

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

LONDON.
HOUSE OF COMMONS, MONDAY, JUNE 13.
MR. ERSKINE.

Lord H. PERRY rose to trouble the House with a very few words in support of the motion of which he had given notice. The papers that he should move for were the instructions relative to the affair of the Chesapeake, and the last dispatch from Mr. Erskine. He would admit that, in the papers laid on the table, there was enough to shew that Mr. Erskine had not followed his instructions. That formal recognition which he was instructed to demand was not obtained. But no complete and satisfactory determination could be formed without the two documents for which he would move. Before the House could form an opinion of Mr. Erskine's conduct, it should be put in possession of his motives, as described in his dispatch. The degree to which the instructions were violated, would only be judged by the details of what passed between Mr. Erskine and the Secretary of the American Government. The House could not know what verbal assurances might have been given. He had no private information on the subject, but he could easily conceive a case in which the American Government might give private assurances which it might not think fit to make the subject of formal communication. It was material to know whether any such assurances were given. These offers of accommodation were said to have originated with America; it was, therefore, material to know to what extent of the propositions the American Government meant to act up. With regard to the instructions relating to the attack on the Chesapeake, if the Right Hon. Gentleman would state that any inconvenience might result from producing them, he certainly would not press the motion. As to the production of Mr. Erskine's last dispatch, to the disclosure of which he could see no objection; and he therefore would submit that part of his motion to the consideration of the House. The noble Lord concluded with moving for Copies of the Instructions relating to the Chesapeake, and the dispatch of Mr. Erskine.

Mr. Secretary CANNING observed, that if reference were had to the statement made by him when this subject was last under discussion, it would not be difficult to persuade the House that the present motion was unnecessary, and might be attended with much inconvenience. When he laid the Papers on the table, he stated that it was not the intention of Government to make any communication to Parliament on the subject. If the nature of the relations between this country and the United States, or if the conduct of Mr. Erskine, was under discussion, then there would be grounds for calling for the papers moved for by the noble Lord, and particularly the last. But it was not the intention of his Majesty's Ministers to call for any opinion of the House at this time. The only point now in question was, the carrying, or not carrying into effect, an arrangement concluded without instructions; and not only without instructions, but directly contrary to them. That this was the fact was evident, from the paper laid on the table. He had indeed the admission of the noble Lord, that the arrangement was concluded without due authority. This was the main point which Government, in justification of the measures they were under the necessity of adopting, were anxious to establish. All farther discussion of the subject at this moment, would not only be attended with inconveniences, too obvious to put him under the necessity of repeating them, but might possibly endanger the success of ulterior arrangements. The point necessary to establish was, that the instructions were not followed, and of that the noble Lord seemed convinced. With respect to the conduct of Mr. Erskine, nothing was said of it but what the absolute necessity of the case extorted from Government. The proceedings of that Gentleman were productive of very great embarrassment to his Majesty's Ministers. On the very day that his last dispatch was dated, the arrangement which he took upon himself to make with the American Government was made public in that country; and in the course of a few days after, property to the amount of many millions was probably loaded for this country. The noble Lord supposed that some verbal assurances were obtained by Mr. Erskine, to the effect of the stipulations contained in his instructions. That was a point upon which he could not be expected to satisfy the noble Lord; but if any such assurances had been obtained, they must have been of so satisfactory a nature, as to induce Government to act upon the faith of them pending any ulterior security. They must have been such as to induce Ministers to acquiesce in an arrangement contrary to the principles by which it was to be desired. That this was not the case it would not be difficult to infer from the circumstance of Government being compelled to disown the arrangement. He hoped the House and the country would believe, that if the three points which Mr. Erskine was instructed to require had been obtained, there existed in his Majesty's Councils a disposition to permit the neutral to carry into effect by himself the principle of the departure from the Orders in Council, and not to resort to the harsher measure. That the first of these three points was not obtained was evident from the papers on the table. This was in fact the most important; it was the *sine qua non* of the arrangement, that America should maintain her Non-intercourse system against France. The third stipulation was not even touched upon. This, though of considerable importance, was not of that paramount consequence that the first was. Government had the right and the power to prevent neutrals from trading with France, and it was mere matter of courtesy to propose any arrangement to the American Government on the subject. Now let the House see in what a situation the relations between this Country and America might be placed in consequence of this arrangement. The Non-intercourse Act was to expire on the 20th of May, and, in the arrangement of Mr. Erskine, there was no stipulation for re-enacting it, as against France; so that our Orders in Council might be rescinded at the very moment that the trade between France and the United States might be perfectly open. The better half of the agreement into which Mr. Erskine was authorized to

