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LONDON, October 1.

POLITICAL REVIEW.

The recent event at Covent Garden has been favourable to the authors of the unhappy Convention in Portugal.—It has for the moment diverted the public attention from them. But as sympathy subsides, indignation reverts to its former channel, and resumes its course. The people are pierced to the quick by the gratuitous dishonour of the British arms; and they call loudly for vengeance on those who have brought disgrace and humiliation upon the country. The metropolis has set the example. A meeting of the Common Council is to be holden on Thursday, for the purpose of addressing his MAJESTY on the subject of the disgraceful arrangement with JUNOT. We trust that other Corporations will pursue the same course, until the general cry for an immediate inquiry into the mysterious history of that transaction shall reach, and be listened to by the Sovereign. It is possible the authors of the Armistice and Convention will be able to justify themselves; but let the public have the grounds of their justification before them. It will not be sufficient that they make their peace with the Government; that they convince Ministers they did all for the best. The nation also must be convinced; and the people have a right to know why they have been thus humbled and disgraced. Nothing but a full and open investigation should satisfy them; and we hope they will persevere in their representations to the throne until it is granted. The question is not who is most to blame, Sir HEW DALRYMPLE or Sir ARTHUR WELLESLEY; but why they are to blame at all? The honour and character of both these Officers is interested in the inquiry we recommend. It will be for Sir ARTHUR WELLESLEY to shew why he granted terms to the enemy on the 22d of August which they would have hardly a right to require if the victory had been theirs in the battle on the preceding day.—It will be for Sir HEW DALRYMPLE to exculpate himself from the unparalleled weakness of having, with an army of thirty thousand men under his command, and the population of a whole kingdom to back him, allowed a parcel of French conspirators to retire with all the honours of war and the fruits of their various and discriminate plunder. There is also something due to the people of Portugal on this head. It is impossible that they must not have been deeply mortified at seeing their oppressors bending under the weight of the pillage they were carrying off, and that they must not have considered the whole of the Convention as a corrupt and scandalous compromise, and the Commanders of the British forces as little better than accessories after the fact, as participating both in the guilt and advantage of the felony. The national character is here at stake. We are bound to prove to the Portuguese that their interests were our principal consideration in this arrangement; and that if we have sacrificed our honour, it was for their sakes. As matters stand at present, the activity and rapacity of the French are not less pardonable in their view, than the base and infamous connivance of the British Commanders. They will set us down both as knaves and cowards. They will naturally ask, "Why did you suffer the robbers who plundered us to retire with their booty, if you were not afraid of or bribed by them?"

We have heard that the execution of the Convention is, if possible, to be prevented. We trust, for the honour of the country, that no such design is in agitation. That would be to affix a greater stain to the national character than the proceeding from which it arises. Disgraceful and opprobrious as that treaty is, there is no pretence whatever for unsettling it. It was negotiated and ratified by persons politically competent to do so, without any reference to either the French or British Governments. The authors of it are responsible to their respective nations, but what they have concluded is binding upon them. If a capitulation or agreement of any kind, conducted and terminated under such circumstances, is to be disturbed from capricious or interested motives, there is no security for the honourable fulfilment of such pacts. It would be as justifiable on our part to surround the French troops as they were marching down to the beach to embark, and massacre them in cold blood, as refuse to convey them to France, after having once agreed to do so. No, having voluntarily undertaken this disgraceful task, we must perform it, whatever pangs and remorse it may cost us. We cannot now retract, without forfeiting every pretension to good faith and national honour.

