

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 20.

His Majesty came to town this morning and a private levee was held, after which there was to be a Cabinet Council. The result of the deliberations of the Cabinet on Sunday and Monday were laid before the King yesterday at Windsor by Mr. Perceval.

We have for some days seen an attempt on the part of Opposition to represent any change that may take place, as having been produced by failure in the plans adopted for carrying on the war.—The motive for sending forth such a representation is obvious. The Opposition wish to have it supposed that Ministers, by their resignation, confess their incapacity for carrying on the War. These representations, we take upon us, positively and peremptorily to contradict. The only reason for a change is the resignation of the Duke of Portland—and that resignation is to be contributed, not to any want of success in our warlike operations, but solely to indisposition. A difficulty has certainly arisen in the Cabinet about a successor to his Grace—but as to Lord Castlereagh's department, it is not correct that his Lordship retires in consequence of any failure in our military measures. And it must strike our readers as absurd, that he should resign on that account, thus saying that if there be any blame, he alone is blameable. For, every warlike operation adopted is not the work of this Member of the Cabinet or that—it is the work of the whole—it is discussed in its principle and outlines by the whole Cabinet—and one is not more responsible than the other.—No blame has attached to the manner in which these military measures have been executed in detail at home.—This is the only point upon which, if there had been blame, Lord Castlereagh could have been exclusively culpable. And we must say for his Lordship, and we appeal to every naval and military Officer, in the late Expedition, that there never was an Expedition sent out more complete and perfect, in all those details which depended upon Lord Castlereagh's department.—The fact, we hear, is, that his Lordship's resignation could not have been produced by the failure of the late Expedition, because it was determined upon before that Expedition failed.—It was determined we understand, before the Marquis Wellesley went to Spain, that he should have Lord Castlereagh's office, which he is said to have been long desirous of filling. His Embassy to Spain was a preparatory step to his entrance into the Cabinet. Whether any arrangement has taken place since, which may have produced a change in the determination made before the Marquis's departure for Spain, we know not. But as Lord Castlereagh, we believe, had resolved to retire at all events, no change in the determination with respect to the Marquis Wellesley will of course alter his Lordship's resolution. We wish to press particularly this point, that Lord Castlereagh's resignation is not the effect of any failure in the Expedition to Holland. It would argue a degree of cowardice and unfairness, wholly foreign from the character of the present Cabinet, if they could entertain a thought or wish of screening the majority of their body by the sacrifice of one or two individuals.

The material change is that produced by the Duke of Portland in consequence of increasing indisposition. His Majesty's Ministers neither confess, nor feel any incapacity for carrying on the war. They have not the slightest reason to believe that the plans they have adopted, have been unwise in their principle, or ill arranged in their details—they have felt that with such an enemy as we had to contend with, it was not worthy of the spirit or the resources of the Empire, with whose affairs they were entrusted, to confine themselves to measures of mere defence, as if all we could hope to effect was self-preservation and protection—they have felt that it would have been equally unworthy of the generosity and power of the Empire had they suffered Portugal or Spain to struggle for their independence, without affording them the most liberal succours both in men and money—they have felt too, that they should ill have deserved the trust reposed in them, had they refrained from adopting any plan whose operation might have been encouraging and useful to Austria.—With the sincerest wish, that all the success had attended our measures that could have been desired, they still feel no regret at having brought our troops in contact with those of the enemy, because it has afforded them the means of increasing the glory of their Country, and of twining fresh laurels round the brows of our army.

Dutch Papers have been received to the 13th, containing Paris news to the 7th. They leave us just as much in the dark as all the preceding ones, relative to Peace or War. The Armistice has been renewed on account of the Negotiations having occupied more time than was at first imagined.—The conferences at Altenburgh were not opened till the 17th of last month, yet so long a time surely had not elapsed from the Signature of the Armistice, without some general points or basis having been arranged.