enter into with America was, that she should shut her ports against France, and this could only be done by her reviving the Non-intercourse system as against that power. There was another question of a curious sort respecting the Non-intercourse Act. When this country determined to make atonement for the injury committed against America in the affair of the Chesapeake, it proposed, through the medium of Mr. Rose, that the Proclamation for excluding British ships of war from the waters and havens of the United States, should be recalled; this was refused. Any Power receiving an injury from another, with whom she is in friendly intercourse, has certainly a right to call for atonement for that injury; but if without waiting to see whether it will be granted or denied, she takes her retaliation into her own hands, her right to atonement from that instant ceases. America, therefore, in resorting to retaliation, sided *pro tanto*, with France. Upon the change of the Executive Government in America, it was understood, from something that passed in the Committee, that there was a disposition in the new Government to come to an immediate arrangement on the subject of the Chesapeake. The proposal was therefore renewed. How that proposition was received by the Secretary of the American Government was evident from the correspondence that was published. How far that Gentleman was disposed to re-establish the former relations between the two countries—how far he was inclined to shew the path of reconciliation with flowers, any Englishman who read that Gentleman's note might judge. By Mr. Erskine's arrangement, our Orders in Council were to be rescinded (they are so in fact at this moment, for they cannot be put in force as against America for a limited period); and this great price was to be paid, for what? Why, for six weeks liberty to trade with America. If this agreement had been transmitted to Government for its approbation, no disclosure would have been made on the subject. But Government was under the necessity of coming to some determination on the subject within twenty-four hours; and being resolved not to sanction it, it was necessary to make the disclosure contained in the papers on the table, particularly as it was said that the arrangement was agreeable to the instructions to Mr. Erskine. But these reasons would not justify any farther disclosure; such disclosure might prejudice existing or future negotiations, and embarrass that ulterior arrangement, which he hoped would be terminated satisfactorily. There was another point in Mr. Erskine's instructions to which he found it necessary to allude. He was instructed to procure an interdiction of all Commerce as well between Holland as France; for upon what plea could the former be entitled to any exemption? If she were a dependent power, she must follow the fate of France. If she were an independent power, and still submitted to the dictates of France, she was the more blameable, and was therefore the less an object of indulgence. How these instructions were fulfilled, would appear from the correspondence of Mr. Erskine already before the House. He must have known that Holland was exempted from the operation of the Non-intercourse Act. But it had been suggested that he might have had private assurances, that Holland would be placed on the same footing as France. What! after it was specifically stated in the formal Act, that it was not to extend to Holland! But doubts were entertained as to its being applied to the kingdom of Italy, the Iron Crown of which sits on the head of the Ruler of France! If any doubt existed that Mr. Erskine had gone the full length of the concessions he was authorized to make, without obtaining the whole three, nay, not even one of the points he was instructed to demand, the person who entertained such doubt had only to read the papers already before the House. If these did not remove it, nothing that he could say or produce would. He felt himself under the necessity of opposing the motion for the reasons he set out with fluting.—This was not the proper time to enter into the discussion of the policy of the arrangement with America; and as the pending negotiation might be prejudiced by further disclosure, he trusted the noble Lord would see the impropriety of granting the papers he called for. Before he sat down, he must take an opportunity of disclaiming any prejudice against Mr. Erskine, with whom he had not the honor to be acquainted. There was, however, one part of his conduct, which he must condemn, even more than the unauthorized arrangement into which he entered. It was that which related to his acceptance of the note of Mr. Smith; a note of so extraordinary a nature, that no one bearing the King's commission should have received it. He should have sent it back unaccepted.

Mr. MORRIS vindicated the conduct of his relative, Mr. Erskine, and abstained from making that reply to the Right Hon. Gentleman which his speech seemed to call for, lest such reply might call forth a discussion tending in the slightest degree to interrupt that system of conciliation now likely to take place between the two countries.

Mr. CANNING and Mr. MORRIS mutually explained.

Mr. MARRYATT thought the Motion, as far as it concerned the affair of the Chesapeake, totally irrelevant to the present juncture. With respect to the dispatch, he thought if it were produced, that so ought the answer of his Majesty's Ministers, in order that the House might have sufficient evidence whereon to found its decision.

Mr. BARING entered into a long detail of our correspondence and intercourse with America. He thought Mr. Erskine must have obtained some substantial concession to the demands of England, with which we were at present unacquainted, and on which he grounded his treaty.

Mr. STEVEN combated the arguments in favour of the motion. He was of opinion that America, in all her proceedings, had no wish to promote an impartial course with respect to France and this country. It was the business of that House to take care lest France should triumph in these negotiations, and lest England should now sanction decrees which she had before arraigned, and desert measures to which she had at other periods given her support. At all events, in his opinion, discussions in that House could not tend at the present crisis to promote amity between the countries.

