

Andalusia and Arragon, had reduced its numbers below fifty thousand men. Had these been constantly and vigorously attacked in their cantonments on the Ebro, they would have been worn down by successive engagements, and compelled to concentrate themselves, at the risk of starving, or to evacuate the country. The golden opportunity, however, has been lost, and the patriotic armies will now have to contend with a force doubled in point of numbers; burning to redeem its character and exact a signal satisfaction for its temporary inactivity and disgrace under the eye of one who has led it to constant victory. The consequence of this tardiness is, that it is found necessary to change the whole plan of the campaign. Six weeks ago it would have been the policy of the Spaniards to have courted these desultory conflicts we have mentioned, or even to have hazarded a general engagement with the enemy. It is now no longer so. The former may be occasionally resorted to; the latter is not to be thought of, particularly if there be any thing like a parity of force. We have described in another part of our paper the plan of operations proposed for the Spanish armies. It will be seen from it that no two of them can co-operate with each other. Those of the centre and the left may possibly be able to maintain a precarious communication, but not a single courier can pass between either of them and the right wing of the Spanish army. This is not the disposition of an army best calculated for offensive hostility. From want of concert and communication no great enterprise can be safely undertaken. It is almost as ill adapted to defensive warfare. The union of council and action resulting from a concentrated position will enable the enemy at any time to bear with the greatest part of his force upon any of these detached and, as it were, isolated armies. BONAPARTE has only to oppose a confident front to the armies of the centre and the left, or of the right; to alarm them by false attacks, and he may give what direction he pleases to any portion of the immense force under him. It is only by the utmost vigilance, joined to profound judgment and quick discrimination, that such respective advantages and disadvantages of position are to be obviated. If the leaders of the Spaniards act with a due mixture of daring and caution, it is not only possible, but very likely, that they will frustrate the grand plan of the enemy, which, in the first instance, will probably be to restore the communication between Navarre and Catalonia; and that effected, to penetrate to Madrid. The former cannot be accomplished without obtaining possession of Saragossa; without which, indeed, the march to the capital cannot be safely attempted. We may expect therefore that the army of the right will be the first attacked. The defeat of this is so necessary to the success of the plan which we think it likely BONAPARTE will pursue, that if the late affairs in Biscay had not taken place before he joined the army, we should have considered them as mere demonstrations intended to favor a decisive attack in another quarter.

In the plan which the Spanish Generals are compelled by the circumstances we have mentioned to adopt, the British army is likely to bear a principal part. It is destined to cover Madrid. And here we cannot but express our regret that it is not more numerous. With the utmost confidence in its bravery and skill, we lament that, at a time when the fate of Spain and perhaps of Europe, is to be decided, it should be weakened by the absence of a single regiment of which it originally consisted.—The ten or twelve thousand men who are now maintaining the police of Lisbon, and enforcing the authority of a weak and bigoted regency, might perhaps turn the scale between victory and defeat. When the objects at stake are so important, being no less than the freedom or slavery of nine millions of people, and the emancipation of almost the whole of the continent, we deplore that policy which has diverted any part of the force we have in the peninsula from the great view of assisting Spain, to such contemptible, we might have said unworthy, purposes. Shall we not have cause for eternal self-reproach, if, while we are endeavouring to preserve Portugal, if upholding the bad substitute of a bad Government can be called preserving it, we should blast the hopes of Spain, and lose the fairest chance that may ever present itself of delivering Europe?

#### IMPORTANT LETTER.

[The following is an Extract of a Letter, from an American gentleman at Cadiz, to his friend and Correspondent in this town. It contains an important and highly interesting View of the State of the Spanish nation—and may be depended on as authentic.]

CADIZ, DECEMBER 5, 1808.

"You without doubt hear constantly of the successes of the Spaniards, and of the glorious events which are passing in this country. The invasion of the French, which led to the revolution, I consider to have been the happiest circumstance which could possibly have taken place for the nation. The mistaken policy of Bonaparte, in pouring his legions into Spain, and attempting in so barefaced a manner to seat his brother on the throne, has roused the people from the lethargy in which they had been slumbering for a century, and already caused a total change in the national character. It is impossible to conceive, without being on the spot, of the enthusiasm which animates every individual of every class. There is scarcely a man in Spain, who would not, at the present moment, cheerfully sacrifice his property, his life, and those of all his kindred, sooner than submit to the disgraceful and oppressive yoke of the French tyrant.—Before the events of the last May, the people were sunk in the lowest depth of servile abasement; those whose feelings were alive to the horrors of their situation, saw that they had every thing to dread and not the most distant hope to enliven the prospect. The grandees and chief men of the nation, who saw the impending ruin, abandoned themselves to despair, and wept like children over the wreck of their country.