Dresden has been fortified, and a great quantity of French troops have been poured into Saxony. Dresden itself is under the command of a French General, the King having fixed his residence at Warsaw. The circumstance of these movements having taken place, has been considered as rather symptomatic of the renewal of war. There is one point, however, which does not seem to have struck any of our contemporaries.—Is it so improbable that Bonaparte may have taken military possession of Saxony, not from any idea of war being renewed, but in consequence of a determination to keep Saxony himself, or give it to a member of his family, providing for the King of Saxony elsewhere.—He gave him the Duchy of Warsaw after the war with Prussia and Russia, and this Duchy he may now enlarge and confer it upon him in lieu of his ancient possessions.—These Princes of the Confederation of the Rhine are meant, we are persuaded, to be nothing more than ephemeral Sovereigns.—They served the purpose of the day; they were of use against Prussia; they were of use against Austria; but the former being annihilated, and the latter no longer formidable (we mean if he makes peace upon his terms,) they will go the way of all those Princes whom he no longer wants as his instruments. He will destroy them with the very means which they have enabled him to acquire.—For-

merly the idea we are throwing out would have been covered with ridicule and contempt, but we are firmly persuaded that Bonaparte's project is to erect all Germany into one Empire, of which he will be the chief. He will not spare even his tributary Kings of Bavaria and Wirtemberg, but making them the first dignitaries of his household, or his Empire, will declare himself Emperor of the West.—It may not be immediately that this plan will be developed. But we shall see the foundation laid for it in the weakening of Austria, and the seizure of Saxony.

These Papers give an account of the recapture of Batz, and of the defeat of Sir R. Wilson, near Banos.

It is obvious from the articles relative to the Tyrol, that that valiant and noble people continue to brave the arms and defy the menaces of Bonaparte and his vassals.

The Gazette of last night orders all Officers belonging to the Regiments in Walcheren to join them immediately. There is no doubt, we believe, of the intention and of the ability of Ministers to keep Walcheren.

SEPTEMBER 22.

THE DUEL.—We yesterday announced that a duel had been fought in the morning on Putney-heath, by two of his Majesty's Secretaries of State, the Right Hon. George Canning and the Right Hon. Lord Castlereagh. That little or no cordiality has at any time subsisted between these two Members of the Cabinet, is a fact well known in the political circles, although stoutly denied by the Treasury Journals. The misunderstanding between the two parties had taken a decisive turn so far back as Tuesday. On the night of the day, Lord Castlereagh, accompanied by his Cousin, the Earl of Yarmouth, visited the Royal Circus, St. George's fields. They returned to Lord Castlereagh's house in St. James's square, at a quarter to eleven o'clock. There they remained in conference together till a quarter after twelve, when the Earl of Yarmouth went away, taking with him a letter from Lord Castlereagh to Mr. Canning. When the Earl of Yarmouth arrived at Mr. Canning's house in Bruton-street, he was informed by the porter, that his master was at Gloucester Lodge, his new house, near Brumpton; on which he desired, that the letter which he carried should be punctually delivered to Mr. Canning.

This letter is supposed to have contained the challenge, or the matter that immediately led to it. At five o'clock last morning, the Earl of Yarmouth, in his curricle, left his house, in Half Moon-street, Piccadilly, attended by his second coachman, and drove to Lord Castlereagh's house in James's-square, where they found his Lordship in readiness to receive them. His Lordship came out, and having seated himself at the side of his friend, they drove on, at a gentle pace, to the Earl of Yarmouth's house near Putney-heath, where they arrived a few minutes after six o'clock. Mr. Canning attended by his second, Mr. Charles Ellis, and a surgeon, (we have heard, Surgeon Homes,) arrived soon after in Mr. Canning's carriage. They alighted and went into the Earl of Yarmouth's house, both carriages standing at the door, with their horse's heads turned to town, as if the drivers expected the immediate return of their masters.

