

SIR—His Majesty understanding that you are about to dispatch a ship to the United States, commands me to make known to you the unalterable principles which have and will regulate his conduct in the great question respecting neutrals.

France admits the principle, that the flag protects trade. The trading vessel which carries the licence of its government, may be considered as a moving colony; to insult such vessel by search, pursuit, or any act of arbitrary power, is a violation of the fundamental law of civilisation, and is an attack upon the government of the same. The seas belong to every nation, without exception: They are the common property and domain of all mankind.

Consistent with this doctrine, merchant vessels, belonging to individuals may pass by inheritance to persons who never exposed themselves to be made prisoners of war. In all her conquests France has considered sacred, private property, deposited in the warehouses of the vanquished State, and such have had the complete disposal of matters of trade; and at this moment, convoys by land of merchandise, and especially cottons, are passing through the French army and Africa, to proceed to the destination commerce directs.—If France had seized the monopoly of the seas, she would have accumulated in her territory all the products of the earth, and she would have obtained immeasurable wealth.

Undoubtedly, if England had the dominion of land, which she has acquired on the ocean, her acquisitions would have been equally enormous. She would, as in the times of barbarism, have sold the conquered, and distributed them as slaves throughout her land. The avarice of trade would have absorbed every thing, and the government of an enlightened nation, which has brought the arts of civilization to perfection, would have given the earliest instances of the return of the savage ages. That government is fully impressed with the injustice of its naval code. But what has that government to do with justice, which only inquires for profit?

When France shall have established her naval power, which, with the extent of her coasts and her population, will be soon accomplished, then will the Emperor reduce these principles to practice, and apply his mandate to render it universal. The right, or rather the usurpation of blockading rivers and coasts by proclamation, is palpably contrary to reason and equity. A right cannot possibly spring from the will of an interested party, but must always be founded on the natural relation of things. A place is not properly blockaded unless it be besieged by land and water. It is blockaded to prevent the introduction of assistance, by which the surrender of the place might be protracted; and then we have only the right to prevent neutral ships from entering the port when the place is thus circumstanced, and the possession of it is matter of doubt between the besiegers and the besieged. On this is grounded the right to prevent neutrals from entering the place.

The sovereignty and independence of its flag, like the sovereignty and independence of its territory are the property of every neutral. A state may transfer itself to another state; it may destroy the archives of its independence, and pass from Prince to Prince, but the right of sovereignty is indivisible and unalienable; no one can renounce it.

England has placed France in a state of blockade.—The Emperor has, in his decree of Berlin, declared the British Islands in a state of blockade.—The first of these regulations forbid neutral vessels to proceed to France; the second prohibited their entering English harbours.

England has, by her Orders of Council of the 11th of November, 1807, levied an impost on neutral ships, and obliged them to enter its ports before they sailed to France. By the decree of the 17th of December, of the same year, the Emperor has decreed, that all such ships be denationalized, which had entered English ports, or submitted to be searched.

In order to ward off the inconveniences with which this state of things threatened her commerce, America laid an Embargo in all her harbors; and although France had done nothing more than used the right of retaliation, its wants, and those of its colonies, suffered much from this measure; yet did the Emperor magnanimously connive at the proceeding, in order rather to endure the privation of commerce, than to acknowledge the authority of the usurper of the seas.

The embargo was raised, and a system of non-intercourse was substituted for it. The powers on the Continent, in alliance with England, having the same object in view, made a common cause with her, that they might derive the same advantages. The harbors of Holland, of the Elbe, of the Weser, of Italy, and of Spain, were to enjoy those benefits from which France was to be excluded; and the one and the other were to be opened or closed to commerce, as circumstances rendered expedient, so as France was bereft of it.

Thus, Sir, in point of principle, France recognizes the freedom of neutral commerce, and the independence of the maritime powers; which she respected up to the moment when the maritime tyranny of England, that respects nothing, and the arbitrary proceedings of its government, compelled her to adopt measures of retaliation, to which she resorted with regret. Let England revoke her blockade of France, and France will recal her declaration of blockade against England. Let England revoke her Cabinet Orders of the 11th November, 1807, and the Milan Decree will expire of itself. The American commerce will then recover its complete freedom, and be assured of finding in the harbors of France favor and protection. But it belongs to the United States to attain this happy object by their firmness. Can a nation, resolved to remain free, hesitate between certain momentary interests, and the great cause of maintaining her independence, her honor, her sovereignty, and her dignity? (Signed) "M. CHAMPAGNY."

THE LATE DUEL.

The following are circulated as accurate copies of the challenge from Lord Castlereagh, and Mr. Canning's acceptance thereof:—

St. James's Square, 19th Sept. 1809.