The military proceedings in Spain have not latterly proceeded with that activity that they commenced. The French appear to confine themselves, to a defensive war.—The Patriots are advancing upon them slowly, but cautiously.—It is, we trust, a certain preface of their ultimate success. They are gaining every day, both with respect to number and discipline, and we cannot find that the enemy is receiving those reinforcements, which could alone justify

the Commanders of the Spaniards in prematurely courting a general engagement. If they shall succeed in driving the invaders beyond the Pyrennees before the winter sets in, they will have done every thing that their country can require of them.—This we entertain very sanguine hopes they will be able to effect. By this time they have assembled an army of not less than eighty thousand men, in front of the position occupied by the French, who must either give battle or dislodge; for it is not to be expected that Marshal BESSIERES will allow himself to be enveloped and captured in the manner DUBOIS was. Upon the result of what perhaps has taken place before now, will depend the fate of this campaign in Spain. Should the French be defeated, or obliged to abandon their position on the Ebro, it will be almost impossible for them, except there are very great reinforcements behind them, to retain possession of any part of the country. Should they, on the other hand, obtain a signal victory, it is probable they would be able to maintain their position. It would take the Spaniards some time to recover from the effects of such a blow, and before they did, the season for active operations would expire.—Indeed, until we are acquainted with the real intentions of BONAPARTE with respect to Spain, far we are not to consider his message to the Council of State as a positive pledge of what he means to do, it would be in vain to speculate upon the probable issue of the present campaign at the other side of the Pyrennees. If he has that confidence in the pacific intentions of Austria, or in his own means of overwhelming her, to be able to pour before the commencement of the winter one hundred thousand men into Spain, his expulsion we fear would be too great a task for the physical force of that country, limited in discipline and imperfectly organized, as it necessarily must be. But we trust that his fears from that Power, as well as his apprehensions on the side of Italy, will not allow him to detach half that number. The accounts of the movements of the French troops are so confused and perplexed, purposely, we doubt not, that it is not easy for one who has no other information to determine their real destination. We cannot ascertain from the foreign Journals, whether they are marching towards Spain or concentrating on the right bank of the Rhine, for the purpose of overawing Austria. The papers bring them to that river, and say little or nothing of them after. It is by this complete controul of the continental press, that BONAPARTE is able to mask his designs until he is fully prepared to crush the adversary whose ruin he meditates. He has nothing but the precarious and imperfect results of personal observation to guard against; and such is the vigilance and severity of his police, that the most dexterous spy could hardly exercise his dangerous vocation for any length of time undiscovered. As to us, we are entirely at his mercy in this respect, and while the foreign Journals are deceiving us with accounts of the formation of camps on the frontiers of Austria, the French may be rushing by thousands through the only two practicable inlets into Spain, or marching to re-occupy the camps at Boulogne.

OCTOBER 8.

POLITICAL REVIEW.

The general indignation excited by the Convention, has been a little allayed by the unexpected obstructions to the full execution of that unfortunate arrangement. The public have heard with a degree of satisfaction, which marks the stronger their opinion of that proceeding, that the French are not to be allowed to bear off the accumulated plunder of ten months possession of Portugal. It is grateful to learn that what they have pillaged from the Church, and the State, and individuals, must be disgorged, but this is still only a sorry consolation. It may satisfy the Portuguese, but it cannot remove the disgrace of that transaction. The Armistice and the Convention (we mean the military part of it, for Sir C. COTTON is said to have acted under positive instructions) retain all the features of precipitation and incapacity with which they originally appeared. The demerits of the persons who negotiated and concluded those Treaties, are not in the least diminished by the successful opposition of the plundered inhabitants of Lisbon. As far as it depended on Sir A. WELLESLEY and HEW DALRYMPLE, the Russian fleet might long since have been snug in the harbour of Rochefort or Brest, and JUNOT and his army safely set down in France, their trunks and knapfacks burbling with the weight and bulk of the plunder they contained. No subsequent alterations can do away the vice of the primitive arrangement; and if the French return to their country as bare as they came out of it, the British negotiators can lay no claim on that account to a mitigation of the sentence that has been pronounced upon them. But this is a satisfaction which can only be partially obtained. The enemy, in spite of all the vigilance that may be exerted to prevent it, will return to France not only triumphant, but enriched. The Captain of the gang, who had, no doubt, taken care to secure to himself the lion's share, may be disappointed, but the rest of the thieves, will have reason to exult. They are not only pardoned and dismissed, but dismissed with the produce of their depredations secured to