The parties remained in consultation nearly half an hour, during which time the Earl of Yarmouth, to do away all suspicion that this early business might have excited, gave orders to prepare breakfast, as if they were friends come on a visit from town. For the purpose of still more effectually insuring privacy, some of the servants were sent on errands to Rochampton. In the mean time the parties left the house and walked through the gardens to the heath, under the garden hedge, to within about 200 yards distance of the telegraph. Here the ground was measured to the distance of ten paces, the two Right Hon. Secretaries took their places, it having been previously agreed that they should fire on a given signal. The first fire proved effectual.—The ball from Lord Castlereagh's pistol passed through the upper part of Mr. Canning's right thigh, on the outer side. The moment they had discharged their pistols, they threw them away; but the Earl of Yarmouth picked up one, and his gardener whom chance brought to the spot, picked up the other. Mr. Canning being dressed in nankeen breeches, his wound was instantly noticed, from the effusion of blood, which was considerable. He was, however, able, with some assistance, to walk back to the house of the Earl of Yarmouth. On his arrival he appeared a little exhausted; but after taking some slight refreshment, he was able to get into his carriage, in which accompanied by his second, Mr. Ellis, and Mr. Homes, he drove to his house near Brumpton. The ball was extracted from his thigh in the course of the morning, and he was pronounced to be in a favorable state, Lord Castlereagh had a narrow escape; the button on the right lapel of his coat having been shot off. That a misunderstanding has long subsisted between the parties, we have already noticed. The immediate cause of this "very unpleasant affair," as the Ministerial Prints jocosely call it, is only subject of conjecture. Some say that Lord Castlereagh had repented his tender of resignation, and wished to retain his place. Others that it originated in a recent conversation at a Cabinet dinner given by the Duke of Portland, on which occasion Mr. Canning, speaking upon the late expedition to Zealand, is said to have made expressions deemed personal to his Lordship.

That the challenge, however, was sent by Lord Castlereagh; that he considered himself a deeply injured man; and that the quarrel arose from the crossing and jostling in office, and not from business of a private nature, is most certain—and it is of this, and this only the public have a right to complain. Here we see, as in a mirror, the source and cause of all our disasters, the weakness that rendered the strength of the country abortive, and the folly that could conduct British courage to nothing but retreat. But out of evil sometimes cometh good; and the consequence of this open warfare is the assurance that the change, which was only intended to be partial, is become general, and will, ere long, be total and complete. With the exceptions of the Earl of Liverpool, Lord Eldon and Lord Mulgrave, all the rest of the Cabinet, with their undertlings, the Roses, the Hunkifsons, the Bourne, and the Wellesleys, have sent in their resignations. A new Cabinet, must be formed, and that speedily; although in the present state of parties, we fear it will prove a difficult undertaking. Among the

various rumours of last night, the Earl of Moira and the Addingtons were mentioned, as likely to come in. Earl Grey, and Lord Grenville have been also mentioned.

SEPTEMBER 26.

In the enumeration yesterday of the names of the Cabinet Ministers who retained their situations, we omitted the name of the Earl of Harrowby, a Nobleman of acknowledged talents.—The number of those who remain will be seven—Lord Eldon, Mr. Perceval, the Earl of Liverpool, the Earl of Harrowby, the Earl of Chatham, and Earl Bathurst.—The seceders are six, the Duke of Portland, Mr. Canning, Lord Castlereagh, Earl Camden, Earl of Westmorland, and Lord Leveson Gower.

The answers from Lords Grenville and Grey cannot be expected before Thursday at the soonest. Their friends, we see, in the capital, invite them to accept the proposition made them.