SIR—It is unnecessary for me to enter into any detailed statement of the circumstances which preceded the recent re-

signations. It is enough for me, with a view to the immediate object of this letter, to state, that it appears a proposition had been agitated, without any communication with me, for my removal from the War Department; and that you towards the close of the last Session, having urged a decision upon this question with the alternative of your acceding from the Government, procured a positive promise from the Duke of Portland (the execution of which you afterwards considered yourself entitled to enforce,) that such removal should be carried into effect. Notwithstanding this promise, by which I consider you pronounced it unfit that I should remain charged with the conduct of the War, and by which my situation as a Minister of the Crown was made dependent upon your will and pleasure, you continued to sit in the same Cabinet with me, and to leave me not only in the persuasion that I possessed your confidence and support as a colleague, but you allowed me, in breach of every principle of good faith, both public and private, though thus virtually superseded, to originate and proceeded in the execution of a new enterprise of the most arduous and important nature, with your apparent concurrence, and ostensible approbation.

You were fully aware that if my situation in the Government had been disclosed to me, I could not have submitted to remain one moment in office, without the entire abandonment of my private honor, and public duty. You knew I was deceived, and you continued to deceive me.

I am aware it may be said, which I am ready to acknowledge that when you pressed for a decision for my removal, you also pressed for its disclosure, and that it was resisted by the Duke of Portland, and some Members of the Government, supposed to be my friends. But I never can admit, that you have a right to make use of such a plea, in justification of an act affecting my honor, nor that the sentiments of others could justify an acquiescence in such a delusion on your part, who had yourself felt and stated its unfairness. Nor can I admit that the head of any Administration, or any supposed friend, (whatever may be their motives,) can authorize or sanction any man in such a course of long and persevering deception; for were I to admit such a principle, my honor and character would be from that moment in the discretion of persons wholly unauthorized, to act for me in such a case. It was therefore your act and your conduct which deceived me; and it is impossible for me to acquiesce in being placed in a situation by you, which no man of honor could knowingly submit to, nor patiently suffer himself to be betrayed into, without forfeiting that character.

I have no right, as a public man, to resent your demanding, upon public grounds, my removal from the particular office I have held, or even from the Administration, as a condition of your continuing a Member of the Government. But I have a distinct right to expect that a proposition, justifiable in itself, shall not be executed in an unjustifiable manner, and at the expense of my honor and reputation.—And I consider that you were bound, at least, to avail yourself of the same alternative, namely, your own resignation, to take yourself out of the predicament of practising such a deceit towards me, which you did exercise in demanding a decision for my removal.

Under these circumstances, I must require that satisfaction from you to which I feel myself entitled to lay claim.

I am, &c. CASTLEREAGH.
The Right Hon. George Canning, &c. &c. &c.

Gloucester Lodge, September 20, 1809.

MY LORD—The tone and the purport of your Lordship's letter, which I have this moment received, of course preclude any other answer on my part to the misapprehensions and misrepresentations with which it abounds, than that I will cheerfully give to your Lordship the satisfaction which you require.

I am, &c. GEORGE CANNING.
Lord Viscount Castlereagh.

MR. CANNING'S STATEMENT AND DEFENCE.
We have received the Statement which has been circulated by the friends of Mr. Canning, in answer to the charges brought against him by Lord Castlereagh.

It is perfectly true, that so long ago as Easter Mr. Canning had represented to the Duke of Portland the insufficiency (in his opinion) of the Government, as then constituted, to carry on the affairs of the country, under all the difficulties of the times, and had requested that, unless some change should be effected in it, he might be permitted to resign his office. It is equally true that in the course of the discussion, which arose out of this representation, it was proposed to Mr. Canning, and accepted by him, as the condition of his consenting to retain the seals of the Foreign Office, that a change should be made in the War Department.

But it is not true that the time at which that change was ultimately proposed to be made, was of Mr. Canning's choice; and it is not true that he was party or consenting to the concealment of that intended change from Lord Castlereagh.

With respect to the concealment, Mr. Canning, some time previous to the date of Lord Castlereagh's letter, without the smallest suspicion of the existence of any intention on the part of Lord Castlereagh, to make such an appeal to Mr. Canning as that letter contains, but upon information that some misapprehension did exist as to Mr. Canning's supposed concurrence in the reserve which had been practised towards Lord Castlereagh, transmitted to one of Lord Castlereagh's most intimate friends, to be communicated whenever he might think proper, the copy of a letter addressed by Mr. Canning to the Duke of Portland, in the month of July, in which Mr. Canning requests, "in justice to himself, that it may be remembered, whenever hereafter this concealment may be alleged (as he doubts not that it will) against him, as an act of injustice towards Lord Castlereagh, that it did not originate in his suggestion;—that so far from desiring it, he conceived, however erroneously, Lord Camden to be the sure channel of communication to Lord Castlereagh; and that up to a very late period he believed such communication to have been actually made."

The copy of this letter, and of the Duke of Portland's

answer to it, acknowledging Mr. Canning's repeated remonstrances against the concealment, are still in the possession of Lord Castlereagh's friend.

