still are men, and may be roused into a conviction of what is due to an unoffending and independent nation.

"The tyrant has shewn by his treatment of his brother, whom he forced, in violation of all your hereditary principles as Republicans, to acknowledge as your King, how little mercy you have reason to expect at his hands. Yet you endured that phantom of a King, because he seemed disposed to rule over you with mildness, and to regard the interests of your country. This mildness, and this regard for your welfare, were crimes not to be expiated in the eyes of his unnatural brother, and Louis was obliged to abandon a throne which he was compelled to adopt, and which was only a seat of thorns to him while he possessed it. Hence you may infer what a lamentable fortune awaits you, if you calmly submit to the dominion of the tyrant. He will inflict ten-fold vengeance on you, and you will hereafter vainly writhe in the pangs of misery and despair. Recall to your minds your former triumphs, and let the glowing recollection impel you to emulate the virtue and the valour of your forefathers, who rescued you from foreign oppression, and completed your independence as a people. Be assured that the tyrant trembles on his throne, and a glorious exertion on your part would tend effectually to hurl him from the eminence which he has gained by unparalleled turpitude. He sees by the desertion of his soldiers in Spain, how hateful to them is the cause in which they are engaged, and be assured that the cause is only dear to his Generals, who know that their security depends upon the continuance of his power, and that his downfall would be the certain preface of their own. Even those Generals heartily detest their tyrant, and would most readily be content with their present rank and acquisition, and rejoice in the destruction of so oppressive and so insulting a master, if they had reason to believe that they could escape in the wreck of his fortune.—Hollanders, the awful crisis of your fate has arrived. If you suffer the present moment to pass without a bold assertion of national vengeance, you will be lost as a people forever, and must hereafter be the wretched victims of foreign domination. How glorious is the opportunity which presents itself to you! What an example will you hold forth to the enslaved nations of Europe! You will recover your character in the eyes of mankind: you will regain the rights which you have been so wantonly and barbarously deprived; and you will transmit those rights to your latest posterity, who will look back upon your success with pious gratitude, with reverence, and with emulation. Reflect that the descendant of the House of Orange, of an illustrious line of ancestors, once the protectors of your Country, is now a wanderer from his native land, nor can you do better than invite him to your shores, and invest him with the privileges which his ancestors enjoyed. He will have learned the duties of the station, and the esteem which is due to you, in the school of adversity, and he will look with love and ve-

neration on a people who have recovered their rights, and invested him with those which his family enjoyed. Be however you may determine respecting him, do not forget what is due to yourselves. The eyes of all Europe are upon you, and other States would find in the recovery of your independence the restoration of their own. Hollanders do not pause a moment;—arise as one man; you are many; your enemy is in himself but a weak individual, and the hearts of all mankind are against him. Renown or infamy, freedom or bondage, depend upon yourselves at this eventful crisis. If you rise in the fulness of national might you will be irresistible. Assure yourselves that the efforts of other countries will be the result of your heroic vindication of your rights. The tyrant will be confuted and distracted by a general revolt of the enslaved Continent. He will fall in the struggle; mankind will exult in the event, and history will proudly record your triumph, as a dreadful warning to oppression, and a glorious example for mankind."

LONDON, AUGUST 8.

STATE OF COMMERCE.

As the failures that have lately taken place among mercantile men continue to be the subject of general interest and conversation, we conceive we shall not be performing an useless task, if we endeavour to trace these failures to their source: by so doing, we shall perhaps be able to form an accurate judgment of their importance to the general interest of the community.

Notwithstanding all the efforts of the enemy, to obstruct the commerce of Great-Britain, her imports and exports have gone on progressively increasing, to an amount altogether unprecedented; an amount that has been the boast of his Majesty's Ministers: as justifying the policy of their councils, the wonder of the opposition, who predicted the annihilation of our commerce, as the inevitable result of these councils; and the disappointment of Bonaparte, who finds the ingenuity of his subjects is an over-match for his authority: that their necessities are stronger than his law; and who is compelled to acknowledge the impracticability of enforcing decrees, which tend to cut off not only their accustomed conveniences, but even their means of subsistence. That spirit of commercial enterprise, which so particularly distinguishes the British nation, has of late had greater scope than ever,—a greater proportion of our commerce having been forced out of its regular channels, and become of a speculative description, in consequence of those revolutions which have subverted the established order of things, and interrupted the ordinary commercial relations in almost every country in Europe. The profit made by the first adventurers in any new line of business, generally encourages both them and others to pursue it still more largely, till the market becomes overstocked, and the trade instead of continuing to afford a profit is attended with heavy losses. This has been the case for some time past, with many leading branches of that commerce in which speculative men are engaged; and we have only to examine into the fact to be satisfied of the truth of this remark.

If we turn our eyes to the Baltic trade, we shall find that the eagerness of commercial men to lodge a large quantity of British manufactures and produce in the ports of Russia and Prussia, while they were yet open for their reception, and to secure an adequate supply of hemp, tallow, and other commodities, which we derive from those countries in return, induced them to carry on this branch of commerce last year, to an extent wholly without example. The consequence of these excessive importations has been, that the prices of all those commodities, which had risen to a very great height, have experienced a rapid decline; and the importers and speculators either have their capital still locked up in them, or have sold them to very great disadvantage.

The trade to Heligoland formerly took off a vast quantity of British merchandise and colonial produce, which were smuggled from thence into the neighbouring ports of the continent. But Bonaparte, in order to put a stop to this traffic, established a new cordon of custom-house officers (*douaniers*) all along the coast; and, although it may be presumed that they will not be more incorruptible than their predecessors, yet the inhabitants must have an opportunity of becoming acquainted with them, and feeling their pulses properly, before the trade can go on as usual. In the meantime the imports have continued to such an excess, that a room 24 feet square, now rents at Heligoland for one hundred guineas per month; and whole cargoes of goods are lying there exposed to the weather, for want of warehouses to put them into. Under these circumstances of a total stagnation of sales and want of returns, the parties concerned in this branch of commerce are necessarily in a state of much embarrassment.

If we consider the state of Holland, we find that two thirds of the funded property of that country have been annihilated by Bonaparte. This loss falls chiefly upon the merchants who are great capitalists; and the reaction of such a blow must necessarily affect the British merchants with whom they are connected.

If we go farther to the westward we shall find that the desire of making a provision of the commodities of Spain and Portugal, before the final subjugation of that peninsula, has led to the same consequences as in the Baltic trade.—The apprehensions of our being shortly deprived of any future supply of the commodities of those countries, raised their value here. This rise occasioned extraordinary importation, which increased the stock on hand so as to lower the price again, and to bring very heavy losses on the speculators. For example, Spanish wool rose to more than twenty shillings per pound, and is now not worth more than from eight to ten shillings per pound.

Nor have the speculations to foreign colonies been more productive than those to the continent of Europe. The markets in the Brazils, and the Spanish provinces in South America, are completely overstocked with British goods, and all the late adventures to these settlements have been very losing concerns to the persons who embarked in them.

The same observations apply to Sr. Domingo, with the additional misfortune, that coffee, the principal article brought from thence in return, can hardly be sold at any price, and, if sold at all, must be sold at a ruinous depreciation.