In the mean time, we must again desire it to be understood, that this state of affairs in the Cabinet has not been brought about by any consciousness felt or confessed of incapacity for managing the affairs of the nation. It has been solely produced by the difficulties consequent upon the resignation of the Duke of Portland. Mr. Canning claimed his Grace's seat, and would not remain in the Cabinet unless he was the Premier. Mr. Perceval's ambition was not so aspiring; but having, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, led in the House of Commons, he felt that it would be an acknowledgment of inferiority to consent to the demand made by Mr. Canning. He would, however, as report asserts with much confidence, have acceded to some other project. The Marquis Wellesley, (who had been originally wished by Mr. Canning to succeed Lord Castlereagh, and whose stay in this country so long, after having been appointed to the Embassy to Spain, was perhaps connected with that wish) is said to have been distinctly proposed to Mr. Canning as the successor to the Duke of Portland.—But this proposition did not at all square with Mr. Canning's claim to be his Grace's successor, and the Marquis (whether acquainted with that claim or not, we know not) is understood to have openly declared before his departure, that he would not come in the office if Mr. Canning resigned. Mr. Canning resigned because he could not be Prime Minister. The Marquis Wellesley could not be Prime Minister because Mr. Canning had resigned. This, we believe, will be found to be a pretty correct statement of the fact. Most sincerely do we wish that these difficulties had not existed, and that such an arrangement could have been made, as, keeping in Mr. Canning, would have brought to the Cabinet the important accession of the talents of the Marquis Wellesley.

A few words however are necessary to be said upon a subject not indeed connected with the premier'ship, but with the conduct of the Opposition, as far as it relates to Lord Castlereagh.—Endeavors are made by the Opposition to fix upon Lord Castlereagh the whole blame of the failure of the Expedition and in the same proportion in which blame is bestowed upon Lord Castlereagh, praise is lavished on Mr. Canning, for having, it is said, "formed a just estimate of his Colleague," and upon the Earl of Chatham, for what is called "his manly determination to look the Ministers in the face, and stop in due season in the execution of impossible orders.—Now Mr. Canning, we think, will hardly be disposed to be very grateful to his eulogist among the Opposition.—If the "fatality of the Expedition to the Scheldt" was as his eulogist says, "in the ignorance and confusion of the plan," was Lord Castlereagh to blame more than Mr. Canning or any other Member of the Cabinet? Was not the Expedition of the whole Cabinet? Was it not arranged, discussed, and settled at meetings of the Cabinet? Could it have been carried into execution had it not received the approbation of the Cabinet?—We are not intending by this to say any thing against the Expedition—far, very far from it.—But when Mr. Canning's estimate of Lord Castlereagh is attempted to be justified and bolstered up by an appeal to a measure which was as much the act of Mr. Canning as of Lord Castlereagh, we really must enter our protest against that mode of reasoning and of conduct.—As to the praise for the "manly determination to stop in due season in the execution of impossible orders," we certainly are not disposed to quarrel with any man for not executing orders which cannot be executed. That Antwerp could not have been taken when the resolution was formed to retire from South Beveland we are willing to admit; but that is not to be inquired into. The question to be investigated and answered is, whether that which was impracticable at the end of August was equally impracticable at the beginning?

GREENOCK, SEPTEMBER 29.

Government have received dispatches from MARQUIS WELLESLEY, dated August 31.—They were brought by the Porcupine frigate, which left Cadiz on the 2d instant. She had previously sailed on the 21st ultimo from Gibraltar with Sir JOHN CRADOCK and suite, who are arrived in her. A report has been brought by this vessel, that the dissolution of the Junta was to take place on the 5th of this month, when the ARCHBISHOP of TOLEDO would be declared Regent. We shall be anxious to receive official confirmation of this event. The Junta possessed no energy themselves, and were consequently incapable of communicating any. In fact, the little progress made by the Spaniards, subsequent to the surrender of DUPONT, is principally to be attributed to the apathy and incompetency of this body.

By a Lisbon Mail which arrived since our last, dispatches have been received from Lord WELLINGTON, dated Badajoz, 5th inst. and Portuguese papers to the 13th instant. From these we learn, that Lord WELLINGTON has been received with every mark of distinction at Badajoz. The British army had been abundantly supplied with provisions and every other requisite of which it stood in such dreadful need. Every thing had proceeded prosperously since his Lordship had ceased to place any dependence on the Spanish Commissariat. At the very moment Lord WELLINGTON was closing his dispatches, information reached him that the French army under SOULT, was advancing on the north of Portugal by the route of Ciudad Rodrigo. His