The communication to Lord Camden, to which this letter refers, was made on the 28th of April, with Mr. Canning's knowledge, and at his particular desire. Lord Camden being the near connexion and most confidential friend of Lord Castlereagh, it never occurred to Mr. Canning, nor was it credible to him, till he received the most positive affirmations of the fact, that Lord Camden had kept back such a communication from Lord Castlereagh.

With respect to the period at which the change in the War Department was to take place, Mr. Canning was induced, in the first instance, to consent to its postponement till the rising of Parliament, partly by the representations made to himself of the inconvenience of any change in the middle of a Session, but principally from a consideration of the particular circumstances under which Lord Castlereagh stood in the House of Commons after Easter; circumstances which would have given to his removal at that period of the Session, a character which it was certainly no part of Mr. Canning's wish that it should bear.

Mr. Canning, however, received the most positive promise, that a change in the War Department should take place immediately upon the close of the Session. When that time arrived, the earnest and repeated entreaties of most of Lord Castlereagh's friends in the Cabinet, were employed to prevail upon Mr. Canning to consent to the postponement of the arrangement.

At length, and most reluctantly, he did give his consent to its being postponed to the period proposed by Lord Castlereagh's friends, viz.—The termination of the Expedition then in preparation; but he did so upon the most distinct and solemn assurances, that whatever might be the issue of the Expedition, the change should take place at that period; that the Seals of the War Department should then be offered to Lord Wellesley, (the person for whose accession to the Cabinet Mr. Canning was known to be most anxious) and that the interval should be diligently employed by Lord Castlereagh's friends in preparing Lord Castlereagh's mind to acquiesce in such an arrangement.

It was therefore matter of astonishment to Mr. Canning, when, at the issue of the Expedition, he reminded the Duke of Portland that the time was now come for his writing to Lord Wellesley, to find, that so far from the interval having been employed by Lord Castlereagh's friends in preparing Lord Castlereagh for the change, the same reserve had been continued towards him, against which Mr. Canning had before so earnestly remonstrated. Being informed of this circumstance by the Duke of Portland, and learning at the same time from his Grace, that there were other difficulties attending the promised arrangement, of which Mr. Canning had not before been apprized; and that the Duke of Portland himself had come to a determination to retire from office, Mr. Canning instantly, and before any step whatever had been taken towards carrying the promised arrangement into effect, withdrew his claim, and requested the Duke of Portland to tender his (Mr. Canning's) resignation, at the same time with his Grace's, to the King.—This was on Wednesday the 6th of September, previously to the Levee of that day.

All question of the performance of the promise made to Mr. Canning being thus at an end, the reserve which Lord Castlereagh's friends had hitherto so perseveringly practised towards Lord Castlereagh appears to have been laid aside.—Lord Castlereagh was now made acquainted with the nature of the arrangement which had been intended to have been proposed to him.

What may have been the reasons which prevented Lord Castlereagh's friends from fulfilling the assurances given to Mr. Canning, that Lord Castlereagh's mind should be prepared by their communications for the arrangement intended to be carried into effect; and what the motives for the disclosure to Lord Castlereagh after that arrangement had ceased to be in contemplation, it is not for Mr. Canning to explain.

SAINT JOHN, December 18, 1809.

Sailed, Yesterday morning, His Majesty's Sloop of War Ferret, Captain Wales, with the Ships Sufpence, Captain Simonds, and Jeanie, Capt. M. Kinzie, under her convoy for the West-Indies.

Cleared—Ship Orwell, Wilton, Liverpool; Brig Shannon, Kendall, Workington, Eng. Ship Jeanie, M. Kinzie, Jamaica; Snow Roscius, Currie, Liverpool; Ship Sufpence, Simonds, Jamaica; Ship Mary, Harvey, West-Indies; Ship Dykes, Lister, Whitehaven.

BRIAR ISLAND LIGHT-HOUSE.

The LIGHT-HOUSE on Briar Island was lit the 20th ult.—The said Light-House stands on the most Westerly part of the Island; about 4 rods from the Water, and about 1½ miles from the Northern entrance of the Harbor—it bears about S. by E. from the North head of Grand-Manan.

A particular description of the bearings of Grand-Manan will be published when ascertained. Dec. 7, 1809.

NOTICE.

ALL Persons having any demands against the Estate of PETER FITZSIMONS, late of this City, deceased, are requested to present the same properly attested within Three Months from the date hereof; and all those indebted to said Estate, are desired to make immediate payment to HARRY PETERS, Administrator.

Saint John, 18th December, 1809.

ROBERT SHIVES, & Co.

Have received per Ships ARGO and SUSPENCE from LIVERPOOL and LONDON, and Ship MARY, from GREENOCK.

AN ASSORTMENT OF

BROAD and narrow Cloths, Bath Costings, Men's Silk and Beaver Hats, and a General Assortment of White and Printed Cotton Goods,—which with their Stock previously on hand will be sold very low for prompt payment. ST. JOHN, 11th DECEMBER, 1809.