them. There will be no difficulty in discovering and prohibiting the shipment of immense packing cases, but how are the Commissioners, appointed to distinguish between private property and plunder, to overhaul the knapfacks of twenty thousand men? Will they stand by while the persons they employ perform this duty? Will they examine and decide upon every article of plate that is found upon the persons of the robbers? It is impossible. Were they assisted by all the Police Officers of London, their combined vigilance would not be able to defeat the ingenuity of the French, and prevent them from carrying off Portuguese property to an enormous extent. They will not, we presume, take the money out of their pockets; and yet there is not a pistole, or a dollar they possess which has not been wrung in some way or other from the inhabitants. We should not be surprised if they were to carry off in this way nearly the whole of the specie of Lisbon with them. They have had ample time to make all the arrangements necessary for that purpose. The departure of KELLERMAN for the British camp was the signal that every man should set about securing the fruits of his industry. They knew that negotiation was the prelude for their quitting the country; and we may be sure there is no device to which ingenious villainy can resort, which they would not have employed to convert these into a portable and manageable shape. The church plate will have been melted down, cast into ingots, and flowed away with the coin, the produce of the exactions and forced loans, in the knapfacks of some thousands of the most faithful of the gang. How is this plan of carrying off plunder to be frustrated but by that almost impossible precaution we have already suggested, of a minute and rigorous personal search? But it may be asked, how was this to be obviated? Why briefly thus: By allowing the enemy no other conditions than that of becoming prisoners of war, and detaining them in Portugal, or sending them to join their countrymen in the different depots in this kingdom; and this any other person than Sir HEW DALRYMPLE, at the head of thirty thousand of the bravest men in the world, might and would have effected.

Hostilities have not yet commenced between France and Austria, but, notwithstanding the pacific professions of both Powers, they cannot be long delayed. It is probable a blow will be struck before the expiration of the present month. BONAPARTE is not ignorant of the force of superfluity to him. In the first twelve days of October 1806 he destroyed the Austrian army in Swabia, and annihilated that of Prussia on the 14th of the same month in the following year. Nothing is more natural than, if war be inevitable, he should prefer commencing it with the advantages resulting from the impression of these memorable victories upon the minds of his soldiers, and that his General Order should be "Remember Jena and Ulm." We are persuaded that in the course of this month, whatever differences are subsisting between the Courts of Paris and Vienna will be brought to a crisis, and terminate either to immediate hostilities or the complete submission of the latter. Before the EMPEROR of the FRENCH can prosecute his designs on Spain, he must dispose of Austria in one way or other.

AFFAIRS OF PORTUGAL.
PROCLAMATION

By the Commissioners for seeing carried into effect the Convention mutually agreed upon between the British and French Commanders in Chief, &c. &c. for the fulfilment of the stipulations made in the Convention agreed upon for the evacuation of Portugal by the French army, that property of every kind confiscated, or seized, from the subjects, or other persons residing in Portugal, whether of the Royal Palace, Royal and Public Libraries, and Museums, and from individuals that are still existing in Portugal, should be restored:

"We, the Commissioners for seeing carried into execution the said Treaty, as his Excellency the Commander of the French army has already notified to his army, think it also right to make public the same for the information of all concerned, and for facilitating the restitution, or the receiving back such property, we have judged expedient to appoint a Committee of three persons, viz. Lieut. Col. Trant, O. St. Antonio Rodrigues de Oliveira, and Mr. Dubliur, Commissaire des Guesres, to meet at No. 8, Cargo do Loreto, who are appointed to receive, inquire into and judge of all reclamations on this head, and whose orders for the restitution of property, to whomsoever addressed, are to be obeyed. And it is directed that keepers shall have charge of sequestered or seized property in every house to which it may have been removed; to assure the conservation of moveables transported from royal or public houses, to others, for the use or convenience of such General, Administrator, or other subject of the French army. These keepers will make the description of all *membles* with the names of the owners, and be accountable for whatever is therein, and they will be delivered only on legal proof of ownership, to the possessors of such articles as above described, who will transmit to this Committee a return of what each may have in