Lord H. PERRY declared, that as a partial disclosure had already been made on this subject, all he wanted, both

for the sake of public utility and private justice, was, that such disclosure might be made as ample as possible. It had appeared, however, from the speech of the Right Hon. Gentleman, that a negotiation was now pending, to which such disclosure might prove dangerous. Since this was the case, he was willing for the present to withdraw his motion, until a disclosure could be made without difficulty on the subject. Motion withdrawn.

LONDON.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS, Wednesday, June 21.

The Lord Chancellor stated, that the Commissioners appointed by his Majesty, had received two Commissions, one for giving the Royal Assent to a Bill for preventing the local Militia from enrolling otherwise than on their respective counties and shewtries; the other for proroguing Parliament.

About forty Members of the other House being in attendance, the Royal Assent was given to the Bill. After which, the Lord Chancellor read his Majesty's most gracious speech:

My Lords and Gentlemen,
“We are commanded by his Majesty to acquaint you that his Majesty has great satisfaction in being enabled, by the state of the public business, to release you from your laborious attendance in Parliament.

“His Majesty doubts not that on your return into your respective counties, you will carry with you a disposition to inculcate, both by instruction and example, a spirit of attachment to those established laws and that happy Constitution, which it has ever been his Majesty's anxious wish to support and to maintain, and upon which, under Providence, depend the welfare and prosperity of this kingdom.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,
“We have it in command from his Majesty to thank you for the liberal provision which you have made for the services of the present year; and to express the satisfaction which his Majesty derives from your having been enabled to provide for those services without any great and immediate addition to the burdens upon his people.

“His Majesty particularly commands us to acknowledge your prompt attention to his wishes, respecting an increased provision for the Poorer Clergy: an object in the highest degree interesting to his Majesty's feelings, and deserving the favourable consideration of Parliament.

My Lords and Gentlemen,
“The atrocious and unparalleled act of violence and treachery by which the Ruler of France attempted to surprise and to enslave the Spanish nation, while it has excited in Spain a determined and unconquerable resistance against the usurpation and tyranny of the French Government, has at the same time, awakened in other nations of Europe a determination to resist, by a new effort, the continued and increasing encroachments on their safety and independence.

“Although the uncertainty of all human events, and the vicissitudes attendant upon war, forbid too confident an expectation of a satisfactory issue to the present struggle against the common enemy of Europe, his Majesty commands us to congratulate you upon the splendid and important success which has recently crowned the arms of the Emperor of Austria, under the able and distinguished conduct of his Imperial Highness the Archduke Charles.

“To the efforts of Europe for its own deliverance, his Majesty has directed us to assure you, that he is determined to continue his most strenuous assistance and support, convinced that you will agree with him in considering that every exertion for the re-establishment of the independence and security of other nations is no less conducive to the true interests than it is becoming the character and honor of Great-Britain.

Then a commission for proroguing the Parliament was read; after which the Lord Chancellor said—

My Lords and Gentlemen,
“By virtue of his Majesty's permission under the great seal, to us and other Lords directed, and now read, we do, in his Majesty's name, and in obedience to his command, prorogue this Parliament to Thursday the 20th day of August next; then to be here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday the 10th day of August next.

ROTTERDAM, JUNE 23.

“The Prince Primate, the King, Queen, and Royal Family of Saxony, arrived at Frankfort early in the morning of the 16th; in the afternoon the Grand Duke of Wirtzburg, with the Foreign Ministers residing at his Court.

“On the 17th no accounts from the Grand Armies had reached Frankfort, or at least nothing had been made public. The report of a second battle is by no means confirmed. Report says that 40,000 Austrians have crossed the Danube at Linz.

FRANKFORT, JUNE 17.

“It is the Duke of Brunswick's corps, which has entered Dresden, he appears to intend to advance into Westphalia, the Austrian corps that entered Bayreuth, consists only of militia, supported by a detachment of Uhlans, these have advanced to within eight leagues of Wirtzburg.”

BAYREUTH, JUNE 21.

“This day arrived here about 40 Austrian Uhlans, followed by 500 infantry. The Uhlans have carried away the public chests. Mons. L'Intendant de Tuverson, and several French Commissioners have been conducted to Bohemia.”

The capture of Dresden by the Duke of Brunswick, is an event as agreeable as it was unexpected. We see by this the feeling of the people of Germany, and their disposition to rise against France. The Duke of Brunswick's corps must have been greatly and rapidly increased, to have enabled him to seize Dresden.

This private letter will by no means weaken the belief in the report of another victory over the French; on the contrary it will strengthen it.—It is not probable that, from the 8th to the 15th, no event of importance occurred on the Danube. News of the 15th might have reached Frank-