"When Murat had entered Madrid, and was declared Lieutenant General of the Kingdom, the most gloomy terror pervaded every bosom; those who perceived their danger, gave themselves up for lost:—murmurs were heard in every part, and, curses, not loud, "but deep," were mut-

tered by every mouth. The detention of Ferdinand kindled the flame that was just ready to burst forth, and at the same moment, the people of the most distant provinces, without any previous concert or connexion with each other, rose up in arms and swore to die in the defence of their king and country. Since that period they have been successful in every action, and to conquer the Kingdom, the French have to contend with twelve millions of souls, all of whom, old men, women and children, are inspired with sentiments of the most deadly abhorrence, and breathe the same spirit of hatred and revenge against their invaders.—I have no doubt but that the war will be long and bloody, for it is not probable that Bonaparte will abandon the plans he has formed, without struggling to the last moment.—The Spaniards, though they have hitherto been fortunate in every engagement, yet must and do expect to meet with reverses.—Admitting, however, that the French should be victorious in three or even in twenty battles, and should they gain possession of as many towns, still the kingdom would be as far from subjection as it now is.—The revolution has awakened sentiments among the people, which they never before dared to entertain. It has hitherto been the policy of the old government to prevent the canvassing of political subjects, and the press has been fettered by the most shameful and oppressive shackles. But the glorious struggle, in which the nation is now engaged, has called forth talents from obscurity, and roused every spark of patriotism and genius.—The political pamphlets which flow daily from the press, exhibit specimens of the acutest logic and most lofty eloquence.—The proclamations of the Supreme Junta, and their appeals to the nation, are such as would not be unworthy the pen or feelings of a Roman Senate.—Every measure is taken to animate the people and inspire them with a detestation of the French. Their national songs, their music, their plays, are all calculated to excite the dormant feelings of patriotism, and to awaken a sense of their country's danger. Many of these are of such a nature, as to warm the coldest indifference, and inspire the most timid with courage.

"In a proclamation of the Supreme Junta, of the 10th of November, and which I send you enclosed, are the following sentiments, which will serve to show much better than any expressions of mine, what are the general feelings in the present moment, and how different a language is now held from any that was ever before heard in Spain.

"After speaking of what has been done for the defence of the kingdom, and the measures that have been taken for preparation against the enemy, which is at this time the first and most important object, they continue to say: "But there is another, Spaniards, as necessary and essential as this, without attention to which the Junta would perform but one half their duty, and which is to be the grand reward of your sacrifices and enthusiasm. Political independence is nothing without internal happiness and safety. Turn back your eyes to the time when oppressed, abased and trampled upon, not knowing your own strength, and finding neither in your institutions nor laws an asylum against ills, you considered a foreign domination less odious than the deadly tyranny which was destroying us at home. The dominion of one will, always capricious, and most often unjust, unhappily for our country has endured too long in Spain. It has too long abused your patience, your love of order and your generous loyalty. The time has now arrived when the voice alone of the law, founded on the public weal, should begin to command. Thus would our good and unfortunate monarch wish and that it is the very path, which ever since his treacherous captivity, he has pointed out to us.—Our country, Spaniards, ought no longer to be to you a name, vague and unmeaning, it should signify in your ears and your hearts the sanctuary of the laws, the field of talents, and the recompense of virtue.

"Yes, Spaniards, the great day will arrive when according to the union with our beloved king, and of his loyal people, the monarchy shall be re-established on solid and lasting foundations. You will then have fundamental laws, benignant, pacific, and a curb on arbitrary power. When thus your rights are re-established and secured, you will rejoice at the contemplation of a monument worthy of yourselves, and of the monarch who has to watch for its preservation, blessings amid so many disasters, the part which the people will have had in its erection.

"The Junta, who hold in their hands the supreme direction of the forces of the kingdom, that they may secure by every means, its defence, its felicity and glory—the Junta, who have already publicly acknowledged the preponderant influence which the nation should have in its government: who, in the name of their king, and for his cause, have done every thing of themselves alone, and without any aid: the Junta solemnly pledge themselves that you shall have that country which you have invoked with so much enthusiasm, and defended, or rather conquered with so much valor.

"As soon as the military operations, tardy at first, that the final success may be more effectually assured, will allow the opportunity and quiet necessary to the great and solemn re-union, which is announced to you, the government will take care that the projected reforms and change of institutions, which are to be presented for the national sanction, shall be amply extended and minutely canvassed.—Without knowledge, without intelligence, and without aim, the majestic work of legislation is the result of one will, blind, without judgment, and as such liable to error, to inconsistency and contempt.—Wife Spaniards, you who dedicated to the investigation of social principles, unite the love of humanity with the love of country, and instruction with zeal, to you belongs this undertaking so necessary for success.—The Junta instead of rejecting your councils ask and wish them. A knowledge and elucidation of our ancient constitutional laws, alterations which they must undergo in their re-establishment by difference of circumstances, reforms which must be made in the civil, criminal and mercantile codes, projects for ameliorating the public education, to be behindhand among us, economical regulations for the better distribution and collection of the revenues of the State: every thing demands your attention, and forms a vast series of talks and meditations, in which you can manifest your eru-

dition and talents.—The Junta will form from among you different committees, charged each one with a particular branch, to whom may be freely directed all writings on matters of government and of administration, and where the various objects which ought to attract the general attention may be fully debated.—These efforts, by contributing to give a right and illuminated direction to the public opinion, will enable the nation to establish quietly on a solid basis, its internal felicity.

"The Spanish revolution, will in this manner exhibit characteristics entirely opposite to those we have seen in the French. This began by internal intrigues and the machinations of courtiers; ours in the necessity of repelling an unjust and powerful aggressor. In this, the opinions on forms of government were as numerous as the factions, or rather as the individuals of which they were composed.—In ours there is but one opinion, one general wish;—hereditary monarchy and King Ferdinand VII. The French have shed torrents of blood in the times of their anarchy; they have proclaimed no principle which they have not afterwards disavowed; they have made no law which they have not violated; and they have ended by becoming slaves to a sanguinary despotism. The Spaniards who, by the perfidious invasion of the French, have seen themselves without government, and cut off from a communication with each other, have known how to contain themselves within the limits of that circumspection by which they are characterized. They have shown themselves bloody and terrible alone to their enemies—they will have wisdom enough without overturning the State, to meliorate their institutions and consolidate their liberty.

"Oh Spaniards! how beautiful a perspective of glory and fortune have we before us, if we are sufficiently wise to take proper advantage of this extraordinary era! if we fulfil the high destinies pointed out to us by Providence! We shall be no longer as we have been, objects of pity and contempt; we shall become the envy and the admiration of the world. The delightful clime we enjoy, the fertile soil where we live, the geographical position we hold, the riches lavished on us by nature, and the noble and generous character with which she has endowed us, shall not be gifts lost in the hands of a base and enslaved people. Already the Spanish name is pronounced with respect in Europe—the nations of which, trampled upon by the French, have their eyes turned towards us as their last hope. Even the very slaves of the tyrant, groaning beneath his iron yoke, are offering up for our success their prayers to heaven. Let us have firmness, and we shall reap the fruits which victory is about to produce. The outrages against religion will be satisfied. Your monarch will either be restored to his throne or re-venge. The fundamental laws of the monarchy will be re-established.—The civil liberty will be firmly and solemnly consecrated. The fountains of public prosperity will flow spontaneously. The relations with our colonies will be drawn closer and with a more fraternal union. Activity, industry, talents and virtue will be stimulated and rewarded. To such a pitch of glory and splendor shall we rank our country, if our actions correspond with the magnificent circumstances in which we are placed.

"These are the designs, this the plan which the Junta have proposed from the moment of their installation, to accomplish the two primary and essential objects of their institution. Its members intrusted with an authority so great, and responsible for hopes so flattering, are not ignorant of the difficulties which they must overcome in order that such hopes may be realized. They are not ignorant of the enormous weight which rests on themselves, nor of the danger to which they are exposed. But they will consider themselves amply repaid for their fatigues, for the consecration of their persons to the service of the state, can they but succeed in inspiring the Spaniards with confidence, without which the public good cannot be effected and which the Junta dare to say they deserve by the rectitude of their principles and the purity of their intentions."

You will be able from the above to judge in some degree of the present situation of things at least of the sentiments here, I enclose you the three last Madrid Gazettes, though the news they contain is not very particular. Private letters this morning mention the discovery of a conspiracy, in consequence of which twenty-one persons have been hanged at Madrid. Count de Tilly is one engaged in it—the business however was timely quashed, and perhaps may be considered a fortunate circumstance, as it will give the Junta more power and render them more circumspect. Eight thousand French, who had approached within 20 leagues of the capital, relying on the success of the negotiation have been cut off; their intention was to have seized on the Junta and to have put the President, Florida Blanca to death. Every exertion is making to fortify Madrid, all classes of people, ladies of the highest rank are working as labourers on the fortifications."

#### BARBADOES, JANUARY 7.

While lately we beheld Military preparations and arrangements passing before us, which for extent, energy, and promise, excited an interest equal to any that ever before originated, or had been brought to perfection here, we felt it a duty to be circumspect and silent during its progress and completion: but now that, after having arrived at that very point, all this mighty din of arms has sunk into silence and inaction, it certainly can no longer be useful to disseminate, that according to generally received opinion, Martinique was the object against which these preparations were levelled; but whence this sudden terrapin-like manoeuvre, is an inquiry that we are no wise qualified to resolve, unless, indeed, we trace it in the succession of successes and reinforcements which the enemy has almost uninterruptedly received since he first heard of or suspected the meditated attack; for it is a fact as unquestionable as notorious, that at one period, and that no very remote one, the state and condition of Martinique was such as to present scarce a difficulty in its reduction.—But now, according to reports and information received from its neighbourhood, and occasionally direct from thence, the Island was never in better defence, nor more abundantly supplied. This does not rest on mere assertion